

Gwent Public Services Board

**DRAFT Caerphilly Basin Local Well-being  
Assessment**

**A Caerphilly county borough local well-being  
assessment**

JANUARY 2022

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## 1 Description of the area

The **Caerphilly Basin** community area is located at the southern end of the Rhymney Valley, and is comprised of the wards of Aber Valley, Bedwas Trethomas and Machen, Llanbradach, Morgan Jones, Penyrheol, St James and St Martins.

While most of the area benefits in terms of prosperity from its close proximity to Cardiff and the M4 corridor, the Aber Valley settlements of Abertridwr and Senghenydd (although having their own limited retail centres) display characteristics similar to the more deprived areas in the north of the county borough. St James 3 Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) which encompasses the majority of the Lansbury Park estate (located on the eastern edge of Caerphilly town) currently ranks as the third most deprived LSOA Wales in the Welsh Government's 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The principal town is **Caerphilly**, which is the largest town in the county borough, with its origins dating back to the construction of the Norman Castle in 1267. The Castle normally draws in excess of 110,000 visitors each year, but this figure will have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two years. The town has a relatively strong retail base that has suffered due to a lack of investment and development in recent years and has also been affected by the closure of a number of national retailers in recent years. The [Caerphilly Basin Masterplan](#) was approved by the Council in July 2018, and sets out the future development and regeneration opportunities proposed for the Caerphilly town centre within the context of the wider Caerphilly Basin. It seeks to build on the existing strengths of Caerphilly to ensure that the town enhances its role as a retail, tourist and employment centre, supported by new housing development in sustainable places.

**Bedwas** is a local centre that has a small retail centre with limited retail provision.





*Figure 1: Caerphilly Castle*



*Figure 2: Lansbury Park Estate, Caerphilly*

## 2 About Caerphilly Basin

<b>Area</b>	79.4 km <sup>2</sup> – approximately 28.6% of the total area of Caerphilly county borough at 278km <sup>2</sup>																
<b>Population</b> 	The estimated population is 56,542 – approximately 31.1% of the total population for Caerphilly county borough at 181,731 <sup>1</sup> .																
<b>Population density</b>	The population density is 7.12 persons per hectare, the largest populations in Penyrheol 6, Morgan Jones 4 and St Martins 5. There are 6.53 people per hectare in Caerphilly county borough as a whole <sup>2</sup> .																
<b>Dwellings</b> 	The dwelling count is 24,684 – approximately 30.8% of the total number of dwellings in Caerphilly county borough at 80,149 <sup>3</sup> .																
<b>General</b>	<p>Caerphilly Basin consists of 7 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), containing 35 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). By looking at smaller geographical areas, we can see any differences that can impact on well-being.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LSOAs</th><th>MSOAs</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aber Valley 1 - 4</td><td>Caerphilly 018</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bedwas Trethomas &amp; Machen 1 - 7</td><td>Caerphilly 019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Llanbradach 1 - 3</td><td>Caerphilly 020</td></tr> <tr> <td>Morgan Jones 1 – 4</td><td>Caerphilly 021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Penyrheol 1 – 8</td><td>Caerphilly 022</td></tr> <tr> <td>St James 1 – 4</td><td>Caerphilly 023</td></tr> <tr> <td>St Martins 1 – 5</td><td>Caerphilly 024</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	LSOAs	MSOAs	Aber Valley 1 - 4	Caerphilly 018	Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 1 - 7	Caerphilly 019	Llanbradach 1 - 3	Caerphilly 020	Morgan Jones 1 – 4	Caerphilly 021	Penyrheol 1 – 8	Caerphilly 022	St James 1 – 4	Caerphilly 023	St Martins 1 – 5	Caerphilly 024
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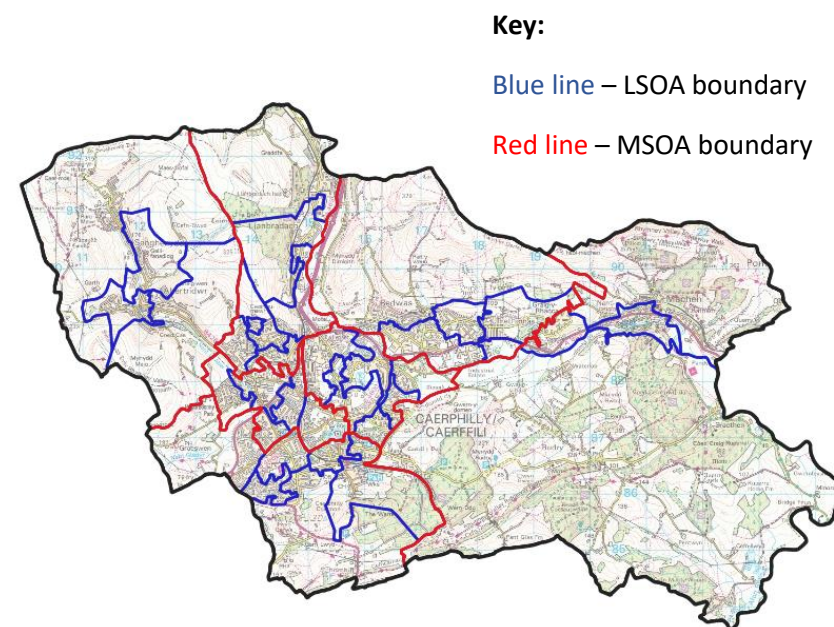


Figure 3: Map of Caerphilly Basin

### 3 Social well-being

#### 3.1 About the community

Overall, the estimated population of the Caerphilly Basin increased by approximately 875 residents, from 55,667 in the 2011 Census to 56,542 in 2020<sup>4</sup> (+1.6%), compared to an increase of 3.5% in Wales as a whole. 15 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin saw an increase in their population over this period, with the largest increases in Morgan Jones 4 (up 22.8% or 386 people), Morgan Jones 2 (up 17.6% or 255 people) and Penyrheol 6 (up 13.9% or 349 people). The remaining 20 LSOAs saw a decrease in their population over the time period, with the largest decreases in Morgan Jones 3 (down 7.5% or 146 people, Penyrheol 5 (down 5.4% or 94 people) and Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 5 (down 5.3% or 90 people). Understanding how the population might change in the future can help us think about key well-being challenges and opportunities.

Unfortunately, population projections are not available below the county borough level, so these figures are included below.

The overall population in Caerphilly county borough is projected to increase by 2.0% between 2019 and 2043<sup>5</sup>, to 186,991. This is in contrast to recent trends, where the population grew by 5.4% between the 1991 and 2011 censuses.

The number of people aged 0-15 living in Caerphilly county borough is projected to decrease by 7.4% between 2019 and 2043, roughly similar to the Welsh average of 8.0%<sup>6</sup>. The largest decline is projected up to 2028 and following that the figure is projected to remain fairly consistent at around 31,000. This could mean 2,521 fewer people in this age range across the county borough by 2043.

The number of people aged 16-64 living in the county borough is projected to fall by 3.1% between 2019 and 2043 (compared with a decline of 2.1% in Wales as a whole), with a fairly steady projected

decline over the time period. This could mean 3,487 fewer people in this age range across the county borough by 2043<sup>7</sup>.

The number of people aged 65 or over living in Caerphilly county borough is projected to increase by 27.2% between 2019 and 2043, slightly lower than the Welsh average of 28.7%<sup>8</sup>. For Caerphilly county borough this could mean an additional 9,653 people in this age range by 2043<sup>9</sup>. This figure is 61% higher than the combined projected decrease in the population figures for the 0-15 and 16-64 age groups by 2043<sup>10</sup>.

The number of people aged 85 or over living in Caerphilly county borough is projected to increase by 82.6% between 2019 and 2043, significantly higher than the Welsh average of 69.5%. For the county borough this could mean an additional 3,145 people in this age range by 2043<sup>11</sup>.

Without question there are many potential benefits to individual, family and community well-being from people living longer.

However, this does mean that there could be higher demand for social care and health services in the future, particularly amongst the elderly population, as the demand for health and social care services tends to increase as we get older.

An ageing population will also require appropriate housing that meets their needs, both now and in the future.

The latest data from the 2021 Census is not available, but from the 2011 Census:

#### Welsh speakers

25.7% of residents in the CB could at least speak some Welsh, higher than the Caerphilly county borough average of 22.2%, but significantly lower than the Welsh average of 37.8%<sup>12</sup>.



<b>Country of birth</b>	85.7% of residents in the CB were born in Wales, slightly lower than the county borough average of 88.6%, but significantly higher than the Wales average of 72.7% <sup>13</sup> .
<b>Ethnicity</b>	97.9% of residents in the CB were of a White ethnicity, marginally lower than the county borough average of 98.3% and higher than the Wales average of 95.6% <sup>14</sup> .
<b>Religion</b>	50.9% of residents in the CB had a Christian based religious, virtually identical to the county borough average of 50.7% but lower than the Wales average of 57.5% <sup>15</sup> .

Taking action to help support and grow the Welsh language will help preserve Welsh culture and identity for future generations.

### 3.2 Getting around



People travel for a range of reasons both within the Caerphilly Basin and beyond; for recreation or to meet with friends and family, to attend education or work, for the movement of goods or the delivery of services, or to access services themselves. There are also travellers to the area, such as those working in the industrial estates or shops and offices, and those visiting for tourism purposes or enjoying the wonderful countryside.

The Caerphilly Basin is well served by transport links south to Cardiff, east to Newport, and north to Ystrad Mynach. Caerphilly is served by three railway stations in Caerphilly itself - Caerphilly, Aber and Energlyn & Churchill Park. All three stations are located on the **Rhymney Valley rail line**, which provides four trains per hour to Cardiff (trains stop at Energlyn & Churchill Park every half hour). The Caerphilly station is a transport interchange, linking bus and rail travel, with an array of bus services to Cardiff, Newport and to the north of the county borough. Llanbradach is also a railway station on the Rhymney Valley Line. There are also aspirations to reopen the Caerphilly-Machen-Newport line for passenger services, which would provide a direct rail link to Newport to the east.

The **South Wales Metro** is an integrated public transport network that will make it easier for people travel across the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), transforming rail and bus services as well as cycling and walking. Transport for Wales are investing £750 million pounds to upgrade the railway lines to Aberdare, Coryton, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhymney and Treherbert, known as the Core Valleys Lines. For more information on the plans for the Metro, visit the Transport for Wales website [South Wales Metro | TfW](https://www.tforwales.co.uk/south-wales-metro).

Transport and its accessibility can have a significant impact on households with low or limited incomes, and high prices can make public transport an expensive option for those who depend on it. Reducing transport costs can help to increase disposable income and help to reduce in work poverty.

There are a number of public electric vehicle charge points in the Caerphilly Basin at Station Road car park (Caerphilly), Gallagher Retail Park (Caerphilly), Tesco Superstore (Caerphilly), Navigation Street car park (Caerphilly), Morrisons (Caerphilly), The Twyn car park (Caerphilly), the Red Kite pub (Caerphilly) and Abertridwr Library<sup>16</sup>.

The housing stock in the Caerphilly Basin is predominantly detached or semi-detached. Many of these houses are likely to have drives or off-street parking available, as they tend to either be larger, older properties or more modern ones. This will make the installation of the necessary infrastructure for electric vehicles more straightforward for these houses. However, just under a third of the Caerphilly Basin is comprised of terraced housing, so this could limit future take-up of electric vehicles in these houses as charging could be problematic. Cost will also be a factor for those on lower incomes. Future developments in electric charging facilities will hopefully help to solve some of these issues.

Walking, cycling and public transport can make an important contribution to local transport needs, whilst also helping to address issues of congestion, pollution and climate change associated with car dependency.

Safe active travel routes, particularly those which provide commuting potential, can help to support healthy lifestyles. In the future more people might choose to travel actively, so that they can keep healthier into old age. Future generations might use electric bikes to get around within the area.

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen many of us walking and cycling more and appreciating the value of our local greenspaces.

**Route 4 of the National Cycle Network (NCN)** is a long-distance cycling route from London to Fishguard in west Wales. The Celtic Trail East travels right into the heart of the South Wales Valleys, following many of the very same railways, tram roads and towpaths that once transported the raw materials of the industrial revolution. The route takes in breath-taking Valleys landscapes and historic and natural attractions including Chepstow, Caldicot and Caerphilly Castles and Newport Wetlands.

Within the Caerphilly Basin the route enters the county borough at Draethen and follows roughly the same route as the A468 through Bedwas, Mornington Meadows, Lansbury Park, Caerphilly town and Watford Park, before joining up with NCN Route 8 (Lôn Las Cymru) just north of Nantgarw.

**NCN Route 475** (Aber Valley Cycle Route) joins NCN Route 4 near Caerphilly Castle and runs through parks, alongside roads, over bridges and road crossings. It is a traffic-free path that runs for 2.5 miles along an old railway line into the heart of the Aber Valley.

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen many more of us working from home and accessing services online, but there are certain types of work that cannot be done remotely or digitally, such as factory work or retail. Future generations may not need to travel as much for work.

#### Broadband access



The vast majority of households in the Caerphilly Basin have access to broadband of at least 30Mb/s, although there are pockets where access is poorer, such as Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 1 (9.3% without access to this speed), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 4 (13.2%) and St James 1 (18.4%)<sup>17</sup>. In 21 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin, access to broadband speed of at least 30Mb/s is over 99%.

Whilst broadband accessibility in the Caerphilly Basin is generally very good, affordability of broadband is much more of an issue for those with low or limited incomes. Poor digital literacy can also be a significant barrier for certain groups within the community.

Communities of the future may be less reliant on fixed telecommunication systems and more people might use newer technologies such as 5G etc.

We do not currently know if homeworking and online access to services will be a permanent arrangement for the foreseeable future,

or if people will begin to return to their places of work or choose to access services face-to-face. In reality it is probable that there will be a blend of online, remote and in-person interactions.

In the future the whole of Caerphilly county borough (including the Caerphilly Basin) will need to be cyber secure and digitally inclusive.

### 3.3 Access to services



**Caerphilly** is the main town within the Caerphilly Basin, and residents will travel from surrounding areas to the town to access the services they need. It has three large national supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons and Tesco), seven bank branches, two building society branches and is also the headquarters of Smart Money Cymru community bank. It also has a wide range of smaller national and independent shops along Cardiff Road (the main high street) and the Castle Court shopping centre.

Other villages in the Caerphilly Basin, such as **Bedwas**, **Abertridwr** and **Senghenydd**, have limited retail provision with local independent shops in the main.

Caerphilly town centre and the surrounding area is an important employment centre within the county borough. There are also a number of employment sites within the Caerphilly Basin at Bedwas House, Pantglas (Bedwas), Pontygwindy, Greenway and Western industrial estates, plus Caerphilly and Trecenydd business parks. Gallagher Retail Park is located on the outskirts of Caerphilly town and houses a number of national household and food retailers.

Across the Caerphilly Basin are the following services:

Asset type	Number
Primary school	18
Secondary school	4
Libraries	5
Leisure centres	3
Community centre	10
Banks/Building Societies	9
Post office	10
Country parks	1

The Caerphilly Basin contains fifteen English medium primary schools, three Welsh medium primary schools, and three English medium Comprehensive schools (Bedwas High, St Martins and St Cenydd), as well as Welsh medium Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni's Y Gwyndy site, which serves the whole of the Caerphilly Basin area. All these Comprehensive schools accommodate children aged 11-18 years.

The Caerphilly Basin has a Main Library in Caerphilly town, Village Libraries at Abertridwr and Bedwas, and Community Linked Libraries at Llanbradach and Machen.

The Caerphilly Basin also has a number of Post Office branches in the smaller villages, which offers alternative access to banking services where there are no bank branches.

St Cenydd Leisure Centre is located as part of the Comprehensive school site with a multi-purpose sports hall and function room. Bedwas Leisure Centre is located adjacent to Bedwas High School and encompasses an AstroTurf pitch, fitness suite, function room, dance hall and football pitches. Caerphilly Leisure Centre at Virginia Park as a four-lane swimming pool, fitness suite, badminton and squash courts, large sports hall, dance studio and health suite.



### 3.4 Crime and community safety

Unless people feel safe in their homes and the places they live and work, they may not have the confidence or desire to access services or participate in community life.

21 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin had **Criminal Damage** rates higher than the Wales average of 1.14 cases per 100 population. Two LSOAs (St James 4 and St James 3) had rates over three times the Wales average for Criminal Damage<sup>18</sup>.

14 of the 35 LSOA's in the Caerphilly Basin had a **Violent Crime** rate above the Wales average of 2.67 cases per 100 population. Three LSOAs (St Martins 2, St James 4 and St James 3) had rates over one and a half times the Wales average for Violent Crime<sup>19</sup>.

Three of the 35 LSOA's in the Caerphilly Basin had an **Anti-Social Behaviour** crime rate above the Wales average of 2.55 cases per 100 population. These were St Martins 2, St James 4 and Morgan Jones 2<sup>20</sup>.

15 of 27 LSOA's in the Caerphilly Basin had a **Burglary** rate above the Wales average of 0.98 cases per 100 population (the information was not available in the other 8 LSOAs). Three LSOAs (St James 4, St Martins 2 and St Martins 3) had a Burglary rate of over one and a half times the Wales average for Burglary<sup>21</sup>.

11 of 26 LSOA's in the Caerphilly Basin had a **Theft** rate above the Wales average of 0.53 cases per 100 population (the information was not available in the other 9 LSOAs). Only two LSOAs (St James 1 and Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 5) had a Theft rate of over one and a half times the Wales average for Theft<sup>22</sup>.

Nine of 24 LSOA's in the Caerphilly Basin had a **Fire Incidence** rate above the Wales average of 0.38 cases per 100 population (the information was not available in the other 11 LSOAs). Two LSOAs

(St James 1 and St James 3) had rates over two and a half times the Wales average for Fire Incidence<sup>23</sup>.

Tackling the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour will support greater cohesion in the communities of the Caerphilly Basin.

### 3.5 Deprivation

The **Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)** is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative poverty. It identifies those communities (at an LSOA geography), with the highest concentrations of different types of deprivation, plus overall deprivation. WIMD ranks all LSOAs in Wales from the most (rank 1) to the least (rank 1909) deprived.

WIMD domain ranks are available for every LSOA in Wales, and the information opposite and overleaf summarises the LSOAs which fall in the most deprived categories in the Caerphilly Basin, for Overall Deprivation and certain domains.

<b>Overall deprivation</b>	Four LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived category for Overall Deprivation in the CB – St James 3 (rank 3 from 1909 in Wales), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (rank 43), Penyrheol 8 (rank 90) and St James 4 (rank 113).
<b>Health Domain</b>	Three LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived category for the Health Domain in the CB – St James 3 (rank 7), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (rank 82) and Penyrheol 8 (rank 110).

<b>Community Safety Domain</b>	Two LSOAs are in the most deprived category for the Community Safety Domain in the CB – St James 4 (rank 66) and St James 3 (rank 75).
<b>Income Domain</b>	Four LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived category for the Income Domain in the CB – St James 3 (rank 8), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (rank 19), Penyrheol 8 (rank 72) and St James 4 (rank 126).
<b>Employment Domain</b>	Four LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived category for the Employment Domain in the CB – St James 3 (rank 4), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (rank 48), St James 4 (rank 96) and Penyrheol 8 (rank 119).

A table showing the domain ranks for every LSOA in the Caerphilly Basin is shown on Pages 11 and 12. This highlights that there are a number of LSOAs in Caerphilly Basin which figure consistently in the 10% most deprived category for overall deprivation and a number of other domains – St James 3 and St James 4 (Lansbury Park estate), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (Graig y Rhacca estate) and Penyrheol 8 (Penyrheol estate).

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Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 - Caerphilly Basin									
LSOA Name	Overall Deprivation	Income Domain	Employment Domain	Health Domain	Education Domain	Access to Services Domain	Housing Domain	Community Safety Domain	Physical Environment Domain
Aber Valley 1	713	473	731	519	587	1457	832	1104	1384
Aber Valley 2	633	537	562	510	480	1638	504	1343	1047
Aber Valley 3	340	278	343	279	438	1072	217	886	1143
Aber Valley 4	358	319	384	336	369	1105	134	614	1636
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 1	1652	1571	1586	1239	1465	1180	1717	1457	881
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 2	293	209	221	229	373	1460	709	756	905
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 3	1665	1574	1687	1329	1396	1824	1752	1330	323
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 4	1638	1433	1378	1538	1461	1663	1263	1280	908
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 5	1054	925	846	723	1120	1817	1042	705	580
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 6	43	19	48	82	41	502	808	425	1507
Bedwas Trethomas and Machen 7	826	664	779	845	617	1474	631	622	1073
Llanbradach 1	1138	1103	895	909	939	1317	1301	1344	387
Llanbradach 2	987	940	1035	953	532	1821	496	660	794
Llanbradach 3	453	337	504	388	414	1123	697	686	655
Morgan Jones 1	1075	1002	1085	636	1230	1024	1454	530	565
Morgan Jones 2	237	288	337	214	167	517	1013	294	232
Morgan Jones 3	1169	1179	1093	1111	954	1792	1321	687	87
Morgan Jones 4	926	1008	976	962	1239	1668	339	367	75
Penyrheol 1	407	446	267	434	240	1181	1066	734	563
Penyrheol 2	1833	1833	1761	1747	1651	1647	1267	1698	858
Penyrheol 3	536	450	646	537	579	1078	758	697	152
Penyrheol 4	242	254	256	261	241	550	807	545	297
Penyrheol 5	1374	1260	947	1056	923	1458	1508	1403	1575
Penyrheol 6	1675	1470	1531	1097	1550	1820	1882	1488	913
Penyrheol 7	1340	1078	1125	1018	1368	1403	1629	1431	312
Penyrheol 8	90	72	119	110	46	531	1207	596	1015

Caerphilly Basin Local Well-being Assessment - DRAFT

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 - Caerphilly Basin									
LSOA Name	Overall Deprivation	Income Domain	Employment Domain	Health Domain	Education Domain	Access to Services Domain	Housing Domain	Community Safety Domain	Physical Environment Domain
St. James 1	1172	1212	1240	1443	1766	187	1170	328	855
St. James 2	1496	1369	1257	1377	1457	1410	1376	1184	369
St. James 3	3	8	4	7	24	470	701	75	82
St. James 4	113	126	96	546	29	739	969	66	480
St. Martins 1	1552	1778	1574	1217	1544	1436	1449	876	114
St. Martins 2	739	682	946	651	848	1124	365	257	648
St. Martins 3	1393	1320	1228	1171	1229	1185	1387	526	784
St. Martins 4	1697	1703	1440	1855	1649	1595	1530	541	720
St. Martins 5	1878	1829	1834	1892	1772	1867	1860	1652	601

WIMD Rank 1-1909
1-191: 10% most deprived
192-382: 11-20% most deprived
383-573: 21-30% most deprived
574-955: 31-50% most deprived
956-1909: 50% least deprived

### 3.6 Health

Good health is a major aspect of well-being for all individuals in every community, but there are some challenges in the Caerphilly Basin in relation to employment, transport, housing, educational achievement and levels of deprivation that are likely to have an impact on health, and possibly contribute to or be caused by poor health.

Although self-reported health is generally good, the rate of premature death is higher than the average rate for Wales and 23.2% of the people living in the Caerphilly Basin have a limiting long-term illness.

<b>Limiting long-term illness</b>	23.2% of residents in the CB reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot due to their health. This figure is slightly lower than the Caerphilly county borough average (25.4%), and slightly higher than the average (22.7%) in Wales as a whole <sup>24</sup> .
<b>All cause death rate</b>	The all-cause death rate in the MSOAs in the CB over the period 2017-19 was between 886.0 per 100,000 population in Caerphilly 019 (Llanbradach & Penyrheol) and 1339.9 in Caerphilly 018 (Aber Valley), compared with the county borough (1103.7) and Wales (1031.2) average rates <sup>25</sup> .
<b>Premature death</b>	The rate of premature deaths (under 75) in the CB ranges between 329.7 per 100,000 population in Caerphilly 024 (Caerphilly South) and 479.3 in Caerphilly 018 (Aber Valley), which is significantly higher than the average rate for Wales (382.4) <sup>26</sup> .

#### GP recorded chronic conditions

The percentage of residents with a GP recorded chronic condition in the CB ranges from 12.1% in Caerphilly 021 (Machen) to 17.5% in Caerphilly 018 (Aber Valley). The percentage in five of the seven MSOAs in the CB is higher than the Wales average of 14.3%<sup>27</sup>.

#### GP recorded mental health condition

The percentage of residents with a GP recorded mental health condition in the CB ranges from 20.1% in Caerphilly 024 (Caerphilly South) to 25.9% in Caerphilly 020 (Bedwas & Trethomas). Once again, the percentage in five of the seven MSOAs in the CB is higher than the Wales average of 23.2%<sup>28</sup>.

Tackling the leading causes of premature death and illness, delaying frailty and helping working age adults live healthier lives for longer, by preventing health-harming behaviours and promoting mental well-being, will help create a healthier Caerphilly Basin.

Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (Enhanced Local General Hospital) is located in Mid Valleys West at Ystrad Mynach. It has a Minor Injury Unit and a Medical Assessment Unit, and provides Day Surgery, Rehabilitation and Therapy Services, Diagnostic Services, a wide variety of Specialist Outpatient Clinics, an Elderly Frail Unit for the care of older people, 164 inpatient beds, Children's Outpatient appointments, Maternity services and Bowel Screening. The Grange University Hospital is located in Cwmbran (within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area) and provides Specialist, Trauma and Critical Care Services for the whole of Gwent.

23% of residents in the Caerphilly Basin said that their health was fair, bad or very bad. This is lower than the average of 25.2% in Caerphilly county borough, but slightly higher than the average of 22.2% in Wales as a whole<sup>29</sup>.



**Integrated Wellbeing Networks (IWNs)** are about working together better and more effectively, to support community well-being to continue to improve the health and well-being of our communities, now and in the future. They involve statutory, third sector and community partners working together to decide how best to support and strengthen well-being in our communities as the current situation evolves and we all adjust to post Covid-19 life. For more information on the work of the IWNs, visit this website [Integrated Wellbeing Networks Gwent \(iwngwent.wales\)](https://www.iwngwent.wales).

### 3.7 Housing and households

A key consideration for the future of the Caerphilly Basin is ensuring there is the right sort of housing to support the needs of the community. If the housing of the future is improved in terms of energy efficiency, homes would be warmer, cheaper to run and would produce less carbon emissions. Homes of the future will need to be resilient to a changing climate. The housing being built now will be a legacy left for future generations.

<b>Housing stock</b>	39.9% of properties in the CB are semi-detached houses compared with a county borough average of 39.2% and a Wales average of 31%. 31% of properties were in the terraced category, compared with a county borough average of 36.1% and a Wales average of 27.8%. 19.4% of properties were in the detached category, compared with a county borough average of 16.1% and a Wales average of 27.7%
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<b>Council tax band</b>	32.2% of housing in the CB is rated as Council Tax band A or B (the lowest valued housing categories) compared with a figure of 52.6% in the county borough as a whole. Almost 50% is rated as Council Tax band C or D, compared with a figure of 35% in the county borough as a whole.
<b>Tenure</b>	69.9% of housing in the CB is owned outright or with a mortgage, compared with a figure of 69.3% in the county borough as a whole and 67.4% in Wales. 18.2% is rented from the local authority or a housing association, compared with 18.7% in the county borough as a whole and 16.4% in Wales.

In WIMD 2019, 17 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin had percentages higher than the Wales average (5.5%) of people living in overcrowded households, with St James 3 (13%) and Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (12.3%) having percentages more than twice the Welsh average<sup>30</sup>.

Nine of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin had percentages higher than the Wales average (19.7%) for the likelihood of poor quality housing, and the three with the highest percentages were Aber Valley 3 (29.1%), St Martins 2 (28%) and Llanbradach 2 (27.7%)<sup>31</sup>.

10 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin had percentages higher than the Wales average (18%) for the likelihood housing containing serious hazards, and the three with the highest percentages were Aber Valley 3 (27.1%), Llanbradach 2 (26%) and St Martins 2 (24.1%)<sup>32</sup>.

12 of the 35 LSOAs in the Caerphilly Basin had percentages higher than the Wales average (3.2%) for the likelihood of housing being in disrepair, with the top three being St Martins 2 (6%), Llanbradach 2 (5.7%) and Aber Valley 3 (5.2%).<sup>33</sup>

The **Welsh Housing Quality Standard** is a set of standards that all Council and Housing Association homes in Wales must meet. The standard states that all homes should be in a good state of repair, safe and secure, adequately heated, up to date in kitchens and bathrooms, well managed, in attractive and safe environments and suitable for specific households. As the Council has retained its housing stock, it is responsible for bringing the stock up to this standard.

Around £260 million has been spent across the county borough in recent years to achieve this standard. Internal works have included new kitchens, bathrooms, heating and electrical rewiring. External works have included new doors, windows, guttering/downpipes and reroofing properties. An environmental improvement programme has also been delivered as part of WHQS, which looks at areas outside the curtilage of council homes.



There is fairly substantial variation in the median increase in prices paid for houses in different wards in the Caerphilly Basin between March 2019 and March 2021. In St James ward the median price has increased by 34.2% to £210,000, and in St Martins ward the median price increased by 17.1% to £205,000. Conversely, the median price in Bedwas Trethomas & Machen ward increased by 8.3% to £170,000<sup>34</sup>.

The average annual income in Caerphilly county borough is £29,289<sup>35</sup>, which means that the house price to income ratio is over 7:1 in St James ward, and over 4:1 in Aber Valley ward (the ward with the lowest median price in March 2021). This means that a single person would have to spend over 7 times their salary to be able to purchase a property in the St James ward, which is likely to mean that many single people are prevented from buying a property without assistance, such as help from family or shared ownership.

Defining housing need is complex and several factors will have an influence on the overall levels of demand.

There have been significant market and affordable housing developments in the Caerphilly Basin in recent years, with many new units being provided on previously developed land in accordance with the adopted LDP strategy. Over the last 15 years, 1,660 units have been completed on large sites (10 or more dwellings). There is a market demand for new housing in the area.

The 2018 LHMA assessment shows an additional requirement for the development of 1 bed, 2 bed and 4 bed, general needs social housing and a small requirement for low-cost home ownership. The highest requirement for social housing is 1 bed general needs.

## 4 Economic well-being

### 4.1 Education

Childhood experiences can determine long-term development and overall life achievements.

For the Caerphilly Basin, the WIMD 2019 Education domain shows the following:

<b>Education Domain</b>	Five LSOAs in the CB are in the 10% most deprived category for the Education domain – St James 3 (rank 24), St James 4 (rank 29), Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 (rank 41), Penyrheol 8 (rank 46) and Morgan Jones 2 (rank 167).
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Several LSOAs (St James 3, Bedwas Trethomas & Machen 6 and Penyrheol 8) have a high concentration of several different domains of deprivation – overall deprivation plus Income, Employment, Health and Education. This tells us that a range of socio-economic factors could be contributing to educational attainment gaps between individuals and communities.

Ensuring all children receive a good quality education and raising the aspirations of future generations of young people will support their long-term economic well-being.

The data shows that the proportion of Key Stage 4 leavers entering Higher Education ranges between 5.8% in St James 3 to 57.7% in St Martins 4. It also shows that the proportion of adults aged 25 to 64 years with no qualifications ranges from 5.3% in St Martins 5 to 47.9% in St James 3<sup>36</sup>. For some young people, their financial circumstances and the cost and availability of transport can be major barriers to entering higher education.

Current and future generations of young people need to be supported and encouraged to prevent them becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

#### Repeat school absenteeism

Repeat absenteeism of school pupils in the CB ranges from 1.4% in Penyrheol 7 to 14.3% in Penyrheol 8<sup>37</sup>. (This indicator measures the percentage of primary and secondary pupils missing more than 15% of school sessions, and is based on a three-year average)

### 4.2 Work and skills

Improving local skills through workforce planning, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities will help future generations find decent, rewarding work and avoid in-work poverty.

#### Economic activity/inactivity




There were 40,646 residents aged 16-74 years in the CB at the time of the 2011 Census<sup>38</sup>. Of these, 26,961 were economically active:

- 52.6% were employees (49.5% in Wales)
- 6.5% were self-employed (8.6% in Wales)
- 4.9% were unemployed (4.3% in Wales).

There were 13,685 economically inactive residents in the CB:

- 15.6% were retired (16.1% in Wales)
- 4.4% were looking after their home or family (3.8% in Wales)
- 7.4% were long term sick or disabled (6.3% in Wales)

<b>Skills</b> 	The highest level of qualifications for residents of the CB in the 2011 Census is shown below <sup>39</sup> .		
		<b>CB</b>	<b>Wales</b>
	No qualifications	28.1%	25.9%
	Level 1	14.5%	13.3%
	Level 2	16.5%	15.7%
	Level 3+	33.1%	36.8%
	Apprenticeship	4.2%	3.9%
<b>Industry of employment</b>	In the 2011 Census the largest industry of employment in the CB was Wholesale and Retail Trade: Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles on 15.3% (15.6% in Wales). This was followed by Manufacturing on 12.7% (10.5% in Wales) and Human Health and Social Work Activities on 12.4% (14.5% in Wales) <sup>40</sup> .		
<b>Main employment sites</b>	There are number of employment sites within the CB at Bedwas House, Pantglas (Bedwas), Pontywindy, Greenway and Western industrial estates, plus Caerphilly and Trecenydd business parks. Gallagher Retail Park is located on the outskirts of Caerphilly town and houses a number of national household and food retailers. There are also a large number of retail shops in Caerphilly town centre. All of these will provide employment opportunities for local residents.		

The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have had a significant impact on the pattern of employment locally, with the biggest impacts in the Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and (to an extent) Construction sectors.

The most successful localities will be able to offer a range of quality jobs in different sectors, and the foundational economy is also of growing importance (the foundational economy provides the everyday services that our residents and businesses rely on, such as energy, food and healthcare, and has an important part to play in contributing to the long-term resilience of the local economy). Having good quality, well paid employment will have a positive impact on a person's health and well-being.

Caerphilly county borough, along with nine other local authority areas in South East Wales is part of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal, which over a 10-year period seeks to deliver a set of targets in the region including 25,000 new jobs by 2036, the leveraging of £4bn of private sector investment and securing economic growth. Eight priority sectors have been identified as important for the region going forward<sup>41</sup>:

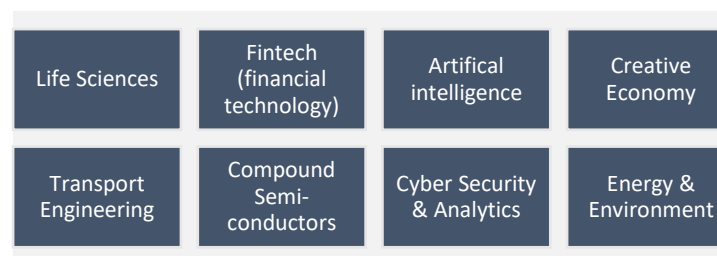
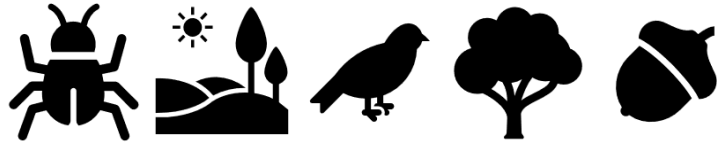


Figure 4: Cardiff City Region priority sectors

One of the key challenges for the whole of the county borough will be to ensure that the public, private and community sectors link in with the CCR City Deal where appropriate, so the area benefits as much as possible from the investment and economic growth that will take place in the years to come.

## 5 Environmental well-being



Our air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soils provide our most basic needs, including food, timber, fuel and recreation. They also provide less visible services including water management, supporting pollinating insects and carbon storage.

The former mining and iron industries and the associated heavy industrial sites have had a big impact on the landscape of Caerphilly county borough. Coal mines were located throughout the county borough, with the Upper Rhymney Valley alone having forty coal mines by the beginning of the 20th Century. These industries have contributed to the legacy of poor health within the county borough. By the end of the 20th Century, following the closure of all the pits, many of the remnants of those industries were reclaimed or removed and landscaped to remove the visible evidence of the county borough's industrial past. This past industrial legacy illustrates the importance of both maintaining and enhancing the natural heritage of the county borough, in order to improve quality of life and create a healthier environment for local people. However, it should also be noted that many of the remaining derelict and contaminated sites contain the most ecologically important landscapes within the county borough.

The greening of the South Wales valleys has been transformative – where pit heads and mine workings once stood, country parks and forestry now offer a green and healthy environment that attracts thousands of residents and tourists every year. The landscape is maintained, conserved and improved by farmers, enterprises and

groups, supporting linked ecological systems, rich biodiversity, mitigation against climate change and providing the food on our plates.

The natural living environment in particular helps in lifting peoples' mental well-being, as well as providing a free green gym for improving peoples' physical health. This results in positive consequences in terms of increasing healthy lifespans, reducing the incidence of chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease, some cancers, type 2 Diabetes and osteoporosis.

Although one of the smaller green spaces in the county borough, the **Riverside Park in Bedwas** is well-used by local residents. With all-weather levelled surfaced paths visitors can enjoy a walk along the riverbank with summer swallows for company or savour the flower-rich meadows alive with insects. This oasis of small fields and hedges, the remnants of a former farming landscape, offers peace and tranquillity away from the busy world nearby. The Riverside Park is located on both the Rhymney Riverside Walk and The Celtic Trail (Route 4) of the National Cycle Network, so it's a great place to stop on these longer trails.



Figure 4: Riverside Park, Bedwas



Laid out as a public recreation ground in 1934, **Morgan Jones Park** is dedicated to the memory of Morgan Jones MP who, during the First World War, was the Rhymney Valley's most notable Conscientious Objector. A holder of a Green Flag Award, Morgan Jones Park is a significant asset to Caerphilly's environment and is recognised as an important focal point and source of pride for the town. The colourful displays of the municipal bedding contrast with the greater informality of the wildflower meadow, blending the traditional with the modern. Young children can enjoy the playground and the aqua splash pad, whilst older children are attracted to the skate park and multi-use games area. There is also a football pitch, cricket pitch, tennis courts, bowling green and multi-station outdoor gym equipment.



*Figure 5: Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly*

The **Rhymney River Circular Walk** is a 9-mile circular walk around the mid valley area of the River Rhymney, passing through the villages of Machen, Draethen and Michaelston-y-fedw.

The **Rhymney Riverside Walk** is a 32-mile linear walk which winds along the floor of the Rhymney Valley, following the river from its headwaters to the southern plains. The walk forms part of the Valleys Regional Park, a network of visitor facilities and accessible countryside activity routes across the Valleys. Section 4 runs from Pwllypant to Draethen.

The **Machen Forge Trail** is a 3-mile circular walk around the quiet villages and countryside of Machen and Waterloo.

**NEED SOMETHING ON CAERPHILLY MOUNTAIN/CAERPHILLY COMMON??**

**ADD MORE INFO FROM PHIL GRIFFITHS/DEWI THOMAS**

## 6 Cultural well-being

Culture is broad and all-encompassing, covering shared beliefs, customs, characteristics and identity and defined by everything including language, tradition, heritage, social norms, and involvement in dance, music and arts and other recreational activities. Culture is also influenced by people moving into an area and increasing cultural diversity, leading to a growth in the culture of the area.

The ability to speak the Welsh language is seen as a big part of the culture of Wales by many people. The proportion of people able to speak at least some Welsh in the Caerphilly Basin ranges from 17.2% in St James 4 to 32% in Aber Valley 2. Only five of the 15 LSOAs in Mid Valleys West have a figure below the county borough average (11.2%) and the figure in all LSOAs is significantly below the Wales average (19%)<sup>42</sup>.

Younger age groups are more likely to be able to speak Welsh, demonstrating the influence of Welsh language education in the area.

<b>Key attractions</b>	In 1268 Gilbert de Clare began the construction of <b>Caerphilly Castle</b> , the biggest castle in Wales and second only to Windsor in the whole of Britain. Massive walls, towers and gatehouses were combined with sprawling water defences to cover a total of 30 acres, which is three times the size of the Principality Stadium. Following the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (the then Prince of Wales) the castle was transformed into a palatial home with a hunting park and northern lake. The castle's probably best loved feature today is Wales' own Leaning Tower, which is wonkier than that of Pisa.
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The **Heritage Aber Valley Heritage Museum** is located in Senghenydd. It is dedicated to the rich heritage of the Aber Valley, with a particular emphasis on the two mines (The Universal Colliery in Senghenydd and the Windsor Colliery in Abertridwr) which once dominated the Valley. In particular the community have donated a great many photographs, along with a vast array of artefacts and memorabilia, all of which are on display in the various display cabinets and on the two interactive touch screens.

Just a short walk from the museum is the **Welsh National and Universal Mining Memorial Garden**, which commemorates the fallen of the 152 mining disasters across Wales. The memorial was unveiled on the centenary of the Universal Colliery Disaster in Senghenydd on 14th October 2013, and incorporates a bronze statue, a wall of remembrance and path of memory within the memorial garden, dedicating a ceramic tile to each mining disaster that has occurred within Wales.

The county borough is blessed with a large number of community arts organisations that are vital in raising the profile of the arts, for drawing in visitors and additional income into the county borough and providing an essential social element for local communities through opportunities for people to develop their skills or perform. There are nearly 100 arts groups that meet to rehearse, develop, make and showcase their work within the county borough. There are also a considerable number of community arts activities which go under the radar, such as one-off projects in schools, youth clubs, older persons groups, summer schemes, adult education and community centres.

*Visual Arts* - the visual arts have nearly 20 groups within the county borough covering photography, sculpture, painting, film, printmaking and crafts.

*Public art* - many towns and villages in the county borough have imaginative pieces of public artwork, including sculptures, mosaics, and murals. Caerphilly County Borough Council works with local schools, communities, artists and arts-based organisations to develop and produce artwork that enriches and reflects the history and culture of local communities.

Examples of public art in the Caerphilly Basin include the Abertridwr Square; the 'Fish Seat' in Bedwas Riverside Park; a number in Caerphilly town such as the 'Arrow Railings' outside the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), 'Gossiping Geese' and 'Bad Egg' at Windsor Street, the 'Table of Innocence' at the TIC and the Tommy Cooper statue at the rear of the TIC; the Llanbradach sign; and the mining memorial in Senghenydd.



*Figure 6: Fish Seat, Bedwas Riverside Park*



*Figure 7: National Mining Memorial, Senghenydd*

Over recent years a significant amount of investment has focused on public artwork within the county borough, with around £1.7 million invested in such projects. Funding for these schemes has come from the Council, and a range of external organisations, including European funding.

Engaging the local community in the significance of their local heritage is important in ensuring a sense of place and increasing community pride and well-being.

The Caerphilly Basin is home to a wide range of clubs and societies, including scout groups, community partnerships, gardening societies, heritage groups, choirs, a camera club, brass band, arts societies, floral societies, ramblers, OAP groups, luncheon clubs, Women's institutes, conservation trusts and mother & toddler groups.

Taking part in cultural activities can be a good way of bringing all parts of the community together and building community cohesion. This has been particularly important since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and whilst meeting with others has been problematic for a significant period of time, the bonds forged within our communities has meant that vulnerable individuals have been supported through this difficult period.

Volunteering provides the opportunity to meet new people, to gain confidence and learn new skills for future employment and to have fun in an informal setting. Without volunteers giving up their time for the benefit of their local communities, none of the clubs and societies listed above would be able to exist.

The many churches and chapels in the Caerphilly Basin are also home to volunteering efforts, particularly providing lunch clubs and food distribution to those in need. There are a number of foodbanks in the Caerphilly Basin who provide free or very cheap food to those in need or on low incomes – these include the Bedwas, Machen, Michaelston-y-Fedw & Rudry Parish Trust, Connect Life Church and Van Community Centre.

The mental and physical benefits that exercise can provide are well documented. Through the hard work of members of the community, there are many sporting clubs and teams in the Caerphilly Basin including football, rugby, cricket, tennis, bowling and netball. If future generations are to realise the health benefits of being active then barriers to participation need to be addressed, particularly amongst young women, who typically drop out of sporting activities as

teenagers. A varied range of childhood experiences can help to seed a lifelong interest in sports and cultural activities.

Predominantly, the natural landscape of the Caerphilly Basin is superimposed by features that relate to the major industrial change that occurred in the South Wales area in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are a number of examples of planned industrial heritage, and these provide the rich industrial heritage of the area, which is increasingly becoming recognised as a unique attribute of both the county borough and the wider South Wales Valleys.

A key issue in respect of the area's industrial heritage is its protection and, more importantly, the beneficial re-use of its buildings. Bringing these buildings back into use will help to ensure their continued retention.

Within the Caerphilly Basin there are a total of 91 **Listed Buildings** – this term refers to a building or other structure officially designated as being of special architectural, historical, or cultural significance:

- Aber Valley – 5 x Grade II and 1 x Grade II\* (Tomb of William Edwards in the churchyard of St Ilan, Eglwysilan)
- Bedwas Trethomas & Machen – 14 x Grade II and 2 x Grade II\* (Bryngwyn Colliery Engine House and the Church of St Barrwg)
- Caerphilly – 17 x Grade II and 1 x Grade I (Caerphilly Castle)
- Llanbradach & Pwllypant – 12 x Grade II
- Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn – 6 x Grade II and 1 x Grade II\* (Groeswen Chapel)
- Rudry – 27 x Grade II and 1 x Grade II\* (Ruperra Castle)
- Van – 4 x Grade II





*Figure 8: Church of St Barrwg, Bedwas*

There are 19 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments** in the Caerphilly Basin – these are sites of archaeological importance with specific legal protection against damage or development:

- Aber Valley – 4
- Bedwas Trethomas & Machen – 5
- Llanbradach – 1
- Rudry – 4
- Caerphilly – 3
- Van - 1
- Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn - 1



*Figure 9: Ruperra Castle, Rudry*

There are four **Conservation Areas** within the Caerphilly Basin – Draethen, Groeswen (Caerphilly), Llanbradach and Ruperra Castle & Park (Rudry). The term Conservation Area almost always applies to an area (usually urban or the core of a village) of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which is considered worthy of preservation or enhancement.



## 7 What our residents have told us

The views of communities on how resources are used to meet their needs are vital, to help inform the way in which programmes and projects are delivered within and alongside public, private and voluntary sector organisations. People are involved throughout the process of assessing the well-being of our community areas, Caerphilly county borough and Gwent, right through to setting the objectives which will be included in the Well-being Plan. A group of engagement and communications professionals from across the Public Services Board member organisations developed a consistent involvement process to gather community views to support the Assessment process.

Due to the obvious difficulties in being able to engage with people face-to-face due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the primary engagement tool was an online survey. Paper copies were also made available in public places such as libraries and doctors' surgeries. In addition, two workshop sessions were arranged for each of the five community areas in Caerphilly county borough, enabling people to contribute their views through group discussions. Social media was used to advertise the survey and workshops and stakeholder groups were enlisted to encourage communities and groups to participate.

We have been able to analyse the views of residents within the community areas through postcode and other analysis, so that differing perceptions within an area can be understood and compared with the data in this Local Well-being Assessment.

Within the Caerphilly Basin, many respondents thought that it was a friendly place to live with good neighbours, and this had become even more apparent during the last two years due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Opinion on the availability and diversity of facilities and transport links was also generally favourable, with the area having a good mix of green and urban spaces such as Caerphilly Castle, the parks and surrounding mountains/woodlands, together with leisure facilities,

shops, dentists and doctors. However, a number of people had found it difficult to get an appointment with their local GP surgery. They felt that more should also be done to help vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly people, where loneliness and isolation was a problem.

Whilst many people appreciated the need for affordable housing, they were concerned that their local environment was being blighted by the building of housing developments on green spaces. Their view was that quality housing suitable for the future using brownfield sites should be considered more often.

Community safety was a priority for many in the area, but opinion was divided on whether they actually felt safe in their own homes and communities. They thought that this could be helped by increasing the number of police on the beat, for example, to deal with antisocial behaviour, thefts and road safety. Having a clean, tidy environment with lots of green wide-open spaces was also a priority.

There was widespread agreement that communities were already doing a lot to help improve their neighbourhood, and there is a willingness to do more with the right support and encouragement from the authorities in order to increase participation.

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