

Caerphilly Local Service Board



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Caerphilly Delivers

The Single Integrated Plan

April, 2013

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Introduction

I am delighted to introduce our Single Integrated Plan for the County Borough of Caerphilly. We have called this plan **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.

Working with our partners in the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Gwent Police, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, and Welsh Government, the Caerphilly Local Service Board aims to improve the quality of life for our communities. We have a proven track record of effective partnership working developed over many years and are building on this in our plan.

The Board will tackle the impact of poverty and its many causes and symptoms, and concentrate on the major issues and challenges facing individuals and families in our communities. The recession and reduction in public spending at a national level accelerated this requirement and opportunity to change. This plan details our vision, outcomes and priorities, identified via a comprehensive Unified Needs Assessment. For each outcome and priority, we have set out where we are now, what we have done so far, what we are going to do, and how we will know we are making a difference. The success of this plan will be realised when all organisations understand the synergy between the outcomes we have identified and the work we will all contribute to supporting each priority. All priorities are linked, so all our actions are linked too.

Whilst this plan replaces a number of existing plans that we were previously required to produce, such as the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan, and the Community Safety Plan, it is a determined commitment by all of us to accelerate change, strengthen partnership working, multi-agency collaboration, and be accountable for its delivery. Our focus will be on prevention and early intervention with those who face a range of disadvantages—and above all to make a real difference in our communities, with our communities!

Our plan reflects the Welsh Government's strategic approach to developing our communities and is a challenge to the public, voluntary and private sector to work together with our communities, and sets out what working together will achieve.

The plan has been developed based on the following principles of:

- (a) **Sustainable development** where we promote social justice and equality of opportunity and enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits.
- (b) **Equalities and Welsh language** where we all promote and mainstream equalities and the Welsh language in accordance with our legislative requirements and strategic equality objectives. This plan will be Equality Impact Assessed as part of the consultation process and the action plans stemming from it will also be assessed.
- (c) **Early intervention and prevention goals** with the aim of either preventing matters from getting worse or occurring in the first place, by identifying those in greatest need from their vulnerability, their risk of becoming vulnerable or from otherwise becoming disadvantaged.
- (d) **Community cohesion** where people from different backgrounds enjoy similar life opportunities, understand their rights and responsibilities and trust one another and are trusting of local institutions to act fairly.

I look forward to working together to ensure **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**, so that we can all make Caerphilly county borough a better place to live, work and visit.

Councillor H.A. Andrews MBE
Chair of Caerphilly Local Service Board and Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council

Our Vision and Priorities

Our long-term vision for Caerphilly is for sustainable communities, supported by actions that enhance the quality of life for all. This means people who:

- Are healthy, fulfilled and feel safe
- Are well qualified and skilled within a vibrant economy
- Live, work or visit in a greener living environment.

To realise our long-term vision we have identified five key outcomes.

PROSPEROUS CAERPHILLY

P1: Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area

P2: Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough

P3: Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities

SAFER CAERPHILLY

S1: Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents

S2: Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough

S3: Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse

S4: Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety

LEARNING CAERPHILLY

L1: Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families

L2: Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment

L3: Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities

HEALTHIER CAERPHILLY

H1: Address the inequities in the rate of low birth weight babies across the county borough

H2: Improve lifestyles of the population in the county borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them

H3: Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the county borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged

H4: Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the county borough

H5: Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives

GREENER CAERPHILLY

G1: Improve local environmental quality

G2: Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change

G3: Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits

Prosperous Caerphilly

A **Prosperous Caerphilly** is one in which all residents:

- Have the skills, knowledge and means of access to be able to compete in a thriving and growing economy, supported by successful employers across a range of sectors
- Live in decent homes within vibrant communities and with access to high-quality services and support
- Are supported to achieve these objectives by services and organisations working together.

In working towards a **Prosperous Caerphilly**, existing and future activities will be grouped under three priorities, which focus on a reduction in unemployment, economic inactivity, and the impact of poverty:

P1: Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area

P2: Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the county borough

P3: Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities.

PRIORITY P1:

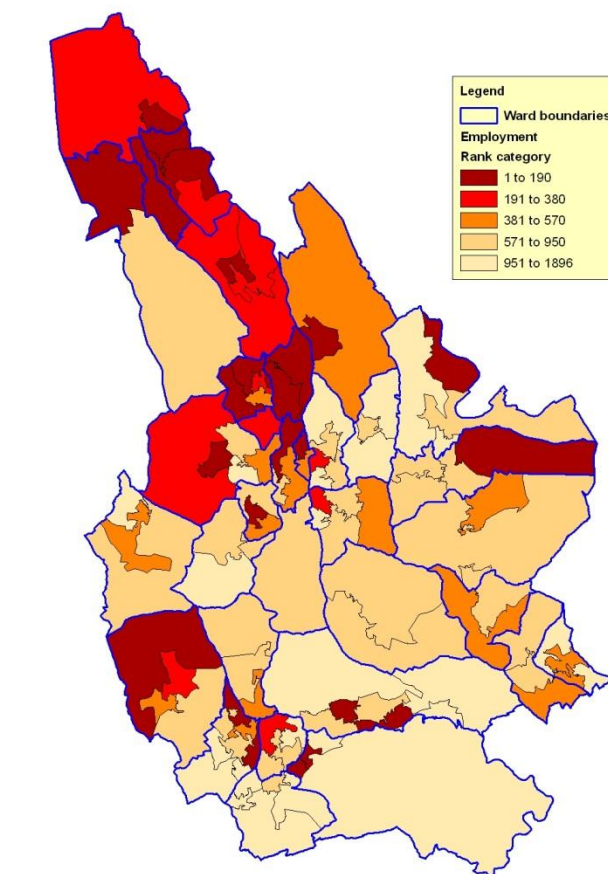
Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area

Where are we now?

Caerphilly County Borough residents experience poverty across a wide range of indicators. Although access to services is better than in most parts of Wales, the borough scores poorly in terms of car ownership, digital inclusion and economic inactivity, especially in the north.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)—Employment domain WIMD 2011

The map shows that 24 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the county borough fall within the 10% most deprived category. Overall, the data confirms that 68.2% (75 LSOAs) of the county borough is within the top 50% most deprived category for the *Index* across Wales.



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Levels of economic inactivity, unemployment and the number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants are consistently above the Wales average. For example, whilst economic inactivity within Wales has remained consistent during the past five years at around 27%, within the borough it has fluctuated between a low of 28.7% to a high of almost 31.9%. Similarly, the level of economic activity for people aged 16–64 has remained at 71%, below the Wales average of 73%.

The data in the Caerphilly Unified Needs Assessment demonstrates that unemployment will remain a critical issue for years ahead. There is evidence to indicate that levels of unemployment are particularly severe in the north of the borough and in areas within the Communities First clusters. Not surprisingly, these areas also feature consistently when low income is analysed and have the highest levels of income support claimed.

Focusing on employment opportunities, the data indicates that job density within the borough is significantly lower than the average for Wales, which implies that the current high levels of unemployment cannot be solved entirely from within. With levels of out-commuting for employment actually dropping in 2011, accessing employment opportunities across a wider geographical area will be critical to our success.

There are also some key challenges in skills development, such as a higher than average number of 18 and 19 year olds not continuing in full-time education, and in the upper Rhymney Valley in particular, between 69.5% and 76.6% lacking the numeracy skills to achieve a formal qualification.

What have we done so far?

- The adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) has identified sites/localities for employment growth.
- Support is provided for existing and start-up businesses via the Local Investment Fund, Commercial Improvement and Business Development grant schemes.
- The Go 2 My Town initiative developed by the Business Enterprise Support Team is now established in seven local towns.
- New housing is being designed and constructed in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to meet tenants/residents' changing circumstances (i.e. lifetime homes).
- The Caerphilly Local Service Board (LSB) has launched the Caerphilly Passport Programme, which aims to provide a route to sustainable employment for many young people aged 16–24 (supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) and Jobcentre Plus). Through this investment of £372,000 and building on the council's trainee and apprenticeship programme, 260 young people have been supported.
- In terms of tourism assets, Caerphilly Castle, Llancaiach Fawr Manor, The Winding House Museum and Cwmcarn Visitor Centre have all contributed greatly to the economy, with the number of recorded visitors reaching record levels in 2012. In addition, the benefits of the green spaces of the borough are exemplified by award-winning parks and countryside.
- In addition to a large number of local, seasonal events, fairs and activities, the following high profile national events have been particularly successful:
 - Proms in the Park
 - Tour of Britain Cycle Race
 - World Indoor Bowls Championship
 - Big Cheese.
- Town Centre Development has been and will continue to be a major focus for economic development and investment support, via the council, Welsh Government and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant schemes.
- During the past 10 years, the council has been successful in developing projects funded by the ERDF for new industrial and office premises. The occupancy rate for council owned premises currently stands at 89%.
- Major improvements have been secured across the wider locality in the development of Park and Ride (P&R) facilities at Bargoed, Pengam and Rhymney train stations. The Bargoed P&R opened in November 2009. Hengoed P&R was resurfaced and formal parking bays marked out in 2010.
- A business case has been developed for improved rail infrastructure between Bargoed and Rhymney to increase the frequency of train services to Rhymney to half hourly.

- Under the Welsh Government's Trunk Road Programme, two of the six sections of improvements to the A465 Heads of the Valley route have been completed (Abergavenny to Gilwern and Tredegar to Dowlais Top sections). The next section to be constructed, Brynmawr to Tredegar, is planned to be completed by 2014. For the Gilwern to Brynmawr section, construction is planned to commence by 2014 and the remaining two sections from Dowlais Top to Hirwaun are to be completed by 2020.
- The first highway improvement scheme at Trecenydd roundabout on the A468/A469 commenced in July 2011 and was completed in October 2011. With the benefit of this first scheme being realised, detailed design of the other highway improvement schemes identified for the Caerphilly Basin is being progressed, and will be delivered as funding allows.
- New bus stations at Bargoed and Blackwood have been built and opened.
- Communities 2.0 and partners including the council have supported over 2,000 people to get online through activities delivered by Communities 2.0, Come Surf with Me and now Get Caerphilly Online, which has targeted older people, unemployed people, disabled people and those living in social housing.

What are we going to do?

- Provide continued support for existing and start-up businesses via the Local Investment Fund and Commercial Improvement Fund grant schemes.
- A new Employment and Skills Strategy will identify local growth sectors and relevant skills gaps and shortages to inform local business support organisations and all providers of support for employment and skills, as well as target resources to help local people compete more effectively in the job market.
- The Training & Education Forum, which was established in 2011, consists of representation from key providers of skills and employment support and will develop a joined-up approach and the sharing of good practice.
- Continue to implement the Caerphilly LSB Passport Programme.
- Include targeted recruitment and training clauses in all contracts awarded by the council, with a value exceeding £1million.
- Increase visitor numbers in the borough, building on the success of local tourism and arts assets, such as Llancaiach Fawr Manor, The Winding House Museum, Cwmcarn Visitor Centre, Visit Caerphilly Centre, Blackwood Miners Institute and the parks and countryside.
- Ongoing provision of tourism and community events, including:
 - Proms in the Park
 - Tour of Britain Cycle Race
 - World Indoor Bowls Championship
 - Big Cheese.
 - Other town centre events in line with regeneration objectives
- Continue to develop and improve town centres (subject to identification of appropriate funding).
- Implement the Unique Places model of Town Centre Management in the borough's principal town centres.
- Improve the occupancy rate for council owned business premises to 95% or better.
- Continue the development of the Bargoed Retail Plateau, which will initially bring 300+ jobs, with the cinema development bringing further job and investment opportunities.

Developments in transport

We will support access to employment opportunities across a wider geographical area, through a number of planned additional improvements to the rail network during the period 2013–15, including improved station amenities at Rhymney, Bargoed and Ystrad Mynach. During the next three years, extended P&R car parks at Pengam and Rhymney are to be installed, with a new station at Energlyn. Increased frequency of service will also be facilitated via a turn back at

Caerphilly to allow six trains per hour. On the Ebbw Valley line, additional train services are planned including to Newport.

In order to improve the quality of and access to local bus and flexible transport services, there will be:

- Improvements to the roadside infrastructure and information through the continued update/provision of high-quality bus stops and timetable displays
- Improvements to the Caerphilly Interchange
- Network reviews in light of new and reduced bus funding regimes from April 2013 to ensure existing networks are protected and new initiatives (such as green bus funds) are embraced
- Participation in national smart card entitlement scheme to remove barriers to travel
- Continued development of Connect2 as a flexible transport solution throughout the county borough
- Work with existing community transport providers to provide wider community transport services.

In the medium term (2015–20), there will be further improvements to train station facilities at stations on the Rhymney line.

- There will be a new station at Crumlin on the Ebbw Valley line.
- During 2012, it was announced that the electrification of valley lines will proceed, which will significantly enhance and reduce travel times on the Rhymney and Ebbw Valley lines.
- A study will be conducted to assess the feasibility of passenger service being reinstated on Bedlinog line from Ystrad Mynach.

For bus services, in the medium to long term (2015+):

- New technologies will be embraced—particularly those offering wider environmental benefits.
- Opportunities to develop bus services as part of the SEWTA Metro+ will be examined, to provide a modern, efficient and integrated public transport network.
- An infrastructure scheme will be developed to improve passenger facilities and improve the quality and operation of bus services.
- Flexible transport solutions will continue to be developed where conventional services cease to be efficient and offer value for money.

Developments in ICT

During the next three years, the council will build on a number of key initiatives to improve access to ICT:

- Improve ICT networks and their usage among businesses through activities designed to build upon the BisNET (Business Network) and E-Procurement projects, ICT Business Grants, E-Crime Wales programme and the development of Digital Business Ecosystems in key sectors, such as health and medical supplies.
- Use the Communities 2.0 programme to promote digital inclusion to individuals, communities and social enterprises including training and ICT skills development. As part of developing further the concept of Community Schools and encouraging the physical co-location of services, efforts should be made to develop online resources that facilitate the virtual co-location of services and enable greater access to online information for individuals and communities.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- An increase in the number of grants awarded to local businesses.
- An increase in the number of tourists visiting the county borough.
- An increase in the number of businesses registered under the Go 2 My Town initiative.
- Increased footfall in town centres.
- A net increase in the number of jobs created by local employers.
- An increase in the number of jobs safeguarded.
- Ensure that more young people aged 16–24 are supported into sustainable employment via the Caerphilly LSB Passport Programme where we:
 - Create at least 150 work experience opportunities each year.
 - Create at least 25 apprenticeship opportunities each year.
 - Create at least 40 employment opportunities each year.
 - Reduce the number of people aged 16–24 claiming JSA and the number unemployed for more than 26 weeks by 3%.
- All appropriate contracts worth over £1million include either core and non-core relevant community benefit clauses including targeted recruitment and training.

PRIORITY P2:

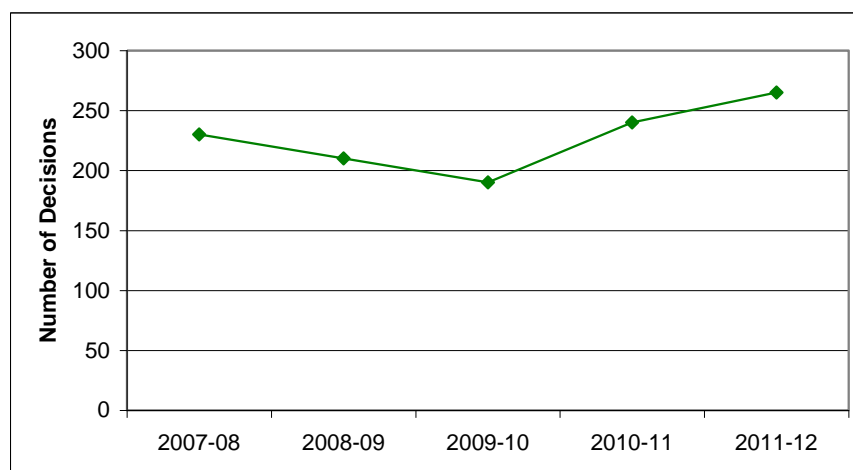
Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough

Where are we now?

The council is investing over £200 million to ensure that by 2019–20 all of its 10,926 homes (figure as of 31 March 2012) meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Similarly, housing associations providing housing in the borough will need to ensure that their housing also meets the WHQS.

The number of people being determined homeless, eligible and in priority need were decreasing year-on-year, in part due to an enhancement of the council's homelessness prevention service; however, since 2010–11, this trend has reversed and numbers are expected to continue to increase. The number of repossession orders made per 1,000 households is higher in Caerphilly than the Welsh average.

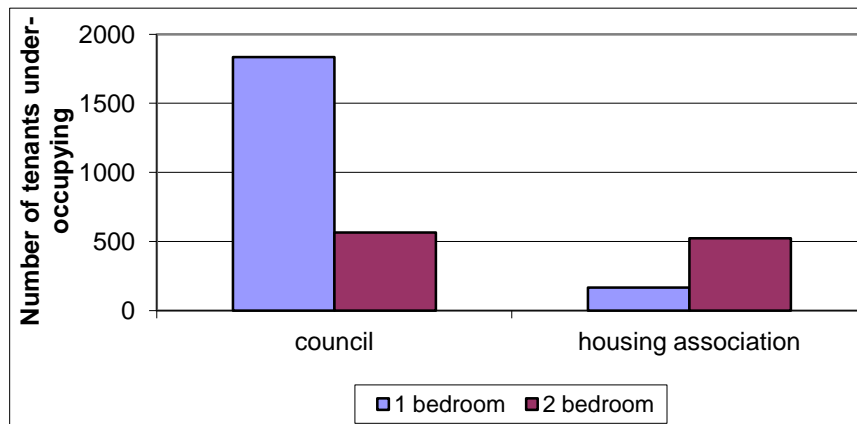
Number of people being determined homeless



Source: Caerphilly CBC: Housing Advice Centre, 2013

We face some significant challenges. In the private sector there are 952 properties (as at April 2011) classified as long-term empty. In the public sector we are witnessing reductions in the level of social housing grant from the Welsh Government, which means that we are likely to see an increase in need. Changes to the benefits system, as a result of the UK Government's Welfare Reform Act, may result in some tenants experiencing severe financial hardship and, as a consequence, struggling to pay their rent or other associated living costs. People claiming housing benefit, who are of working age and have one or more spare bedrooms, will have their housing benefit entitlement reduced. People will be expected to pay the difference between the housing benefit award and the rent amount, so they will either have to find the money to pay the housing benefits shortfall in their rent or look for a suitable property for their family size. Information held by the council shows that 3,087 tenants will be affected by the reductions (2,400 council tenants and 687 housing association tenants).

The number of council tenants who are under-occupying their properties by either one or two bedrooms



Source: Caerphilly CBC, Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit

Continuing to meet the range and extent of housing need exhibited in the borough in light of Welsh Government reductions in capital funding for new build provision will be challenging. We also need to be ready to ensure that there is an adequate range of advice and support services to deal with the rising levels of homelessness, and respond in order to make best use of the housing stock. As energy bills continue to increase in price, the number of people in fuel poverty is going up, which taken together with persistent problems of unemployment, will add further pressure to families in the county borough.

What have we done so far?

i) Homelessness

- The provision of a homelessness service or housing advice centre to focus more on homelessness prevention is ongoing.
- Continued support is provided for the bond scheme to facilitate access into the private rented sector for people unable to find a deposit and rent in advance.
- A working group has been set up to agree a new administration system for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) used to top up rent shortfalls. The group has agreed to award DHPs for a maximum time of three months and assist claimants to secure more affordable accommodation.
- The provision of more suitable emergency accommodation has been secured.
- Housing association partners are being promoted and supported in the provision of affordable homes in the county borough.
- The housing advice service is used to promote social lettings accommodation as an alternative form of accommodation to traditional social housing.

- ii) Empty homes**
- Staff resources have been increased to pursue owners of empty homes to encourage return to use.
 - Financial assistance is being provided to such owners by way of pump-priming grant aid and loans.
 - Enforcement action is being used to address poor housing in the private sector.
 - The Private Landlord Forum is promoted to raise awareness of what may be on offer to prospective purchasers of long-term empty homes.
 - The council continues to work regionally with local authorities in Gwent as part of Welsh Government's Houses into Homes scheme, and locally with United Welsh and Charter Housing Association to increase the number of empty properties returned to beneficial use.
- iii) Affordable housing**
- The Fordham Research was commissioned to carry out an assessment of the housing market in 2007 and produced annual updates thereafter in order to identify affordable housing need.
 - The adopted Local Development Plan has identified sites for housing development and outlines the requirement for an element of affordable housing in such developments.
 - The council has continued to work closely with housing associations to develop new social housing, returned empty properties into beneficial use and supported partners in the development of their social lettings schemes.
- iv) Mortgage possession claims**
- The council provides support for mortgage rescue with housing association partners, Shelter Cymru and Caerphilly county borough Citizens Advice Bureau. In the past 12 months, the council has received 408 notifications from lenders considering repossession and has responded to each household with advice.
- v) Housing register applications**
- The council maintains an allocation scheme in accordance with legislation.
 - Responsibility for the allocation of council housing is transferring from the public sector housing team to the private sector housing team.
- vi) Social Housing Grant**
- The Social Housing Grant is funding given to housing associations by the Welsh Government to provide new affordable housing. The grant funds housing developments that meet local needs and priorities as identified by local authorities.

The table below shows:

The number of new, affordable homes built in the county borough by housing associations using the Social Housing Grant

Financial Year	Social Housing Grant	Units Delivered	Units Proposed	Units Planned
2007-08	£1,993,864	95		
2008-09	£12,859,102	203		
2009-10	£7,875,522	170		
2010-11	£4,894,047	160		
2011-12	£4,519,329	108		
2012-13	£2,177,293		138	
2013-14	£1,929,247			111
Total	£36,249,404	736	138	111

Source: Caerphilly CBC: Housing 2013

vii) Welfare Reform and under-occupancy

- The council provided information on these changes on its website and produced a leaflet.
- The council provided awareness-raising sessions for staff.
- Two additional staff members were employed to provide advice and support, working in partnership with Caerphilly county borough Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver money advice sessions to interested tenants.
- Advice is provided to tenants at sign-up for a new tenancy in relation to under-occupancy benefit changes. A financial health check is also undertaken.
- A series of events held throughout the borough for social housing tenants will be organised in a number of venues to address tenants concerns.
- Two seminars for members were held to raise awareness of the impact on residents and service delivery. Presentation was given to the Caerphilly Homes Task Group, comprising of seven councillors and seven tenants.
- The council is working jointly with other social landlords to ensure best practice is shared.

viii) Housing and the population

- The council offers financial support for the provision of Mandatory Disabled Facilities grants and other grants aimed at raising minimum standards and assisting vulnerable households to remain at home in comfort and safety.
- The council makes better use of adapted properties and continues to work in partnership with housing associations to develop purpose-built homes for disabled people.

ix) Energy efficiency

- The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) works has been completed:
 - Porset/Lansbury Park—126 external wall insulation, 1 boiler/heating renewal, 45 loft insulation upgrades.
 - Rhymney—168 external wall insulation (Tan-y-bryn/Maerdy View), 95 boiler/heating renewals, 6 loft insulation upgrades.
 - Gilfach—155 external wall insulation, 6 boiler replacements, 120 loft insulation upgrades.
 - Fochriw—96 external wall insulation, 45 boiler/heating renewals, 70 loft insulation upgrades.
 - Cefn Hengoed—42 boiler/heating renewals, 70 loft insulation upgrades.
 - CESP programme nearing completion for private residents within Brithdir, Trethomas, Cefn Hengoed and Bryn Carno (Rhymney).

What are we going to do?

- Develop a contract structure, which includes targeted recruitment and training as part of the wider community benefit clauses that will be incorporated into all WHQS related contracts.
- Hold 10+ Pre-Procurement events working with potential contractors to identify potential community benefits.
- Develop social enterprise business opportunities.
- Develop community activities designed to engage people living within our communities in employment-related skills development.
- Continue our Arbed 2 programme of work supporting improvements to over 200 private homes at Fochriw with external wall insulation, new heating systems, loft insulation, positive input ventilation and voltage optimisers.
- Increase awareness of NEST Programme (Welsh Government Fuel Poverty scheme) to obtain greater take-up within the borough and improve communications with partners such as Communities First.

- Bid for grant funding to qualifying areas within the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) public and private sectors.
- Evaluate forthcoming detail regarding the Green Deal and ECO (affordable warmth element) and raise awareness for residents within the borough.
- Actively respond to the welfare reform agenda and increase the supply of smaller types of accommodation (one and two beds) to mitigate the effects of welfare reform.
- Continue to improve work around homelessness prevention and expand the mortgage protection scheme to involve direct payments where timely intervention would prevent repossession in the first place. Funding has been secured to assist an estimated 15 to 20 homeowners in the forthcoming 12 months.
- Work with partners to provide more affordable housing opportunities in the borough.
- Deliver approximately 60 new homes via the £3,389,401 funding allocated by the Welsh Government to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- Ensure that grant funding for new, social housing assists in the development of the local economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs.
- Carry out an in-house assessment of the housing market (local housing market assessment 2013).
- Increase the supply of affordable housing by increasing capacity within the private rented sector, return empty properties back into beneficial use, develop a social lettings scheme and new social housing.
- Improve quality and management in private sector housing.
- Improve the use of the social housing stock through the introduction of a common housing register and common allocations policy.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in the number of people presenting as homeless, including fewer people made homeless as a result of mortgage repossession.
- An increase in the number of empty homes returned back into beneficial use.
- Fewer people in need of affordable housing.
- Fewer people reliant on social housing to meet their housing need.
- Reducing levels of fuel poverty across all tenures.
- Improved housing conditions in the private sector.
- Improved management standards in the private rented sector.
- Supporting the local economy, businesses and employment.
- Increasing energy efficiency of council homes.
- Investing over £200million by 2019–20 to transform homes, lives and communities through WHQS investment (e.g. through increasing employment opportunities, improving skills, addressing anti-social behaviour, improving the environment within communities, addressing the health and well-being of tenants and the wider community and changing the way that the council procures its goods and services).
- Achievement of annual targets identified in the WHQS investment plan and ensuring all council properties meet the WHQS by 2019–20 (with the exception of those regarded as an acceptable failure).

PRIORITY P3:

Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities

Where are we now?

The evidence shows us that in some areas of Caerphilly county borough people face economic exclusion, higher levels of unemployment and poorer skills levels and live where the density of jobs is lower than elsewhere. It is vital that by working collaboratively with the private sector, and

local employment and skills organisations, we seek to support local people to access all employment opportunities whether inside or outside Caerphilly county borough.

In addressing this picture every year, the council works with Jobcentre Plus to organise a Jobs Fair. In September 2012, this was particularly successful, with 845 members of the public attending—the highest attendance achieved to date. 45 employers and support organisations were present, as well as a specialist Work Club Area offering *live* job search and CV advice and a self-employment hub. This is important in responding to the challenges that our communities face and in building links with those who can support individuals to compete for work.

What have we done so far?

There are a number of successful projects and programmes operating in the borough, which have resulted in significant positive outcomes, including those council projects supported by the European Social Fund (ESF):

- Bridges into Work—2,876 participants engaged
- Genesis 2—1,156 participants engaged
- Working Skills for Adults—1,436 participants engaged
- Essential Skills in the Workplace—4 participants engaged (but project only commenced in 2012).

What are we going to do?

Working with partners in Jobcentre Plus, Caerphilly County Citizens Advice Bureau, the Credit Unions and the Money Advice Service we will deliver sessions into employment, where budgeting and financial literacy will be central to all delivery. Delivery will focus on supporting people back into employment and maximising income opportunities through the following actions:

- Hold work club sessions, which will also include specific workshop sessions on interview skills, CV writing, etc., as identified by the customers.
- Develop targeted employability programmes for specific client groups and career paths.
- Use the outdoors and natural resources to up-skill and increase confidence levels for the unemployed, in particular young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs).
- Develop programmes targeted at those furthest from the job market with confidence and low-level mental health issues.
- Support those digitally excluded through coordinated links with the Get Caerphilly Online project providing IT classes and support directly to jobseekers. The programme recognises volunteering as an important route into employment; the Voluntary Work Place project will support jobseekers to take up voluntary opportunities providing the necessary work-based skills required by potential employers.
- Support individuals who will seek employment away from their immediate community through the range of planned improvements to our transport infrastructure, road improvements, enhancements to train services and bus schemes.
- Support people on benefits with projects aimed specifically at providing budgeting and financial literacy education for those on benefits, as well as during the transition from benefit claims to employment.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in the number of JSA claimants.
- A reduction in the number of JSA claimants aged 18–24.
- A reduction in the number of digitally excluded people.
- Increased numbers of working age people in employment.
- A reduction in the number of people out of work for more than 12 months.
- A reduction in the number of local people who are economically inactive.

SAFER CAERPHILLY

A Safer Caerphilly is one in which all residents:

- Are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community
- Are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have
- Need to feel safe and independent and when they need additional support, or where they have additional need, they should be able to access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies.

Through the analysis of partnership data and consultation, four priorities have been formed from key issues, which will be addressed over the next five years to allay the dominant concerns of the residents of the county borough:

S1: Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents

S2: Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough

S3: Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse

S4: Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety

PRIORITY S1:

Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents

Where are we now?

In 2011-12, reported incidents of anti-social behaviour to Gwent Police have reduced by 34.6% when compared to 2010–11, whilst requests for service for anti-social behaviour matters to Caerphilly County Borough Council have also reduced by 23.9% when compared to 2010–11.

One of the main tools used in the county borough to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) is the ASB 4 Strike Process, which is managed by the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP). The ASB 4 Strike Process is a comprehensive and dynamic multi-agency approach to tackling ASB and has been effective in dealing with perpetrators and, more recently, the victims of ASB.

To ensure the process runs efficiently the council's ASB Team manages and facilitates the interactions between the community, partners, perpetrators and victims. Approximately 1,300 referrals are made into the process each year and a total of 377 victims of ASB were supported by the ASB Team over the past year.

The police reported ASB rate in the borough has been falling year-on-year over the last five years. Although the ASB rate in the borough is above the Welsh average, the gap has been closing in the last three years and the latest annual rate is similar to the Welsh average.

What have we done so far?

- The ASB 4 Strike Process has been developed to engage perpetrators and offer early interventions to moderate behaviour. When behaviour has continued to escalate, applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been made to the Court. A total of 98 ASBOs have been obtained since the process has been developed.
- Over 2011–12 the reduction rate between strike 1 and strike 4 was 98%, demonstrating success of the early intervention process in moderating behaviour and ASB.
- A dedicated ASB Team has been created to manage the ASB 4 Strike Process. The team includes a dedicated Victim's Champion who promotes the needs of ASB victims and coordinates local services to ensure that they receive the support and information needed.
- The Street Pride initiative has been developed. This is a single point of contact for residents to report ASB-related issues. The council employs 10 Community Safety Wardens who address ASB in a number of ways. For example, during 2011–12 they attended 149 community-based meetings; made 55 referrals into the ASB 4 Strike Process; made 4,478 visits to ASB hotspot areas; and gave 263 verbal warnings.
- Urban regeneration schemes have made many of our town centres safer, via the installation of better street lighting, CCTV and improved design.
- The CCTV operation monitors a total of 144 cameras throughout the borough, which includes a number of mobile and re-deployable CCTV cameras, which are used in ASB hotspot locations.
- The Youth Offending Service and the council's Community and Youth Education Services provide various initiatives and projects to address ASB such as mentoring services, parenting programmes, youth inclusion support panel (YISP), holiday schemes and ASB diversionary projects.
- Dog Wardens are employed by the council to tackle dog fouling and littering.
- Through the Partnership and Communities Together (PACT) process, 20 community-based meetings are held each quarter, with an annual average of 233 residents attending and 250 priorities dealt with. The Community Safety Wardens attend every PACT meeting and feed back the priorities and council issues to the relevant departments within the council.

What are we going to do?

- Promote and raise awareness of the ASB 4 Strike Process to ensure that perpetrators are being dealt with accordingly.
- Introduce a Junior Community Safety Warden scheme in schools to prevent young people from committing ASB.
- Further develop the support that is currently provided to victims by also offering a mediation service.
- Continue to work with partners to provide diversionary activities to deter and prevent young people from committing ASB.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in recorded ASB incidents.
- Further reduction of requests for service made to the council for ASB matters.
- A decrease of over 98% between strike 1 and 4 of the ASB 4 Strike Process.
- A decrease in the number of people referring to ASB as a concern.

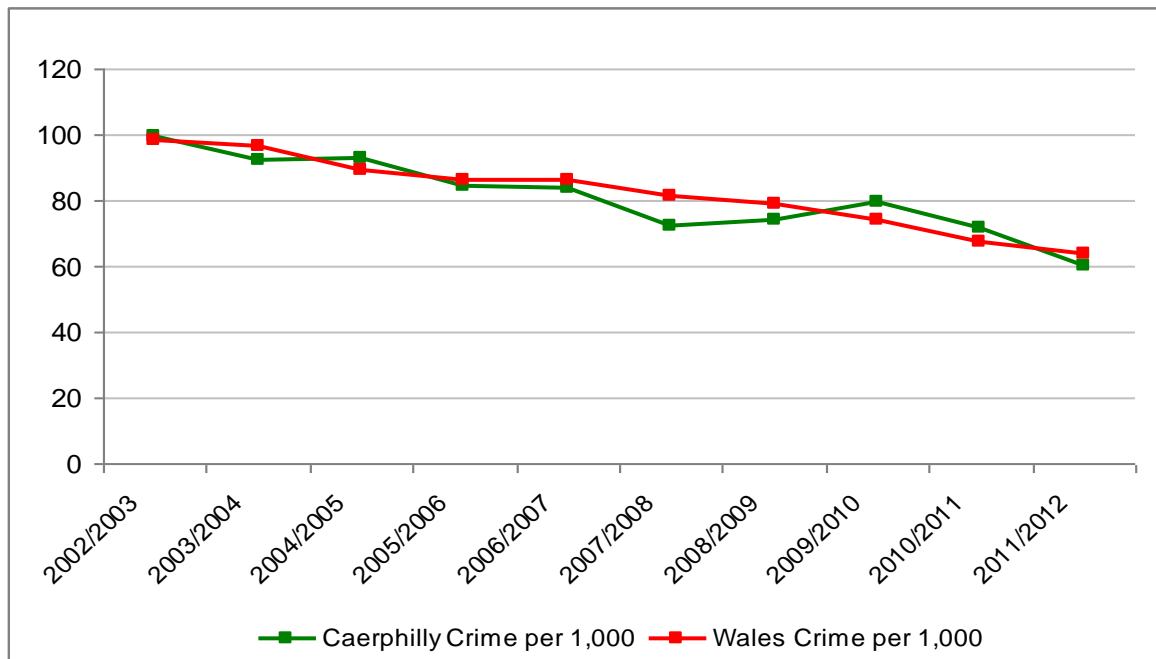
PRIORITY S2:

Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough

Where are we now?

The table below shows that the crime rate in the county borough has generally been falling year-on-year over the last 10 years and the current crime rate is at an historic low level. The crime rate fluctuates at slightly above or slightly below the crime rate in Wales, but has followed a similar trend over time.

Annual crime rate per 1000 population



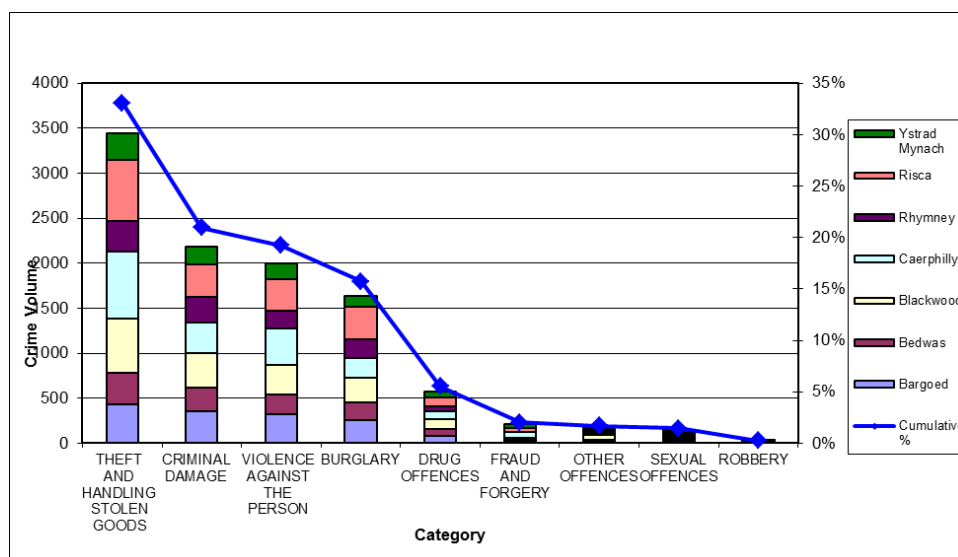
Source: Gwent Police; Caerphilly LSB UNA 2012

The Caerphilly Unified Needs Assessment (UNA) shows that whilst overall crime is down, some crime categories remain a problem for local communities. The main offence categories of concern in the borough are theft and handling stolen goods, followed by criminal damage, violence against the person and burglary, as demonstrated below:

During the financial period 2011–12:

- Total crime in the borough has reduced by 15.7% when compared to 2010–11. This equates to 1,932 fewer victims of crime.
- The peak offence group over the year was theft and handling stolen goods, which accounted for 33% of total crime. Whilst other theft was the peak offence type accounting for 11.9% of total crime.
- Offences of notable increase over the year have been shoplifting (+10.9%, n=+60 crimes), possession of cannabis (+26%, n=+77 crimes), breach of restraining order (+200%, n=+18 crimes), other forgery or uttering (+433.3%, n=+13 crimes) and drugs trafficking in controlled drugs (+15%, n=+12 crimes).
- Notable decreases during the year have been seen in theft from vehicle (-25.6%), assault ABH (-23.5%), criminal damage to vehicles (-20%), other theft (-15.4%), other burglary (-14.9%) and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (-24.4%).

Caerphilly County Borough recorded crime categories 2011–12



Source: Gwent Police: Caerphilly LSB UNA 2012

In addition domestic abuse continues to account for 30% of all violence against the person offences across Caerphilly county borough; however, there has been a fall in domestic violent crimes. Training and support have been provided to front-line officers to ensure early identification of domestic abuse. Hate crimes, although small, also create communities that are less cohesive. These crimes have fallen from 83 in 2010–11 to 68 in 2011–12. Although the level of reporting of hate crime remains low, it is believed that under-reporting is an issue in the county borough and throughout Wales.

What have we done so far?

- Crime has been reduced by 15.7% in 2011–12 based on the same period of the previous year.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Domestic Abuse Conference Calls (DACCs) have been introduced to address the issue of domestic abuse.
- Integrated Offender Management has been introduced to target the most prolific offenders.
- The SCCSP has funded target-hardening schemes to secure properties and provide reassurance to our residents.
- No Cold Calling Zones have been developed in certain areas of the borough to prevent burglary.
- Through the appointment of a South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) Third Sector Coordinator, 1,152 home fire safety checks were carried out in the county borough in 2011-12, with an additional 61 checks made through the Caerphilly Hospital Discharge Service.
- The council worked with SWFRS and partners to address the seasonal problem of deliberate grass fires through Project Bernie.

What are we going to do?

- Focus on the problematic crime areas of theft and handling of stolen goods, criminal damage, burglary and violence against the person.
- Strengthen working links with the new Gwent Police Domestic Abuse Unit and partners.
- Continue to support SWFRS and partners to address deliberate grass fires incidents and arson.
- Hold monthly partnership tasking meetings to address new and emerging crime patterns.
- Monitor the amount of repeat victims of domestic abuse.

- Increase awareness of hate crime and PREVENT within front-line services, providing training where necessary.
- Utilise public facing communications channels to raise public awareness of crime and anti-social behaviour issues and partnership activities to tackle them.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Further reduction of crime rates.
- A reduction in incidents of criminal damage.
- Reduction of deliberate fires in Caerphilly County Borough.
- An increase in public perception that the police and council are effectively dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour matters (to be measured by the council's Household Survey).

PRIORITY S3:

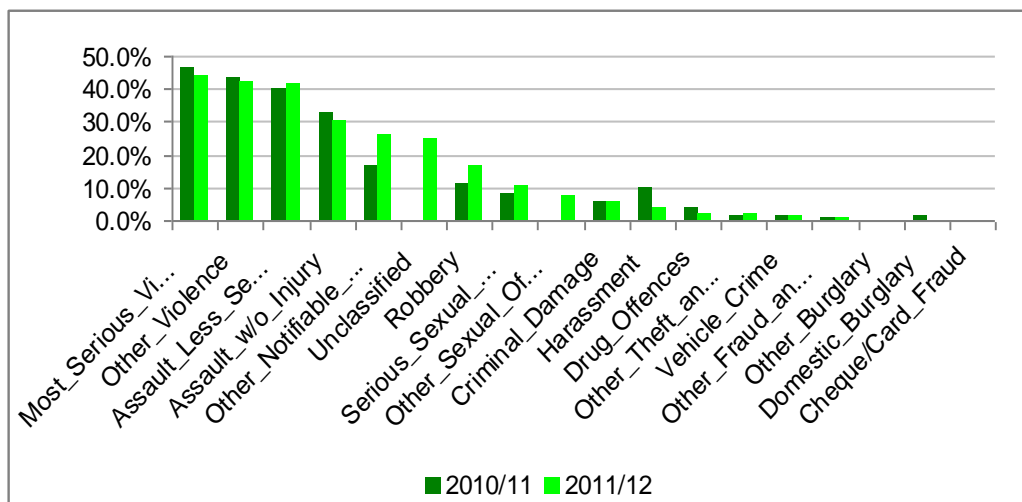
Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse

Where are we now?

Substance misuse can affect the safety of communities and individuals within families. Treatment services and health promotion initiatives are also included within the **Healthier Caerphilly** section of this plan.

Evidence from the Caerphilly UNA shows that there are strong links between substance misuse and crime and ASB. Alcohol consumption is a concern across all age groups and is an issue for both victims and offenders. There are significant links between alcohol misuse and violence against the person (including domestic violence), robbery and sexual offences. During 2011–12, 37.8% of violence against the person offences involved alcohol as a contributing factor and 618 alcohol confiscations were carried out by Community Safety Wardens whilst out on patrol. There can be significant differences between a resident's perception of an area during daylight hours and after dark. This is particularly true of town centre areas and can be linked to alcohol misuse.

Gwent Police recorded crime in Caerphilly with an aggravating factor related to alcohol



Source: Gwent Police: Caerphilly LSB UNA 2013

Analysis also shows that the crime rate for drug-related crime (possession of drugs and dealing in drugs) in the borough has been increasing over the last two years. This rate has fluctuated up and down for the past six years but over the long term is below the Welsh average. There has also been an increase in the use of novel psychoactive substances such as Mephedrone. Young people using these substances can present as highly aggressive and volatile, which can lead to problems in the community.

This increase can partly be attributed to pro-active policing whereby the police act on community intelligence to target specific areas. This in turn generates more evidence, which feeds the pro-active policing cycle and results in more drug-related crimes being recorded and an increase in drug seizures (from 58 in 2010–11 to 117 in 2011–12).

What have we done so far?

- The SCCSP ran Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns at key times throughout the year seeking to reduce the misuse of alcohol.
- The Trading Standards Department has managed the Validate Scheme, which works with every school in the county borough to ensure that all young people have proof of age cards. Test purchases are also carried out at licensed premises throughout the year.
- Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) have been developed to eliminate street drinking in key areas throughout the county borough.
- The SCCSP supported the Street Pastor services in Blackwood, Caerphilly and Risca town centres.
- The SCCSP ran media campaigns on the dangers and consequences of substance misuse.

What are we going to do?

- Support the work of the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning board in tackling substance misuse issues that affect communities.
- Enforce DPPOs to restrict on street drinking by adults and those under 18 years of age.
- Draw together the work of community safety agencies to tackle the night-time economy issues via the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative.
- Trading Standards and Licensing departments to continue to ensure licensed and off-licensed premises act responsibly.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Fewer people testing positive for drugs on arrest.
- Fewer crimes/incidents associated with the misuse of alcohol.
- Reduction in the number of underage sales in alcohol.
- Reduction in the number of violent crimes with an alcohol indicator.

PRIORITY S4:

Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety

Where are we now?

i) For children and families

Data demonstrates the highest number of children and young people on the Child Protection Register (CPR) are those experiencing neglect. As at 31 March 2012, 165 out of 290 children placed on the CPR were there because of neglect within the child's home. This is not specific to

Caerphilly county borough and is a picture that is reflected nationwide. Audit and review undertaken across the South East Wales region, has identified that the main three contributory factors to the neglect of children and young people are:

- Domestic abuse
- Parental drug and/or alcohol misuse
- Parental mental health problems.

One of the underpinning principles of protecting children from abuse and neglect is that they are better off being brought up in their families if it is safe for them to do so. However, in some situations this is not possible and children and young people then have to be looked after by the local authority. As at 31 March 2012, 300 children were looked after by the local authority. Many of these children and young people will be cared for by extended family members; alternatively they may be cared for by foster carers or in residential provision.

We know that the most common reasons for becoming looked after in Caerphilly county borough are:

- Abuse and/or neglect
- Parents struggling to manage their children's behaviour.

Multi-agency working is integral to protecting children from harm and it is recognised that good quality, multi-agency assessment, planning, intervention and review does lead to better outcomes for children and young people.

The decision to create a South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) that will operate across Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Monmouthshire and Torfaen gives us the strategic opportunity to address the challenges across the Gwent region.

This **Caerphilly Delivers** underpins their strategic vision that 'all children and young people in South East Wales are protected from abuse and neglect, live in safe homes and communities and are supported to achieve their full potential.'

The SEWSCB's priorities will be:

- Improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding children practice, which will in turn improve outcomes for children and young people
- Embedding a continuous culture of learning from audit, review and training in the work of all agencies that leads to improvements in front-line practice with children and families
- Using evidence and performance management to inform what we do
- Providing leadership and setting standards and holding each other to account
- Identifying, responding and prioritising the needs of children, young people and families
- Developing robust communication mechanisms to share what we do and what we know
- Working in partnership with communities.

The SEWSCB has prioritised the following groups of children and young people as a result of case review, audit and monitoring performance management data from across the region:

- Adolescents who exhibit harmful behaviours
- Children and young people experiencing neglect
- Children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse, parental mental health issues and/or parental substance misuse.

ii) For adults

Adult Services work with a range of partner agencies to safeguard residents of the borough. Where an adult at risk experiences abuse or neglect, the Adult Services' Protection of Vulnerable Adult (POVA) team become involved in immediate safeguarding measures, investigation and work with others to implement an adult protection plan.

The rate of adult protection referrals below shows a reduction over time. Reasons for the reduction in the number of referrals may be attributed to the preventative work undertaken, training and emphasis on improving the quality of care services.

In addition, the POVA team provide an advice service, which is available for statutory, third sector and the public to ring for advice and guidance. During 2011–12, the advice service had 1,308 contacts.

Referrals of neglect and physical abuse continue to be the highest types of abuse referred with referrals for financial abuse steadily increasing over the last few years.

Safeguarding contact: referrals and advice

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Rate/1,000 of referrals	3.01 (402 contacts)	3.30 (436 contacts)	2.72 (367 contacts)
Number of POVA advice contacts	495	1,149	1,308

Source: Caerphilly CBC: POVA team 2012

What have we done so far?

i) For children and families

- Guidance and training have been developed for professionals and volunteers for working with families where neglect is an issue. The guidance and the training focus on the importance of early identification and intervention.
- A regional sub-group structure has been established to ensure multi-agency safeguarding children training, guidance and procedures and practice improvements are developed and implemented to ensure best practice.
- The council supported the merger of the five former Local Safeguarding Children Boards to create one South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board to make the best use of the resources across the region.
- Cases of children subject to child protection processes were audited and reviewed in order to learn lessons and promote best practice.
- A voluntary sector safeguarding sub-group has been created. The sub-group has developed and promoted safeguarding children guidance and raised awareness of safeguarding issues within the voluntary sector.
- Guidance for professionals and volunteers has been developed on how to respond to self-harm or attempted suicide in children and young people. This will be supported by multi-agency training from 1 April 2013.

ii) For adults

- The Caerphilly county borough Area Adult Protection Committee has worked within the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board, which now has responsibility for ensuring that multi-agency work to protect adults across the region.
- A Health POVA Coordinator post has been developed within the POVA Team. The provision of advice and guidance regarding safeguarding matters and referrals of abuse and neglect of adults at risk has been further enhanced by the clinical expertise brought through the registered nurse, who has been seconded from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

What are we going to do?

i) For children and families

- Develop and implement new ways of working with families where there are child protection concerns.
- Provide a rolling programme of multi-agency training that ensures staff and volunteers from all sectors know how to identify and refer concerns about a child or young person.
- Audit and review cases to identify lessons that can be learned and promote best practice.
- Raise awareness with the general public about child abuse and what their role is in keeping children safe at home, in the community and in schools.
- Enhance personal information sharing across all organisations working with vulnerable families in a phased approach.
- Extend the Home Safety Scheme borough-wide targeting non-Flying Start families.

ii) For adults

- Raise awareness of adult abuse within the general public, and of staff working in the care sector including a varied and continuous programme of training.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in child deaths across the region.
- An improvement in outcomes through early intervention for children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect—particularly that they do not suffer repeat incidents of abuse and neglect.
- Children and young people tell us they feel safer and happier as a result of input from services.
- A reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour involving children and young people.
- Fewer children and young people involved in harmful behaviours like self-harm, smoking, drug and/or alcohol misuse, sexual exploitation, going missing, etc.
- Parents tell us they feel confident to manage the behaviour of their children and know how to teach them to keep themselves safe.
- Parents tell us they get the support they need when they need it to help them parent their children safely.
- A reduction in the rate of children who are on the CPR or looked after.
- A reduction in the rate of POVA cases.
- Increased practitioner awareness of identifying abuse across children, young people and adult age groups.
- Increased practitioner awareness for response to self-harm and attempted suicides across children and young people.

Learning Caerphilly

A Learning Caerphilly is one in which all residents:

- Have access to a high-quality range of appropriate learning opportunities
- Are supported in accessing and participating effectively in education, employment training and any other meaningful activity, to give them every chance to thrive throughout their life course.

As a result of our understanding of the challenges we face, we have identified three priority actions:

L1: Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families

L2: Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment

L3: Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities

PRIORITY L1:

Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families

Where are we now?

Getting the basic skills right for children before and throughout their school life can help families make informed choices and in turn improve their overall chances in life.

Through the Families First's Integrated Family Learning project there has been greater access to community literacy and numeracy sessions. These provide many families with the opportunity to resume or continue with their learning, or seek employment.

We face significant demographic challenges as 87.2% of the borough's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are within the top 50% most deprived category for the education, skills and training domain across Wales. This is the highest proportion in the whole of Wales.

In 2004, the Basic Skills Agency estimated that a high proportion of our population lacked the necessary literacy or numeracy skills to achieve a formal qualification, with the proportion of people with no qualifications significantly higher than the all Wales average. This is reflected in the Rhymney Valley area, with figures indicating that 25% of the population lack the literacy skills and 75% lack the numeracy skills necessary to achieve a formal qualification. Statistics also show that high numbers of the workforce are engaged in low-skilled jobs, particularly in areas of the borough considered to be hard to reach.

In June 2004, all schools completed the All Wales Reading Test for all pupils in years 2, 4, 6 and 7. Results indicated that, for each year group:

- A significant proportion of learners had reading skills more than 6 months below their chronological age
- A significant proportion of boys entitled to Free School Meals were evident in this group.

The same test was used to assess reading in years 2–9 in June 2012. Results analysis shows an improvement in the percentage of pupils with a functional reading age for year 7 and 8 pupils in 2012–13.

What have we done so far?

- The Families First Programme has been using innovative methods to engage with families who are traditionally hard to reach. The programme includes a holistic learning pathway for families who require support to participate in community-based learning opportunities, which will develop their life and work-related skills.
- The Flying Start Programme engages families in the most disadvantaged areas during pregnancy through the early years to support parenting skills, child development and healthy lifestyles. Following engagement, many families increase resilience and self-reliance and have gone on to further training, education and employment opportunities. Early language development is a key priority within the Flying Start programme.
- The Skills Strategy has implemented targeted interventions of training and additional support in primary schools, to improve the literacy levels of pupils having difficulties accessing the curriculum.
- Using a successful partnership with BT we have been able to expand the availability of online community resources and some work has already been undertaken within the borough as a result of the previous Communities@One programme. The benefits associated with digital storytelling including fostering greater intergenerational relationships, ICT skills and literacy development have already been recognised in some parts of the borough but should be developed within and by communities throughout.

What are we going to do?

- Develop a clear pathway between existing parent participation networks in the community and parents' involvement in the local school setting.
- Reduce the inequality gap for identified vulnerable families through increased collaborative working of funding streams.
- Continue to support the development of quality, accessible, affordable childcare provision to support access to education, learning and employment.
- Provide diverse learning pathways for young people and adults.
- Ensure that young people and adults have the appropriate level of basic skills to access opportunities in employment, education and training.
- Develop a range of appropriate interventions to support young people and adults in accessing the right support for learning at the right time.
- Improve standards of attainment in reading, writing and the application of literacy and numeracy.
- Continue to implement the Skills Strategy to raise the profile of adult basic education and family learning.
- Embed basic skills within the Joint Assessment Family Framework.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- An increase in the number of qualifications gained by young people and adults.
- A decrease in the number of adults and young people with basic skill needs.
- Increase in basic skills of enrolments year-on-year.
- Higher percentage of pupils leaving primary school with a functional reading age.

PRIORITY L2:

Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment

Where are we now?

Improvements in attendance rates in primary schools have been consistent over the past three years. However, the attendance rate of 93.1% in 2011–12 ranks the local authority 19th and below the Welsh average of 93.8%. There has also been improvement in attendance rates in secondary schools over the last three years. However, the attendance rate of 91.7% in 2011–12 ranks the local authority 18th and below the Welsh average of 92.2%.

During the academic year 2011–12, in comparison with performance in 2010–11, in both primary and secondary schools there was a decrease in permanent and fixed-term exclusions, as well as the number of days lost due to all exclusions—a trend we need to maintain. There were no permanent exclusions in primary schools in 2011–12, whilst in secondary schools the number of permanent exclusions reduced from 13 in 2010–11 to 5 in 2011–12. There has also been a decrease of 28% in the number of days lost due to fixed-term exclusions in primary schools and a 31% reduction in secondary schools. However, despite the progress made, the number of days lost due to fixed-term exclusions remains high, particularly in primary schools. Attendance and exclusions remain a priority for the local authority and as such there is still significant ongoing work in supporting schools further to improve in these measures.

Education has the ability to empower people, to make better life choices, be ambitious and confident about work, and contribute substantially to breaking the cycle of deprivation. There has been a year-on-year increase in Key Stage 2 (KS2) performance for the last five years and for 2012 it was above the Welsh average; however, whilst KS3 and KS4 performance has been increasing for the last few years, performance remains below the Welsh average.

The challenge is that we have the second highest percentage of pupils in Wales who are eligible for Free School Meals, and as the figures demonstrate, these children are outperformed by children who are not in receipt of Free School Meals. Poverty can have a negative effect particularly on the long-term opportunities and outcomes for children and young people throughout their life including education and employment opportunities. The choices that parents make can significantly influence their child's life opportunities and the multi-agency approach with Families First, Flying Start and other programmes recognises the support that families need to overcome the impacts of poverty.

What have we done so far?

- The local authority, in collaboration with schools and other multi-agency partners, has revised a range of behaviour and attendance policies and guidance documents. A multi-agency training package has contributed to a reduction of exclusions and an increase in attendance.
- A regional Education Achievement Service has been established to support and challenge schools to raise levels of achievement for all children.
- Families First's Team Around the Family (TAF) model provides coordinated support services and education opportunities to families with a range of needs including school attendance. There are TAF panels for different specialist provisions, such as Integrated Support for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) and Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP).
- The Flying Start Programme is successfully delivering the full entitlement in 10 areas with plans for expansion during 2013–15 to a further 9 areas.
- A multi-agency steering group has successfully developed the newly built Integrated Children's Centre at St James in Caerphilly, and following a pilot in the Rhymney area for development of the concept of Community Focused Schools, a strategy has been agreed and all schools are now actively engaged.

What are we going to do?

In order to improve attainment, pupil attendance will need to be addressed. The pattern of attendance rates during a school year can be affected by unauthorised absences due to family holidays, parental attitudes to learning, and a lack of basic skills amongst parents. To tackle this challenge, the following actions will be taken:

- Support parents to value what our schools do and encourage positive views about learning and achievement.
- Provide timely support to pupils who do not attend school regularly through the TAF model so that the social needs of families are supported.
- Target key schools through partnership working to improve attendance and reduce exclusions.
- Promote positive cultures and develop a mobile outreach provision to engage isolated communities in learning opportunities further afield and raising their aspirations.
- Expand the Flying Start programme and, in partnership with Families First, Communities First and wider partner programmes, continue to support families in poverty and raise aspirations for attainment of children and young people.
- Develop a strategy to reduce the gap in attainment for children on Free School Meals and target resources appropriately.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Improved school attendance rates.
- A reduction in the number of permanent and fixed-term exclusions, as well as the number of days lost due to exclusions from schools.
- Improved outcomes for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.

PRIORITY L3

Ensure children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities

Where are we now?

The percentage of pupils leaving school without achieving a recognised qualification has reduced notably during the last four years and at a faster rate than Wales as a whole. The local authority has supported these learners with an increased range of alternative provision, providing support from learning coaches and helping to introduce systems for tracking pupil progress.

The percentage of learners remaining in full-time education has been better than expected during the last few years.

Strategies to identify and reduce the number of children and young people who are or are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) are developing well. Although in 2009–10 the NEET figure increased by 1%, there was a decline of 1.5% in 2010–11. The challenge will be to sustain performance in these areas in particular, given the current economic climate.

We have effective services and programmes in place to support children young people and families to develop their skills, for example Integrated Family Learning Project, PreVent, Genesis, Bridges into Work and Working Skills for Adults.

What have we done so far?

- A Caerphilly Skills Strategy and a strategy focusing on young people who are NEET have been developed.
- Vulnerable young people aged 16 or over who are NEET gain accredited basic skills qualifications through the Genesis project. Recognition of achievement by certificated means has increased by over 75% during the period 2008–11.
- A range of European projects linked to Adult Community Learning including Genesis, Bridges into Work, Working Skills for Adults and Essential Skills in the Workplace offer additional support to existing and potential learners. Bridges into Work, up to September 2012, has been particularly successful helping 158 individuals into employment. The majority of learners supported by Bridges into Work and Working Skills for Adults have achieved a recognised qualification.
- The Independent Living Skills (ILS) programme offers a comprehensive range of learning opportunities for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Over the last four years, the numbers of adults accessing basic skills courses has increased by 10% a year, and as the data shows, the majority of learners following this programme are aged between 25 and 49.

What are we going to do?

- Focus on the early intervention actions in priority actions L1 and L2 to have a positive impact on the cultural attitudes of parents and communities.
- Develop and implement a diagnostic toolkit for identifying and monitoring NEETs at early stages.
- Develop multi-agency working with schools to target identified young people to improve attainment and increase the percentage of young people achieving five GCSEs A*–C, including English and Mathematics.
- Continue the work of successful community education programmes that support young people and families to access job opportunities.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in the number of young people who become NEET.
- Higher percentage of young people achieving five GCSEs A*–C, including English and Mathematics.
- An increase in the number of young people and families achieving formal and informal outcomes.

Creating a Play-Friendly Wales—the statutory guidance to local authorities on assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas

Children and young people have a right to play and a wide variety of play opportunities should be available. A Play Sufficiency Assessment has been undertaken, which establishes the baseline of provision and identifies gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation. It will be supported by an action plan, which identifies actions to be taken to address the issues and shortcomings recorded within the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

The key initial findings of the assessment indicate:

- There is good evidence based on the quantity of open spaces, play spaces and supervised play. This is being used to determine the areas where there is a lack of open space and play space when assessed against local open space standards and where supervised play provision is limited.
- More information needs to be collected in the future to fully understand the play needs of specific groups of children. Further work should be undertaken in assessing the quality of open and play spaces and supervised provision.

Healthier Caerphilly

A **Healthier Caerphilly** is one where all residents:

- live longer, healthier lives.

According to the Caerphilly LSB UNA, 23 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the county borough fall within the top 10% most deprived category for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation health domain, which broadly mirrors the areas facing the greatest levels of economic inactivity.

Similarly, improvements in the wider determinants of health (including education, employment, housing, environment, etc) addressed through other Outcomes and Priorities in **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** will help to improve the health and wellbeing of the population.

Building a **Healthier Caerphilly** will not only seek to address the underlying causes of poor health in the population but contribute to the ability of individuals to access training and employment.

Therefore, our priorities are:

H1: Address the inequities in the rate of low birth weight babies across the borough

H2: Improve lifestyles of the population in the county borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them

H3: Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the county borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.

H4: Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to Substance Misuse in the borough.

H5: Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives

*N.B.: Priorities H1 to H3 were identified as priority areas for attention through the UNA workshop process in the autumn of 2012. Priorities H4 and H5 have been identified for inclusion during the consultation process. Both had been represented in the **Safer Caerphilly** section of the Single Integrated Plan but it was agreed that the joint working nature of Health and Social Care Services to deliver them warranted their prime inclusion in the **Healthier Caerphilly** section of the plan.*

PRIORITY H1:

Address the inequities in the rate of low birth weight babies across the county borough

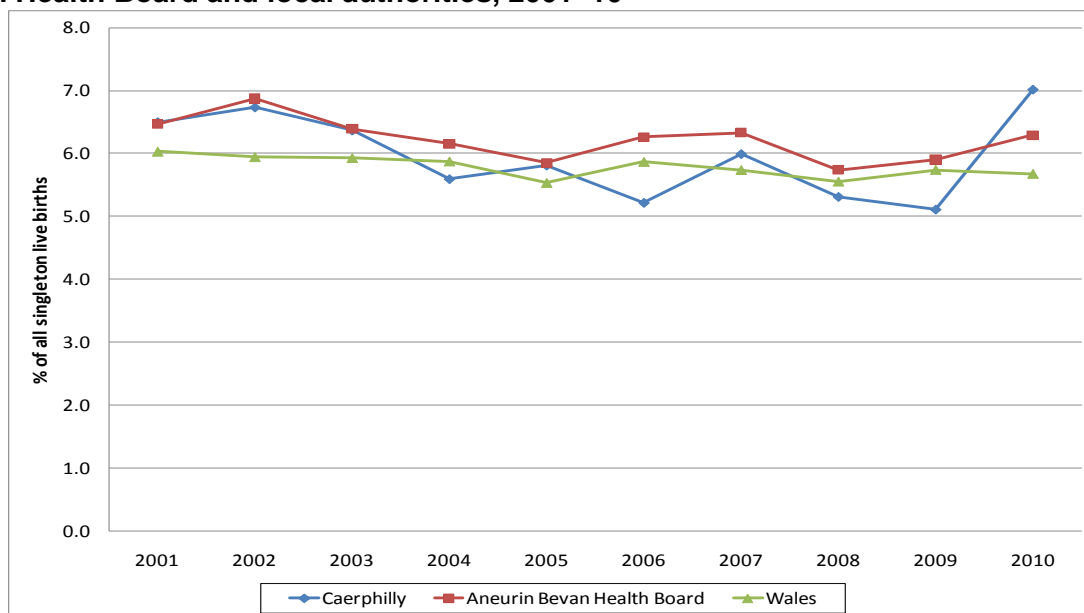
Where are we now?

Evidence suggests that babies born below 2,500 grams (5 ½ lbs) are at greater risk of problems occurring during and after birth, as well as of chronic disease in adulthood. Also, whilst the rate of babies born with a low birth weight is similar to the Welsh average, some parts of Caerphilly (including Aber Valley, Caerphilly South, Bedwas, and St James and in particular Caerphilly North wards) have much higher rates.

There is a clear direct association between rates of low birth weight and deprivation, and although there are many causes of low birth weight that might not be open to change (like maternal age or multiple births), there are a number of priority areas we can focus our efforts on.

Addressing smoking in pregnancy, exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, harmful drinking in pregnancy, substance misuse and teenage conceptions will make a difference.

Proportion (%) of all single live births with low birth weight (under 2,500g), Wales Aneurin Bevan Health Board and local authorities, 2001–10



Source: Public Health Wales Observatory (data from Annual District Births Extract (ADBE): Office for National Statistics

The table below shows the main causes and areas of focus for partnership working, which could contribute to improving the low birth weight babies population indicator.

Outcome indicator	Causes	Areas of Focus
Low birth weight babies	<p>Maternal smoking and passive smoking</p> <p>Teenage pregnancies</p> <p>Maternal alcohol and substance misuse</p> <p>Nutrition and intake of folic acid</p> <p>Quality and access to antenatal care</p>	<p>Mental well-being in young women</p> <p>Employment and worklessness</p> <p>Social and community networks</p> <p>Personal and social education and health literacy</p> <p>Social and family influences</p> <p>Comprehensive midwifery services</p> <p>Availability and use of contraception</p> <p>Availability of alcohol/tobacco/substances</p> <p>Environmental determinants of food availability</p>

Source: Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Public Health Strategic Framework 2011–15

What have we done so far?

- The Caerphilly Sexual Health Strategy Group has developed the Quality Approach to Sexual Relationships Education (SRE) toolkit, which ensures that there is a consistent approach for all professionals involved in the delivery of SRE to children and young people.
- The Health Inclusion Project (HIP) has been established as part of the Families First programme in Caerphilly. The project is a multi-agency partnership that aims to contribute to reducing the levels of smoking, number of sexually transmitted infections, and the number of teenage conceptions.
- Communities First's antenatal road-shows were an initiative targeted at pregnant women, new parents and families with children aged 0–4. Health Challenge Caerphilly, Aneurin Bevan Health Board health visitors, and Communities First's Health and Well-Being Officers supported residents in the target group by providing information and advice to give their children a healthy start in life. Initiatives promoted included Healthy Start, Change4Life messages, Flying Start, Stop Smoking Wales and Designed to Smile. Individuals were able to sign up to activities in their own communities at each event.
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board Maternity Services have worked alongside colleagues in Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team and Stop Smoking Wales (Public Health Wales) and have successfully secured funding for 12 months for a Maternity Smoking Cessation Pilot Project. The Maternity Smoking Cessation Pilot Project funding will ensure that the Aneurin Bevan Health Board have a full time dedicated Smoking Cessation and Pregnancy Advisor. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board are one of four pilot projects that will be implementing different approaches and service delivery models across Wales, to establish the most effective methods and approaches to support pregnant women to stop smoking.
- Flying Start has been established within the borough since 2008–09, and is an intervention programme for families with 0–3 year olds living in specific geographical areas. It consists of four key elements: enhanced health visiting, language and play, parenting support and childcare for 2–3 year olds. The programme enables closer links with Families First and Communities First to contribute towards tackling poverty.

What are we going to do?

- Improve lifestyles during pregnancy, including:
 - Increasing uptake of smoking cessation services by pregnant women
 - Training staff in brief intervention techniques for smoking, alcohol, substance misuse and nutrition
 - Delivering awareness campaigns around folic acid and healthy eating in pregnancy
 - Raising awareness of the Healthy Start scheme which provides pregnant women, new mums and young children in low income families with free vouchers to spend on milk and fruit and vegetables.
- Reduce teenage pregnancy rates by;
 - Continuing to delivering SRE training and resources for children and young people
 - Delivering SRE training and awareness for all school Governors
 - Increasing the uptake of new Condom-card (C card) registrations.
- Further develop integrated working between maternity, health visiting and community-based services.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduced rate of low birth weight babies across the county borough and a reduced difference in rates between areas of the county borough, measured by the percentage of babies born below 2,500g (5 ½ lbs).
- A reduction in the number of women who smoke during pregnancy.
- A continued reduction in the under 16 conception rate.

PRIORITY H2:

Improve lifestyles of the population in Caerphilly County Borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them

Where are we now?

The population indicators of focus for this priority are key health-related lifestyle indicators and reflect the results of the 2010 and 2011 Welsh Health Survey.

Lifestyles of the population (i.e. alcohol consumption, smoking, physical activity and diet) are generally unhealthy. 62% of our adult population is overweight (above the Welsh average of 57%) and 26 % is obese. This is the second worst obesity rate in Wales, compared with the Welsh average of 22%. Only 27% of adults report meeting the guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption—this is significantly below the Welsh average—and only 28% reported that they were active on five or more days a week, compared to 30% for Wales.

Although the percentage of adults in the county borough who smoke is the same as the national average (23%), it does mean nearly a quarter of adults in the county borough smoke. As for alcohol consumption, 46% of adults report drinking above the guidelines of alcohol on at least one day in the past week (this is above the Welsh average of 44%), whilst 30% were categorised as binge drinking in the past week, compared to 27% for Wales.

Dental health is poor in comparison with the rest of Wales. The percentage of 5 year olds with decayed, missing or filled teeth in 2007–08 was 55%, compared with 47% for Wales.

Adults in the borough also report poorer mental health than the average for Wales. The Welsh Health Survey shows that the age standardised score for adults in the borough is 48.5 which is slightly lower than the Wales score of 49.8 and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board average of 49.3.

Mental well-being is important because it can affect a wide range of factors in our lives including forming and sustaining relationships, going to work and school, being able to participate in leisure activities and feeling part of the wider community. It is important to develop strategies that support mental well-being such as supportive friends and family, good quality housing, feeling safe and part of a community, accessible leisure opportunities and availability of support for major life transitions. Risk factors for poor mental health may include social isolation, unemployment, social or cultural discrimination, lack of accessible services or leisure opportunities and low self-esteem.

The table below shows main causes and areas of focus for partnership working for healthy lifestyles.

Outcome	Causes	Areas of Focus
People have healthier lifestyles	Smoking	Whole-school approaches/policies
	Alcohol consumption	Health education and health literacy
	Poor diet	Tobacco control policies
	Lack of physical activity	Health promotion interventions, e.g. Mental Health First Aid
	Poor emotional health	Workplace health and well-being programmes
	Risk-taking behaviours	Environments conducive to healthy choices and active travel
		Health Impact Assessments on all policies

Source: Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Public Health Strategic Framework 2011–15

What have we done so far?

- The council has increased people’s awareness of the benefits of healthy choices through Health Challenge Caerphilly and Change 4 Life.
- Communities First’s health and well-being interventions have identified and started to address previously unmet needs.
- The National Exercise on Referral scheme has proved highly successful, with positive outcomes in participants, and has recently been enhanced to incorporate mental health and emotional well-being issues.
- Community Health Champions are being recruited and trained to promote healthy lifestyles and direct people to relevant services.
- The Healthy Schools Scheme has been embedded in all schools in the borough. Healthy Early Years and Healthy College Schemes have also been established.
- Numbers of walking groups, green gyms and community allotment work have been increased.
- Local workplaces are engaged in promoting the health and well-being of employees.
- A nutrition action plan has been developed, which focuses on improving the population’s knowledge around healthy eating, increasing and maintain access to healthy nutrition, and decreasing the level of obesity in the borough.
- A tobacco action plan has been developed, which focuses on smoking cessation, prevention and smoke-free environments, and brief intervention training has been held for smoking cessation.
- All playgrounds in Caerphilly County Borough now display *Smoke Free Play Area* signs, which were developed and implemented by the Youth Forum.

What are we going to do?

- Provide education in schools and youth settings on smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, and sexual health.

- Reduce smoking prevalence by increasing uptake of smoking cessation services.
- Ensure the delivery and uptake of community weight management services for children and adults, including adults over retirement age.
- Train staff in brief intervention techniques for smoking, alcohol, substance misuse and nutrition.
- Provide opportunities for residents to increase their health literacy skills, to enable them to understand and use information to make healthier choices.
- Increase the number of Community Health Champions across the borough as a method of raising awareness and gaining social support for changing behaviours.
- Implement local action plans for tobacco control, physical activity, alcohol and healthy eating.
- Share intelligence to reduce illegal alcohol sales, identify and tackle patterns of alcohol and drug-related harm.
- Develop and implement a Healthy Retail Scheme in the borough.
- Increase availability of healthy food in catering outlets, for example, through the Healthy Options scheme, and implementation of *Appetite for Life* policies in all schools.
- Develop work programmes to produce strategies and action plans for emotional health and well-being and improving sexual health.
- Implement the Primary Mental Health (Wales) Measure via integrated, multi-agency mental health services.
- Promote well-being and build resilience by implementing programmes such as SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) in schools, building the *Five Ways to Well-Being* into policies, plans and programmes, and tackling the stigma and discrimination of mental illness.
- Address the mental health needs of those at risk e.g. looked after children.
- Develop intergenerational activities to improve social interaction, mental health and well-being.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- A reduction in the number of adults smoking, measured by the percentage of adults smoking.
- Fewer people who are dependent on alcohol, measured by percentage of adults drinking alcohol above the guidelines.
- An increase in the number of people who are more physically active, measured by percentage of adults physically active on five or more days a week.
- More people feeling healthier, measured by Mental Component Summary Score.
- More people choosing to eat healthily, measured by percentage of adults eating at least five fruit and vegetables a day and by the percentage of obese adults.

PRIORITY H3:

To reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the Caerphilly County Borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage will improve to the levels found among the advantaged

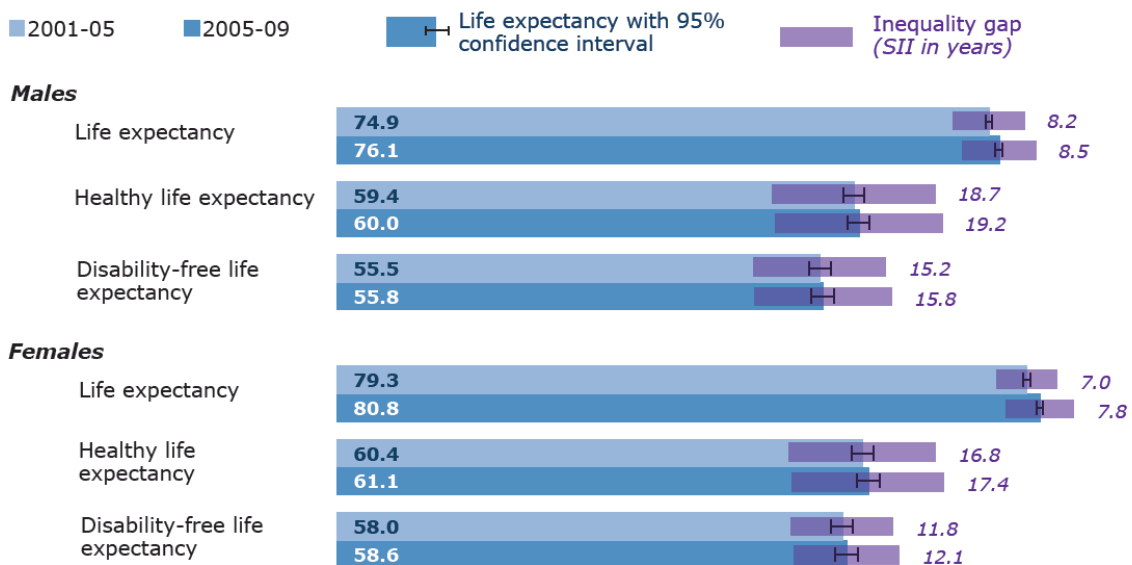
Where are we now?

Nearly a third (31%) of adults report having a life-limiting long-term illness (compared with 27% for Wales), whilst 60% of adults aged 65 and over report that they have a life-limiting long-term illness (compared with 56% for Wales).

Life expectancy is increasing, as in Wales in general. The average number of years a man in Caerphilly can expect to live healthily is 60 years, and 61.1 years for a woman. However, there are inequalities within the borough. Men living in the most deprived areas can expect to live over 19 years less healthy than those in the least deprived areas; for women the difference is 17 years.

The causes of health inequities are multifaceted and include lifestyle factors, e.g. smoking, alcohol intake, diet and physical activity. Wider determinants such as poverty, housing and education also play an integral part, along with access to appropriate healthcare. Often the causes are perpetuated within families, from generation to generation.

Comparison of life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy at birth, Caerphilly 2001–05 and 2005–09



Source: Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using ADDE/MYE (ONS), WIMD/WHS (WG)
<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/page/47835>

The data shows that people are living longer, but not all the additional years of life are spent in good health. The healthy life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy have improved only slightly. The data also illustrates that people in the least deprived areas not only live longer than those in the most deprived areas, but they also spend a substantially higher proportion of their life expectancy in good health.

The inequality gap between the most and least deprived areas in the borough has increased slightly. The gap in life expectancy in males between the most and least deprived areas is 8.5 years, and for healthy life expectancy the gap is even bigger at 19.2 years.

The table overleaf shows main causes and areas of focus for partnership working, which could contribute to improving life expectancy, additional to those already identified in the lifestyle priority above.

Outcome	Causes	Areas of Focus
People live longer, healthier lives	Lifestyles—smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity and diet including breastfeeding Mental well-being Immunisation uptake Life-limiting long-term illness Accidental injuries/falls Excess winter deaths	Whole-school approaches/policies Health education and health literacy Early identification/screening Home safety Coordinated services for frail people

Source: Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Public Health Strategic Framework 2011–15

What have we done so far?

Lifestyles have a huge influence on life expectancy. The activities noted in the lifestyles section above (see Priority H2) are also relevant here. In addition:

- Health Challenge Caerphilly and Communities First lead on the development of a DVD called *Small Steps to Safety*. 10,000 copies have been produced for distribution by health visitors across Gwent.
- A Falls Coordinator has been appointed to the Caerphilly locality and is based within the Central Resource Team (CRT). The coordinator is working with/across the falls clinics and wider community to develop an Aneurin Bevan Health Board wide falls pathway.
- A *Think Family* conference was held in March 2011, which raised awareness of the impact of mental ill health within families. Following the conference a *Think Family* training DVD was produced.
- The Gwent Frailty Programme commenced on 4 April 2011 and is now fully operational.

What are we going to do?

- Complete the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Resource Centre in the north of the county borough.
- Increase uptake of smoking cessation services, particularly in groups where smoking rates are disproportionately higher. For example, those in routine and manual occupations and the long-term unemployed.
- Reduce exposure to second-hand smoke by creating smoke-free public places and supporting families to make their homes and cars smoke-free.
- Promote and reduce barriers for breastfeeding due to the long-term health benefits to both baby and mother.
- Increase uptake of immunisations in order to prevent disease.
- Improve home safety to reduce the risk of injury and death, particularly in young children and older people.
- Improve risk identification and early intervention through e.g. cardiovascular risk assessment and early cancer detection.
- Scope out the possibility of using social marketing to identify effective interventions.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Increased healthy life expectancy across the borough.
- Reduced variations in healthy life expectancy across the borough.
- A reduction in the number of people smoking, measured by percentage of adults smoking.
- A reduction in the number of people who are dependent on alcohol, measured by percentage of adults drinking alcohol above the guidelines.
- A greater number of people who will be more physically active, measured by percentage of adults physically active on five or more days a week.
- More people feeling healthier, measured by Mental Component Summary Score.
- More people choosing to eat healthily, measured by percentage of adults eating at least five fruit and vegetables as day and percentage of obese adults.

PRIORITY H4:

Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the county borough

Where are we now?

Substance misuse can affect the safety of communities and individuals within families. Crime and disorder reduction initiatives are included within the ***Safer Caerphilly*** section of the plan. This cross-cutting theme priority addresses education, health promotion and treatment/harm reduction initiatives that link directly to the development of the All Gwent Area Planning Board Work Programme for substance misuse.

Evidence from the Caerphilly UNA shows that there are strong links between substance misuse and violence against the person (including domestic violence), robbery and sexual offences, which in turn can affect the safety of communities and individuals within families. Substance misuse services provider organisations have reported the following information on the most problematic substances being used in the borough:

- Mephadrone 29%
- Female poly drug misuse 25%
- Alcohol 18%
- Cannabis 14%
- Male poly drug misuse 10%
- Solvents 3%
- Alcohol and Diazepam 1%

The table overleaf shows the main causes and areas of focus for partnership working, which could contribute to preventing substance misuse and reducing harm from substance misuse.

Outcome	Causes	Areas of Focus
Prevention of, and reduced harm from, substance misuse	Education Lifestyles Peer pressure Mental well-being Poverty Employment	Whole-school approaches/policies Workplace policies Health education and health literacy Early identification/screening

Source: Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Public Health Strategic Framework 2011–15

What have we done so far?

- An Alcohol Home Detoxification Service and support services have been set up for people with issues with alcohol misuse.
- Budgets have been ring-fenced for individuals who need inpatient treatment/residential rehabilitation for their substance misuse.
- Nurse prescribing clinics have been developed for those clients who have had access to a key worker, are stable and only require a prescription for a therapeutic dose of alternative prescribing.
- Naloxone training events and administration of Naloxone sessions are delivered to professionals and service users to reduce the amount of fatal overdoses and drug-related deaths.
- Parenting programmes have been developed to work with substance misusing parents who are at risk of having their children removed as a result of their substance misuse.
- Open Access and Community Prescribing services have been introduced.
- Needle exchange services have been delivered.
- Interactive educational performances based on substance misuse issues such as Wings to Fly and Wrecked have also been delivered.

What are we going to do?

- Work with the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board to provide services across the whole of the borough to treat and prevent the effects of substance misuse.
- Develop a substance misuse resource centre in the north of the county borough.
- Develop a service for working with people who have issues with their illicit or prescribed use of benzodiazepine.
- Review and reconfigure existing services to address the issues of novel psychoactive substances that are available on our streets and through the internet.
- Raise awareness to young people of the effects of alcohol and drugs.
- Deliver harm reduction training for all front-line staff.
- Continue the safe provision of Naloxone distribution and training across the at-risk population.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Improved health and social functioning of those who misuse substances.
- Increased take-up of the needle exchange provision and a reduction in individuals with blood-borne viruses (BBVs) such as HIV and Hepatitis B.
- Enough information available on issues in relation to substance misuse so individuals can make informed choices.

- A reduction in the number of substance misuse-related deaths.
- An increase in the number of service users in sustainable employment.
- An increase in the number of service users in stable housing.
- A reduction in the numbers of children in care where substance misuse is a factor.

PRIORITY H5:

Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives

Where are we now?

Partnership working across the borough aims to safeguard residents and successes have been achieved in that respect. However, poverty and ageing population within the county borough are major issues.

Indeed, poverty is a major factor in the high demand for child protection services and the need for the council to look after more children and young people. Research has shown that families involved in child protection proceedings are more likely to experience multiple disadvantages, with children who have increased health-related problems and fewer opportunities to access education.

As for ageing population, people are living longer and many want to remain safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible. They should be enabled to return as quickly as possible to their own homes following stays in hospital, reducing Delayed Transfers of Care (DTCs). Older adults should be protected from abuse whenever and wherever it occurs. Where abuse or neglect occurs, all agencies have a responsibility to tackle it.

As mentioned, the age profile of people within the borough is changing: more people are living longer and will want to remain safely independent in their own homes for as long as possible. An indicator of this is the number of the population of adults, aged 65 and over who are supported in the community. The number of DTCs has reduced slightly over time for the borough and Wales as a whole. The reduction can be attributed, in part, to the introduction of the Gwent Frailty Programme, which has seen an increase in the number of people who access the programme.

What have we done so far?

- We have developed a Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Local Carers strategy, which includes young carers.
- Caerphilly County Borough's Adult Social Services Division was the best performing local authority in Wales for supporting people in their own homes during 2011–12.
- The Gwent Frailty Model is in year 2 of implementation across the borough. The Community Resource Team (CRT) in the borough meets urgent health and/or social care needs via rapid-response nurses, doctors and or emergency care at home. In addition, the team provides reablement via a multidisciplinary team, who helps people to regain/maintain their independence. The team works to facilitate planned discharges from hospital enabling rehabilitation on a continuum and to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital. A Falls Coordinator has been appointed as part of the team and has been working with care homes to raise awareness of falls prevention.
- Development of assessment beds at Ty Clyd Local Authority Residential Care Home provides 'step-down' support to adults who have been discharged from hospital and who may not be quite ready to return home. The service assesses people in terms of their skills and abilities and provides support to ensure that they are ready to return home. 100% of people who accessed the service within the first four months of operation (from July 2012) have been able to return to their own homes. These clients also receive input from the CRT.

- The Primary Care Mental Health Support Service was introduced in October 2012, as a result of Part 1 Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010. This is an age-blind service, delivered by the Health Board and local authority, which sees clients at GP surgeries for assessment and group/follow-on work.
- Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Primary Mental Health (Wales) Measure will see the following changes:
 - Part 2 places the responsibility on secondary mental health services to assess an individual's mental health and provide appropriate services, as well as to document these in a care and treatment plan, which is subject to review 12 months from implementation.
 - Part 3 enables adults who have been discharged from secondary mental health services to re-refer themselves directly back to the service for assessment if needed. This ensures speedy access to the service they require and alleviates the necessity for their referral via GP and primary care services.
 - Part 4 (Provision of Advocacy Services) places a duty on services to ensure that each service user understands that help is available from an independent mental health advocate and how this service can be accessed.
- Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Team service users are having their independence promoted and being offered a wider range of support networks to access and become part of the local community through the befriender scheme.
- Residential and day care services have continued to develop more innovative community-based services, moving away from traditional day service provision (e.g. recruiting of volunteers and existing staff providing individualised support to access people's communities).
- Adult Services have worked in partnership with Age Cymru to develop the My Home Life project within Min-y-mynydd Local Authority Residential Care Home for older people with dementia. This is a UK initiative aimed at improving the quality of life of those who live in residential accommodation along with their relatives and staff working in residential care homes. This has had made a positive impact regarding quality of life for residents and staff morale and skills.
- Caerphilly Social Services host the South East Wales Adult Placement Scheme for the five Gwent local authorities plus Merthyr Tydfil, where adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities or sensory impairment, mental health or older people are supported in long-term accommodation within family homes. Respite and sessional support are also provided as required.
- The Client Finance and Property Team have extended its role managing money via deputyship for people who do not have the mental capacity to manage their own money. Collaborative agreements are now in place with Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent local authorities and with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.
- Telecare services have successfully transferred from the Directorate for the Environment to Social Services. Additional contracts have been won to provide monitoring response services for other local authorities and housing associations. This is an area for further development in the coming years in respect of regionalisation of the monitoring centres across South East Wales and developments of the equipment that can be provided.
- Adult Services have implemented a contract monitoring strategy, which is ensuring the quality of commissioned and directly provided services.
- Caerphilly Supporting People held a 'We're In It Together' event that raised awareness of services and support available to maximise people's income.
- Caerphilly Supporting People has commissioned a range of services including Shelter Cymru's Valley's Inclusion Project that supports people and families who exhibit anti-social behaviour; and the provision of specialist services under a tendering framework agreement, which include projects that support people with dementia and people from ethnic communities suffering domestic abuse.

What are we going to do?

Along with partner agencies, the third sector and independent service providers, the Adult Social Services Division promotes the independence, the choice and control and safeguarding of vulnerable adults. Some of the key improvement areas of collaborative working include the following:

- Begin to implement the requirements of the Social Care & Wellbeing (Wales) Bill, recognising the shared responsibility of all council services and health services in meeting citizen's needs.
- Develop new ways of working that promote more choice and control for local people in developing flexible arrangements that can respond to their individual needs and circumstances.
- Assess the population needs for information and advice, social care assessment and services, including early intervention and reablement, intermediate care and long-term care and support.
- Consider the impact of future financial pressures on levels of increased demand and increased complexity of individual need.
- Redesign available service responses that take into account demographic increases (e.g. age, dementia, mental capacity, financial management support, access to education, lifelong learning and employment opportunities).
- Improve the quality of all directly provided and contracted services and promote best practice.
- Improve multi-agency processes to reduce unnecessary DTOCs.
- Progress service integration with partner agencies where proposals identify improved public service response and efficiencies.
- Continue with mental health and learning disability proposals to integrate services with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.
- Implement the Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Carers Strategy.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Requirements of the Social Care and Well-Being (Wales) Bill will be embedded in all multi-agency working.
- More people will say whether they receive the support that they need in the way they chose.
- More people will say that they feel safer/happier/their life has improved as a result of support from services.
- The quality of support provided will be assessed positively through inspections.
- More people supported to live independently within their own homes and communities.
- Reducing numbers of DTOCs.
- Improved services for residents with dementia.

Greener Caerphilly

A Greener Caerphilly aims to:

- safeguard and, where necessary, enhance the living environment in the Caerphilly county borough for its own sake
- secure quality of life for local people and visitors now and in the future.

Based on the findings from the Caerphilly LSB UNA, the Single Integrated Plan development days, and the work of the Living Environment Partnership, three priority areas for working towards a **Greener Caerphilly** have been identified; these are:

G1: Improve local environmental quality

G2: Reduce the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change

G3: Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits.

PRIORITY G1:

Improve local environmental quality

Where are we now?

Caerphilly County Borough covers an area of 27,750 hectares, 80% of which has been identified as countryside (i.e. land outside settlement boundaries and used for agriculture, recreation and forestry). The majority of its settlements are located in the valleys of the rivers Ebbw, Sirhowy and Rhymney.

The adopted Local Development Plan and the way in which planning applications are dealt with, both support the protection of landscapes and biodiversity within the borough.

i) Fly-tipping

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste on to land. It can pollute the environment, be harmful to human health and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside.

There were 1,872 incidents of recorded fly-tipping in Caerphilly in 2011–12, compared with 2,929 in 2010–11.

ii) Biodiversity

The biodiversity of the borough is declining; this reflects the losses being experienced in other parts of the UK and across the world. In Caerphilly there are 110 species listed in the Caerphilly Biodiversity Action Plan as being in need of conservation action, and an additional 87 species are listed in the Species of Principal Importance in Wales (Section 42 species). Of these species at least 5 have disappeared from the borough and have not been recorded for at least 10 years, and many other species have declined in their numbers and distribution. In order to provide an indication of the health of Caerphilly's biodiversity, 26 species have been selected as indicators of the state of Caerphilly's biodiversity and will be monitored annually.

The borough supports a range of sites designated for their wildlife value, including a recently designated National Nature Reserve, which is also a site of European importance, designated for its population of marsh fritillary butterflies and purple moorgrass habitat. In addition, there are 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for their national nature conservation or earth science importance, four Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and 190 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

River water quality has improved in the last decade. In 2011–12, 11.1% of our river length was of good or better biological quality.

What have we done so far?

i) Fly-tipping

- In the county borough there is a genuine multi-agency partnership approach to tackling fly-tipping. This is based on education programmes, including targeted work with key sectors, media, radio and bus advertising, as well as a strong approach to prosecuting those found to be responsible for fly-tipping. GPS mapping to identify and target hotspots for fly tipping is proving successful, as are targeted clean-up campaigns supported by educational and support programmes.

ii) Biodiversity

- There is ongoing partnership work with water companies, integrated river basin management, tackling diffuse pollution from land and in water, and tackling water pollution and unsustainable abstraction through a more risk-based approach to regulation.

What are we going to do?

i) Fly-tipping

- Provide an education and information programme to make people aware of where and how waste can be legally disposed of, and of the damage that fly-tipping causes.
- Actively seek to prosecute those caught fly-tipping, and publicise prosecutions and the penalties imposed on those caught fly-tipping.
- Work to ensure harsher penalties for those convicted of fly-tipping.
- Ensure better sharing of intelligence between partners.
- Improve the GPS fly-tipping mapping system.
- Ensure the fast and effective clean-up of fly-tipping when it occurs.

ii) Biodiversity

- Raise awareness of biodiversity to members of the public via key events such as Go Wild and the Big Cheese.
- Engage with land owners of sites of high wildlife value to encourage sympathetic management.
- Review Biodiversity Action Plan targets to ensure actions are relevant and achievable.
- Monitor key indicator species and habitats to ensure biodiversity within the county borough is stable or increasing.
- Work with partners to report incidence of pollution in our streams and rivers.

How will we know we are making a difference?

i) Fly-tipping

- Reduction in fly-tipping in the borough.

ii) Biodiversity

- Stability or improvement in the numbers of Local Biodiversity Action Plan species.

PRIORITY G2:

Reduce the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change

Where are we now?

Climate change is widely regarded as one of most important issue facing the world today. It is not simply an environmental problem - there will be major consequences for our society, our economy

and health. Our future quality of life depends on balanced environmental conditions, including stability of the climate. We are all affecting our climate by causing greenhouse gases to be released into the Earth's atmosphere.

i) Ecological footprint

An ecological footprint provides a calculation of resource use based on the materials used in everyday lives. The average ecological footprint for a resident of the borough fell from 4.8gHa in 2004 to 4.2gHa in 2006 (compared with 4.4 gHa in Wales).

ii) Renewable energy

Generating energy, both heat and electricity, from fossil fuels releases green house gases, which contribute to global warming and climate change. Energy generated from renewable sources such as wind, water and the sun does not generate green house gases and, therefore, does not contribute to climate change.

	Amount (MW) installed capacity of electricity generated from renewable sources registered for Feed In Tariff	
	2010–11	2011–12
Caerphilly	0.099	2.075
Wales	4.528	52.098

Source: Caerphilly CBC: Sustainable Development Section 2013

2.075 MW installed capacity of electricity generated from renewable sources was registered for the Feed in Tariff in Caerphilly in 2011–12. This is made up of 938 photovoltaic installations and 1 wind installation.

iii) Waste/recycling

In 2011–12 the proportion of municipal waste going to landfill in the borough was 39.7%. By reducing the waste produce, re-using items or recycling help is given to save natural resources, save energy and landfill space, whilst helping to preserve the environment for future generations. Recycling uses less energy than producing goods from virgin material, and also results in fewer emissions.

iv) Eco Schools

Environmental education is an important element of a **Greener Caerphilly**. Currently 57% of schools in the borough have been awarded a Green Flag under the Eco Schools programme, showing a steady rise from 12% in 2006–07.

What have we done so far?

i) Ecological footprint

- Through ongoing partnership work, the council has raised awareness of environmental and climate change issues, and encouraged residents of the borough to reduce their resource consumption and their ecological footprint.
- Climate change woodlands have been planted across the borough and over 3,000 residents have pledged to reduce their contribution to climate change.

ii) Renewable energy

- The generation of electricity and heat from renewable sources is largely driven by national incentives through the Feed in Tariff (FIT) and Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Local advice is provided to individuals and businesses by a range of organisations including the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, Groundwork Trust, housing associations and the council. This work is in part coordinated by the Climate Change Working Group of the Living Environment Partnership.

iii) Waste/recycling

- The council has developed a range of recycling facilities (mini-recycling centres), in addition to the implementation of a kerbside collection system for recyclables and green garden waste.

- There have been education and awareness-raising programmes for waste minimisation and the development of diversion strategies (e.g. furniture recycling and composting).
- Considerable partnership work between the public, private and voluntary sectors continues to be carried out to reduce waste and to drive down the amount of waste sent to landfill.

iv) Eco Schools

- A programme has been put in place to support and enable schools in the county borough to achieve Green Flag status under the Eco Schools programme.
- A dedicated Education for Sustainable Development Officer works with schools and coordinates partner support for the Eco Schools programme.

What are we going to do?

i) Ecological footprint

- Raise awareness of the local and global issues of resource consumption.
- Encourage individuals to calculate and understand their ecological footprint using the Sustainable Caerphilly tool.

ii) Renewable energy

- Provide information and support to business and residents on renewable energy sources, options and funding.
- Develop two wind turbines on Oakdale Business Park with a total generating capacity of 5 MW.
- Seek to secure funding to implement renewable energy projects in the county borough.

iii) Waste/recycling

- Work in partnership to raise awareness of waste issues through a programme of events, campaigns and projects.
- Increase the number of Recycle on the Go! facilities.
- Increase the uptake of food waste recycling projects.
- Promote home composting.

iv) Eco Schools

- Support schools to enable them to achieve awards under the Eco Schools programme.
- Provide specific technical support on sustainable development issues to head teachers, teachers and school governors.
- Develop and provide sustainable development advice to assist teachers including curriculum links and lesson plans.

How will we know we are making a difference?

i) Ecological footprint

- A continued reduction in our residents' average ecological footprint.

ii) Renewable energy

- Increased amount of energy generated from renewable sources in the borough.

iii) Waste/recycling

- A steadily lower percentage of municipal waste going to landfill.

iv) Eco Schools

- Higher percentage of local schools that have been awarded a Green Flag under the Eco Schools programme.

PRIORITY G3: Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

Where are we now?

With 78% of easy-to-use footpaths and other rights of way, the county borough is blessed with some of the most attractive landscapes and valuable environment in Wales. These are, however, next to pockets of some of the worst health in Wales. The aim of this element of a **Greener Caerphilly** is to maximise the use of the environment for health benefits to residents of the county borough.

What have we done so far?

- Living Environment partners are working closely with health partners to maximise the health benefits to residents. The Creating an Active Caerphilly Plan brings together work in this area.
- The council's Countryside and Landscape Service continues to manage, promote and maintain rights of way and country parks within the county borough.
- In partnership with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, it is also delivering the Get Going Around Caerphilly project, which promotes healthy walking and supports local healthy walking groups.

What are we going to do?

- Increase the number of people taking part in healthy walking groups.
- Support and promote the use of allotments.
- Develop a better measure of whether people are accessing the environment for the benefit of their health.
- Support the development of safe outdoor play spaces through the implementation of the Play Sufficiency Strategy.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- The key outcomes from this priority will be health outcomes, covered in the **Healthier Caerphilly** section. The environmental contribution to this will be through providing and promoting opportunities for people to use the environment for health, recreation and exercise.
- An increase in the number of easy-to-use footpaths and other rights of way surveyed.

Delivery Mechanism and Structure

1. Cognisant of the Caerphilly Local Service Board's commitment to build on the legacy and proven track record of success and achievement delivered by its previous strategic partnerships, the following has been developed and will be implemented as the appropriate delivery mechanism for **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.
2. The Caerphilly Local Service Board (LSB) is responsible for the delivery of **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.
3. The Caerphilly LSB will be supported by a Local Delivery Group (LDG), consisting of senior managers from partner organisations.
4. The LDG will be responsible to the LSB for the co-ordination and integration of multi-agency/partnership activities to achieve the identified Priorities and Outcomes detailed in this plan.
5. Each Outcome will have a "lead officer", who will be a senior manager from a partner organisation. Each Outcome "lead officer" will be a member of the LDG, and will be responsible for the development, implementation and delivery of an action plan to address the Priorities under their designated Outcomes.
6. Working together in the LDG, in recognition of the synergies, inter-relationships and inter-dependencies between the Outcomes, the Outcome "lead officers" will strive to further rationalise and reduce bureaucracies and integrate work-streams and enhance service delivery.
7. A diagram illustrating the above **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** delivery mechanism and structure can be found at Appendix One.
8. Delivery of **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** will be facilitated and cognisant of the adopted Local Development Plan.
9. The Caerphilly LSB and partner organisations recognise and value the contribution made by the voluntary sector, working in partnership to deliver services to, and supporting our communities and people. Testimony to the excellent partnership between the public, private and voluntary sector is the acclaimed Compact Agreement between partner organisations and the voluntary sector.
10. **Neighbourhood Working**
 - (a) Many partner organisations and parts thereof deliver front-line services via a neighbourhood approach.
 - (b) For example, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Care Networks (by Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Caerphilly County Borough Council Social Services and Education teams, Communities First's management clusters teams, etc.
 - (c) Although in its early stage of development, the Caerphilly LSB is keen for greater coordination and joint working between these teams on a geographic/neighbourhood basis, where the evidence shows that it is more efficient, effective and economic, in delivering outcomes to individuals/communities in the county borough.
 - (d) Such a neighbourhood approach would facilitate effective information sharing at a local level, multi-agency problem solving and early intervention and prevention focused on those individuals/families in greatest need of additional support.

- (e) The Caerphilly LSB supports this neighbourhood approach as one of the means of delivering **CAERPHELLY DELIVERS**.
- (f) In the development, design, and production of **CAERPHELLY DELIVERS** there has been a close working involvement with the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Communities First Team, hence the synergies between the Communities First strategic outcomes and those of this Single Integrated Plan. This will continue into the implementation/delivery phase of this plan.
- (g) It is acknowledged that existing programmes, projects and initiatives will continue to be delivered invariably under the various Outcomes and Priorities of **CAERPHELLY DELIVERS**.

Governance and Assurance

(a) **Caerphilly Local Service Board**

1. The Caerphilly LSB is responsible for the delivery of **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.
2. The Caerphilly LSB meets a minimum of four times per year.
3. At each of its meetings the Caerphilly LSB will receive a performance report, based on results-based accountability (RBA) Scorecards for **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.
4. The Caerphilly LSB will publicise a report annually evidencing progress of **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**.

The Annual Report will include:

- A report on progress on delivering the outcomes, including a summary of mitigating actions taken to address negative developments
- An account on the delivery of the Information and Engagement Strategies with our people and communities
- An account of the LSB's governance and processes in place to manage its own performance
- An account of local authority scrutiny of the LSB and a summary of relevant reports by Inspectorates and the Wales Audit Office
- Changes to the plan for the following year.

(b) **Performance Management Framework**

1. Under each Outcome **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** details a number of Priorities that will be addressed, identifying where we are now, what we have done so far, what we are going to do and how we will know we are making a difference.
2. Using RBA methodology a Performance Management Framework will be developed where each Outcome and Priority will populate a Performance Scorecard, detailing indicators, performance measures and progress against a baseline ("turning the curve"). This will evidence that action plans being delivered are making a difference.
3. The Performance Scorecards will be presented, monitored and reviewed by the LDG and onwards to the Caerphilly LSB.

(c) **Scrutiny Arrangements**

1. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 places a requirement on local authority scrutiny committees to scrutinise designated public service providers in their local area.
2. Public service scrutiny is aimed at clarifying different organisations' contributions to delivery and promoting shared responsibility for each outcome.
3. Scrutiny of **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** - the Caerphilly LSB Single Integrated Plan will be undertaken by the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as part of the council's Scrutiny Work Programme.

Legislation

1. **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS** meets the statutory duties in relation to the development of plans and requirements under the following legislation:

- Children Act 2004 (Part 3: S26)—Children & Young People's Plan (which includes plans required in accordance with Section 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and Part 1 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010)
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Part 1: S6)—strategies for a reduction of crime and disorder, strategies for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and strategies for re-offending
- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2: Ss 37–46)—Community Strategies
- National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (Part 3: S40)—Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategies
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Enabling Strategies and Documents

In developing **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS**, Caerphilly LSB has adhered to the Welsh Government guidance document entitled: “Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery: guidance on integrating Partnerships and Plans”.

Cognisant of the above, the LSB has produced the following enabling strategies and documents, which are available on its website:-

- Caerphilly LSB Unified Needs Assessment.
- Caerphilly LSB Citizen Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.
- Caerphilly LSB Information Strategy statement

Further Information

For further information about **CAERPHILLY DELIVERS – the Caerphilly LSB Single Integrated Plan**, please visit the Caerphilly Local Service Board website at:

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/content/caerphilly-local-service-board>

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“CAERPHILLY DELIVERS” – Delivery Structure

