

Gwent Public Services Board

Annual Report 2024 -2025



Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Gwent
Public Services Board

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Foreword



Foreword from the Chair of the Gwent Public Services Board

As Chair of Gwent Public Services Board, it is with pride that I present this year's Annual Report on behalf of the Board. I continue to be inspired by the commitment, resilience, and innovation demonstrated by our members, partners and communities across Gwent.

Together, we are forging a new path - one that places fairness, health equity, and long-term wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. This year has been a landmark in our journey. Building on our recognition as Wales' first Marmot Region, Gwent has deepened its commitment to addressing the root causes of health inequalities. The Marmot principles are not just aspirations, they are the foundation upon which we are shaping services, policies, and partnerships. From early years support to employment, housing, environment, and community empowerment, we are tackling the structural barriers that prevent too many of our residents from living healthy, fulfilling lives.

None of this is possible without true collaboration. Our strength as a region lies in the unity of our public services - local government, health, housing, climate & environment, police, probation, fire and rescue, universities and the strong and impactful voluntary sector - working together to deliver on the ambitions set out in our Well-being Plan. We have also begun to embed research and evidence-based decision-making more deeply into our work, supported by the Health Determinants Research Collaboration in Torfaen and a growing culture of sharing innovation across the region.

We are clear-eyed about the challenges we face. The pressures of the cost-of-living crisis, health disparities, climate change and efforts to divide us, all test our systems and our communities. But we remain steadfast in our belief that, by acting together with a sense of purpose and putting people and place first, we can build a fairer, healthier Gwent for all.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to former PSB Chair Cllr Sean Morgan for his leadership throughout his two year tenure and all our partners, staff, and communities for their ongoing dedication. The work ahead will not be easy - but it is vital. Together, we are laying the foundations not only for today, but for future generations.

Cllr Anthony Hunt – Chair of Gwent Public Services Board & Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council

Introduction & Background

Introduction

This is the second annual report of the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB), outlining progress against our Gwent Well-being Plan during 2024-25. The PSB is a partnership of public service organisations that work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. We published our first joint Well-being Assessment in 2022, which informed our Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 published in July 2023.

Background

The Gwent PSB was established in 2021, bringing together the five existing PSBs in the region. This decision was made to simplify and strengthen the existing partnership arrangements by bringing all the public services together. The move to a regional PSB, with collective responsibility for improving well-being, makes it easier for partners to actively get involved, to add value and avoid doing the same thing several times. The PSB is made up of the statutory partners, including representatives from the five Gwent local authorities, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales, as well as other key partners such as Gwent Police, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, HM Prison & Probation Service, the University of South Wales and (Gwent Registered Social Landlords representative).



Changes from last year

Membership and Leadership

There have been several key changes to the PSB's membership and leadership structure in the past year:

New Chair: Cllr Anthony Hunt – Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council

New Vice-Chair – Professor Tracy Daszkiewicz, Public Health Wales

New Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): Jane Mudd

New Chief Fire Officer: Fin Monahan

New Leader of Newport City Council: Cllr Dimitri Batrouni

New Chief Executives: Blaenau Gwent – Stephen Vickers

Caerphilly – Ed Edmunds

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance – Aimi Morris

Member Profiles

Area of Focus (AoF) Leads: New leads have been assigned for each of the PSB's strategic Areas of Focus. These leads are accountable for delivering progress against well-being objectives, reporting back to the Board, and coordinating multi-agency contributions within their AoF.

Tracy Daszkiewicz – That every child has the best start in life

Steve Morgan – That everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected

Jane Mudd and **Mark Hobrough** – That everyone lives in a place they feel safe
To be confirmed – That everyone has the same economic chances

Co-ordination and Support

The strategic and operational coordination of the PSB continues to be overseen by the GSWAG a team, comprising of partnership officers across the statutory sector.

This team ensures the smooth operation of the PSB, supports its governance arrangements, drives forward the implementation of the Well-being Plan, and liaises with the office of the Future Generations Commissioner, Audit Wales, and other key stakeholders.

Despite the changes in memberships, our continued ongoing commitment to collaborative leadership place the PSB in a strong position to deliver meaningful outcomes for communities. Our renewed leadership and refined coordination mechanisms are enabling us to build on existing successes and adapt to new challenges in an ever-changing landscape.



Gwent PSB Scrutiny Committee

In order to assure democratic accountability, there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board. The role of the Gwent PSB Scrutiny Committee is to provide challenge, scrutiny and support to secure continuous improvement for the Board.

The Committee comprises independent representatives from the five Gwent local authorities, ABUHB, GAVO, TVA, SWFRS, and the Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner. It meets quarterly in advance of each Gwent PSB meeting to scrutinise and provide comment on relevant PSB agenda papers, and it is coordinated and administered by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

The Committee Chair rotates annually in alphabetical order amongst the five Gwent local authority representatives. Cllr Tommy Smith from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Chaired the committee from September 2023 – September 2024. It is now Chaired by Cllr Shane Williams from Caerphilly County Borough Council, with Cllr Penny Jones from Monmouthshire County Borough Council as Vice-Chair.

The Scrutiny Committee has played an important role during 2024-25 in scrutinising and supporting the work of the PSB Areas of Focus, making key recommendations around leadership, governance and the use of up-to-date data. PSB members leading on the development of giving every child the Best Start in Life, Climate-Ready Communities and Safe Places have presented and given evidence to the Committee, as well as public health partners providing key information on the Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment and Fast Track Gwent programmes.

The next steps for the Scrutiny Committee are to continue to consider progress against the PSB's four Areas of Focus, take part in a Gwent-wide all member briefing session on Fast Track Cities and living with HIV in the 21st Century, and making recommendations to the PSB about any emerging well-being priorities.

Gwent Wellbeing Plan



Gwent Well-being Plan

The Well-being Assessment for Gwent and the Building a Fairer Gwent report showed inequality and deprivation in our communities, and the need to take action on the climate and nature emergencies, were having an impact on well-being.

Our Well-being Plan set out how we intended to address these challenges across Gwent. The Plan has two interconnected key objectives:

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

To support the delivery of the objectives, the plan sets out these five, interrelated steps:

- Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term.
- Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.
- Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.
- Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles.
- Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.

The PSB has worked together, and with other agencies and partners, to understand what we need to do, together and at scale, to achieve these objectives. We have identified four Areas of Focus where we feel that we can make the most difference. These are:

- That every child has the best start in life
- That everyone lives in a place they feel safe
- That everyone has the same economic chances
- That everyone lives in a climate ready community where their environment is valued and protected.

You will be able to read more about these and the work we're doing to progress these areas later in this report.

Deep Dive – Best Start In Life Area Of Focus



Background

Enabling every baby and child in Gwent to have the best start in life is a priority Area of Focus for the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB).

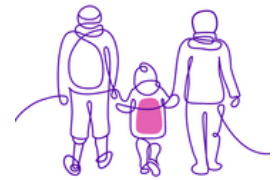
The Best Start in Life (BSIL) refers to the crucial period from pregnancy to age seven – a time when the foundations for lifelong health, learning, and wellbeing are established. Providing the best start in life means enabling all parents, babies and children in Gwent to have the optimal conditions necessary for healthy physical, emotional and cognitive development and supporting them to reach their potential.

Positive early experiences greatly impact development and are shaped by several factors such as sensitive attuned parenting, the effects of socio-economic status, the impact of the social determinants of health (e.g. housing, safety, climate) and the impact of high-quality early education and care.

Why this matters

A systematic focus on parents, babies and young children is where the evidence tells us we can make the biggest difference in reducing inequities (Academy of Medical Sciences, Prioritising Early Childhood to Promote the Nations, Health, Well-being and Prosperity report 2024).

Best Start In Life Area Of Focus



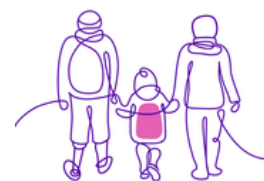
Building the Best Start in Life Foundations

To drive meaningful, system-wide change, a dynamic Best Start in Life (BSIL) Leadership Group is being formed. This high-level, multi-agency team will bring together senior leaders from across Gwent's Public Services Board (PSB) organisations. Their mission is **to shape and steer a bold, evidence-based regional delivery plan for BSIL**, grounded in the findings of the Building a Fairer Gwent (Marmot) Report and the Gwent Best Start in Life Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (0–4 years).

The delivery plan will be actioned by the BSIL Regional Management Group, with both groups championing the BSIL vision across their organisations and beyond. **Together, they will ensure that babies, children and families get the seamless, coordinated support they need** — starting from pre-conception and continuing through the early years.

A clear focus will be placed on tackling inequality. That means prioritising support for families facing disadvantage — including those with protected characteristics and those affected by socio-economic challenges. The voices of parents, babies and young children will be at the heart of the delivery plan, shaping decisions every step of the way.

Guided by the Well-being of Future Generations Act and its five ways of working, the BSIL Leadership and Management Groups will collaborate not only across the BSIL system but also with other Area of Focus (AoF) teams to ensure lasting impact across Gwent.



Case Study - The Director of Public Health Report "Our Future, Our Voice" (2023/24)

Each year, Directors of Public Health publish formal reports about their population's health. But for 2023/24, our Director, Tracy, took a different path — one that placed children at the heart of the story.

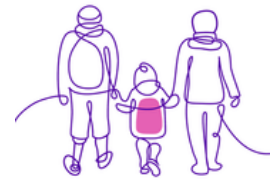
Our Future, Our Voice amplified the voices of babies, children, and young people across Gwent, capturing their lived experiences and the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We heard from two families about pregnancy and parenting during the 2020 lockdown, and two young people whose GCSE exams were cancelled. Children aged 10–18 from four schools and youth settings also shared "Postcards from the Pandemic" — deeply personal messages to future generations.

These reflections became a time capsule of resilience, reminding us that we must be better prepared to support young people in future crises. While some initially welcomed the break from routine, many experienced isolation, anxiety, and lasting emotional impacts.

Their powerful insights challenged us to ask: how can we make Gwent a place where all children truly thrive? This work also underlined the need for three age-specific Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to better understand and meet the needs of babies, children, young people, and families across the region.



Best Start In Life Area Of Focus



The Gwent Best Start in Life Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) explores the health, development, and wellbeing of children aged 0–4, highlighting the factors that shape early outcomes and calling for a joined-up, whole-system approach to reduce inequalities.

Between August 2024 and March 2025, the JSNA gathered insights through data analysis, engagement with families and professionals, and a review of local services.

Key Findings:

Families reported limited access to antenatal breastfeeding advice, maternal mental health support, and financial pressures during parental leave, alongside low awareness of services. Professionals noted better collaboration via BadgerNet but flagged gaps in postnatal support, especially for women whose babies were removed, and a need for more training among childcare staff.

Services across Gwent are high quality but unevenly available, with outdated information, reduced capacity post-COVID, and limited inclusive support for dads, partners, and LGBTQIA+ families. Access barriers, workforce challenges, and funding constraints remain significant.

Recommendations:

Seventeen recommendations aim to strengthen early years support, focusing on:

- Better preconception and pregnancy care
- Improved vaccination, child development, and speech/language services
- Expanded training and family support
- Inclusion of underrepresented families in planning

Two priorities stood out: shifting support earlier in the life course and targeting child development in low-income families.

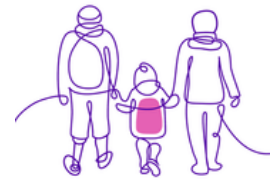
- Case Study – The Gwent Best Start in Life
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2024/25)

Next Steps:

Findings will inform delivery plans across Gwent. Stakeholders are reviewing the report, and a 'You Said, We Did' approach will ensure feedback is acted on and shared.



Best Start In Life Area Of Focus



Case Study - A collaboration to enable children/families in Gwent to achieve developmental milestones ready for school.

An exciting new project is launching in Gwent, made possible by funding from the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities Grant. This project aims to support children and families living in poverty to achieve key developmental milestones and be ready to thrive when they start school.

What is it all about?

Together, we're building on existing Early Years partnerships, while bringing in fresh perspectives to tackle a shared challenge: supporting children in their early years to thrive, no matter their background.

This is collaborative project led by **Newport City Council, ABUHB's Gwent Public Health Team and Home-Start Cymru**, in partnership with **Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Local Authorities**, as well as the **Health Determinants Research Collaboration – Torfaen** and **Torfaen Voluntary Alliance**.

Why this matters:

We know that poverty has a negative impact on child development and can affect learning and long-term outcomes. That's why this project is focused on co-creating new, innovative approaches — working with families and Early Years professionals to close the developmental gap. It's about testing new approaches and working in partnership to enhance existing provision and address gaps to support families.

What's happening next?

We'll be undertaking engagement work and working directly with at least 50 families across the five Gwent Local Authorities, with a focus on those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.

Through meaningful engagement, we will:

Develop a shared understanding of what "school readiness" means in Gwent
Co-design activities and resources that support children's speech, language, social skills, routines, and play
Test and refine new approaches that complement existing Early Years support. This work directly supports the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) priority: Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life, and we'll be reporting progress through the PSB

We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

Responding to Gwent's Climate and Nature emergency

Communities have told us that they're concerned about carbon emissions, protecting nature and the impact of more frequent and severe flooding, droughts and heatwaves. The Climate Emergency is driving nature loss, but responding to the Nature Emergency can help us manage the impacts of climate change. Climate change is a fundamental threat to our health, and the most vulnerable groups in Gwent are likely to experience the greatest impacts of climate change.

The PSB is focussing on the Climate and Nature Emergencies in an equitable and integrated way, maximising positive impacts on all the determinants of health. This PSB area of focus addressed the need to assess climate risks for our communities, understand how we need to adapt and prioritise climate resilience and net benefit for biodiversity, and to integrate these findings into our corporate and strategic planning, including the land and buildings in their care.

In meeting these challenges the PSB has recognised the pressures on public sector resources by supporting collaborative regional funding bids for EU and National Lottery grants. This includes a Nature Networks Fund grant which has been awarded to help understand the value and connectivity of ecosystems across Gwent and the benefits they provide for both people and nature, building evidence for the next PSB well-being assessment.

A PSB workshop in March 2025 strengthened understanding of the strategic priorities shared by PSB organisations on nature recovery, climate risk and adaptation, and a Gwent-wide decarbonisation awareness campaign with local engagement. There was a shared understanding of the collaborative work needed to co-ordinate and integrate resources and activities across Gwent partners and existing partnerships.

Looking ahead, the PSB will be bringing together the public sector service directors with responsibility for tackling Gwent's Climate and Nature Emergencies, to explore collective capacity to re-align existing resources to support collaboration and deliver shared climate and nature priorities. They will also contribute to further development of the Gwent Indicator Framework which provides partners across Gwent with a shared intelligence source to inform planning and monitor regional and local service delivery.

Ensuring that **'Everyone lives in a place they feel safe'** is one of the fundamental priorities of the Gwent Public Services Board. Increased feelings of safety are what local communities across Gwent tell us are one of their highest priorities.

But this is not just about working together to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour when it has happened. This is also about having effective support services in place and building resilient and cohesive communities who can work together to prevent this from happening in the first place. This is where the PSB can provide the added leadership, coordination and resources to have maximum effect on increasing levels of safety across Gwent.

This year saw the end results come together of the 'Community Safety Review', which was started by Gwent PSB in 2022. In 2023/24, the review re-established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in those areas that didn't have them. This year the focus has been to go beyond this and introduce a new strategic governance group to oversee and support the CSPs and all the other partnerships working to reducing crime, antisocial behaviour and improve the safety of communities in Gwent. Through this group more action can be taken to take forward this priority.

Importantly, three significant developments needed to take place to realise this ambition, which happened this year:

1. The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and the temporary Chief Constable of Gwent Police agreed to co-lead this priority in September 2024.
2. Shortly after, the Commissioner permanently recruited the new Chief Constable. The Chief Constable has since introduced a new policing model across Gwent, with Improving Trust and Confidence at the heart of that new model, and an increased focus on neighbourhood policing to increase visibility, provide reassurance and make communities safer.
3. Finally, the Commissioner introduced a new Police, Crime and Justice Plan for Gwent at the end of March 2025. The new Plan has five Pillars under which sit relevant priorities. The Pillars to the Plan are:
 - a. Preventing crime and antisocial behaviour
 - b. Making our communities safer
 - c. Protecting the vulnerable
 - d. Putting victims first, and
 - e. Reducing reoffending.

Flowing throughout the entire Plan is a strong emphasis on tackling those issues that the public, PSB members and other partners told the Commissioner are their main concerns following extensive surveying throughout 2024. Added to this is a focus on partnership working, in particular the safer places priority under the PSB.

With these fundamental aspects now in place, focus then shifted to developing the relevant plans, outputs and desired outcomes against the 'Safer Places' priority. Much of this will be delivered through the new multi-agency partnership structure mentioned above, made up of senior strategic leads from PSB organisations and relevant partnerships involved in keeping communities safe.

Therefore, a set of terms of reference were drafted and agreed for this new structure, now called the Gwent Strategic Safer Communities Board (GSSCB), which will be chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Overall, this new board will provide whole system leadership for building safer communities in Gwent and enable the delivery of the safer places priority. The partnerships that will work more cohesively through these developments are:

- Five Community Safety Partnerships
- Gwent Area Planning Board
- Gwent CONTEST Board
- Gwent Safeguarding Board
- Gwent Serious Organised Crime Partnership Group
- Gwent Strategic Criminal Justice Board
- Gwent VAWDASV Board
- Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group



Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership

The Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership (BG LWP), the local delivery group, is an officer group that meets formally on a quarterly basis, in addition to subject-specific sub-groups and development workshops, comprising representatives from local and regional partner organisations. It is responsible for identifying and developing local wellbeing priorities for Blaenau Gwent, and delivering against these through collaborative partnership working.

In June 2024, the BG LWP adopted several key local well-being priorities aligned to the regional Well-being Plan, identified through a series of public and stakeholder engagement during 2023-24. The aim of the engagement workshops during 2023-24 was for the LWP and wider partnership networks to come together and reflect on well-being priorities in our communities and consider opportunities where local well-being programmes aligned to the regional Gwent Well-being Plan could address these priorities where the BG LWP could influence or add value.

The main areas of focus and priorities which clearly emerged from the engagement activity were identified as follows and were adopted by the LWP in June 2024:

- Travel & Transport: supporting Active Travel, Community Transport, integrated Travel & Transport, and transition to Sustainable & low-emission Transport
- Food: tackling Food Insecurity, supporting access to affordable, healthy food Access, local food growing, and developing the local Food Economy & Community Food Initiatives
- Reducing Inequalities by tackling poverty, loneliness & isolation, and supporting Volunteering and age-friendly communities
- Climate & Nature: access to Land & local Green Spaces, making the most of our Biodiversity and natural environment, and facilitating local involvement in regional climate programmes

The Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership seeks to ensure that all residents of Blaenau Gwent have equitable access to healthy, affordable food and includes collaboration with local authorities, health boards, and third-sector organisations. "At the core of our mission is to make sure that every resident in Blaenau Gwent has fair access to healthy and affordable food," says BG Food Partnership Coordinator Chris Nottingham. "Tackling food poverty, diet related ill health and access to affordable food is key to everything we're doing."

A Growing Crisis

Blaenau Gwent faces high overweight and obesity rates, with 70% of adults and 26.5% of children aged 4-5 starting school either overweight or obese. In response, the partnership is working across the entire food system, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities in adults and improving access to healthy food for children, young people and families.

Blaenau Gwent – Case Study



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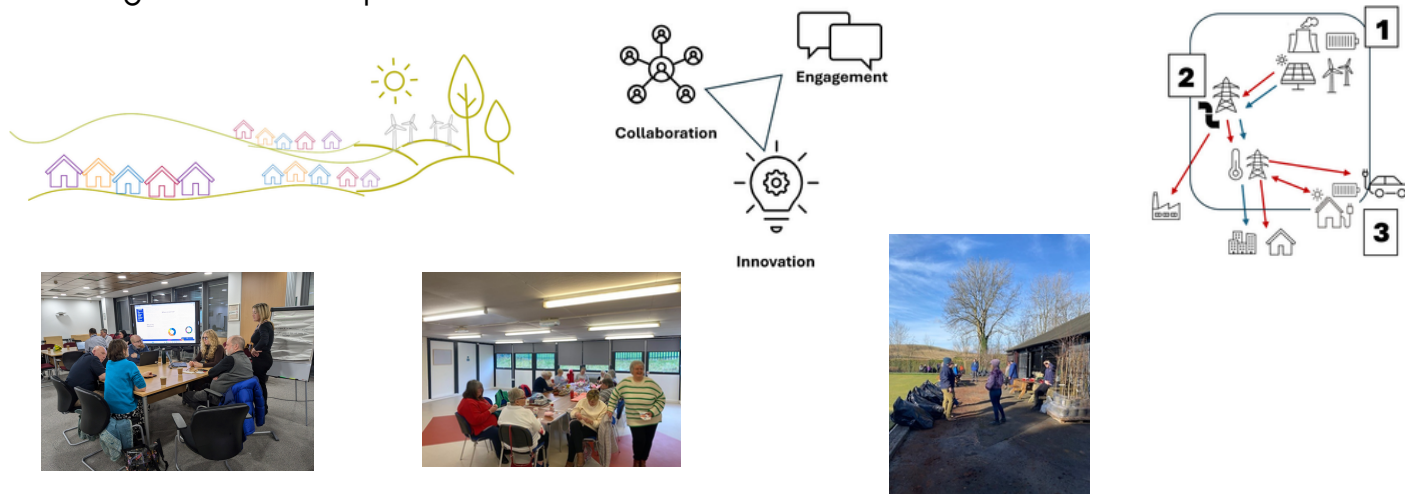
Caerphilly County Borough's LDG's Net Zero 2050 Strategy

In March 2025, the Caerphilly Local Delivery Group (LDG) formally ratified its Net Zero 2050 Strategy, following a year-long period of consultation, stakeholder co-production, and governance. This strategy demonstrates how local collaboration can support the legally binding target to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050, guided by the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The strategy was developed as a shared response to the climate emergency, with a clear focus on listening to residents and businesses within Caerphilly County Borough. It is structured around the Act's five ways of working: long-term thinking, prevention, integration, collaboration, and involvement and these principles are embedded throughout the document. The Strategy articulates the stakeholder qualitative responses throughout, quoting illustrative resident themes.

Each chapter of the strategy draws on Wales' second Carbon Budget, and addresses a key theme, such as energy, transport, land use, and organisational and supply-chain behaviours, and shows how action in these areas contributes to our Net Zero Ambitions. The "Spaces We Live and Work In" chapter promotes energy-efficient housing and retrofitting, supporting a healthier and more resilient Wales. The "Ways We Move" section encourages active travel and low-emission transport, helping to reduce inequalities and support a globally responsible Wales. The strategy also highlights the importance of green skills and workforce transition, ensuring that economic change is inclusive and supports a prosperous Wales.

A distinctive feature of the strategy is its cross-cutting themes, including digital innovation, education, and finance. These are not treated as standalone topics but are integrated throughout the strategy to support joined-up, future-proofed decision-making. Digital and educational themes were prioritised to ensure that the next generation, and the ways they access and understand information, are central to our region's climate response.



Caerphilly - Case Study



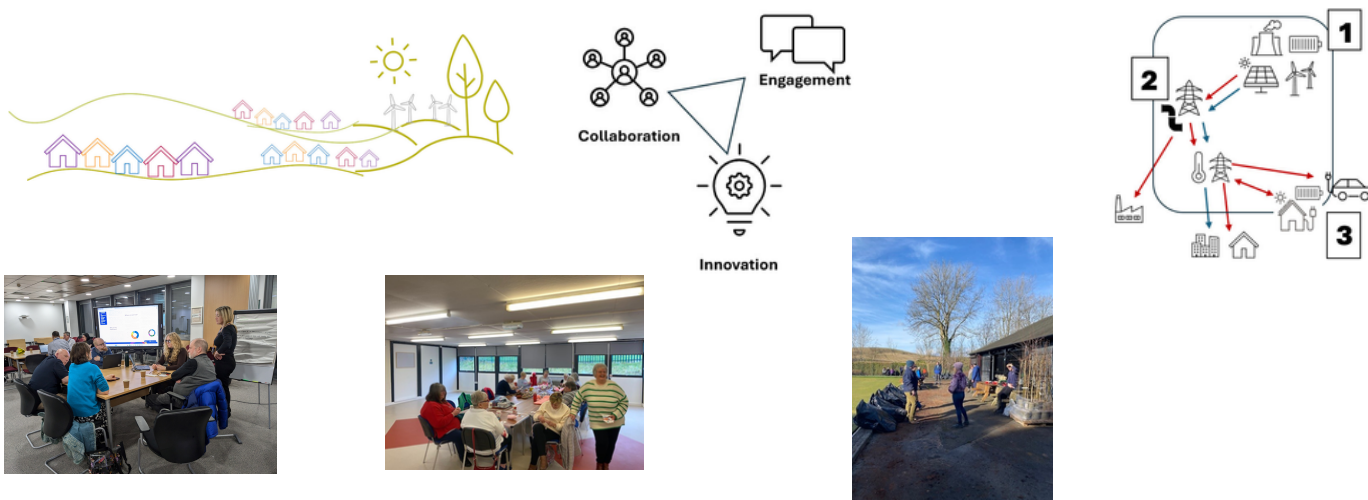
The strategy was shaped by in-depth public engagement, including a strong digital consultation presence. Analytics data from the consultation period showed that 86% of all traffic to the Gwent PSB website was to view the draft strategy, with users spending hours, rather than minutes, reading and sharing their views. This level of engagement reflects the member organisations and public interest, and commitment, to shaping a local response to climate change. It was encouraging to note the depth and thoughtfulness of the responses received and all suggestions were woven into the final draft.

We also engaged directly with 80 local businesses, gathering insights on the challenges and opportunities they face in transitioning to net zero. Their contributions helped shape the strategy's focus and ensured that the local business voice was represented, so that residents' employment and buying power constitute a joined-up initiative.

Member organisations of the Gwent PSB contributed not only time and expertise through a dedicated Task and Finish Group, but also authored or edited chapters or cross-cutting themes or shared highlights in best practice case studies. This collective effort has resulted in a strategy that is grounded in local experience, needs and barriers and aligned with policy and legislation.

In keeping with its net zero ambitions, the strategy has been published and promoted using low-carbon digital methods, minimising environmental impact while maximising accessibility and engagement.

The Caerphilly LDG Net Zero 2050 Strategy is now in place as a guiding framework for action. It reflects a shared commitment to long-term thinking, partnership working, and meaningful engagement, laying the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Our next steps are to continue to build an Action Plan using a digitally inclusive methodology to achieve Net Zero territorial CO2 emissions, listening to our residents and businesses to do so.



Monmouthshire – Case Study



Operation Lumley: A Community/Youth-Led Approach to Safer Streets in Caldicot

In early 2024, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) was invited by Gwent Police to take part in a new initiative aimed at improving safety and reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in town centres. The initiative, known as Operation Lumley, was part of a wider programme supported by Gwent Police and the Home Office.

Caldicot was identified as a priority area, and while some local authorities focused on deploying uniformed wardens, MCC took a slightly different approach—one that placed community engagement and youth support at the heart of the response.

Putting Young People First

MCC's Youth Service played a central role in shaping and delivering Operation Lumley. Rather than relying solely on enforcement, the team recognised the importance of building relationships with young people and creating safe, supportive spaces.

Youth Workers were a visible presence in Caldicot, wearing high-visibility tabards and engaging directly with young people in parks, streets, and public spaces. Outreach sessions were carried out in known ASB hotspots in Caldicot, allowing staff to build rapport and provide a consistent, approachable presence.

The **Zone Youth Centre** also extended its opening hours, giving young people a welcoming place to spend time, connect with others, and take part in positive activities. Sessions were designed to be inclusive and flexible, with young people helping themselves to games, chatting over hot chocolate, and suggesting ideas for future activities.

Youth Workers also supported emotional wellbeing, helping to mediate peer conflicts and encouraging parental involvement when needed. In one instance, staff calmly intervened to prevent an emotional young person from walking into the road, demonstrating the value of having trusted adults present in the community.

"It feels like our space. We get to choose what we do and talk about stuff that matters to us. The staff actually listen."

— Young person at The Zone Youth Centre

"We've seen a real shift in how young people engage with us. They're more open, more trusting, and they know we're here for them—not just to tell them off."

— MCC Youth Worker

Monmouthshire – Case Study



A Blended Safety Model

Operation Lumley brought together a range of partners and resources to create a joined-up response:

Youth Outreach Workers offering consistent, street-based engagement

Security staff trained to work alongside youth teams and police

CCTV support focused specifically on Caldicot, helping monitor key areas and respond quickly to incidents

Police patrols coordinated with youth and security teams to ensure a balanced and visible presence

This blended model was deployed during key times such as school holidays, Halloween, and Bonfire Night—moments when community safety concerns are often heightened.

Positive Change in Caldicot

Before Operation Lumley, Caldicot had experienced difficult summers, with youth-related ASB making headlines and causing concern among residents. The difference in 2024/25 was clear. Community feedback became overwhelmingly positive, with many residents' expressing appreciation for the presence of Youth Workers and the respectful way they engaged with young people. Young people themselves responded well to the initiative. They felt seen, heard, and supported—not just policed. The Youth Service's consistent presence helped build trust and reduce tensions, contributing to a noticeable drop in ASB incidents throughout the summer and into 2025.

"It's good to see people out here who actually care. They're not just watching us—they're talking to us."

— Young person during outreach session

Working Together for Safer Communities

Operation Lumley was a powerful example of partnership in action. Key collaborators included:

Gwent Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Gwent Police

The Home Office

MCC Community Safety Team

MCC Youth Services

Caldicot Town Council

SRS CCTV Control Room Operatives

The Zone Youth Centre

The Caldicot community

Together, these partners helped create a safer, more connected Caldicot—where young people were supported, and the community felt heard.

Monmouthshire – Case Study

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Supporting learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) within the Library Service

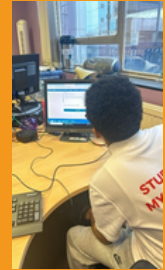
At the start of November 2024, Newport City Council's Library Service, in partnership with Coleg Gwent, launched a pilot programme to support learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to deliver the role of the Community Learning and Libraries Assistant.

The first group, made up of four learners from Coleg Gwent's Independent Living Programme, completed their initial year as interns at Newport Libraries, specifically within the Central Library, as part of the Supported Internship partnership. The programme proved so successful that all four interns have been invited to return for a second year, giving them the chance to build further on the knowledge and abilities they developed. Additionally, the scheme will expand to welcome new participants.

Ongoing discussions with Coleg Gwent staff are focused on identifying how many more learners can be supported when the new term begins in October 2025. The aim is to equip all participants with the skills and experience needed to confidently apply for paid work (as and when they might be available) at the end of their internships, whether in their current placements or elsewhere.

The collaboration between Coleg Gwent and Newport Libraries has been so well-received that the Central Library internship was highlighted as a model Supported Internship programme during a visit by staff from a Further Education College in France, who hope to establish a similar initiative for adults with additional needs in Paris.

The Library Manager has also shared feedback on behalf of both the Supported Internship Partnership and Coleg Gwent during their recent ESTYN inspection.



Torfaen – Case Study



The **Health Determinants Research Collaboration** (HDRC) in Torfaen is a significant initiative to boost research capacity and capability within Torfaen County Borough Council, embed a culture of using evidence in decision-making, and use research findings to understand the impact of decisions on health and inequalities. Additionally, the HDRC aims to support research being undertaken in areas where evidence is required.



The **HDRC** is a collaboration between Torfaen County Borough Council, the University of South Wales, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. It is one of 30 HDRCs across the UK and one of only two in Wales, with the other being in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The project is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research for five years, from 2025 to 2029. The team comprises four researchers, an engagement officer, an intervention worker, an administrator, and a programme manager.



A key aspect of the HDRC's approach is community involvement. The HDRC is working with all six of Torfaen's Town and Community Councils to identify how, and in what ways, does the adoption of a community-based participatory action research approach enhance the health, well-being, resilience and engagement of Torfaen's communities. The HDRC will support and empower communities to design interventions that meet their well-being needs. This approach is based on the principle that communities are best placed to develop the right type of support for their areas. The HDRC will also focus on developing efficient data linkage and governance systems, sharing learning, and ensuring robust evaluation, interventions, and sustainability.

The HDRC will deliver a "First into Research" training programme, aimed at new researchers who little experience undertaking research. Additionally, it provides a community of practice to share ideas and explore opportunities. The overall aim of the HDRC is to create a research-active and evidence-based council that uses data to support community action and improve health equity. The PSB partnership more widely will be sighted on learning from the HDRC, ensuring developed understanding is shared across Gwent and can be used to support positive change across the region.

Flood Risk Awareness – Case Study



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Gwent Flood Awareness Social Media Campaign

We completed a pilot social media campaign, aimed at increasing awareness of flood risk and the free flood warning service that is available within Gwent, delivered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). We used Meta and ran the campaign over a 2 week period during the end of February and beginning of March 2025. We aimed to reach people who live in the local authority areas within Gwent. It ran from the Torfaen Local Authority account, and you can see an image below of the post.

NRW provide a free flood warning service to those at risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea, so that people at risk of flooding can receive messages by phone, email or text message. Unless people sign up for the service they won't get the direct warning in extreme weather events, to have time to take action to protect themselves and their property. This is especially important given the severe flood damage faced by some in Gwent during the storms at the end of last year.

From analysing the Meta campaign analytics, we've found that more people did visit the NRW Flood Awareness webpages compared to typical numbers, so it seemed successful at raising awareness of the free flood warning service that is available. We're still learning from the pilot, as we want to find the best way to reach as many people as possible. We would like to build on this campaign and test more ways of communicating the risks posed from flooding, and what people can do to prepare, adapt and become more resilient to Gwent's changing climate.

Sign up to receive flood warnings



Home Safety Checks – Case Study



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru

South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

Collaborative Approach to Home Fire Safety – South Wales Fire and Rescue & PSB Partners

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), working in partnership with Public Services Board (PSB) partners, has successfully delivered a targeted initiative through the theme of “Everyone Feels Safe at Home”. A strategic priority focused on ensuring fire safety and wellbeing for all, particularly the most vulnerable.

The project aimed to increase the uptake of Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) among high-risk individuals by improving signposting and referral pathways across public services. Recognising that many at-risk residents are not always visible to emergency services, SWFRS and PSB partners including health, social care, housing, and the voluntary sector collaborated to embed fire safety into everyday service delivery.

The Sub-Group led the coordination of this work, developing shared referral mechanisms and training frontline staff such as social workers, housing officers, and health professionals to identify fire risks and refer individuals directly to SWFRS.

Regular multi-agency meetings enabled partners to review data, share learning, and refine approaches. This collaborative model ensured that those most at risk such as older adults, individuals with limited mobility, and people with complex needs were identified and supported effectively.

SWFRS has already seen an increase in referrals, as evidenced by early statistics and reinforced through positive feedback gathered at community engagement events. This reflects the strength of the partnership approach and the impact of delivering through the “Everyone Feels Safe at Home”.

Home Safety Checks



Serious Violence Duty – Case Study



The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was introduced in 2023 and requires many Gwent PSB partners to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence through a multi-agency, data-driven, and prevention-focused approach – key priorities of the 'Safer Places' priority of the Wellbeing Plan. In January 2024 the aspirational strategy "a Gwent without violence" was released, supported by four priorities: better use of data, addressing risk factors, maximizing collaboration, and adopting a place-based approach.

In the last year, key issues continue to be identified, such as knife crime which has risen by 7.9% and nearly a third of offenders being under 18. Youth violence in schools is increasingly concerning, with social media bullying, assaults with injuries, and a rise in adolescence violence on adults. Using a whole system approach the Duty Partnership has used social and economic data to examine areas of high deprivation such as Ringland and Lansbury Park which show a strong correlation with increased violence. Enhanced data sharing among partners has been pivotal to inform targeted interventions.

Evidence-based early interventions have been deployed to address root causes of violence, while coordinated efforts across police, local authorities, health, HMPPS, YOS and third-sector partners have strengthened the regional response. Tailored, community-informed strategies through local community safety partnerships ensure that local insights guide action.

Supported by a £167,500 Home Office grant, interventions introduced in the last year include nighttime economy safety projects which improves safety for women and other vulnerable people in Newport city centre. Funding has been used for therapeutic support for child victims of sexual assaults, and restorative justice and Virtual Reality based education programmes have tackled themes of knife crime and child criminal exploitation across Gwent.

Successes this year include improved data sharing, better strategic alignment of joint priorities, along with strengthening support from the Wales Violence Prevention Unit where best practice on what interventions work are shared. Under the direction of the new Strategic Safer Communities Board in Gwent, we will aim to go even further in 2025/26.

Serious-Violence-Duty



Building a Fairer, Healthier, Safer, Stronger Gwent

Since the publication of Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health Equity and the Social Determinants in July 2023 [gwentpsb.org](https://www.gwentpsb.org), a range of activity has been taken forward by public services to tackle health and wellbeing inequities. The examples below highlight how services are responding to the wider determinants of health, and how they are working with communities to advocate for and support more equitable outcomes.

Many of these initiatives are still in their early stages, and time will be needed to fully understand their longer-term impact and effectiveness. Nonetheless, they reflect a commitment to collaborative, preventative, and community-focused approaches, and illustrate how the Five Ways of Working set out in the WBFGA are being put into practice across Gwent.

Integrating Health into Local Development Plans

The Gwent Public Health Team worked with Public Health Wales and Caerphilly County Borough Council to carry out a Health Impact Assessment on the Replacement Local Development Plan. A stakeholder workshop explored how planning decisions could better meet the needs of different population groups. The Public Health Team has also contributed to the Local Development Plan consultations in Caerphilly and Monmouthshire, submitting proposals to strengthen the focus on reducing health inequalities through planning policy.

The Warmer Homes Project

The Gwent Public Health Team is currently working with Newport City Council, Warm Wales, and Monmouthshire County Council using a targeted, data-led approach to tackling cold home-related illness. Hospital admission data, aligned with ECO4 Route 3 eligibility (cardiovascular disease, respiratory condition, immunosuppressed conditions, and limited mobility), was cross-referenced with Energy Performance Certificate ratings. This enabled identification of high-risk households, who were then contacted offering ECO funding for heating, insulation upgrades and affordable warmth advice. The team are currently working on expanding the project across the five Local Authorities and in partnership with the third sector to deliver both ECO grants and affordable warmth advice to vulnerable, low-income households. The project addresses health inequality through improving housing quality and health outcomes, income maximisation, access to services and reducing avoidable admissions to health services.



Reducing Inequalities in Cardiovascular Health Outcomes - Hypertension Case Finding Service

ABUHB Primary Care Division introduced a case finding service to identify people at risk of hypertension who were not already on a disease register. Once identified, individuals are offered a 30-minute lifestyle intervention designed to support health behaviour change. By reaching people who may not routinely access health services, the case finding service supports early prevention and helps to reduce inequalities in cardiovascular health outcomes. Fifty-seven out of 68 GP practices are delivering the service, with 1,103 blood pressure checks having been completed, with 81 individuals identified as having high blood pressure and now receiving appropriate treatment in Primary Care and onward referrals to lifestyle support services.

A Behaviourally Informed Approach to the Diabetes Prevention Programme

The Diabetes Prevention Programme, delivered through Primary Care, provides targeted brief intervention support for individuals at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Despite its potential benefits, uptake has been low. To help address this, ABUHB Community Dietetics, in collaboration with the Gwent Public Health Team, redesigned the programme's bilingual invitation letter. The revised letter uses clear, accessible language and features a visual HbA1c chart to support understanding of blood sugar levels and the importance of early action. By applying a behaviourally informed approach, the aim is to reduce communication barriers and support more equitable access. Future programme data shared with the Gwent Public Health Team will help assess the impact of these changes on engagement.

Level 2 Weight Management Services – Improving Equity Through Data

The ABUHB Weight Management Service (Level 2) provided by the Dietetics Service has analysed demographic data from service users which highlighted that 92% identified as White British. When compared to the target group for the service, the analysis showed a clear underrepresentation of ethnic minority communities in service uptake. In response, the Weight Management Service will be engaging with these communities to understand access barriers and co-develop approaches that support engagement and uptake of the Weight Management Service.

HPV Vaccine Uptake – Addressing Inequalities

The Gwent School Nursing Team has led a targeted approach to improve HPV vaccine uptake and reduce variation across mainstream schools, guided by a progressive universalism model. Schools with over 80% uptake received the universal offer, those between 61–79% received enhanced support, and schools under 60% received intensive follow-up. This included working with schools to ensure accurate pupil lists and directly contacting parents or carers who had not responded to consent requests. Data is being monitored, and early findings will be shared to inform wider regional learning. Additional equity-focused actions include:

- Advising parents of home-educated children to book community clinic appointments.
- Ensuring looked after children are invited to community or domiciliary clinics as needed.
- Collaborating with ALN school nurses to gain consent and use tailored approaches (e.g., storyboards).
- Engaging with resettlement hubs to offer vaccination to refugees and asylum seekers, with future plans to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children through LAC clinics.

Advocating for More Equitable Alcohol Licensing Decisions

Alcohol-related harms are disproportionately experienced by people living in areas of greater social deprivation, despite self-reported consumption often being lower than in more affluent areas; a phenomenon known as the alcohol harm paradox. The Gwent Public Health Team have consistently highlighted this issue in local and national consultations on alcohol licensing policies and legislation. For example, in 2022–2023, alcohol-specific hospital admission rates in Wales ranged from 170 per 100,000 population in the Vale of Glamorgan to 402 per 100,000 in Blaenau Gwent. We used this data in our response to the UK Government's consultation on Alcohol in Licensed Pavement Areas to challenge the application of blanket licensing approaches. We emphasised that failing to consider local patterns of alcohol use and harm risks exacerbating existing health inequalities.

Food and Early Years – Creating a Shared Vision

Children living in areas of high socio-economic deprivation often have limited opportunities to explore and experience fruits and vegetables. By working with the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme Coordinators and early years settings, we have been developing a shared vision and framework for action on food in early childhood as means for increasing sensory food play, parental engagement and overall early food literacy. The next steps are to launch the framework and work with children, families and Early Year Professionals across pre-school settings to implement this framework.

Inclusive Communication and Translation Access

ABUHB maternity services have implemented a range of measures to ensure inclusive and accessible communication. Multi-language "Hello and Welcome" posters are displayed across all antenatal clinics and hubs, with large format versions in key areas. Badgernet (the electronic maternity notes) allow language preference selection, and translation support is available via Language Line, SignLive (BSL), and iPads equipped with translation tools across clinical and community settings. The Healthier Together website can be translated into over 150 languages. QR codes on clinic posters link to information in multiple languages and all staff have access to training and digital guides to improve communication with diverse service users.

Community Engagement and Peer Support

A volunteer programme enhances cultural competence and supports language access. Volunteers from Afghan, Polish, Romanian, Hungarian, and Ukrainian communities offer peer support and facilitate access to services through tailored community activities and online forums. These include breastfeeding groups, friendship circles and local outreach to help women navigate the maternity system.

Celebrating Diversity and Cultural Awareness

Maternity services proactively celebrate multi-faith and multicultural events through social media, clinic displays, and community activities. Staff have access to cultural event calendars, Diverse Cymru cultural competence training and dedicated spaces like multi-faith rooms. The new All-Wales handheld maternity notes have been updated to include personalised care sections reflecting cultural identity, pronouns, and support preferences. Feedback mechanisms, including QR codes for reporting cultural concerns, promote inclusivity and psychological safety.

Gwent Weight Debate and Healthy Weight Assemblies

Between November 2024 and January 2025, the Gwent Public Health Team led the Gwent Weight Debate to better understand the challenges people face in maintaining a healthy weight. Alongside this, focus groups – Healthy Weight Assemblies – took place to listen to seldom heard voices (such as ethnic minority communities, ESOL learners, men's group and people living with long-term conditions). This provided valuable insights into the diverse experiences and barriers faced by communities; these findings will be used to shape the Gwent Healthy Weight Action Plan to develop a whole-systems approach to enabling residents to achieve a healthier diet and be more physically active, by addressing the barriers they face.

A Collaborative Approach to Suicide Prevention and Community Action

The Gwent Public Health Team has led a multi-agency project, under the governance of the Gwent Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Steering Group, in response to concerns raised by a local community about a location associated with repeated crisis incidents. Although there have been a small number of deaths by suicide at the site over the past decade, Gwent Police have been called to support over 40 people in crisis at that site during an 18-month period.

Working with Gwent Police, the local Town Council, third sector organisations (Joseph Abraham Foundation and Papyrus) and most crucially, people with lived experience, a Task and Finish Group co-produced accessible mental health resources. These were developed in collaboration with the Gwent Public Health Communications Team to ensure they were engaging and inclusive such as using clear layout, bilingual content, simple language and appropriate typography to support understanding and accessibility. The final resources included a z-card leaflet, posters and a "Poem of Hope" to be shared across the town and wider Gwent area. The project aims to amplify awareness of support services like the Melo website, particularly for individuals who may not engage with statutory services. This collaboration has helped restore community trust, supported civic participation, and influenced wider suicide prevention efforts across Wales.

ABUHB Maternity Achieves Cultural Competency Silver Award

In line with Marmot Principles 1 and 7 (Give Every Child the Best Start in Life; Tackle discrimination and racism and their outcomes), ABUHB Maternity Services have achieved Diverse Cymru's Cultural Competency Silver Distinction. This recognises their commitment to inclusive communication, culturally safe care and reducing inequalities through meaningful engagement with diverse communities.

Building a Fairer Gwent





Third Sector Partnership Agreement (TSPA)

The Third Sector Partnership Agreement for Gwent continues to make strong progress, supported by partners across the region. The agreement aligns with our responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, contributing to improved wellbeing for current and future generations, and strengthening the involvement and voice of the third sector across Gwent.

Building on the former “Compacts” previously in place in parts of the region, the TSPA sets out a shared set of principles and guidelines for effective joint working between Public Service partners and the third sector.

The overarching Gwent TSPA was endorsed in draft form by the Gwent PSB in 2024. Following the introduction of the Welsh Government’s new Funding Code of Practice in 2025, the agreement has been updated to incorporate these requirements and will be brought back to the PSB for further consideration.

Work is also underway to develop local “Compact” agreements for each area, which will form appendices to the overarching TSPA. It is anticipated that the complete agreement will be presented for approval by the Gwent PSB in 2026.

Progress by area:

Blaenau Gwent – Initial conversations have taken place, with follow-up planned. Over the coming months, the focus will be on establishing new forums to drive this work. A draft Compact has been produced.

Caerphilly – A workshop was held to shape the Compact and governance arrangements with the sector. A draft Compact has been produced.

Monmouthshire – An initial meeting has been held and a plan for sector involvement developed. No draft Compact yet; discussions with the local authority are planned to align with the wellbeing agenda.

Newport – The Compact has been provisionally agreed, with work ongoing to ensure forum representatives are effectively heard.

Torfaen – Discussions with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance are planned for September 2025 to progress the Compact.

Shaping Places for Well-being

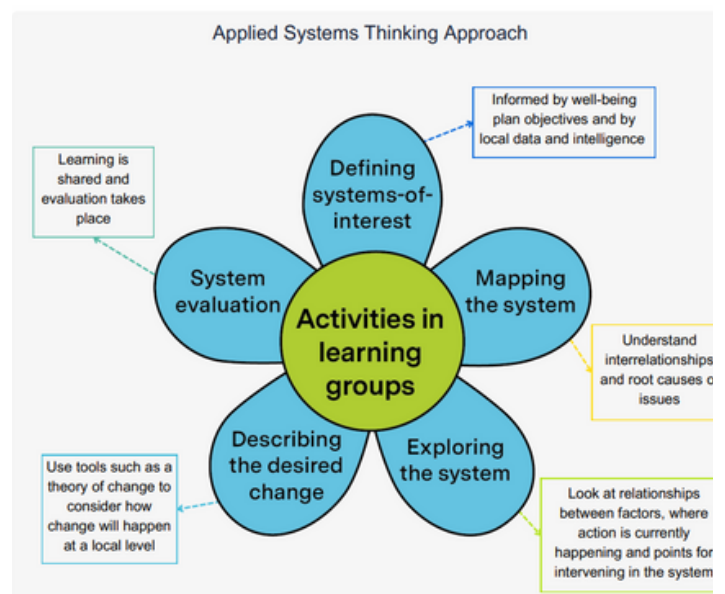
During the reporting period Gwent Public Services Board agreed to become part of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales Programme.

The Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales programme will provide a national resource to support Public Services Boards (PSB) in taking a theory and evidence informed systems approach in their work to influence wider determinants of health as they implement their well-being plans, sharing learning between PSB and across the UK.

The wider determinants of health are the social, environmental and economic factors that affect health and wellbeing. For lasting positive change, we need to understand and respond to the complex systems influencing these factors and our health.

Gwent members are working with the Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales Programme Team to understand how using the tools utilised during the programme could support the next Wellbeing Assessment and delivery plan through supporting a whole systems thinking approach to identifying the actions likely to have the highest impact.

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales





A Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA; The Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment 2024/25 Edition – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board) provides a comprehensive overview of the health and well-being of the people of Gwent in an accessible way for everyone to view.

The Gwent JSA sits alongside the newly-developed Gwent Indicator Framework (GIF) that provides partners across Gwent with a shared intelligence source to inform planning for local service delivery. Together, they provide a framework for building a Healthier, Fairer, Safer and Stronger Gwent, as described in the 2024/25 Gwent Director of Public Health report; We are Gwent: Working together to help people live healthier, fairer, safer and stronger lives – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Whether you work in Planning, Operations, Finance, Health, Social Care, Housing, Education, or in the community and voluntary sector, the Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment can support your decision-making by providing a strong evidence base on which to build positive change.

The 2024/25 Gwent JSA is a summary slide deck that presents key indicators of health and well-being in local areas across Gwent, grouped into six chapters. It provides evidence of challenges and opportunities for local communities, describes some of the disparities in health and social outcomes that exist within Gwent's different local authority areas, and highlights opportunities for working together to build a healthier, fairer, safer and stronger Gwent.

The Gwent Indicator Framework is a large interactive report that presents over 250 indicators of health and well-being in Gwent, by local authority area and over time. Most of the data is sourced from publicly available national data sources such as Stats Wales, Wales Public Health Outcomes Framework and Office of National Statistics. The aim of the GIF is to collate relevant indicators from these sources and present them in an accessible format, for everyone to use.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – JSNA



Engagement & Communication

Forward Priorities: Strengthening Engagement and Communication as the Golden Thread

As we look ahead, we remain firmly committed to strengthening engagement and communication as the golden thread running through the continued delivery of the Act and our strategic priorities. We recognise that meaningful, inclusive engagement and clear, aligned communication are vital to creating better outcomes for communities across Gwent.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration

One of our key priorities for the coming year is exploring the potential merger of Gwent-wide communications and engagement groups. By bringing these efforts together, we aim to foster greater interconnection across regional partners, ensure consistent messaging, and reduce duplication of effort. This approach will also help tackle consultation fatigue, enabling us to coordinate better, share intelligence, and create more meaningful and strategic engagement opportunities with communities.

Aligning and Amplifying Priorities

Working more closely together across the region will allow us to align priorities, identify gaps, and ensure that the work of each partner contributes meaningfully to shared outcomes. By mastering the complex partnership landscape across Gwent, we can streamline engagement approaches and speak with one unified voice, while still recognising the unique needs of each locality.

Youth Voice: Helping Young People Shape the Future

We are particularly focused on strengthening our partnership with Gwent's Youth Councils to ensure that young people **"Have a Louder Voice in Shaping the Future."** This will include embedding youth perspectives in key decision-making forums, co-designing engagement activities that are relevant to young people, and amplifying their voices through regional campaigns and consultations.

Improving Coordination and Transparency

In line with our aim to work more closely and openly with one another, we will further develop tools and processes to support real-time collaboration, particularly around shared communications, engagement scheduling, and priority tracking. This includes shared engagement calendars and a unified approach to stakeholder feedback and follow-up.

Introducing Area of Focus Newsletters

To enhance transparency and keep stakeholders well-informed, we will launch 'Area of Focus' newsletters. These will provide targeted updates on specific priority areas, spotlight collaborative work, and share stories of impact from across the region. The newsletters will also offer regular updates on engagement opportunities and outcomes, helping to close the feedback loop with the communities we serve

Our forward priorities reflect a clear commitment to building stronger connections, streamlining communication, and enabling meaningful participation. By embedding engagement as the golden thread throughout all we do, we will continue to create a more responsive, inclusive, and effective way of working that supports the long-term aims of the Act—and the people of Gwent.

Stay informed:

- Join our [Mailing list](#)
- E-mail: gwentpublicservicesboard@torfaen.gov.uk
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Forward Programme Plan

From Fast Track Newport to Fast Track Gwent: A Regional Public Services Board Commitment to End New HIV Transmissions by 2030

The evolution of Fast Track Newport into Fast Track Gwent will mark a significant milestone in Wales' public health journey through the work of Fast Track Cymru. Fast Track Newport began Gwent's journey with a city-level commitment to end new HIV transmissions in November 2021, and there are plans to expand into a regional movement, uniting all five local authority areas in the region through the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB).

This transition will include the re-signing in June 2025 of the Paris Declaration, symbolising a broader pledge to eliminate HIV-related stigma, improve access to testing and treatment, and ensure no one is left behind. The shift reflects a growing recognition that tackling HIV requires a coordinated, cross-boundary approach—one that will address health inequalities, engage underserved communities, and integrate services across sectors

At the heart of this transformation is a commitment to equity and inclusion. As Professor Tracy Daszkiewicz, Chair of the Gwent PSB, stated: "Fast Track Gwent is about ending new HIV transmissions, but just as importantly, it's about ending the stigma for those living with HIV"

Fast Track Gwent represents a bold, inclusive, and collaborative step forward. It builds on the foundations laid in Newport and scales them across the region, ensuring that the fight against HIV is not just sustained—but strengthened. As the region looks ahead, the focus remains clear: zero transmissions, zero stigma, and a healthier, more compassionate Gwent for all.

Fast Track Wales



Next Steps:

Best Start in life

Providing the best start in life means enabling all parents, babies and children in Gwent to have the optimal conditions necessary for healthy physical, emotional and cognitive development and supporting them to reach their potential. A systematic focus, prioritising support for families facing disadvantage, is where we can make the biggest difference in reducing inequities.

Building BSiL Foundations

A Best Start in Life Leadership Group will be formed to drive meaningful, system-wide change. The Group will lead the development of a BSiL delivery plan for Gwent, which will be grounded in the findings of the Building a Fairer Gwent (Marmot) Report and the Gwent Best Start in Life Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (0–4 years), and actioned by the Regional BSiL Management Group. The first meeting of the Leadership Group will take place in September 2025.

Plans will be developed and implemented to support a BSiL Community of Practice via a webinar series and newsletters/bulletins. PSB funding will be used to support this. The BSiL AoF will also ensure collaboration with other PSB Areas of Focus.

Following an invitation by Welsh Government, the Gwent Public Health Team will present at the Flying Start & Families First conference in October 2025 to share learning on becoming a Marmot region.

The Best Start in Life Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 0–4 Years

A JSNA launch webinar is arranged for 8th September 2025 to explore the findings, recommendations, and next steps with partners. JSNA findings will inform delivery plans across Gwent.

'Ready to Learn, Ready to Grow' School Readiness Project

Consultation with healthcare professionals and families will take place on their views and experiences of 'School Readiness', as well as a direct intervention with 50 families across Gwent.

Collectively named as 'Ready to Learn, Ready to Grow' | 'Barod i Ddysgu, Barod i Dyfu' the project is now ready to accept referrals for families who would benefit from the intervention. The project steering group are developing the next stakeholder briefing which will be shared, alongside details of how to refer and what families can expect.

Climate and Nature Area of Focus Progress Report

To support the approved recommendation, Natural Resource Wales are working to secure funding to collaboratively develop a Gwent Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). This work will underpin a regional Climate Adaptation Plan and inform the 2026–27 well-being assessment, ensuring Gwent's infrastructure, services, and communities are resilient to climate impacts. We will follow the five-step CCRA Framework shared with the PSB in March 2023, starting with planning and progressing through to risk prioritisation and monitoring and including extensive stakeholder engagement and community involvement.

Safer Gwent Everyone Lives in a place they feel safe

At the time of writing, the first meeting of the GSSCB had taken place to agree ways of working. Activity for 2025/26 has already included oversight of a summer and (future) winter safety campaign, with increased enforcement action and engagement across town centres in Gwent (with new pots of funding introduced for these), and a review underway of the Gwent CONTEST Board (which works to prevent terrorism across Gwent communities) due to report in Autumn 2025.

This year has very much been about laying the groundwork for this priority. We look forward to seeing what more can be done next year.

Next Steps for Building a Fairer, Healthier, Safer, Stronger Gwent

Public services across Gwent will continue to tackle health and wellbeing inequities. They will respond to the wider determinants of health and work with communities to advocate for and support more equitable outcomes through a range of activities/services, reflecting a commitment to collaborative, preventative, and community-focused approaches, and illustrating how the Five Ways of Working set out in the WBFGA are being put into practice across Gwent.

Everyone has the same Economic Chances

The Gwent PSB has adopted an Area of Focus to work in partnership towards giving everyone in the region the same economic chances. A mapping and stakeholder engagement process during 2024 identified a long-term vision to enhance pathways to decent, fair & sustainable employment across Gwent through a coordinated partnership approach to education, skills, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.

The goal is to work together to address levels of inequality, economic inactivity and long-term unemployment, and to champion a well-being economy where the needs of people and the environment are equally met across Gwent. This change is informed by evidence from the Gwent Well-being Assessment and Building a Fairer Gwent report and is identified as an area of focus in the A Well-being Economy – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, the Commissioner's Cymru Can strategy and Future Generations Report 2025.

The PSB has not yet identified a Member Lead for this Area of Focus following continued collaboration and exploration with regional economic well-being stakeholders like the Cardiff Capital Region, Public Health Wales, local authorities and education providers. The next step is to identify and agree a clear pathway to take this work forward through the Economic Chances Area of Focus.

Gwent Wellbeing Assessment.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act places a duty on Public Services Boards to produce a local assessment of well-being every five years. Prior to the formation of Gwent PSB, there were five separate PSBs in the Gwent region, who undertook the assessment and engagement process in collaboration in January 2021.

The individual PSBs agreed to produce a single assessment for the whole of Gwent, with local assessments for each local authority area. This extensive analysis was published on 5th May 2022 and informed the Well-being Plan for Gwent, published the following year. Over the next year we will continue to develop the Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment and Gwent Indicator Framework, ensuring that all relevant available data informs our discussions with the residents and businesses of Gwent ahead of updating the Well-being Plan for 2028-2033.

