



North Wales Vulnerable Families Needs Analysis

December 2015

Produced by the
Performance and Commissioning Learning Set



Final version

Approved December 2015

This toolkit is available on the national Families First evaluation website
www.ffevaluation.co.uk

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Acknowledgement: With thanks to the Conwy Research Unit for allowing us to use their Child Poverty Bulletin template as a basis for this document. The toolkit was produced on behalf of the North Wales Family Support Group by the Performance and Commissioning Learning Set.

Needs Analysis

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Introduction

This Needs Analysis has been developed to support the commissioning and development of services relating to vulnerable families in North Wales and will be up dated on an annual basis. This is the second year up date.

The data provided is at local authority level but is intended to be available for use across the sectors and services. The information shows trends that can be used to identify priority areas for further analysis and exploration within local areas and regionally where patterns of needs emerge.

The themes are based on the Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy and aims to support the four main programmes relating to tackling child poverty which emphasise prevention and early intervention for vulnerable families. The four programmes which were developed to work alongside each other and are:

- Families First
- Communities First
- Flying Start
- Integrated Family Support Services

Information has been gathered and incorporated into the Needs Analysis taking account of the aims, outcomes, and indicators for the programmes. The outcomes for three programmes are outlined below:

Families First	Communities First	Flying Start
<p>Outcome Indicator 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe.</p>	<p>Healthier Communities</p> <p>Prosperous Communities</p> <p>Learning Communities</p>	<p>Flying Start children are healthy and thriving</p> <p>Flying Start families are capable and coping</p> <p>Flying Start children are reaching potential</p>

IFSS Guidance does not currently incorporate specific population outcomes as with the aforementioned programmes.

IFSS is underpinned by a key principle of the Children Act 1989 that children are best looked after within their families, with their parents playing a full part in their lives, unless compulsory intervention in family life is necessary¹.

Underpinning the service is a set of principles which require the IFSS to:

- strengthen the safeguarding and welfare of children through restorative action to better support parents/carers;
- improve the quality of service experience by parents and children when they engage with professionals;
- be family focused and family centred;
- facilitate service change;
- be a resource to existing services;
- build trustful relationships;
- deliver holistic and intensive Evidence Based Interventions (EBIs); and
- provide a training resource to child and adult services on Evidence Based Interventions to engage complex families.

Programme Details

All programmes are aligned to the Child Poverty Strategy with the aim of reducing poverty by narrowing the inequality gap for people living in deprived communities and elsewhere. In order to address a broad range of family needs a continuum of support is expected based on the elements:

- **Prevention:** Early interventions aimed at building resilience and supporting families to develop the skills and attributes associated with more positive child outcomes – for example, promoting positive parenting or supporting family learning.
- **Protection:** approaches aimed at early identification and action to support families well before they reach crisis point. These typically involve looser, multi-agency approaches towards meeting identified needs (e.g. team around the family approaches).
- **Remedial:** approaches aimed at supporting families that are at or near crisis point, involving a fully integrated approach to service delivery (e.g. Integrated Family Support Services).

Families First – provides an integrated whole family approach to supporting families out of poverty. Provision of support sits within the Prevention and Protection elements identifying families early to support them and divert them from statutory intervention. There is also an expectation Families First provides support to families who have received statutory interventions following the end of interventions. .

Communities First – support to communities in the most deprived areas of Wales to narrow the inequality gap encouraging them to develop their own solutions in partnership with key

¹ Integrated Family support Services: Statutory Guidance and Regulations 2010 Welsh Government

providers. The programme works with all members of the community to engage them in activities and services that will improve their circumstances and move them away from deprivation.

Flying Start – working with families in the most deprived areas of Wales supporting those with children between 0 and 4 years old. A prescriptive approach to improve the development of children ensuring they are ready for the Foundation Phase of school and in the long term improve their life chances through achievement in education.

Integrated Family Support Service – this programme works with more complex families who are known to social services and provides intensive support at a multi-agency level. This element sits in the Remedial element of support. Currently supporting substance misusing families with complex needs where a child's physical, social and emotional development will be impaired.

There is an expectation that these programmes work together to deliver a continuum of support that meet families' needs effectively and reduce duplication.

Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy

Welsh Government has embedded the eradication of child poverty in Wales in the Children and Family (Wales) Measure 2010 (Measure) and continues to aspire to eradicate child poverty by 2020 within the revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2015. The Measure requires each local authority and Welsh public body to have in place a child poverty strategy. Whilst maintaining the 3 strategic priorities from the 2011 Child Poverty Strategy the revised Strategy has 5 objectives to deliver these which are:

- i. To reduce the number of families living in workless households as children who live in workless households are particularly at risk of living in poverty.
- ii. To increase the skills of parents/carers and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment and in work progression, as in work poverty is a growing issue.
- iii. To reduce inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. Preventing poverty is fundamental to our long term vision of supporting low income households.
- iv. To use all available leavers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in work poverty in Wales.
- v. To support families living in poverty to increase household income through debt and financial advice, action to address the 'poverty premium' (where households pay disproportionately more for goods and services) and action to mitigate the impacts of welfare reform.

Broad Aims for the eradication of Child Poverty are included in the Measure which are listed below:

1. Increase income for households including one or more children with a view to ensuring that, so far as reasonably practicable, there are no households in the relevant group.
2. Ensure that as far as possible, children living in low income families are not materially deprived.

3. Promote & facilitate paid employment for parents in low income families.
4. Provide low income parents with the skills needed to secure employment.
5. To reduce inequalities in educational attainment between children and young people.
6. To support the parenting of children.
7. Reduce inequalities in health between children and between their parents, so far as necessary, to ensure children's well being.
8. To ensure that all children grow up in decent housing.
9. To ensure that all children grow up in safe and cohesive communities.
10. Reduce inequalities in participation in cultural, sporting and leisure activities between children and between parents of children, so far as necessary to ensure the well being of their children.
11. To help young persons participate effectively in education and training.
12. Help young people take advantage of opportunities for employment.
13. Help young persons participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities.

Social Services And Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

The white paper Sustainable Social Services: A Framework for Action identified that there are upcoming challenges to the delivery of social care across the generations. These include demographic changes, expectations of those who need care and support increasing against a background of economic challenges through decreasing budgets.

The new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) focuses on promoting the well-being of people through transformation of the way services are delivered which includes placing a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention as well as provision of information, advice and support. It provides people with clear rights and responsibilities in their care and support. A further element is the working in partnership with people which supports the working practice within the early intervention services already delivered e.g. Team Around the Family.

Well-being in the Act relates to those who need care and support as well as carers who need support. Well-being is defined under Part 1, s2 (2) of the Act:

“Well-being”, in relation to a person, means well-being in relation to any of the following—

(a) physical and mental health and emotional well-being;

(b) protection from abuse and neglect;

(c) education, training and recreation;

(d) domestic, family and personal relationships;

(e) contribution made to society;

(f) securing rights and entitlements;

(g) social and economic well-being;

(h) suitability of living accommodation.

(3) *In relation to a child, "well-being" also includes—*

(a) physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development;

(b) "welfare" as that word is interpreted for the purposes of the Children Act 1989.

Guidance and Regulations have been and are being consulted upon in readiness for full implementation of the Act in April 2016.

Executive summary

The information below provides an overview of what the data is telling us in relation to each section of this Needs Analysis.

Economy and Welfare Reform

- While there has been an increase in JSA claimants since the start of the recession in 2008 there has been a significant decrease in the rate of JSA claimants between 2014 and 2015.
- Income is based on full time gross weekly earnings which in Wales has increased by 0.9 % in 2014 compared to 4.5% in 2013.
- The comparison for full time gross weekly earnings between the UK and Wales in 2014 based on provisional figures indicates that Wales average at £479 (2013 figure £475) which is less than the UK average of £518 (2013 figure £517)
Average weekly pay in North Wales (with the exception of Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham) is lower than the Wales (£479) median with Denbighshire being the lowest with a decrease from 2013 of 4.7%.
- In work poverty – one of the main reasons for using the food banks are low income with the other reasons being benefit delays and changes.
- The use of food banks has increased significantly over the last year based on Trussel Trust figures.
- The impact of the current proposed welfare reforms is likely to have more of an impact on families with children and lone parents.
- Services to support families are available and being used and it is likely that more will be relying on these services with the implementation of further welfare reforms. We need to ensure that services adapt and work together to meet the needs of families with the implementation of the welfare reforms.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

- Denbighshire are ranked 1, 2 and 5 in the child index, all of which are situated in west Rhyl. Wrexham have two areas ranked 12 (Queensway) and 18 (Wynnstay).
- Not all deprived people live in the most deprived areas - 4 out of 5 people in income benefits households do not live in the most deprived 10% areas in Wales.

Rural Poverty

- It is estimated that people in rural areas will typically need to spend 10-20% more on every day requirements than people in urban areas

- Transport and domestic fuel are the main causes of the increased cost. This is explained by the lack of rural public transport meaning that reliance on cars is increased
- Mains gas is often not available in rural areas, and so households must use more expensive fuels for central heating
- Energy efficiency levels in rural homes tend to be lower, as larger and older properties are more common
- To reach JRF's minimum income standards for rural areas, most rural households will need to earn 80-90% of average income. This is higher than the officially recognised measure of income poverty of 60% of the GB median income
- Each local authority in North Wales has areas of rurality, some of which are larger than others. However, there will be issues for those residents in these communities due to low income and being able to access services what steps can be taken to ensure these communities are supported to reduce the impact of poverty.

Labour Market

Although there have been fluctuations in the employment rate the recession does not appear to have had a significant impact on employment in North Wales.

The claimant rate has also decreased over the last 4 years however –

- Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham have a claimant rate higher than the Wales average

In-work poverty is a potential priority for joint work across the 6 North Wales local authorities.

Regional Skills and Employment plan will help to identify the skills required for employment

Household Indicators

Income

- There has been very little change across North Wales in the number of children in low income households between 2009 and 2014.
- Because of the way relative poverty is measured, families may be brought out of poverty while their circumstances are exactly the same as the poverty line has decreased also.
- Another poverty measure is based on working tax credits and child tax credits so the data may change as a result of welfare reform.
- Taking account of the additional support and costs for families with a disabled child support needs to be available around childcare, more flexible working arrangements and ensuring that they are claiming the most appropriate benefits.

Young people with a disability entering work need to be sufficiently supported to do so and employers need to be supporting of their needs within the workplace to enable them to earn and gain skills.

Homelessness issues:

- Higher proportion of 18 – 24 year olds homeless compared to 16-17 year olds. The 16 – 17 year olds are supported following the Southwark Judgement which is likely to be why homelessness has reduced in this age cohort. The support for 18 – 24 year

olds should be reviewed to reduce the level of homelessness within this cohort of young people.

Proposed welfare benefit reforms relating to housing benefits is likely to impact on 18 to 20 year olds.

Household composition links to relative poverty:

- Flintshire and Wrexham have the highest number of families with 1 adult and 3 children and 1 adult and 4 children households
- Child care has been identified as a barrier to work especially flexibility and cost.
- Support for single parents who are not working to enter the labour market through skills and training is needed. Also for those already in work to improve their skills and future prospects in employment.

Health Indicators

- The number of low birth weights has remained the same. Public Health Wales initiative relating to smoking cessation could be shared across other services and sectors where staff have contact with expectant mothers.
- Obesity rates are high in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Denbighshire. However it is of concern that almost a quarter of children in all authorities aged 4 or 5 years are shown as overweight or obese.
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence⁷ (NICE) recommends “a community-wide, multi-agency approach to promoting a healthy weight and preventing and managing obesity” which includes as a component “family-based, multi-component lifestyle weight management services for children and young people”.
- Anglesey, Denbighshire and Wrexham have a higher rate than the Wales average for teenage pregnancies for under 16 year olds
- There is a high rate of teenage pregnancies for 16 – 17 year old girls across all authorities.
- Wrexham have the second highest rate of infant mortality in Wales Denbighshire and Flintshire rates are above the Wales average. The links between infant mortality and low birth weight babies need to be made in particular around smoking cessation and age of the mother.
- dmft (decayed missing filled teeth in children under 5 is 5% higher in Anglesey in 2011/12 than it was in 2007/08. Also Wrexham, Anglesey and Gwynedd have above average dmft in children under 5.

Education, Qualifications and Employment

Persistent absenteeism can have a detrimental effect on a child's education.

- Number unauthorised absences in maintained primary schools has remained the same
- Unauthorised absence rates from maintained secondary schools in Conwy (1.4%) and Denbighshire (1.4%) are slightly higher than the Welsh average (1.3%).

- Generally pupils eligible for FSM are not achieving as well as those not eligible for FSM. However there are schools in each county who have better attainment levels than others and in some where pupils eligible for FSM have better attainment levels, learning from these schools could help others improve levels within their schools.
- It is important that families are supported and engaged in the learning process with their children as well as schools to ensure they are supported to achieve their potential. This should be in both primary and secondary school

Early Support

- Flying Start is increasing its support for families through the expansion programme. However there will still be families outside these areas that will need support
- Families First has seen an increase in referrals with some areas having more self referrals from families which is encouraging
- There are a number of families with additional needs referred for support which indicates that there is a need for support in this area where families cannot access support through statutory services. This needs to be taken account of when commissioning services

Social Services

- Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham have seen an increases in the number of children looked after
- Gwynedd Conwy and Flintshire have seen an increase in the number of children in need.
- Anglesey, Flintshire and Wrexham have seen an increase in the number of re referrals

The main parental factors resulting in children being considered in need are:

- substance or alcohol misuse
- parental mental ill health
- domestic abuse

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 requires early intervention and prevention services to be in place together with information, advice and support. Working with partners there is an opportunity to identify services which meet these needs as an early intervention/prevention element and identify gaps in provision to aid future commissioning

Community Safety Indicators

- Across North Wales the majority of offenders are male
- The most prevalent offences are theft and violence against the person
- There are more 10 – 14 year olds offending than 15 and 16 year olds.
- The number of sexual offences has increased between 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- The majority of sexual offences committed in Anglesey are by 10-14 year olds with 13 of the 18 offences being committed by this age group.

- Conwy and Denbighshire have seen the highest increase in sexual offences from 5 in 2012/13 to 23 in 2013/14 the majority being committed by 17 year olds.
- Conwy and Denbighshire have seen a significant increase in Motoring offences from 6 in 2012/13 to 46 in 2013/14 the majority committed by 15 and 17 year olds.

A partnership approach to develop and enhance prevention and early intervention services working in collaboration across the sectors e.g. local authority, police, voluntary sector will contribute to reducing the likelihood and acts of criminal behaviour. Building on what is already in existence and developing new approaches to meet identified need.

Needs Analysis Data

The following pages provide summary data which will assist in identifying areas for further investigation either within individual authorities, regionally or sub-regionally. The data has been taken from various sources which are referenced.

Accompanying the data is a separate spreadsheet which has more in depth data from which the summaries have been taken for those who wish to have a more detailed picture.

Each section has a box identifying the highlights what the data is telling us.

Section 1: Population

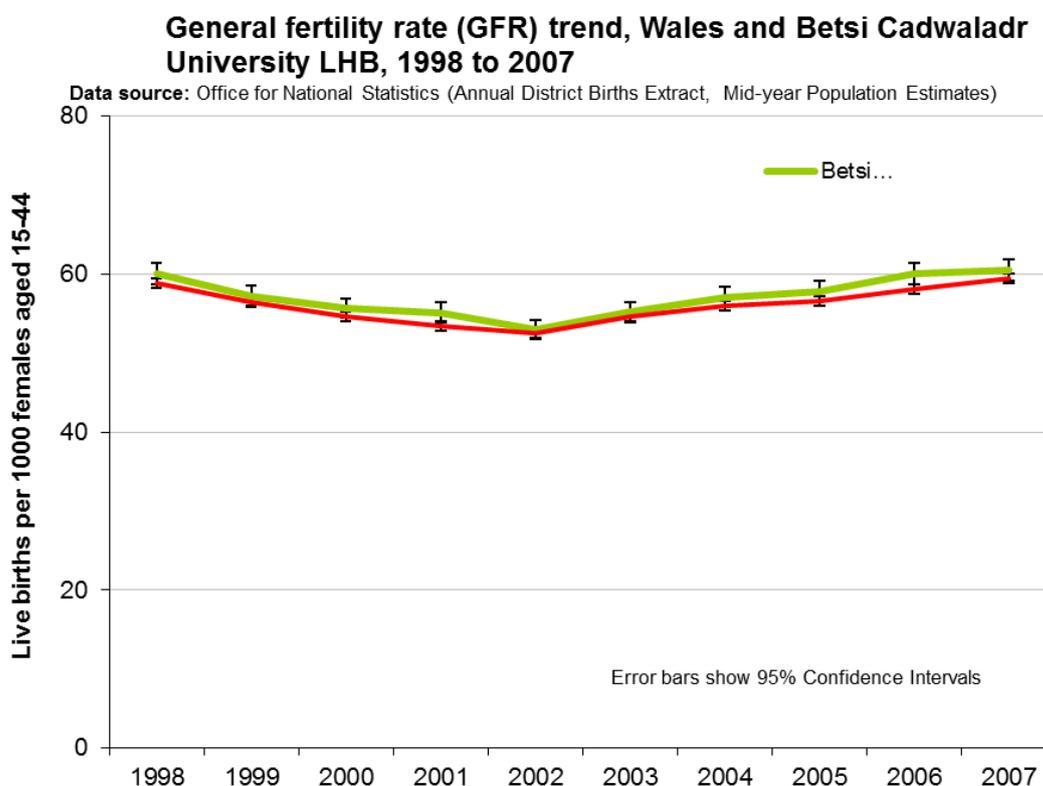
The 2014 mid year population estimate shows a slight increase in young people aged under 16 in North Wales².

- Between 2013 and 2014 the number of people in the population aged under 16 stayed about the same. Only Anglesey, Denbighshire and Wrexham have seen an increase in the population, with other authorities having a slight decrease in this age group.
- The number of children in the population has been declining steadily over the past decade or so, reflecting the declining number of babies born in the late 1980s and 1990s. It is too early to tell whether recent rises in fertility will halt or even reverse this decline.

The general trend towards declining population in this age group is due to the number of births in any given year being smaller than the number of children turning 16 and leaving this age group. The number of births has reduced in the main between 2010/11 and 2013/14.

The Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB General Fertility Rate (GFR) for 2007 was higher than the Wales rate. At local authority level GFR ranged from 56.8 in Gwynedd to 64.9 in the Isle of Anglesey. In 2007, The GFR for Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB was third highest out of the seven new LHBs.

Chart 1: General Fertility Rate



Projections show that within North Wales there's a very short term rise in numbers of children (until 2021) due to the increased fertility seen for several years to 2010.

However, fertility is falling again possibly due to the once-only impact of generational shift in starting families later in life for women now in their 30s and 40s. Completed family size is falling. As the smaller cohorts of those born in the 80s and 90s reach parenthood, the problem will compound as the % of children is declining constantly even as numbers rise, as the baby boomers are still a huge bulge in our population profile.

Within the other age groups the trend is for an increasing population with a significant rise in the number of people who are 65 and above.

Table 1.1: Number of 0-15 year olds in North Wales, 2001 and 2014

	Anglesey	Gwynedd	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Wrexham
2001	13,000	23,000	20,000	18,000	30,000	25,000
2014	12,000	21,000	19,000	17,000	28,000	26,000

Table 1.2: Number of people over 65 in North Wales, 2001 and 2014

	Anglesey	Gwynedd	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Wrexham
2001	13,000	22,000	25,000	19,000	22,000	21,000
2014	17,000	27,000	30,000	22,000	30,000	25,000

Source: Stats Wales Population Estimates

Table 1.3: Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) with the most 0-15 year olds in North Wales, 2013

Lower Super Output Area	Number
Plas Madog, Wrexham	681
Peblig, Caernarfon	648
Prestatyn North 2	623
Maeshyfyd, Holyhead	535
Holywell West	491
Marl 2, Llandudno	436

Source: Small area population estimates (SAPE), Office for National Statistics (mid year 2013)

The above shows the highest population of 0-15 year olds within each authority. Only in Anglesey, Gwynedd and Wrexham are the majority in Communities First Areas all other areas are outside this catchment area.

²² Stats Wales – population estimates 26 June 2014

Table 1.4: the LSOA with most 16-64 year olds in North Wales

Lower Super Output Area	Number
Menai Bangor (Gwynedd)	4106
Offa(Wrexham)	1961
Amlwch Port (Anglesey)	1569
Gogarth 1 (Conwy)	1560
Holywell West (Flintshire)	1539
Llanarmon yn Ial/Llandegla (Denbighshire)	1537

Source: Small area population estimates (SAPE), Office for National Statistics (mid year 2013)

Table 1.5: the LSOA with most 65+ year olds in North Wales

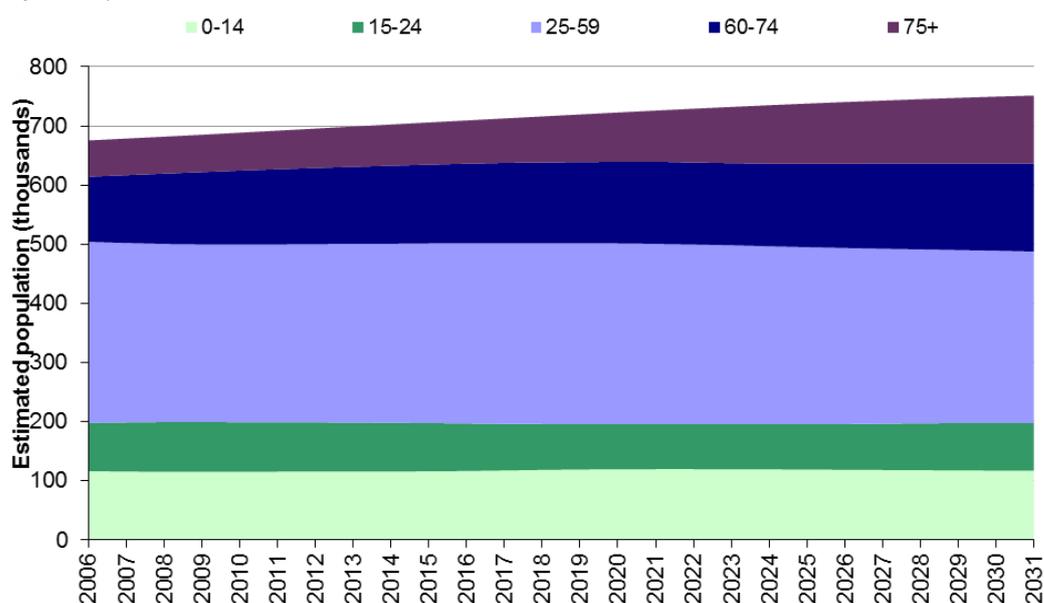
Lower Super Output Area	Number
Deganwy 1 (Conwy)	894
Prestatyn North 3 (Denbighshire)	751
Tywyn 1 (Gwynedd)	703
Brynteg (Anglesey)	654
Garden Village (Wrexham)	574
Gwernaffield (Flintshire)	562

Source: Small area population estimates (SAPE), Office for National Statistics (mid year 2013)

The above two tables show there are no high numbers within the Community First areas.

The below chart shows the projected population profile across the age ranges in North Wales.

Chart 2: 2006-based population projections (source Public Health Wales Observatory population projections)



Section 2: The economy & welfare reform

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objective (CPSS)

Objective 1: Reduce the number of families living in workless households

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales.

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income

Families First (FF)

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe

Economy

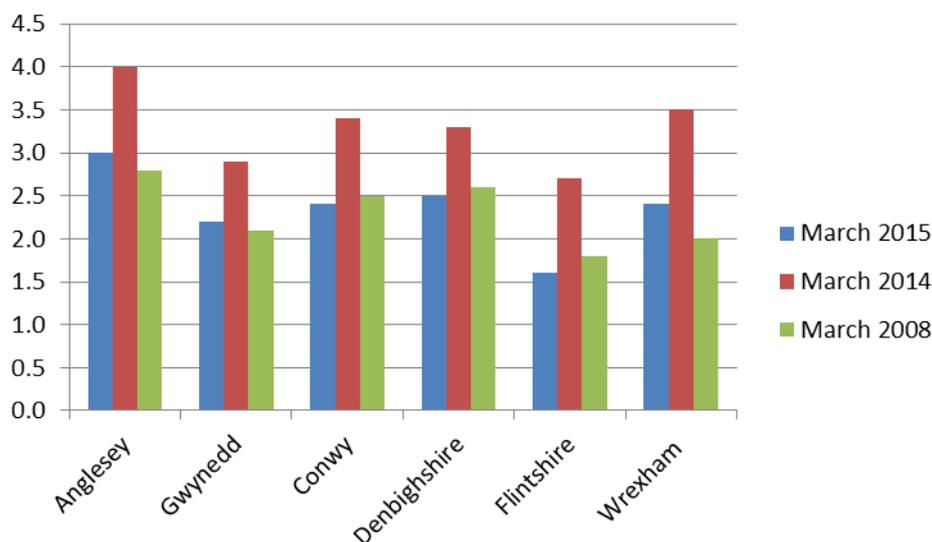
Objective 1 Reduce the number of families living in workless households.(CPSS)

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income (CPSS)

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment (FF)

Unemployment claimant count figures help to give an indication of how the 2008/09 recession has impacted on the local economy across North Wales authorities. All areas show an increase in the rate claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in 2014 compared to 2008 (see Chart 1 below). There is a considerable reduction in the number claiming JSA in 2015 compared to 2014 across all authorities. This follows a national trend for Wales with the claimant count reducing in the 12 months to April 2015 it fell by 16,900 (27.6%)³.

Chart 3: Rate of people 16-64 claiming JSA (March 2015)
(Families First Outcome 1 indicator)



³ Statistical Bulletin SB 28/2015 Key Economic Statistics May 2015

Source: NOMIS official labour market statistics Data released August 2015

Rate: Proportion of resident population aged 16-64 estimates

The average weekly earnings in the UK for full time employees prior to 2008 increased at an average of 4% per year. Since the recession the average increase is now at around 2% between 2009 and 2013. It is estimated that the median full-time ⁴gross weekly earnings in April 2014 were £518 up 0.1% from 2013 £517. This is the smallest annual growth since 1997⁵.

The comparison for full time gross weekly earnings between the UK and Wales in 2014 based on provisional figures is:

- UK is £518 (2013 figure £517)
- Wales average is £479⁶ (2013 figure £475)

There was an increase of 0.9% in Wales for 2014 compared to 4.5% in 2013 for average weekly full-time gross earnings in Wales. Both figures are above the UK average increase indicated above. However, the earnings figure remains lower than the UK average.

There is a difference in average weekly earnings between the public and private sector as shown below for Wales:

Public Sector - £543 annual increase of 1.7%

Private Sector - £430 annual increase of -0.7%⁷

The majority of employment within Anglesey, Conwy and Flintshire are in the private sector whilst Gwynedd, Denbighshire and Wrexham have the majority in the public sector. Conwy and Flintshire have more people in employment within caring and leisure and sales and customer service occupations which are generally the lowest paid. The median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees across the UK for sales and customer service are at £332 which is 36% lower than the median for all employees, see table 2.0 below for other occupation group earnings:

⁴ Full-time defined as employees working more than 30 paid hours per week. All figures relate to employees on adult rates whose earnings for the survey pay period were not affected by absence

⁵ ONS Statistical Bulletin - Annual Statistics of Hours and Earnings, 2014 Provisional Results – 19 November 2014

⁶ ONS Statistical Bulletin – Table 8.1a Annual Statistics of Hours and Earnings, 2014 provisional Results – 19 November 2014

⁷ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Provisional Results 2014 – table 25.1a Full-Time

Table 2.0: Median full-time gross weekly earnings by major occupation group, UK, 2014 (provisional results release)

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - Office for National Statistics (ONS) – Table 14.1a released 19/11/14

Major occupation group	£ per week		
	Men	Women	All
All	557.8	461.9	518
1 - Managers, directors and senior officials	827.5	670.8	769.2
2 - Professional occupations	766.6	661.7	710.6
3 - Associate professional and technical occupations	624.9	527.8	583.3
4 - Administrative and secretarial occupations	438.9	394.4	406.8
5 - Skilled trades occupations	490.1	348.9	480
6 - Caring, leisure and other service occupations	375.5	324.7	335
7 - Sales and customer service occupations	345.0	322.6	332.2
8 - Process, plant and machine operatives	457.0	334.3	440
9 - Elementary occupations	360.8	285.9	336.2

Notes: Employees on adult rates, pay unaffected by absence

Full-time defined as employees working more than 30 paid hours per week (or 25 or more for the teaching professions).

Occupations as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification 2010

2014 data are provisional

Figures rounded to one decimal place

A breakdown of weekly pay across the North Wales region is shown below for 2012 and 2013.

Table 2.1: Weekly earnings for all employee jobs full time (2013 revised)

Area	Median £	Average% change
Wales	475.3	4.5
Anglesey	446.7	-1.4
Gwynedd	450.8	5.4
Conwy	476.3	6.4
Denbighshire	436.0	1.5
Flintshire	494.9	6.9
Wrexham	492.6	6.0

Table 2.2: Weekly earnings for all employee jobs full time (2014 provisional results)

Area	Median £	Average% change
Wales	479.4	0.9
Anglesey	444.8	-0.4
Gwynedd	448.6	-0.5
Conwy	515.6	8.3
Denbighshire	417.4	-4.3
Flintshire	509.5	2.9
Wrexham	480.2	-2.5

Source: ONS Annual survey of hours and earnings 2014 provisional results – Table 8 Contains estimates of paid hours worked, weekly, hourly and annual earnings for UK employees by gender and full-time/part-time working by work based Region to Local Authority level

With the exception of Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham weekly earnings for 2013 are all below the Wales median weekly income of £479 with Denbighshire having the lowest weekly pay as well as the highest negative % change in income compared to 2013 figures. Conwy weekly earnings continue to increase with the highest increase of 8.3% in 2014.

The level of income received has an impact on poverty and in work poverty is on the increase. The number of families in work poverty has increased over the 10 year period from 2002/03 and 2012/13 with 22,000 more children in working families in poverty, but 40,000 fewer in workless families. The increase in working poverty was almost entirely in part working families i.e. part time, self-employed or one full time worker and one non worker⁸.

Those who are in low paid work living on the minimum wage currently set at £6.50 are at risk of being in poverty. The Living Wage foundation campaign for employers to pay the 'living wage' currently set at £7.85 (21% higher than the minimum wage) so that those who work are less likely to be in poverty. The living wage is calculated on the basic cost of living in the UK. There are 48 employers in Wales who are registered as paying the living wage employers according to the Living Wage Foundation web site.

The Chancellor recently announced in his Summer Budget that from April 2016 there will be a National Living Wage of £7.20 replacing the minimum wage for those aged 25 and over increasing to £9 by 2020. In addition there will be an increase in the tax-free personal allowance from the current £10,600 to £11,000 in April 2016 which will provide some additional income to those who benefit from this increase.

Minimum Income Standards (MIS) provide an indication of the income required for households to have an acceptable minimum standard of living which was defined by groups in the original research in 2008 as:⁹

'A minimum standard of living in Britain today includes, but is more than just, food, clothes and shelter. It is about having what you need in order to have the opportunities and choices necessary to participate in society'

In 2015 due to the stagnant inflation rate the MIS has not changed much in the last 12 months.

The 2015 report on MIS¹⁰ has found that

- Food, petrol and domestic power costs fell
- Some increases in transport and leisure services
- Rents and childcare costs have continued to rise.

⁸ Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales 2015, Joseph Rowntree Foundation September 2015

⁹ A Minimum Income Standard for the UK in 2014, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

¹⁰ Ibid

The rate for an acceptable MIS has not changed from 2014 being £17,000. This is likely to be due to the overall cost of budgets not changing as well as the increase in personal tax allowance.

The below tables provides an indication of the annual income required to meet the MIS.

Table 2.3: Earnings required to meet MIS

Per year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Single, working age	13,450	13,859	14,436	15,000	16,383	16,852	16,284	17,102
1-earner couple: 2 children	26,910	27,635	29,227	31,584	34,881	36,060	37,043	36,744
2-earner couple, 2 children	27,792	27,940	29,727	36,800	36,728	38,759	40,573	40,047
Lone parent, 1 child	11,990	12,122	12,454	18,243	23,861	25,586	27,073	26,725

Source: Minimum Income Standards for the UK in 2015 Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Table 2.4: Annual Earnings for Full Time Employees

(FF Outcome 1 indicator)

Authority	Median Income £	Percentage change %
Wales	24,384	1.2
Anglesey	25,147	6.3
Gwynedd	21,802	-1.1
Conwy	22,600	-3.2
Denbighshire	24,899	6.1
Flintshire	29,130	9.9
Wrexham	23,266	-4.5

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provisional results 2014 Table 7 place of work by local authority

The figure for annual earnings for a full time employee shows that in family with one earner and two children and a lone parent with one child (with the exception of Flintshire) they would not be earning the MIS. As the calculation takes account of what a household could afford to achieve an acceptable living standard those below this are likely to find it difficult to afford basics such as food and clothing even though they are working.

There are many people now working 'zero hour' contracts which mean that they do not have a guaranteed number of hours work and are only paid for the hours they do work. In Wales 2.8% (40,000) of people who work are on 'zero hours' contracts.

Recently released statistics from the Office of National Statistics¹¹ provides data on 'zero hours' contracts which indicate that the majority of contracts are in the Accommodation and Food sector.

The statistics also show the types of people on 'zero hour' contracts between April and June 2015:

- women make up a larger proportion of those reporting working on "zero-hours contracts" (54%) compared with people not on "zero-hours contracts" (47%)
- people who report being on a "zero-hours contract" are more likely to be at the youngest or oldest ends of the age range. 34% of people on "zero-hours contracts" are aged 16 to 24 and 6% are aged 65 and over (compared with 12% and 4% respectively for other employed people)
- 20% of people on "zero-hours contracts" are in full-time education compared with 3% of other people in employment.

There will be people who find 'zero hours' contracts beneficial to them due to study or retired and just wanting to work a small number of hours. Most people on 'zero hour' contracts work part time hours. The statistics show that around 2 in 5 people want more hours and 12% would like a different job with more hours.

Food Poverty

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales.(CPSS)

Outcome 3 Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being.(FF)

Outcome 4 Families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe (FF)

Food Poverty is one of the 5 priorities for supporting families identified in the Child Poverty Strategy. Food poverty is defined in the Strategy as 'an inability to afford or have access to food which provides a healthy diet'. The decrease in disposable income in low income household and rise in housing and energy costs has contributed to the affordability of basics such as food, heating etc.

' Indeed, the work of Donald Hirsch, director of the Centre for Research in Social Policy, has shown that in order to maintain a basic but socially acceptable standard of living, families need to spend at least 31 per cent more on basic living costs in 2015 than they did in 2008'. (taken from the Fabien Commission report p12¹²)

The impact of food poverty is significant with evidence showing that it can lead to higher likelihood of early death, likely to suffer from diet related disease e.g. diabetes as well as the emotional and mental impact of parents/carers not being able to provide for their

¹¹ Employee contracts that do not guarantee a minimum number of hours: 2015 up date, ONS 2/9/15

¹² Hungry for Change, Fabians Commission October 2015

family and on many occasions not eating. The impact of food poverty has an impact on education, employment, support and health services. Members of the Commissions Expert Panel (panel of people who have or are experience poverty) in the Fabian report described number of diet-related health conditions:

'that either they themselves or family members had experienced, including anaemia and psychological conditions such as depression and anxiety

Being able to eat healthily when living in poverty is extremely challenging as generally healthy food is more expensive than less nutritional food.

Food banks provide emergency food to families who are struggling to afford basic foods. In the majority of food banks vouchers are provided to families from various services to be able to receive 3 days food supply. They are one indicator of food poverty but it should be noted that not all those who are unable to afford food use food banks therefore this is only one indicator of a wider problem.

The use of Food Banks in Wales has increased significantly from 14,696 in 2011/12 to 85,875 in 2014/15 an increase of 17% based on Trussell Trust data. There are other food aid providers that we do not have data for which will add to this figure. The Trussell Trust figures also show that 49% of those using the food banks only need help once and on average people need two food bank vouchers in a year (vouchers can only be provided on 3 occasions).

Services commissioned through Families First funding who provide food bank vouchers to families are working with those families to understand the reasons behind the need to use food banks and provide advice and support to reduce their reliance on use of food banks.

Table 2.5: Use of Trussell Trust Foodbanks

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

	2013/14	2014/15
Abergele District	361	778
Anglesey (Holyhead)	1930	1603
Barmouth	568	603
Caernarfon	1569	1923
Flintshire (Mold)	6365	6443
Vale of Clwyd (Llanrhaeadr)	1990	1689
Wrexham (Rhosddu)	5546	5788

Figures from Trussell Trust North Wales

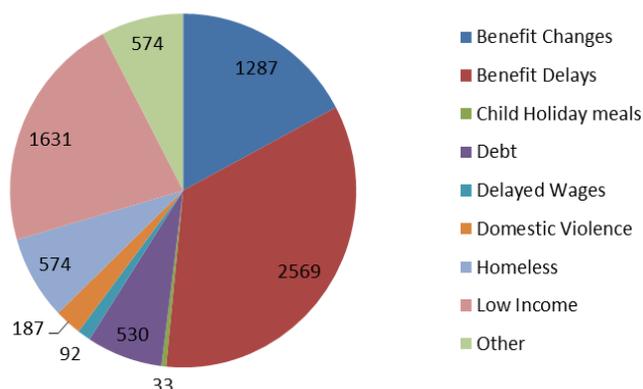
The majority of food bank users are between the age of 25 and 64 with a smaller amount of users over 65. The main reasons for using the food banks are

- Benefit delays
- Low income
- Benefit changes

The main reasons show the lack of income in some form resulting in the use of food banks. In some circumstances the families may have access to the food but there will be an issue with heating the food as they may not be able to afford to use the gas/electricity to cook the food, or are in temporary accommodation and will not have access to cooking facilities. There will therefore be an issue with access to cooking facilities for these families.

There are difficulties for some families feeding their children during school holidays especially those who receive free school meals. When children are not in school there is an additional expense of feeding their child during the day and a risk that they will not have as nutritionally balanced meals in the holidays as they would in school.

Chart 4: Reasons for Crisis 2014/15



Source: Trussell Trust North Wales Region

Those who access food banks are using them as a last resort, normally following a sudden loss of income for one reason or another. Research by Oxfam¹³ identified that

‘It was common for food bank users to have experienced ill health, bereavement, relationship breakdown, substantial caring responsibilities or job loss.’ The research also found that families see the use of food banks as a short term rather than long term measure.

The research also identifies that the lack of knowledge and understanding of the benefits system as well as support available result in reduced income and consequent use of food banks.

As will be discussed below the proposed changes in the benefits system announced in the Summer Budget will impact on those on low incomes which is likely to result in continued and further food poverty. The figures above already show that there is an impact on those on low income using food banks. As this is a last resort there will be more families in food poverty due to low income than we are aware of due to them feeling ashamed or embarrassed of using food banks. .

¹³ Emergency Use Only – Understanding and reducing the use of food banks in the UK – 2014 Child Poverty Action Group, Church of England, Oxfam GB and the Trussell Trust

Welfare Reform

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households (CPSS)

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales (CPSS)

Outcome1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment (FF)

The new Conservative government in their Summer Budget announced further planned reduction in the country's debt of which £12 billion will be from welfare cuts (by 2019/20) with new reforms to be implemented.

The changes are outlined below and will have an impact on those who are in and out of work:

- Working age benefit including tax credits and local housing allowance frozen for 4 years from 2016/17 - Overall, there are 243,000 people in Wales who receive one or more out-of-work benefits and 120,000 households who receive in-work tax credits, and will see their incomes fall by an average of 4.8% by 2020 (equivalent to £260 per family per year or £5.00 per week)¹⁴.
- Benefit cap to be reduced to £20,000 (from £26,000) – estimated to impact on around 5,000 families affected according to Welsh Government figures¹⁵
- Removing child credit and universal credit entitlement for 3rd and subsequent children from April 2017 (only for new claimants and new births)
- Reduction in how much families can earn before tax credit starts to be withdrawn – once family earnings are above £3,850 rather than current figure £6,420 for tax credits, also affects universal credit which will be withdrawn earlier or immediately for non-disabled households without children
- Entitlement to housing benefit removed for most childless 18-20 year olds who are out of work – this will have an impact on vulnerable young people such as care leavers depending on the regulations put in place.

The proposed reforms will have an impact on low earning families as a significant proportion of their income is from in work benefits. Tax credits increase low incomes for families and this could have an impact on many families in North Wales:

¹⁴ Summer Budget 2015: What it means for Wales, July 2015 Bevan Foundation

¹⁵ Ibid

Table 2.6: Families benefitting from Tax Credits and families with children receiving out of work benefits August 2013

(FF Outcome 1 indicator)

County	All tax credit recipient families	Total in work families	Total out of work families
Anglesey	5345	3890	1445
Gwynedd	8760	6790	1920
Conwy	8960	6610	2375
Denbighshire	7640	5345	1855
Flintshire	10770	7800	2950
Wrexham	10775	7655	3180
Wales	239,265	164,535	74,735

Source: HM Revenue and Customs, Personal Tax Credits, Finalised award statistics 2012/13

The impact of reduction in the amount families can earn before tax credits are withdrawn will result in families being on average about £1,000 (£20 per week) per year worse off¹⁶

The reduction in benefit cap will also have an impact on families who receive over £20,000 in benefits. The Bevan Foundation indicates that Community Housing Cymru estimate that an out of work family of two adults and three children will lose on average £3,200 per year (£61.50 per week). The benefit cap is administered through Housing Benefit (HB), with a household's HB entitlement being reduced so that the total amount of benefit received is no longer higher than the cap level. It is therefore likely to have more of an impact on those living in private rented accommodation, in particular in high rent areas. This may result in families either moving to areas where rent is lower or seeking social housing

According to figures between April 2013 and May 2015 the majority of families who have had their benefit capped in North Wales are those with 3, 4 or 5 and above children.

Table 2.7: Number of households capped since the introduction of the benefit cap 15 April 2013 to May 2015.

	Amount Capped (£ per week)			
	Total	Up to £50	£50.01 to £100	£100.01 to £150
Wales	1,845	1,065	528	200
Anglesey	45	25	11	6
Gwynedd	33	20	11	6
Conwy	61	42	14	9
Denbighshire	62	36	18	9
Flintshire	66	41	14	6
Wrexham	50	30	20	8

The Institute of Fiscal Studies data indicates that between April 2015- 2019 couples with children and lone parents who do not work will be the worst affected by the benefit changes with a significant reduction in net income at approximately 15%. Also working lone parents are likely to see an 8% drop in net income¹⁷.

The impact of the previous reforms was reported by the Institute of Fiscal Studies¹⁸ July 2014. They indicated that there would be a reduction of £10.75 per week in household income equivalent to £720 million a year across Wales by 2015. According to the report those who will lose the most are the following households:

- Working age disabled
- Non-working
- Those with children

Losses average £55 per week for non-working couple with children whereas two earner couples without children will gain by £5 per week. The below tables show the losses by households:

Table 2.6 Losses by work status of household, 2014–15 prices, % and £'s per week

	Tax and benefit changes (inc UC and PIPs)	
	%	£
Pensioner	-0.5	-2
Non-working (exc. pensioner)	-10	-34
Working, poorest half of population	-2	-10
Working, richest half of population	-1	-8

Data has been rounded

Those who are working are losing less as a result of benefit and tax changes than those who are non-working. This is due to the increase in personal tax allowance offsetting some of the impact of the benefit changes. However those who do not work do not benefit from the personal tax allowance. The higher rate of VAT affects all groups, however this will be most significant for the non-working group and those on low incomes.

Table 2.7: Losses by household disability status, 2014–15 prices, % and £s per week

	Tax and benefit changes (inc UC and PIPs)	
	%	£
Working-age non-disabled	-1.5	-9.55
Working-age disabled	-6.5	-33.54
Pensioner (all)	-0.5	-2.13

Notes: A disabled household is defined as one where someone would have been entitled to disability benefits under the April 2010 benefits system. Pensioner households are included for comparison purposes and include both disabled and non-disabled pensioners

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Benefit changes and distributional analysis, graph Impact of benefit reforms April 2015 – 19 p29 Andrew Hood .

¹⁸ The distributional effects of the UK government's tax and welfare reforms in Wales: an update – Institute for Fiscal Studies July 2014 David Phillips - <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/7258>

Working age disabled households will also lose more on average than working age non-disabled households. The loss increases further when Universal Credit and PIP are taken into account and the change from DLA to PIP will contribute to this. Again due to the low income they will not benefit from the increase in personal tax allowance.

A recent scoping of information and advice services across North Wales has shown that there are a significant amount of services available to support and advice families on the various elements of welfare benefits and debt. Evidence from Families First commissioned services providing welfare and debt advice shows that families are benefitting significantly from the support provided to access benefits and reduce debt.

What's it telling us?

- Whilst there has been an increase in JSA claimants since the start of the recession in 2008 there has been a significant decrease in the rate of JSA claimants between 2014 and 2015.
- Income is based on full time gross weekly earnings which in Wales has increased by 0.9 % in 2014 compared to 4.5% in 2013.
- The comparison for full time gross weekly earnings between the UK and Wales in 2014 based on provisional figures indicates that Wales average at £479 (2013 figure £475) which is less than the UK average of £518 (2013 figure £517) Average weekly pay in North Wales (with the exception of Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham) is lower than the Wales (£479) median with Denbighshire being the lowest with a decrease from 2013 of 4.7%.
- In work poverty – one of the main reasons for using the food banks are low income with the other reasons being benefit delays and changes.
- The use of food banks has increased significantly over the last year based on Trussel Trust figures.
- The impact of the current proposed welfare reforms is likely to have more of an impact on families with children and lone parents.
- Services to support families are available and being used and it is likely that more will be relying on these services with the implementation of further welfare reforms. We need to ensure that services adapt and work together to meet the needs of families with the implementation of the welfare reforms.

Section 3: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Child Index

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objective (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

Families First (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

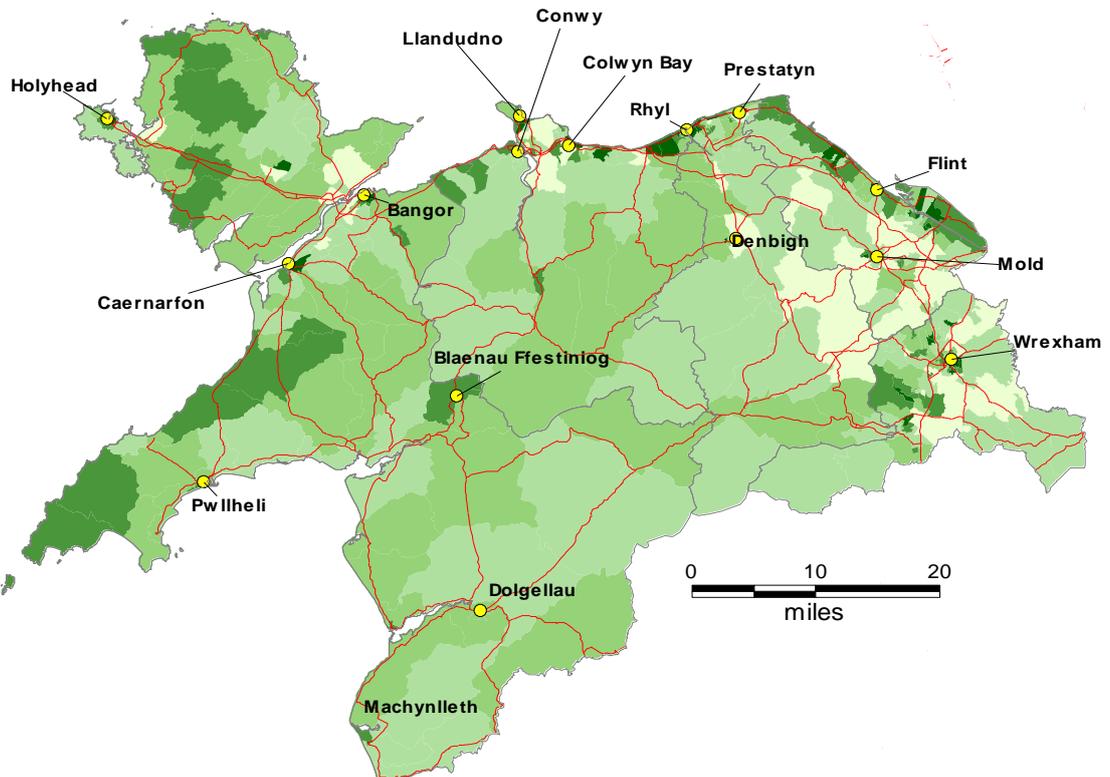
Overall Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008

Fifths of deprivation, Lower Super Output Areas, Data source: WAG

- Most deprived (49)
- Next most deprived (80)
- Median (107)
- Next least deprived (109)
- Least deprived (80)

Local authority boundary

A Roads



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The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 (WIMD 2011) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales. It ranks each of the 1,896 lower super output areas (LSOAs) in Wales against each other, with a rank of 1 assigned to the most deprived area. The ranks are broken down into eight different types of deprivation, each of which contributes a different weighting to the overall index. The types are:

- Income; employment; health; education; housing; physical environment; access to services and community safety

A score is calculated for each type of deprivation based on a number of underlying indicators which relate to that deprivation domain, such as unemployment rates (employment), overcrowding (housing) and GCSE attainment (education)¹⁹.

Alongside the main Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, the Welsh Government also produces a child index. This uses the same methodology as the main index, but is based only on indicators that relate specifically to children and young people.

Table 3.1: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 top 10% and 20% areas in North Wales (FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	Number of LSOAs	Number of Areas in most deprived 10% *	Number of Areas in most deprived 20% **
Isle of Anglesey	44	2	16
Gwynedd	73	4	4
Conwy	71	6	14
Denbighshire	58	14	16
Flintshire	92	2	12
Wrexham	85	6	13

Source: Welsh Government Stats Wales

*10% - ranks 1 – 191

**20% - ranks 1 - 382

Table 3.2: Child Index Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 top 10% and 20% areas in North Wales (FF Outcome 2 indicator)

Authority	Number of areas in most deprived 10%	Number of areas in most deprived 20%
Isle of Anglesey	2	4
Gwynedd	3	
Conwy	3	8
Denbighshire	6	3
Flintshire	4	9
Wrexham	6	9

Source: Welsh Government Stats Wales

Not all deprived people live in the most deprived areas. Around 1 in 5 of the people in income-benefits households live in the most deprived 10% of areas in Wales. This means that 4 out of 5 people in income benefits households do not live in the most deprived 10% areas in Wales.

Lack of deprivation is not the same as affluence; the least deprived area is not necessarily the most affluent area in Wales.

¹⁹ See appendix 1 for more details

Within the child index Denbighshire and Wrexham have the higher number of areas in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Wales. In Denbighshire they are ranked 1, 2 and 5 in the most deprived all of which are situated in west Rhyl. Wrexham have two areas ranked 12 and 18.

What's it telling us?

- Denbighshire are ranked 1, 2 and 5 in the child index, all of which are situated in west Rhyl. Wrexham have two areas ranked 12 (Queensway) and 18 (Wynnstay).
- Not all deprived people live in the most deprived areas - 4 out of 5 people in income benefits households do not live in the most deprived 10% areas in Wales.

Section 4: Rural poverty

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objective (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

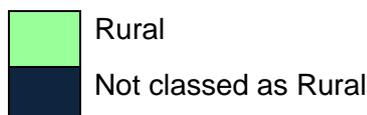
Families First (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe



Rural Development Plan 2007-2013



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published research about what it considers to be the minimum income standards needed to achieve a basic but acceptable standard of living²⁰. They estimate that people in rural areas will typically need to spend 10-20% more on every day requirements than people in urban areas²¹. The costs increase again for more remote rural areas. The table below shows the additional costs for different households in rural areas. Transport and domestic fuel are the main causes of the increased cost. This is explained by the lack of rural public transport meaning that reliance on cars is increased. Mains gas is often not available in rural areas, and so households must use more expensive

²⁰ A minimum income standard for the UK, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

²¹ A minimum income standard for rural households, Joseph Rowntree Foundation November 2010

fuels for central heating. Energy efficiency levels in rural homes tend to be lower, as larger and older properties are more common.

Table 4.1: additional weekly costs for rural households compared to urban
(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	Rural town		Village		Hamlet	
	Cost difference £	% increase	Cost difference	% increase	Cost difference	% increase
Pensioner couple	£2	1%	£43	19%	£48	22%
Single working-age adult without children	£16	9%	£32	18%	£41	24%
Working age couple with two children	£47	12%	£60	15%	£72	18%
Lone parent with one child	£22	9%	£34	14%	£37	16%

Figures have been rounded

Source: Minimum income standards, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Based on April 2010 prices. Excludes housing and childcare costs.

Households in rural areas will therefore need to earn more to cover these additional costs. To reach JRF's minimum income standards for rural areas, most rural households will need to earn 80-90% of average income. This is higher than the officially recognised measure of income poverty of 60% of the GB median income.

The average household income for full time employees in Wales as indicated in table 2.5 above is £24,182 therefore to reach the MIS income currently would be between £19,346 (80%) and £21,763 (90%) based on the above % increase.

Table 4.2: gross annual earnings required to meet rural and UK minimum income standards

	Rural town	Village	Urban
Single working-age adult without children	£19,00	£20,000	£17,000
Working-age couple with two children	£39,000	£41,000	£37,000
Lone parent with one child	£28,000	£31,000	£26,000

Figures have been rounded

Source: Minimum Income Calculator, Minimum income standards, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Based on Couple with two children one between 2-4 and one primary school age

Lone parent one child between 2-4 years.

Takes tax and in-work benefits and housing and childcare costs into account

Another source of information is from the Rural Households Survey 2013²² - which is a survey of rural Wales involving interviews with 4,002 residents from within the rural areas²³ of Wales. Of those responding some were from previous studies (1,486) and others were drawn from structured quotas for the local authority areas (2,516) based on age, gender and economic activity based on 2011 census.

Information relating to income was received by 3,102 households living in rural areas in Wales. The responses show that income in rural areas are low with 47% of the households earning an annual income of less than £21,000 which brings them below the above mentioned MIS for rural areas if the 90% figure was used. The below tables shows the overall results:

Table 4.3: Annual Household Income in rural areas

Income Level	% of Households
Less than £5,000 pa	3
£5,000 - £9,999	14
£10,000 - £14,999	17
£15,500 - £20,999	13
£21,000 - £30,999	22
£31,000 - £51,999	18
£52,000 or more	13

Figures have been rounded

Source: Rural Household Survey 2013

The below table shows the geographical distribution of households in rural areas of North Wales with an annual income of under £10,000 (according to the Rural Households Survey):

Table 4.4 – Proportion of households with annual income in rural areas under £10,000 by Local Authority

Local Authority	% of all interviews in Local Authority area
Anglesey	13
Gwynedd	14
Conwy	13
Denbighshire	15
Flintshire	10
Wrexham	12

Figures have been rounded

Source: Rural Household Survey 2013

The sources of household income are paid work, unearned income, pensions and benefits

These households will be below the MIS for rural communities whether the 80% or 90% increase is used.

²²Wales Rural Observatory

<http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/sites/default/files/Rural%20Household%20Survey%202013.pdf>

²³ As defined in the Welsh Rural Development Plan for Wales 200702913 – Predominantly rural or small town population profile

Recent announcements relating to further welfare reform will impact on those living in rural areas who receive working tax credits as they are more likely to be claiming working tax credits. They will therefore be hit by cuts to in-work support²⁴.

There is no index of deprivation based on purely rural elements; however the access to services indicator of the WIMD can give an indication of the average time taken to travel to and from services. This provides an indication of deprivation as a result of an inability to access a range of services necessary for day to day living. It covers material deprivation (not being able to get food) and social aspects of deprivation (e.g. not being able to access after school club). Poor access to services can compound other types of deprivation that exist in an area, e.g. public travel time to a GP from a hamlet can take over an hour, and this is dependent on whether public transport is available locally, this can possibly deter some families from attending a G.P. resulting in poor health. There is a higher population living in accommodation with no central heating in rural areas which can have a financial and health impact.

Gwynedd and Anglesey have the highest number of areas in the top 10% relating lack of to access to services which reflects the rurality in these areas.

What's it telling us?

- They estimate that people in rural areas will typically need to spend 10-20% more on every day requirements than people in urban areas
- Transport and domestic fuel are the main causes of the increased cost. This is explained by the lack of rural public transport meaning that reliance on cars is increased
- Mains gas is often not available in rural areas, and so households must use more expensive fuels for central heating
- Energy efficiency levels in rural homes tend to be lower, as larger and older properties are more common
- To reach JRF's minimum income standards for rural areas, most rural households will need to earn 80-90% of average income. This is higher than the officially recognised measure of income poverty of 60% of the GB median income
- Each local authority in North Wales has areas of rurality, some of which are larger than others. However, there will be issues for those residents in these communities due to low income and being able to access services what steps can be taken to ensure these communities are supported to reduce the impact of poverty.

²⁴ Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales 2015, as above.

Section 5: Labour market

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income

Families First Outcomes

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well being

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe

The labour market in North Wales has seen a greater improvement than the rest of Wales since 2001. The employment rate in North Wales average (71%) is higher than the Wales average (69%).

The below table shows the difference in employment rates across North Wales from 2008 to 2015:

Table 5.1: Employment Rates by Welsh local area and year (age 16-64)

(FF Outcome 1 indicator)

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wales	69	68	66	66	67	68	69	69
Anglesey	67	66	69	69	72	71	70	72
Gwynedd	69	69	68	68	66	69	70	69
Conwy	71	72	69	69	71	71	72	70
Denbighshire	69	69	67	67	70	69	73	69
Flintshire	75	76	73	72	74	73	72	71
Wrexham	74	74	72	73	72	73	74	73

Figures have been rounded

Source: Stats Wales

The North Wales Economic Ambitions Board has produced a Regional Skills and Employment Plan which provides an assessment of current skills and labour issues facing the six counties of North Wales. The Plan also identifies present and futures demands within the region for skills and labour, and outlines the regional interventions required to address these, whilst complimenting and aligning to the direction as outlined within the Welsh Government 'Skills Implementation Plan'.²⁵

The plan will support the development of skills in the labour market to meet the identified demand for skills and labour in the region.

²⁵ North Wales Economic Ambitions Board: Regional Skills and Employment Plan 2015

The below table shows the claimant count by rate for each authority which shows a reduction in claimants between July 2014 and 2015; the highest reduction is in Wrexham reduced by 937 claimants.

Whilst it is encouraging that more people are in employment there is a concern that the rate of income is low leading to some continuing to be in poverty. As discussed above one of the main reasons for using food banks in North Wales is due to low wages.

Table 5.2: Resident based claimant rate by local area (not seasonally adjusted)

(FF Outcome 1 indicator)

	Jul-08	Jul-09	Jul-10	Jul-11	Jul-12	Jul-13	Jul-14	Jul-15
North Wales	2.1	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.6	1.9
Isle of Anglesey	2.7	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.6	3.2	3.0
Gwynedd	1.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.2	1.8
Conwy	2.3	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7	2.6	1.9
Denbighshire	2.4	3.9	3.5	3.6	4	3.6	2.7	2.2
Flintshire	1.8	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.1	3	2.1	1.3
Wrexham	2.1	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	2.9	1.8

Figures have been rounded

Source: Stats Wales

Claimant Rate: The number of people claiming benefits as a percentage of the resident population aged 16-64.

Income Related benefits provides an indication of the number who are in work and claiming in work benefits. As discussed above there will be an impact on these families with the continued implementation of Welfare Reform. There is already evidence that in work poverty is increasing as outlined below

'As a consequence of rising in-work poverty in Wales, more working-age adults and children were now in low-income working families (285,000 on average in the three years to 2010/11) than in low-income non-working ones (275,000)' ²⁶

Local authorities are required to undertake a child care sufficiency audit to identify the childcare needs within their areas. Recent reports from some authorities consistently state that parents use child care mainly to be able to work. As part of the assessment parents have indicated that they would prefer more flexible opening times with earlier and later opening as well as weekend provision. Child care for children with disabilities is an issue in most areas with insufficient child care available to meet the needs of disabled children, especially those with more complex needs.

In order to ensure that parents are able to gain and stay in employment and maximise their income it is important to ensure that there is a range of affordable childcare to meet all needs.

²⁶ Monitoring poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales 2013, Joseph Rowntree Foundation September 2013 (research by a team at the New Policy Institute)

What's it telling us?

Although there have been fluctuations in the employment rate the recession does not appear to have had a significant impact on employment in North Wales.

The claimant rate has also decreased over the last 4 years however -

- Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham have a claimant rate higher than the Wales average

In-work poverty is a potential priority for joint work across the 6 North Wales local authorities.

Regional Skills and Employment plan will help to identify the skills required for employment

Section 6: Household indicators

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives

Objective 2: *To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households*

Objective 3: *To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest*

Objective 5: *To support families living in poverty to increase household income*

Families First Outcomes

Outcome 1: *Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment*

Outcome 3: *Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well being*

Outcome 4: *Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe*

Income

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income (CPSS)

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment (FF)

Household income is often used as a proxy measure for poverty. A household is taken to be in poverty if the total annual household income (including any benefits received) is below 60% of the average for Great Britain in 2011/12 the 60% average income was £256 per week before household costs. In 2013/14 the 60% median income before housing costs is £272 per week.

Income had increased steadily between 1998/99 and 2009/10 but has since declined. The average household income has remained the same in real terms in 2012/13 and 2013/14. The average income before household costs in 2013/14 is £453 per week which is less than the average income in 2009/10 which was £480 per week²⁷.

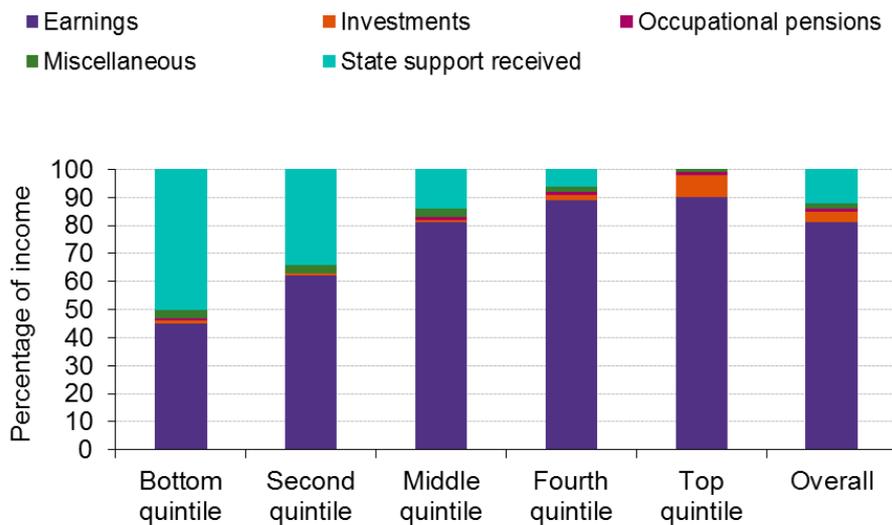
In 2013/14 the average earnings rose by 1.5% which is lower than the Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation rate which was 2.9% (CPI inflation was 2.3%). Benefits rose at different levels:

- Working age benefits were up rated by 1%
- Tax credit elements for disabled adults and children up-rated between 2.2 and 2.5%
- Disability benefits up rated by 2.2%
- Basic state pension up rated by 2.5%

The income received by families in the lower income bracket is made up of 34% earnings and 56% state support where those in the higher income bracket earnings make up 82% of their income (before housing costs)²⁸.

²⁷ Households below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2013/14 June 2015 (United Kingdom) Average Income and Income Distribution

²⁸ Ibid

Chart 5: Income sources as a proportion of gross income by quantile and household type 2013/14

Wales has the highest percentage of children living in relative low income in the UK based on a 3 year average in 2013/14.

As indicated above the average income has decreased. The impact of this will be that the number of children below the poverty line will decrease. The number of children living below the relative poverty threshold is likely to be due to the fall in the median income nationally which has pushed the poverty line down. The families are likely to be in the same position but are now above the poverty line due to the decrease in average income.

Table 6.1: % children living in a household earning less than 60% of the average for Great Britain (at 31st August) (FF Outcome 1 indicator)

Authority	2009	2010	2011
Anglesey	19%	20%	20%
Gwynedd	17%	17%	16%
Conwy	20%	20%	19%
Denbighshire	22%	22%	21%
Flintshire	17%	17%	17%
Wrexham	20%	20%	20%
Wales	23%	22%	22%
GB	21%	20%	20%

Figures have been rounded

Source: CTC and WTC statistics finalised annual awards, HMRC

The below wards in each area contain the highest percentage of children in low income families according to the measure above. The accompanying spreadsheet shows a breakdown for all wards in North Wales for families in receipt of CTC (<60% median income) or IS/JSA .

- Denbighshire, Rhyl west 2 - 64%
- Wrexham, Queensway – 61%
- Conwy, Llysfaen - 49%

- Gwynedd, Peblig – 41%

Table 6.2: % Children in low income families Snapshot as at 31 August 2011 published February 2014 (FF Outcome 1 indicator)

	%
Wales	22%
Anglesey	20%
Gwynedd	16%
Conwy	19%
Denbighshire	21%
Flintshire	17%
Wrexham	20%

Figures have been rounded

Source: CTC and WTC statistics finalised annual awards, HMRC

Households with Disabled Persons

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income (CPSS)

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment (FF)

Those families within which there is a disabled person derive a smaller proportion of their income from earnings.

For families with children containing one or more disabled member they are more than twice as likely to live in households in combined low income and material deprivation as those in families with no disabled member, 22% compared to 10% before household costs.

Table 6.3: % children living in households below 60% of contemporary median income (excluding DLA, PIP and AA)

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Before Housing Costs				
Individuals in families where no-one is disabled	15	15	15	14
Individuals in families where a child is disabled	18	22	20	21
Individuals in families where someone is disabled	23	23	22	24
After Housing Costs				
Individuals in families where no-one is disabled	24	23	23	23
Individuals in families where a child is disabled	32	32	30	33
Individuals in families where someone is disabled	36	34	34	39

It is important to ensure that disabled people are supported into employment to enable them to increase their chances of increasing their income. A report by SCOPE considered the impact on families if there were no changes in welfare benefits and the disability employment rate remained the same. They estimated that by 2030 the incidents of relative poverty for this cohort would rise from 19% to 30% whilst absolute poverty would rise from 20% to 24%²⁹. The report goes on to estimate that if the employment rate in disabled people

²⁹ Enabling work: disabled people, employment and the UK economy, April 2015

http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Publication%20Directory/Landman_Report.PDF?ext=.pdf

increased by 5% this would result in a fall in absolute poverty from 24% to 21% and for relative poverty a fall from 30% to 25% by 2030.

It is imperative for families with disabled children are open to higher levels of stress and low income due to the needs of their children. Contact a Family have undertaken a survey of parents/carers with disabled children every two years since 2008, Counting the Cost³⁰ which looks at the impact of the economic downturn on these families. In 2014 more than 3,500 families responded from across the UK. Even though 66% of the households who responded had someone in employment a third earned less than £15,000 per year. The families also report going without basics such as heating (33% compared to 14% in 2010) and food (31% compared to 16% in 2008). As a result of the stresses families are under by going without they report:

- 22% child's health has worsened
- 49% have suffered ill health
- 13% have suffered a relationship breakdown
- 56% have argued with their partner or children
- 65% reported being behind with energy and utility bills – 36% have taken out a loan for heating
- 41% have needed a loan to pay for food

The three main costs for families are:

- Higher heating and utility bills
- Additional transport and childcare costs
- More frequent washing and replacing household goods, clothes and toys

Additional barriers to work reported:

- 88% have caring responsibilities which means they can't work as much as they would like
- 72% are cutting back on work or giving up a career because of childcare problems.

What's the data telling us?

Income

- There has been very little change across North Wales in the number of children in low income households between 2009 and 2014.
- Because of the way relative poverty is measured, families may be brought out of poverty while their circumstances are exactly the same as the poverty line has decreased also.
- Another poverty measure is based on working tax credits and child tax credits so the data may change as a result of welfare reform.
- Taking account of the additional support and costs for families with a disabled child support needs to be available around childcare, more flexible working arrangements and ensuring that they are claiming the most appropriate benefits.

³⁰ Counting the Cost 2014 Research into the finances of more than 3,500 families with disabled children across the UK, Contact a Family http://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/805120/counting_the_costs_2014_uk_report.pdf

- Young people with a disability entering work need to be sufficiently supported to do so and employers need to be supporting of their needs within the workplace to enable them to earn and gain skills.

Homelessness

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe (FF)

The Housing Act (Wales) 2014 was introduced in April 2015 and included a number of changes aimed at reducing homelessness by placing prevention at the centre of local authority duties. There is also an emphasis on co-operation and multi agency working.

Shelter states that living in temporary accommodation is a risk factor for poverty and poor outcomes. Poor housing can affect children in several ways and can be long-lasting. Their health and emotional well-being suffers; they are more likely to have problems at school and have lower academic achievements; and their life chances and future job prospects may be affected.³¹

The number of people being accepted as homeless has fluctuated since 2008 but the numbers are reducing with some small increases in the last 2 years.

Table 6.3: Number of households with dependent children accepted as homeless by priority need (FF Outcome 4 indicator)

Authority	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Anglesey	95	60	75	-	25	35	20
Gwynedd	125	105	85	75	60	65	45
Conwy	45	50	60	70	50	55	50
Denbighshire	55	45	35	35	20	20	30
Flintshire	65	35	25	45	35	40	30
Wrexham	140	105	125	155	115	55	60
Wales	2,250	1,920	2,370	2,200	2,000	1,680	1,790

Source: homelessness data collection, Welsh Government up dated 24/6/15

If a household is unintentionally homeless, and falls within a priority need group such as households with dependant children, the Council is obliged to help. The homeless households the Council helps may be placed in temporary accommodation, which means they have not been found suitable accommodation in a settled home. This can be in a self contained dwelling, hostels, refuges or bed and breakfasts. Low income, unemployment and poverty are factors in almost all cases of homelessness.

Although the number of households being placed in temporary accommodation has decreased. Private temporary accommodation is the main form of accommodation used to house families temporarily in North Wales.

³¹ Homelessness factsheet, Shelter 2007

Table 6.4: Number of homeless families in temporary accommodation

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

Source: Stats Wales, Homeless Data Collection Households accommodated temporarily by local authority area and accommodation type (Households with dependent children)

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Anglesey	210	265	225	190	120	50	15	5
Gwynedd	85	85	70	45	60	50	30	15
Conwy	105	95	80	95	65	50	40	40
Denbighshire	60	40	25	30	15	15	15	25
Flintshire	95	95	40	30	40	55	20	10
Wrexham	40	30	25	50	55	40	25	25
Wales	1,585	1,420	1,125	1,245	1,250	1,010	855	765

Table 6.5: number of eligible unintentionally homeless young people Age 16 – 17 years in priority need (FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Anglesey	10	~	5	5	~	~	~
Gwynedd	25	20	15	20	~	5	5
Conwy	25	15	15	~	5	5	~
Denbighshire	~	~	5	~	~	~	~
Flintshire	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Wrexham	35	20	15	25	10	5	5

~ these figures were disclosive and so were not published by Welsh Government

Source: Stats Wales, Homelessness data collection

Table 6.6: Number of homeless young people age 18 – 24 years

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Anglesey	50	50	30	15	15	15	10
Gwynedd	95	95	90	80	55	55	35
Conwy	40	45	60	70	50	35	50
Denbighshire	35	30	30	35	25	10	25
Flintshire	35	25	15	20	30	20	25
Wrexham	90	80	85	135	95	50	50

Figures have been rounded

Source: Stats Wales, Homelessness data collection, eligible unintentionally homeless in priority need

Household Composition

According to the Department of Work and Pensions³² the following groups are likely to be in relative poverty before housing costs in 2013/14:

- Children and working-age adults in workless or one earner families and lone-parent families
- Children in families with three or more children are 22% compared to 15% for one and two child families;
- Individuals in families containing one or more disabled member

³² Households below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2011/12 June 2013 (United Kingdom) Individuals in low income and material deprivation

- Social rented sector tenants.

Lone parent families are at a disadvantage within the labour market often relating to securing jobs that fit around school hours and child care, this is in addition to being able to find and pay for child care. These factors are further complicated due to living on a single low income because of low paid employment or working part time. Further factors affecting the position of lone parents include the impact of welfare reform.

The following tables show projections of lone parent households with 3 or more children living in North Wales authorities:

Table 6.8: Projections 4 person households with 1 adult and 3 children

County	2014	2015	2016	2017
Isle of Anglesey	168	168	167	167
Gwynedd	328	331	333	336
Conwy	310	309	308	309
Denbighshire	273	276	281	285
Flintshire	395	396	398	400
Wrexham	449	465	480	495

Source: Stats Wales Household Projections: 2011 based household projections for local authorities in Wales 2011-2036, Welsh Government

Table 6.9: Projections 5 + households with 1 adult and 4+ children

County	2014	2015	2016	2017
Isle of Anglesey	74	75	77	78
Gwynedd	114	115	116	117
Conwy	116	116	116	117
Denbighshire	104	107	111	114
Flintshire	173	176	179	182
Wrexham	180	188	195	202

Source: Stats Wales Household Projections: 2011 based household projections for local authorities in Wales 2011-2036, Welsh Government

What's the data telling us?

Homelessness issues:

Higher proportion of 18 – 24 year olds homeless compared to 16-17 year olds. The 16 – 17 year olds are supported following the Southwark Judgement which is likely to be why homelessness has reduced in this age cohort. The support for 18 – 24 year olds should be reviewed to reduce the level of homelessness within this cohort of young people. Proposed welfare benefit reforms relating to housing benefits is likely to impact on 18 to 20 year olds.

Household composition links to relative poverty:

- Flintshire and Wrexham have the highest number of families with 1 adult and 3 children and 1 adult and 4 children households
- Child care has been identified as a barrier to work especially flexibility and cost.
- Support for single parents who are not working to enter the labour market through skills and training is needed. Also for those already in work to improve their skills and future prospects in employment.

Section 7: Health indicators

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives:

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest

Families First Outcomes:

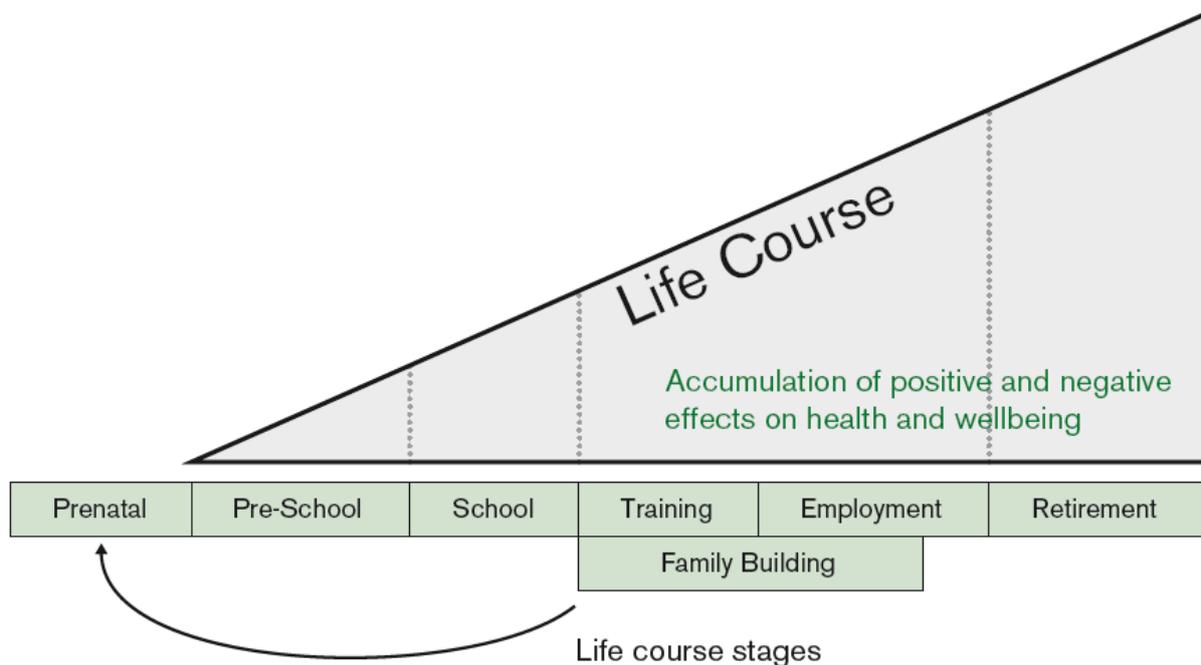
Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe

Objective 3 of the Child Poverty Strategy includes 'reducing inequalities that exist in health' which relates to whole families but most importantly children. Giving a child the best start in life supports their long term health and well-being. Ensuring a healthy start begins in pregnancy and continues through the life stages to adulthood. Negative health outcomes have been associated with smoking, alcohol consumption and poor nutrition in pregnancy, poverty in childhood and poor educational attainment. We need to ensure that these risk factors are tackled early to prevent and intervene to ensure children have the best start in life and continue to promote positive wellbeing throughout life stages to maintain the health of children as they grow.

Fig. 1: Life Course Stages

Source: The Marmot Review. 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives: A Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post-2010' February 2010



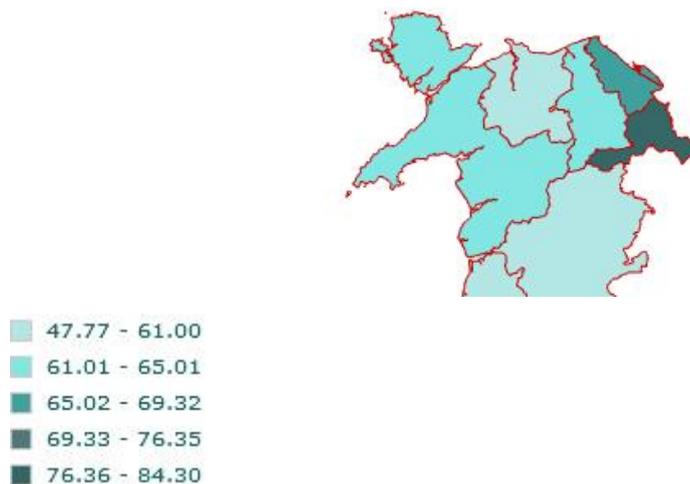
Babies with low birth weight

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Map 1: Low Birthweight by Local Authority areas 2009 – 11

Source: Public Health Wales Observatory, Health Maps Wales



There is a strong link between low birth weight and poor health and deprivation. Poor health continues into adulthood for low birth weight babies with a higher risk of chronic disease such as diabetes or coronary heart disease. Smoking is a major risk factor contributing to low birth weight, other risk factors are poor maternal nutrition and excessive alcohol or drug consumption. People smoking around a pregnant woman also add to the risk e.g. partner, other family members. A further risk is the maternal age of the mother with teenagers more likely to have a low birth weight baby³³

'An average of 15% of young people aged between 11 – 16 years in North Wales smoke compared with 12% of young people of the same age across the rest of Wales'.³⁴

There is a high risk that these young people will continue to smoke in pregnancy if they are not supported to stop. Key findings from a review of low birth weight by Public Health Wales shows the main risk factors are:

- Tobacco smoke
- Poor nutrition
- Substance misuse
- Sexual infections

These risk factors were shown to be clustered around particular groups in the community in particular young women living in deprived areas. Public Health Wales are currently working

³³ Executive Director Public Health Wales Annual Report 2011

³⁴ Public Health Wales A Healthier North Wales: Smoking in Pregnancy
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/64731#2>

with BCU and Stop Smoking Wales implementing smoking cessation interventions for expectant and new mothers.

The Wales target for low birth weight is to reduce the proportion of babies born under 2500g in the most deprived fifth of the population by 19 per cent to no more than 7.3% by 2020³⁵. The number has fallen overall from 7.7% in 2002-04 to 7.1% in 2012-13 which shows the number is reducing. The below table provides an overview of low birth weight per authority³⁶.

Table 7.1: % live births with low birth weight*

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	2011	2012	2013
Isle of Anglesey	7	7	6
Gwynedd	6	7	6
Conwy	6	6	6
Denbighshire	6	8	8
Flintshire	6	6	6
Wrexham	8	7	8
Wales	7	7	7

Figures have been rounded

*low birth weight is defined as less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces

Source: Stats Wales, Health

Child Measurement Programme ³⁷

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

In 2011/12 the Child Measurement Programme was introduced to gather population information on children in reception classes (age 4 and 5 years) relating to the prevalence of underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obesity at national and local levels.

³⁵ Building Resilient Communities, Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan

³⁶ Building Resilient Communities : Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan – Annual Report 2014

³⁷ Childhood Measurement Programme for Wales 2013/14

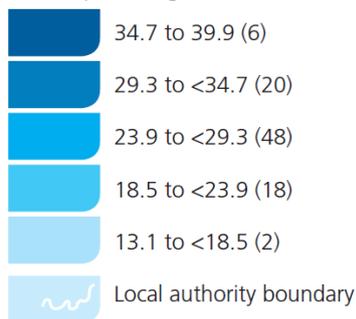
Map 2: Proportion of children who are overweight or obese, 3 years combined data, 2011/12, 2012/13 & 2013/14, children aged 4 to 5 years Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board area.

Source: Public Health Wales Observatory using Child Health Measurement Programme data



Due to smaller sample sizes at Middle super output area level, caution should be taken when making comparisons between areas.
Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CMP data (NW15) © Crown copyright and database right 2015. Ordnance Survey 1000044810

MSOA, percentage



Childhood obesity

The prevalence of childhood obesity is increasing and is seen as one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. The health effects of childhood obesity range from immediate psychological and emotional effects to longer term consequences into adulthood. Children who are obese are also more likely to be obese in adulthood. Obese children Obesity increases the risk of developing chronic disease such as

- type 2 diabetes,
- high blood pressure,
- heart disease,
- osteoarthritis,
- liver disease and
- some types of cancer

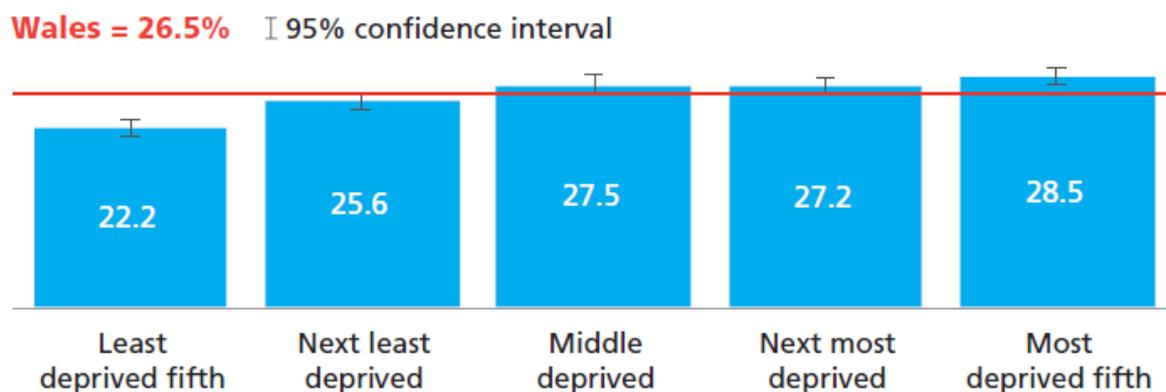
The number of children being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes has also increased. All of these factors have a long term impact on children resulting in an increasing demand on health and other public services.

Research has also found that the prevalence of obesity in children can be linked to obesity within the family with a link between diet and activity within the family. There is also a suggestion from the study that not being breastfed and weaning early before the age of 3 months can increase the probability of childhood obesity between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

Obesity is higher in the most deprived areas; in Wales 28.5% of children were overweight or obese compared to 22.2% in the least deprived areas. The prevalence of obesity and 'overweight or obese' has increased slightly in the least deprived areas and decreased in the most deprived areas. The percentage of children in reception year classed as being overweight or obese was higher in Wales at 26% than in England at 22%.

Chart 6: Proportion of children aged 4 to 5 years who are overweight or obese by WIMD quantiles

(FF Outcome 2 & 3 indicators)



Source: Public Health Wales Observatory using Child Measurement Programme data 2013/14
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/67795>

Overall in North Wales 1 in 3 children in Anglesey (32.4%) and Gwynedd (30.1%) are overweight or obese. There is a higher percentage of girls with a healthy weight (73%) compared to boys (71%). Anglesey, Gwynedd, Denbighshire and Wrexham have all seen an increase in the number of girls who are overweight or obese. The number of boys who are overweight or obese has increased only in Anglesey and Wrexham with the other authorities either seeing a decrease or remaining the same. The Wales average for children being overweight or obese is 26.5%, only Conwy and Flintshire are below the average.

Table 7.3: Weight comparison for girls and boys by % per Authority

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	Healthy weight or underweight				Overweight or obese			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
Betsi Cadwaladr UHB	71	71	75	73	28	29	25	27
Isle of Anglesey	71	65	77	71	29	35	23	29
Gwynedd	67	69	73	71	32	31	27	29
Conwy	73	76	75	76	27	24	25	24
Denbighshire	73	72	75	72	27	27	25	28
Flintshire	74	75	74	75	25	25	26	25
Wrexham	71	68	76	73	29	32	24	27

Figures have been rounded

Source: Public Health Wales Child Measurement Programme publications

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/67795>

The Child Measurement Programme have combined three years data to look at the data for areas of residence for children relating to urban, less sparse and sparse areas. This data shows for the BCU area the percentage of children who are overweight or obese living in areas classified as sparse is higher than the Wales average.

Teenage pregnancy

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Department of Health research has shown that there is a close relationship between teenage pregnancy and social and economic deprivation. Babies of teenagers are less likely to be breastfed and are twice as likely to become teenage parents themselves.

Teenage mothers are more likely to leave school with no qualifications, to suffer post-natal depression and other mental health problems and are at higher risk of living in poverty. Children of teenage mothers are at higher risk of low birth weight, having poor health, living in poor housing and are more likely to live in poverty as adults.³⁸

Across North Wales Denbighshire and Wrexham have the highest rate of teenage conceptions compared to the other areas. Anglesey, Denbighshire and Wrexham are higher than the Wales average. There are schemes in place to help reduce the prevalence of teenage pregnancies as well as second pregnancies across Wales. In North Wales there is the C-Card scheme which is available to young people aged 13 to 25 and provides free sexual health advice and condoms. Empower to choose is a scheme aimed at reducing unplanned second pregnancies for young women under 18 years by providing contraceptive advice and follow up as part of their care at the end of pregnancy.

³⁸ 'Teenage pregnancy strategy: Beyond 2010', Department of Health. London.

Table 7.5: Rate of under 16 teenage conceptions

Authority	2010	2011	2012	2013
Anglesey	9	7	13	6
Gwynedd	8	5	7	5
Conwy	7	9	5	4
Denbighshire	5	6	5	9
Flintshire	8	3	6	5
Wrexham	8	9	4	8
Wales	8	6	6	5

Figures have been rounded

Notes: Under 16 refers to age 13 – 15 yrs. Rate is per 1,000 women

Source: Data Unit Wales – InfoBase Cymru Conceptions

Table 7.6: Rate of under 18 teenage conceptions

Authority	2010	2011	2012	2013
Anglesey	34	38	38	23
Gwynedd	34	37	32	28
Conwy	39	34	34	26
Denbighshire	35	37	33	35
Flintshire	38	34	30	27
Wrexham	42	39	37	41
Wales	37	34	31	27

Figures have been rounded

Under 18 refers to age 16 – 17 yrs.

Source: Data Unit Wales – InfoBase Cymru Conceptions

Rate is per 1,000 women

Table 7.7: Rate of under 20 teenage conceptions

Authority	2010	2011	2012	2013
Anglesey	56	67	60	42
Gwynedd	41	43	44	40
Conwy	63	59	53	40
Denbighshire	60	68	56	56
Flintshire	61	57	47	48
Wrexham	65	64	61	57
Wales	56	53	48	43

Figures have been rounded

Under 20 refers to age 15 – 19 yrs.

Source: Data Unit Wales – InfoBase Cymru Conceptions

Rate is per 1,000 women

N.B. Teenage conception rates across local authorities tend to fluctuate because of the low numbers involved, not necessarily because of long term trends.

Infant Mortality

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Infant mortality relates to death of a child under 1 year. The long term trends show a significant decrease in the rate of infant mortality. The rates have fluctuated during the 2000s between 5 in 2001 and 4 in 2012³⁹. The table below shows Wrexham as having the highest infant mortality rate in 2012 at 7.4 which is the second highest rate in Wales (Blaenau Gwent is highest at rate of 7.7)⁴⁰.

As well as biological factors, social factors are associated with high rates of infant mortality. Social factors include: ⁴¹

- Birth weight
- Mothers age at birth of child
- Mother's country of birth
- Marital status
- Number of previous births

In 2011 the highest rate of infant mortality was amongst mothers who were under 20 years and 40 years and over. Mothers who were between 35 and 39 years had the lowest rate of infant mortality⁴².

Table 7.8: Deaths by area of usual residence 2013 registrations

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

County	rate (per 1,000 Infant mortality live births)	Number Infant (under 1 year)
Wales	3.6	122
Anglesey	3.9	3
Gwynedd	:	1
Conwy	:	2
Denbighshire	4.9	5
Flintshire	4.2	7
Wrexham	4.3	7

Note: Rates were not calculated where there were fewer than 3 deaths in a cell, denoted by (:). It is ONS practice not to calculate rates where there are fewer than 3 deaths in a cell, as rates based on such low numbers are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation.

Source: ONS Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales by Area of Usual Residence, 2013 Released March 2015

Dental health

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

³⁹ Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin SB17/2014 February 2014

⁴⁰ ONS Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence, 2012 Registrations

⁴¹ ONS Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales by Social and Biological Factors, 2011 – 20 November 2012

⁴² Ibid

Between 2007/8 and 2011/12 the number of 5 year olds with dental decay has decreased by 6%. The Designed to Smile programme was introduced to some schools identified as having children with high levels of decay. The early analysis of the Designed to Smile pilot schools has shown that decayed, missing and filled teeth (dmft) in children attending these schools is improving.

The figures below show a reduction of dmft in children in the majority of areas with the exception of Anglesey who have seen a rise of 5%.

Table 7.9: Survey of 5 year olds with dmft by % (FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	2007/08	2011/12
Anglesey	41	46
Gwynedd	43	42
Conwy	41	39
Denbighshire	50	41
Flintshire	42	34
Wrexham	46	45
Wales	48	41

Figures have been rounded

Source: School of Dentistry, Oral Health – Local Health Board – Oral health profiles 2014

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl/research/themes/appliedclinicalresearch/epidemiology/oralhealth/>

There is a higher percentage of children under 5 years who have dental decay living in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Table 7.10: Percentage of 5 and 15 year olds with any severe or extensive dental decay, by 2010 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Children aged 5, 15	Wales 2013				
	1 (highest deprivation)	2	3	4	5 (lowest deprivation)
5 year olds	30	29	14	23	[9]
15 year olds	32	20	25	15	[19]

Source: Copyright © 2015, Health and Social Care Information Centre, Primary Care Domain. All rights reserved.

The proportion of children and young people with good oral health declines as they get older with around half of 5 year olds reported as having good oral health which declines to around a quarter of 15 year olds⁴³.

A good marker for good oral hygiene is brushing teeth twice a day and the Dental Health survey found that 8 in 10 5 and 8 year olds brushed their teeth twice a day according to parental feedback. The percentage of 8 year olds brushing their teeth twice a day has increased significantly between 2003 (68%) and 2013 (87%).

⁴³ Child Dental Health Survey 2013, Wales Report, Health and Social Care Information Centre, published 19 March 2015

Immunisations

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Families living in poverty are less likely to access the health services that are available to them than more affluent families. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommend targeting certain groups who are less likely to fully immunise their children. These groups include looked after children, children of teenage parents, children from low socio-economic groups and vulnerable children.⁴⁴ The Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy seeks to immunise 95% of children, in line with World Health Organisation recommendations. The 95% rate of immunisation for the population is the level at which it is considered outbreaks are prevented. As can be seen in the below tables in North Wales the figures are above the 95% rate in each authority with many remaining the same or increasing their immunisation rate.

Table 7.10: percent of children who have received the MMR immunisations by 2nd Birthday

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
BCUHB	92	92	94	96	97
Anglesey	94	93	94	95	97
Gwynedd	93	92	94	95	96
Conwy	90	90	92	94	96
Denbighshire	92	90	93	96	96
Flintshire	92	93	95	96	98
Wrexham	94	94	94	97	97
Wales	92	92	93	95	96

Figures have been rounded

Source: Sats Wales, Health and Social Care Immunisations

Table 7.11: percent of children who have received the '5 in 1' (HIB) immunisations by 2nd Birthday (FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
BCUHB	97	97	97	98	98
Anglesey	97	98	96	98	99
Gwynedd	97	96	97	98	97
Conwy	96	97	96	98	98
Denbighshire	97	97	97	98	97
Flintshire	97	98	98	99	99
Wrexham	97	97	97	99	98
Wales	97	97	97	98	98

Figures have been rounded

Source: Sats Wales, Health and Social Care Immunisations

⁴⁴ Reducing differences in the uptake of immunisations: Revised Analysis of the evidence, NICE

Table 7.12: Children who are up to date with their routine immunisations by 4 years of age, 2012

(FF Outcome 3 indicator)

Authority	% of children up to date
Anglesey	83
Gwynedd	87
Conwy	82
Denbighshire	82
Flintshire	86
Wrexham	88
Wales	82

Figures have been rounded

Source: Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CDSC and VPDP (PHW)Source: Produced by Public Health Wales

What's it telling us?

The findings above reflect an impact on the health of children ranging from immediate psychological and emotional effects to longer term health and emotional impact into adulthood as well as reduced levels of attainment.

- The number of low birth weights has remained the same. Public Health Wales initiative relating to smoking cessation could be shared across other services and sectors where staff have contact with expectant mothers.
- Obesity rates are high in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Denbighshire. However it is of concern that almost a quarter of children in all authorities aged 4 or 5 years are shown as overweight or obese.
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence⁷ (NICE) recommends “a community-wide, multi-agency approach to promoting a healthy weight and preventing and managing obesity” which includes as a component “family-based, multi-component lifestyle weight management services for children and young people”.
- Anglesey, Denbighshire and Wrexham have a higher rate than the Wales average for teenage pregnancies for under 16 year olds
- There is a high rate of teenage pregnancies for 16 – 17 year old girls across all authorities.
- Wrexham have the second highest rate of infant mortality in Wales Denbighshire and Flintshire rates are above the Wales average. The links between infant mortality and low birth weight babies need to be made in particular around smoking cessation and age of the mother.
- dmft (decayed missing filled teeth in children under 5 is 5% higher in Anglesey in 2011/12 than it was in 2007/08. Also Wrexham, Anglesey and Gwynedd have above average dmft in children under 5.

Section 8: Education, qualifications & employment

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families in workless households

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales

Families First Outcomes:

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

Qualifications increase a person's choices for employment, their capacity to earn and can impact positively on their life choices and mental well-being. Being in employment with good earning capacity will reduce the chances of living in poverty and the negative outcomes that brings.

Transition

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

The transition from primary to secondary school can cause concern and anxiety prior to the move resulting in a poor transition. The main groups include those receiving free school meals, lower ability, lower socio economic status, low self-image and self-esteem, minority ethnic groups, those with single parents and those without older siblings at the new school. Some of these are indicators of poverty and therefore those in poverty have a higher likelihood of experiencing poor transition.

Reduced attainment is a factor where a child has experienced a poor transition. The pupils most affected in this group would be those receiving free school meals, with poor attainment, low self-esteem and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.⁴⁵

The role of parents in the transition of children from primary to secondary school is important. Those parents from disadvantaged communities lack the skills and confidence to engage with teachers and help their children with homework.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ A Rapid Evidence Assessment Investigating the Drop in Attainment during the Transition Phase with a Particular Focus on Child Poverty WG 2011

⁴⁶ *ibid*

Free school meals

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Children are entitled to free school meals if their parents or guardian receive means tested out-of-work benefits. Children who are eligible for free school meals do not perform as well at school compared with their peers and are more likely to leave with no qualifications. A full table showing eligibility of children in secondary schools in North Wales is included within the accompanying spreadsheet. (Information relating to primary schools is available within the accompanying spreadsheet)

UK data shows there may be a significant problem in achievement from as early as nursery onwards; at ages 14 and 15/16 on average there is a gap of 32 to 34% between children living in poverty compared with other children⁴⁷. The attainment gap between pupils at Key Stage 4 achieving level 2 threshold (5 GCSE's at Grad A* to C) has reduced in the last 3 years from 34% in 2010 to 25% in 2013.

A full table showing the achievements of children eligible and not eligible for FSM per schools in North Wales is available in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Table 8.1: Percentage of school pupils entitled to free school meals

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	Anglesey	Gwynedd	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Wrexham	North Wales
2010/11	17	13	16	17	13	17	15
2011/12	16	13	16	16	13	17	15
2012/13	18	13	16	17	12	16	15
2013/14	17	12	16	17	12	16	15
2014/15	16	12	15	17	13	15	15

Figures have been rounded

Source: Stats Wales, PLASC

Welsh Government target for the attainment of 15 year olds entitled to FSM achieving level 2 is 37% by 2017. Over the past 5 years there has been an increase of 6% between 2009 and 2013 standing at 26% in 2013. There is a significant increase needed to achieve the target by 2017⁴⁸. The accompanying spreadsheet provides information on the percentage achievements for secondary schools across North Wales.

⁴⁷ Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Poverty and Lower Educational Achievement in Wales: Student, Family and community interventions February 2013 David Egan

⁴⁸ Building Resilient Communities : Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan – Annual Report 2014

Table 8.2: Key Stage 4 by free school meal entitlement, 2011-2014, Percentage of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (FF Outcome 3 indicator)

		2011	2012	2013	2014
Level 2 inc. English/Welsh and mathematics	Eligible for FSM	22	23	26	28
	Not eligible for FSM	58	57	58	62
	All pupils	50	51	53	56
Attainment gap (%)		38	33	33	34

Source: Welsh Government Statistics, Achievement and entitlement to free school meals in Wales, 2013 (SB 3/2014)

While it is recognised that reducing the attainment gap is important, how this is done is equally as important to ensure the maximum impact on the reduction of this gap. Equally important is to acknowledge that the schools should not be considered the only resource to support children to achieve; parents also have a role through good home learning environments and understanding the importance of aspirations, attitudes and behaviours of their children contributing to their educational attainment. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation in reviewing their work on improving educational attainment refer to three areas which future policy and practice could make a contribution to reducing educational inequalities⁴⁹:

- **parents and the family home:** *Improving the home learning environment and helping parents from poorer families to believe their own actions and efforts can lead to improved outcomes.*
- **children's attitudes and behaviours:** *Raising families' aspirations, reducing children's behavioural problems and engagement in risky behaviours, and helping poorer children believe their own actions and efforts can lead to improved outcomes.*
- **The school's approach:** *Allocation of funding towards pupils from the poorest backgrounds and direct teaching support to children falling behind.*

Consideration should be given to the aspirations of children who are poorer which may be as high as those in more affluent families. The issue in these cases could be that they don't know how to reach their aspirations and need support; careers advice tailored to their circumstances should be considered so that they can make more informed decisions about their future.

⁴⁹ Round-up, The role of aspirations, attitudes and behaviours in closing the educational attainment gap, Joseph Rowntree Foundation April 2012.

School absences

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Persistent absenteeism can have a detrimental effect on a child's education. Research has shown that a pupil who misses 17 days of school, authorised or unauthorised, can drop a GCSE grade across all subjects.⁵⁰ In 2012/13 14% of pupils in Secondary schools were absent for more than 20 days a decrease of 2% from 2011/12. Statistics show that schools with a higher rate of pupils on FSM have higher absenteeism rates⁵¹⁵²

Primary Schools

The average unauthorised absenteeism rate for primary schools in 2013/14 was 1% the overall absence rate is 5%.

Overall in 2013/14 in Wales the main reasons for absence from Primary schools was:

- 57% of absence was due to illness (authorised)
- 12% of absence was due to all family holidays agreed by the school (authorised) decrease from 17% in 2012/13
- 8% of absence was due to holidays *not* agreed by the school (unauthorised) increase from 3% in 2012/13

Table 8.4: Absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and special schools, Percentage of school sessions missed due to unauthorised absence

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

Local Authority	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Anglesey	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Gwynedd	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Conwy	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6
Denbighshire	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Flintshire	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
Wrexham	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6

Source: schools absenteeism data, Welsh Government (Stats Wales)

Secondary Schools

Unauthorised absence rates from maintained secondary schools in Conwy (1.4%) and Denbighshire (1.4%) are slightly higher than the Welsh average (1.3%). Overall absenteeism was at 6% for all secondary schools in 2014/15⁵³. Overall in Wales the main reason for absenteeism from Secondary schools was;

- 61% of absence was due to illness (authorised)

⁵⁰ Behaviour and Attendance Action Plan, Welsh Government

⁵¹ Absenteeism in Primary Schools 2013-14 Welsh Government Statistics SDR211/14

⁵² Absenteeism in Secondary Schools 2014/15 Welsh Government Statistics SDR 135/15

⁵³ Ibid

- 7% of absence due to medical or dental appointments (authorised)
- 3% of absence due to family holiday (unauthorised)

Absence rates are higher in secondary schools than in primary schools.

Table 8.5: Percentage of unauthorised absences from maintained secondary schools, as proportion of all half-day sessions (FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Wales	1.6	1	1	1	1	1
Anglesey	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gwynedd	1	1	1	1	1	0.5
Conwy	2	2	1	1	1	1
Denbighshire	2	1	1	1	1	1
Flintshire	1	0.5%	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3
Wrexham	2	2	2	2	1	1

Figures have been rounded

% is as percentage of all half-day school sessions across all maintained schools

Source: schools absenteeism data, Welsh Government (Stats Wales)

What's the data telling us?

Persistent absenteeism can have a detrimental effect on a child's education.

- Number unauthorised absences in maintained primary schools has remained the same
- Unauthorised absence rates from maintained secondary schools in Conwy (1.4%) and Denbighshire (1.4%) are slightly higher than the Welsh average (1.3%).
- Generally pupils eligible for FSM are not achieving as well as those not eligible for FSM. However there are schools in each county who have better attainment levels than others and in some where pupils eligible for FSM have better attainment levels, learning from these schools could help others improve levels within their schools.
- It is important that families are supported and engaged in the learning process with their children as well as schools to ensure they are supported to achieve their potential. This should be in both primary and secondary school

Qualifications

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. (CPSS)

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Adults with no qualifications are more likely to be unemployed. Recent changes to the employment market causing higher levels of unemployment have affected workers with lower levels or no qualifications more than those with higher level qualifications. Lack of

parental employment contributes to child poverty, as long periods of being out of work are likely to lead to material deprivation.⁵⁴ Children from workless households are more likely to be workless themselves as adults. Other factors include single parent households, parents with low educational qualifications as well as the local environment where there is a high unemployment rate⁵⁵

It is estimated in the latest statistics that 9% of adults in Wales have no qualifications⁵⁶.

- Similar proportions of males and females hold no qualifications
- 6% of 18-24 year olds hold no qualifications compared to 13% of 50 – 59 year olds
- Persons with a disability are more likely than a non-disabled person to have no qualifications
- Welsh speakers are likely to have higher qualifications than their non-Welsh speaking counterparts
- 22% of those who are economically inactive are unlikely to have qualifications
- 99% of people in professional occupations are qualified to at least level 2

Not having a qualification does not necessarily mean that a person is unemployed. The Annual Population Survey shows 17 % working in elementary occupations and 12% are process, plant and machine operatives and have no qualifications.

Table 8.8: Percentage of the working age population with no qualifications

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

Authority	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Anglesey	15	13	12	13	12	11	7
Gwynedd	15	14	13	11	9	10	8
Conwy	16	13	14	12	10	8	8
Denbighshire	15	13	13	10	9	10	8
Flintshire	8	10	9	10	10	8	8
Wrexham	16	13	10	13	10	10	10

Figures have been rounded

% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

Source: ONS annual population survey, (NOMIS)

What's the data telling us?

Not having qualifications can increase a person's likelihood of being unemployed.

Young people from low-income households are more likely to leave school earlier and leave without any qualifications and be reliant on benefits.

⁵⁴ Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government, February 2011

⁵⁵ Joseph Rowntree, Tackling low educational achievement, June 2007

⁵⁶ Levels of highest qualification held by working age adults 2014, SDR59/2015 22 April 2015

Apprenticeships and work-based learning

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households (CPSS)

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Work based learning provides an opportunity to gain experience and skills within a work environment for which the apprentice is paid. The apprentice will receive a qualification at the end of the period of work based learning and will have the additional experience of being disciplined for work and within a working environment. It is a route for those who do not want to attend college to undertake academic study to gain a qualification, skills and experience of being in a work environment.

Welsh Government publishes data on work-based learning (WBL), which give details of post-16 training through recognised programmes.

Apprenticeships are separated into 3 areas:

- Foundation Apprenticeships equivalent to five GCSEs, grade A-C
- Apprenticeships equivalent to two A Level passes
- Higher Apprenticeships an alternative route to higher education

They are employment-based learning programmes for employed learners aged 16 and above, to Levels 2, 3 and 4 respectively

Traineeships and Steps to Employment replace the Skill Build Youth and Adult Learning Programmes.

- Traineeships (for young people 16-18) programme aims to give young people the skills needed to get a job or progress to further learning at a higher level, such as an apprenticeship or further education.
- Steps to Employment (for 18 yrs. and over) aims to help those unemployed adults to access training and work experience opportunities in preparation for employment or further learning.

The majority of apprenticeships in North Wales have been in relation to Health Care and Public Service with the exception of Flintshire which also includes Engineering and Business Administration.

The difference in male and female up take of work based learning programmes is mixed. There are more males undertaking the two apprenticeships programmes in the 16-19 year age group with more females in the 20 – 24 year age group. There are more females who undertake the higher apprenticeships than males.

Table 8.9: number of Apprenticeship work-based learning programmes for 16 – 24 year olds 2013/14 (FF Outcome 1 & 2 indicators)

Authority	Foundation Apprenticeships (Level 2, formerly FMA)		Apprenticeships (Level 3, formerly MA)		Higher Apprenticeships (Level 4+, Incorp. MSD)
	16-19	20-24	16-19	20-24	20-24
Anglesey	170	140	110	125	5
Gwynedd	240	235	160	200	
Conwy	245	335	75	205	10
Denbighshire	210	255	80	165	20
Flintshire	325	275	210	285	(10 16-19yrs) 20
Wrexham	325	260	165	235	15

Note: This dataset gives a detailed breakdown of work-based learning (WBL) programs pursued by learners attending institutions in Wales. Academic year runs from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014.

Source: Learning Network analysis, Welsh Government (StatsWales)

Table 8.10: number of work-based learning (WBL) programmes for 16 – 24 year olds 2012/13 (FF Outcome 1 & 2 indicator)

Authority	Traineeship	Steps to Employment		Other WBL programme	
	16-19	16-19	20-24	16-19	20-24
Anglesey	135			40	5
Gwynedd	155			55	20
Conwy	115		5	50	20
Denbighshire	125			45	15
Flintshire	195	85	30		
Wrexham	305			50	10

Source: Learning Network analysis, Welsh Government (StatsWales)

What's the data telling us?

- Each county has a significant number of young people undertaking foundation apprenticeships which will assist in gaining the skills to access employment.
- Wrexham have a high number of young people taking traineeships compared to the other authorities.
- The majority of apprenticeships in North Wales have been in relation to Health Care and Public Service with the exception of Flintshire which also includes Engineering and Business Administration

Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. (CPSS)

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Recent high levels of youth unemployment has led to concerns that there will be a 'lost' generation, as young people drop out of the labour market and find it difficult to return. Being in education, employment or training even if they are still in poverty helps young people. There are more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds not in education, employment or training (NEET) and they tend to be concentrated in certain communities.

Not having qualifications can increase a person's likelihood of being unemployed. Young people from low-income households are more likely to leave school earlier and leave without any qualifications. Pupils leaving school without qualifications are more likely to be reliant on benefits as adults.⁵⁷ The proportion of unqualified school leavers has been declining over recent years. The need for qualifications on leaving school is now more critical for entrance into the job market as well as further and higher education. It is therefore more likely that those without qualifications will be NEET.

The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework was implemented in 2013 and focusses on reducing the number of young people who are NEET. Local Authorities are working in partnership to deliver the framework to support those who are 16 and over. Early identification of young people likely to become NEETS is a key part of the Framework and having effective identification systems in place is important as well as information sharing between partners to track the progress of young people. The implementation is at an early stage and impact is not yet clear but it is hoped that there will be a reduction seen in the number of NEETS by 2017.

The Wales average for NEETS for 13/14 is 3.1% and the below table shows that North Wales authorities are below the Welsh average. The target for Wales is to reduce the number of 16 – 18 year olds who are NEET to 9% by 2017. The number had reduced to 10% in 2013, however the number has fluctuated over the years.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government, February 2011

⁵⁸ Building Resilient Communities : Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan – Annual Report 2014

Table 8.11: year 11 leavers known not to be in education, employment or training

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Anglesey	8	5	5	2	2	4	2
Gwynedd	6	4	4	4	3	2	2
Conwy	6	5	4	4	3	4	2
Denbighshire	6	4	4	4	3	4	2
Flintshire	7	4	3	3	2	4	1
Wrexham	10	5	4	3	3	3	2

Figures have been rounded

Source: annual survey of school leavers, Careers Wales

Unemployment claimant count

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households (CPSS)

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Data about school leavers known to be NEET does not include all young people who may be NEET. The unemployment claimant count gives us additional information about young people aged 16 years and over.

The duration of claims has increased significantly between 2008 and 2013. The highest increase has been in those claiming for over 6 months but there has also been an increase in longer term claims up to 2 years. Since 2013 the numbers have reduced showing lower number claiming for over 6 months and 2 years.

Table 8.12: Number and percentage claimant count (age 16 – 24 years)

(FF Outcome 1 indicator)

	2012		2013		2014	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Wales	26,075	33	21,635	30	15,885	28
Isle of Anglesey	530	28	495	26	360	25
Gwynedd	685	29	610	27	455	25
Conwy	760	29	680	27	510	26
Denbighshire	795	34	650	30	445	28
Flintshire	955	31	825	28	545	26
Wrexham	1000	30	900	27	665	26

Figures have been rounded

Source: Welsh Government Stats Wales (Jan 2015 up date)

What's the data telling us?

- NEETs have reduced overall across authorities since 2008 and all authorities are currently under the Wales average
- The number of young people between 16 and 24 years who are unemployed has been decreasing year on year since 2012 and none are above the Wales average
- Regional Skills and Employment plan will assist in identifying the skills needed to gain employment for those who are NEET

Section 9: Early Support Services

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1: To reduce the number of families living in workless households

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales.

Objective 5: To support families living in poverty to increase household income

Families First Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe

Flying Start

Objective 3: to reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which support the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in work poverty

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Outcome 4: Families are confidence, nuruturing resilient and safe.

Flying Start children are healthy and thriving

Flying Start families are capable and coping

Flying Start children are reaching potential

Flying Start aims to support children up to 4 years old and their families within the most disadvantaged areas of Wales⁵⁹. There are four key areas of focused support:

- Enhanced Health Visiting
- Parenting Support

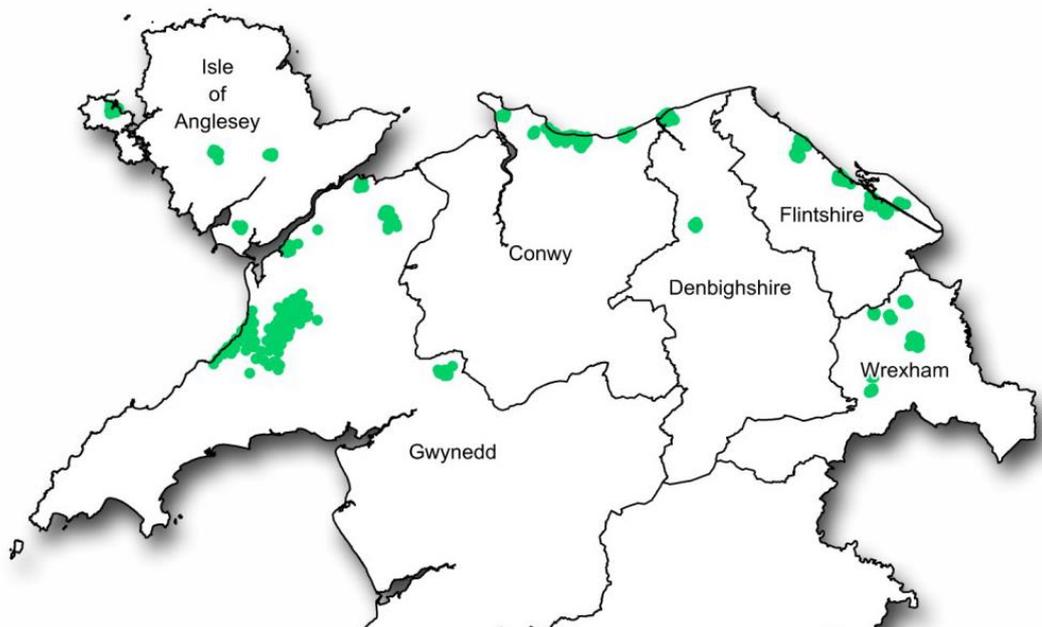
⁵⁹ Targets areas according to measures of relative disadvantage including the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), free school meals and the proportions of children aged under 4 years living in

- Support for early language development
- Free high quality, part time childcare for 2 to 3 year olds.

A national evaluation of Flying Start⁶⁰ has shown it is possible that it has had a positive impact on families living in the most disadvantaged areas. The evaluation identified families living in less disadvantaged areas as a comparison group assuming that families living in Flying Start areas would be at a lower 'base' than this group before the programme started. The evaluation found that there was a 'lack of difference' between the two groups showing that the outcomes of Flying Start families were on a par with the less disadvantaged comparison areas.

There was an expansion to Flying Start in 2013/14 which increased the number of children in receipt of Flying Start services from 31,322 in 2013/14 to 37,260 in 2014/15. This has exceeded the target of 36,000 to be supported by 2016.

Map 3: Location of Flying Start areas as at March 2014⁶¹



households in receipt of income related benefits – Flying Start summary statistics 2014/15 SDR 107/2015 14 July 2015

⁶⁰ National Evaluation of Flying Start: Impact Report Number: 74/2013 Welsh Government

⁶¹ Flying Start summary statistics 2014/15 SDR 107/2015 14 July 2015

Table 9.1: Population and caseload 2014-15

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

Local Authority	Number of children benefiting (in receipt of services)(a)	Number of children under 4 allocated to Flying Start health visitors (caseload) (b)	Population of children under 4 (d)	Percentage of population aged under 4 on Flying Start health visitors caseload	Percentage change between 2013-14 and 2014-15 in children under 4 allocated to Flying Start health visitors (caseload)
Isle of Anglesey	691	604	3,217	19%	25%
Gwynedd	900	883	5,209	17%	11%
Conwy	957	884	4,638	19%	10%
Denbighshire (e)	1,045	821	4,354	19%	4%
Flintshire	1,515	1,244	6,956	18%	22%
Wrexham	1,468	1,286	6,946	19%	38%

Health visitor case loads are reduced to enable them to work more intensively with the more vulnerable groups such as teenage parents, those who are victims of or who are at risk of domestic abuse and pre/post natal depression. The ratio of children to each health visitor is 110 considerably less than generic health visitors (350 children). This is an important element of the early intervention element as the health visitors are likely to be the first point of contact for the families and building a trusting relationship is key to supporting them. Health visitors see children on average 5.7 times with the wider health team seeing them 2.4 times.

The overall number of children under 4 in Wales on health visitor case loads receiving Flying Start services increased from 19% in 2013/14 to 23% in 2014/15.

Table 9.1: Health visitor Face to Face contacts

(FF Outcome 2 & 3 indicator)

Local Authority	2013/14		2014/15	
	Number of health visitor face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of wider health team face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of health visitor face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of wider health team face-to-face contacts per child on caseload
Wales	5.8	2	5.7	2.4
Isle of Anglesey	6.0	1.1	5.5	0.8
Gwynedd	7.0	3.0	7.9	3.9
Conwy	4.2	1.5	4.7	1.3
Denbighshire	4.6	1.9	5.8	1.7
Flintshire	5.6	1.7	4.4	2.4
Wrexham	5.0	2.3	5.6	3.7

The quality of parenting and care a child receives in the early years is important to reach developmental milestones resulting in positive outcomes for the future.

*'Parenting style strongly affects how children feel and behave. Strong and affectionate relationships between parents and children, fostered in the first three years of life, coupled with positive consistent parenting, makes a real difference to social, health and educational outcomes for children'*⁶²

Parenting support is offered to all parents and can be delivered in a group or one to one setting and may include informal and bespoke packages.

The parenting offer is based on the following three themes:

- Perinatal and support in the early years;
- Early intervention approaches to supporting vulnerable parents; and
- Programmes to support parents in positive parenting

In 2014-15 across all Local Authorities:

- 3,571 places on formal structured parenting courses were offered to families with Flying Start children, 25 percent more than in 2013-14; over three-quarters (76 per cent) of these places were taken up.

Table 9.2: Parenting courses offered by local authorities

(FF Outcome 2 & 4 indicator)

Local Authority	2013-14		2014-15	
	Number of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year	Percentage of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up (a)	Number of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year	Percentage of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up (a)
Isle of Anglesey	53	74%	57	74%
Gwynedd	125	69%	199	60%
Conwy	69	78%	164	70%
Denbighshire	74	46%	117	73%
Flintshire	223	78%	252	82%
Wrexham	106	82%	96	65%

a) This is measured by counting places where the first session was attended.

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

Speech, language and communication (SLC) support is also offered to families and is an important part of the child's development. The aim of the provision is to encourage parents to interact with their children to develop early language development. Parents therefore have access to language and play groups. There is an opportunity to identify any additional needs within the settings through targeted assessment. Identifying these needs early will enable support to be provided which will enhance the child's future achievement and

⁶² Early Years – Building the Blocks for Future Life, Executive Director of Public Health Annual Report 2011

development. The two offers (parenting and SLC) complement each other where parental confidence is raised and enables engagement in the parenting programmes.

In 2014-15 across all Local Authorities:

- A further 10,267 places on informal structured parenting / SLC courses were offered, and more than two-thirds (72 per cent) of these places were taken up.
- 4,993 packages of enhanced one-to-one parenting / SLC or health support were offered, and 43,959 parenting / SLC sessions were delivered on an informal drop-in basis.

Children eligible for Flying Start services are also assessed on their development milestones at ages 2 and 3 across seven key areas:

- Movement
- Manipulation
- Visual
- Hearing
- Speech and language and
- Social interaction

These are compared to a standard reference group of children to identify the child's developmental progress. The assessment identifies if the child is reaching or exceeding milestones or within one age band below the developmental norm.

There was an increase in the percentage reaching or exceeding their milestones in Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14 at which time they had the lowest percentage compared to the other authorities.

Table 9.3: Percentage of children reaching or exceeding developmental milestones at age 3 years (35-37 months) by local authority

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones

Local Authority	2013/14	2014/15
Isle of Anglesey	52%	40%
Gwynedd	53%	51%
Conwy	42%	51%
Denbighshire	33%	46%
Flintshire	67%	63%
Wrexham	25%	37%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

The percentage of children recorded on the role at a maintained school for Flying Start areas (93%) is higher than those in non Flying Start areas (88%) which have been consistent since 2011/12.

Families First – Team Around the Family

Team Around the Family (TAF) has been in place since 2010 when Families First was piloted within some authorities with the remainder being implemented from 2012 onwards. The development of TAF in each local authority is different but the model is the same relating to working with the whole family. When considering the data for TAF in each area comparisons will be difficult to make due to the variation in the way each team works and levels of need of families. It is however helpful to analyse and use the data to be able to identify good practice, areas of need and development.

The services commissioned to support families also vary across authorities based on the needs of the local area. Learning from the data and information collected from the current Families First projects will be important to inform future commissioning should the initiative continue post 2017 not just within individual authorities but across areas and projects.

Work undertaken to identify the needs of families in the last 12 months has identified that the main areas of support required by them are:

1. Parenting
2. Behaviour (child)
3. Achievement and Development

These have been identified from information provided relating to the family outcomes identified by the teams.

The referrals into TAF have increased with referrals from social services, schools, and health visitors consistently being the main referrers. There has also been an increase in the number of families who refer themselves to the service which is encouraging. In some cases this is due to word of mouth from families who have received a service and have spoken to other families who have contacted the service.

Gwynedd has consistently had a high number of referrals from health visitors compared to other authorities with 323 referrals received in 2014/15 an increase from 202 in 2013/14. This is encouraging in relation to the early intervention element that families are identified as needing support early and are referring into the services. Anglesey (73) and Conwy (91) have the highest number of self referrals to the service.

The outcomes for families as a result of TAF intervention shows that half of the interventions result in successful outcomes.

Table 9.4: TAF outcomes from those starting a TAF action plan

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	Isle of Anglesey	Gwynedd	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Wrexham
2012/13						
Number starting TAF action plan	282	151	26	97	88	194
Successful outcomes	164 (58%)	40 (26%)	23 (89%)	61 (63%)	62 (79%)	78 (40%)
2013/14						
Number starting TAF action plan	167	118	158			157
Successful outcomes	60 (36%)	50 (42%)	124 (78%)			63 (40%)

Other outcomes include families opting out or non engagement, this can be for a number of reasons not always negative. Some of those who do not engage will have changed their minds due to various reasons including other support being provided. Those who opt out may have reached the goals they wanted to achieve and do not wish to continue. In both cases some of the families will come back to the service at a later date when they are ready.

There are a number of families who are referred with additional needs which mainly relates to the children in the family. As a percentage of the overall referrals Anglesey's account for 47% which is nearly half of those referred to TAF.

Table 9.5: Number of Families referred with additional needs

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

Local Authority	2013/14	2014/15
Isle of Anglesey	282	102
Gwynedd	151	83
Conwy	26	79
Denbighshire	97	
Flintshire	88	98
Wrexham	194	1137

What's the data telling us?

- Flying Start is increasing its support for families through the expansion programme. However there will still be families outside these areas that will need support
- Families First has seen an increase in referrals with some areas having more self referrals from families which is encouraging
- There are a number of families with additional needs referred for support which indicates that there is a need for support in this area where families cannot access support through statutory services. This needs to be taken account of when commissioning services.

Section 10: Social Services indicators

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives

Objective 2: *To increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households*

Objective 3: *To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.*

Families First Outcomes

Outcome 2: *Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential*

Outcome 3: *Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being*

Outcome 4: *Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe*

Looked after children

Objective 2: To increase the skills of parents and **young people** living in low-income households (CPSS)

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest. (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Looked after children are children who are in the care of social services as they have normally suffered abuse or neglect; they are supported to live safely by social services and the resources available to them. However due to their experiences these children are at a higher risk of developing health problems. Looked after children show significantly higher rates of mental health issues compared to their peers; those leaving care have higher incidence of teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse⁶³

LAC and Care leavers are less likely to leave school with qualifications and are more likely to be NEET, which, as outlined in section 7 above, can lead to poverty in adult life.⁶⁴

Generally, the number of children looked after by social services in Wales has increased in recent years.

⁶³ Children and Young People - Executive Director Public Health Annual Report 2014

⁶⁴ Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government, February 2011

Table 10.1: Number of children looked after by social services

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Wales	4625	4645	4870	5005	4895
Anglesey	65	65	80	75	70
Gwynedd	125	145	165	175	165
Conwy	155	155	165	155	155
Denbighshire	160	165	140	135	145
Flintshire	145	135	145	155	180
Wrexham	120	130	145	195	200

Figures have been rounded

*Rate is per 1,000 0-17 year olds; but the number includes a small number of 18+ who are looked after

Source: CIN census 2014, Welsh Government

Children in need

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 2: Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential (FF)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe (FF)

Local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in need.

Table 10.2: Number of children in need

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

Source: Children in Need Census, Welsh Government

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Wales	18865	19710	20240	15410	15,865
Anglesey	375	325	375	240	230
Gwynedd	605	650	665	500	515
Conwy	440	575	535	480	575
Denbighshire	505	565	605	325	310
Flintshire	440	485	425	330	400
Wrexham	575	960	645	735	670

Above figures are for all children in need including children looked after, on the child protection register and in need.

Children who are classed as 'in need' are those who are unlikely to achieve or maintain, (or have the opportunity to) a reasonable standard of health or development without help from their local authority.

The following statistics highlight some areas of need across Wales⁶⁵

- 21% of children in need in Wales have a disability

⁶⁵ Welsh Government bulletin SDR 36/2014 Wales Children in Need Census, 2013

- 59% of children in need who were not looked after were eligible for free school meals
- Average proportion of children in need with a Statement of Special Educational Needs was 28% compared to 3% for all other children

There is a wide educational attainment gap between children in need and all pupils in Wales. At the Foundation Phase the difference in the proportion achieving the expected outcome was 32%. This increases to 36% for Key Stage 2 and to 41% points for Key Stage 3.

The main parental factors resulting in children being considered in need are:

- substance or alcohol misuse (19%)
- parental mental ill health (15%)
- domestic abuse (23%)

This is the case across all authorities in Wales and is reflected across North Wales authorities with domestic abuse being the highest % factor. These factors account for around a quarter of children in need.

Referrals to children's services

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being (FF)

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe (FF)

Generally the number of referrals and re-referrals to social services has fallen in recent years. The highest proportion of referrals from outside local authorities is received from primary/community health services and the police. The majority of children are referred due to abuse or neglect which links with the main parental factors for children being considered in need.

Table 10.3: Number of referrals received during the year to children's services
(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wales	48,544	47,612	45,905	39,817	35,285	35,423
Anglesey	1,984	1,408	1,388	1,111	1,463	1,596
Gwynedd	4,205	3,899	2,064	1,656	1,476	1,435
Conwy	725	689	682	686	868	723
Denbighshire	2,593	1,170	853	799	773	670
Flintshire	762	606	821	709	1,220	1,825
Wrexham	3,533	4,970	4,123	3,076	3,272	3,567

Source: PM1 form - Performance management of children's services, Welsh Government

Table 10.4: Number of Re-referrals to children's services

(FF Outcome 4 indicator)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wales	15376	13623	13635	10749	7839	7459
Anglesey	789	439	388	278	276	289
Gwynedd	2066	1070	807	496	392	369
Conwy	149	128	105	114	158	146
Denbighshire	973	454	167	156	133	101
Flintshire	72	47	149	113	158	479
Wrexham	1755	1989	1871	697	700	851

Source: PM1 form - Performance management of children's services, Welsh Government

What's the data telling us?

- Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham have seen an increase in the number of children looked after
- Gwynedd Conwy and Flintshire have seen an increase in the number of children in need.
- Anglesey, Flintshire and Wrexham have seen an increase in the number of re referrals

The main parental factors resulting in children being considered in need are:

- substance or alcohol misuse
- parental mental ill health
- domestic abuse

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 requires early intervention and prevention services to be in place together with information, advice and support. Working with partners there is an opportunity to identify services which meet these needs as an early intervention/prevention element and identify gaps in provision to aid future commissioning.

Section 11: Community safety indicators

Child Poverty Strategy Strategic Objectives:

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales.

Families First Outcomes

Outcome 3: Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe

Road accidents

Objective 4: To use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales (CPSS)

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe (FF)

Children from disadvantaged homes are more likely to have accidents, both in the home and outside. Road accidents are a particular health risk and are strongly linked to social deprivation.

Table 11.1: Child (0-15) pedestrian casualties by severity

(FF Outcome 2 & 4 indicator)

Source: Welsh Government, road safety statistics,

	2010		2011	
	KSI*	All severities	KSI*	All severities
Anglesey	1	3	1	5
Gwynedd	1	11	5	10
Conwy	1	13	2	19
Denbighshire	3	15	3	12
Flintshire	1	11	4	11
Wrexham	6	15	2	11

Table 11.2: Child casualties (0-15) by severity

(FF Outcome 2 & 4 indicator)

	2010		2011	
	KSI*	All severities	KSI*	All severities
Anglesey	1	8	3	11
Gwynedd	4	50	6	31
Conwy	4	34	5	43
Denbighshire	7	51	6	35
Flintshire	6	50	9	56
Wrexham	8	41	5	29

*KSI Killed or Seriously Injured Casualties

Young offenders

Objective 3: To reduce the inequalities which exist in health, education and economic outcomes

of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest (CPSS)

Outcome 4: Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe (FF)

Though most children in poverty do not become involved in crime, childhood poverty has been linked to higher involvement in crime. Young offenders are less likely to achieve in education, have lower employment prospects and, for young women, are more likely to be a teenage mother. The children of young offenders are also more likely to live in poverty.⁶⁶

Across North Wales the majority of offenders are male. The age of offending in the majority is 17 years (417), but there are more 10 – 14 (309) year olds offending than 15 and 16 year olds.

As can be seen in the below table the majority of offenders are male. Violence against the person and Theft are the two most prevalent offences in each authority for both males and females. See accompanying spreadsheet for a more detailed breakdown per local authority. The number of sexual offences has increased significantly in the last year from 23 across North Wales in 2012/13 to 52 in 2013/14.

Table 11.3: Offences resulting in a disposal (10 to 17 year olds)

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	Gwynedd Anglesey		Conwy Denbighshire		Flintshire		Wrexham	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
Criminal Damage	25	34	73	56	31	27	48	51
Drugs	20	23	37	28	5	22	22	24
Motoring Offences	20	20	6	46	13	10	25	18
Public Order	35	38	40	31	14	13	36	25
Sexual Offences	10	18	5	23	8	3	0	8
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	34	37	67	78	33	32	123	58
Violence Against The Person	51	50	88	91	27	43	81	60

⁶⁶ Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government, February 2011

Table 11.4: Offences resulting in disposal – age & gender

(FF Outcome 2 indicator)

	10-14		15		16		17	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
Gwynedd	42	70	46	51	91	68	85	103
Anglesey								
Conwy	96	111	79	94	66	81	137	133
Denbighshire								
Flintshire	55	40	25	49	36	59	53	52
Wrexham	146	88	94	76	106	82	142	129

What's the data telling us?

- Across North Wales the majority of offenders are male
- The most prevalent offences are theft and violence against the person
- There are more 10 – 14 year olds offending than 15 and 16 year olds.
- The number of sexual offences has increased between 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- The majority of sexual offences committed in Anglesey are by 10-14 year olds with 13 of the 18 offences being committed by this age group.
- Conwy and Denbighshire have seen the highest increase in sexual offences from 5 in 2012/13 to 23 in 2013/14 the majority being committed by 17 year olds.
- Conwy and Denbighshire have seen a significant increase in Motoring offences from 6 in 2012/13 to 46 in 2013/14 the majority committed by 15 and 17 year olds.

A partnership approach to develop and enhance prevention and early intervention services working in collaboration across the sectors e.g. local authority, police, voluntary sector will contribute to reducing the likelihood and acts of criminal behaviour. Building on what is already in existence and developing new approaches to meet identified need.

Appendix 1 WIMD Child Index indicators by domain

Income

- Number of children in income related benefit households
- Number of children in households receiving Tax Credits with income less than 60% of the Wales median

Employment

- None

Health

- Percentage of live single births < 2.5kg
- Limiting long-term illness (Children)

Education

- Key Stage 2 average point scores
- Key Stage 3 average point scores
- Key Stage 4 average point scores
- Percentage primary school half day absence
- Percentage secondary school half day absence

Housing

- Percentage of children in households with no central heating
- Percentage of children living in overcrowded households

Physical environment

- Air emissions
- Air quality
- Flood risk
- Proximity to waste disposal and industrial sites

Access to services

Mean bus + walking journey time to:

- Leisure centre
- Library
- Primary school
- Secondary school

Community safety

- Percentage of adult offenders
- Police recorded burglary
- Police recorded criminal damage
- Fire incidence
- Police recorded theft
- Police recorded violent crime
- Percentage of youth offenders

Appendix 2 Useful links

1. Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, Welsh Government, March 2015 - <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/child-poverty/?lang=en>
2. Building Resilient Communities, Taking forward the tackling poverty action plan - <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/tackling-poverty/taking-forward-tackling-poverty-action-plan/?lang=en>
3. Families First Publications - <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/parenting-support-guidance/help/families-first/?lang=en>
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