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Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA
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13 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of Cabinet will be held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely via video conference on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 10.00am for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Personal matters**
3. **Disclosure of Personal/ Prejudicial Interests**
4. **To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet and any matters arising from those Minutes
FOR DECISION (Pages 5 - 10)**
5. **Any petitions received**
6. **Reports of any decisions (if any) having been called in from Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
7. **Any feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee not otherwise on the agenda**
8. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis at New Quay Primary School
FOR DECISION (Pages 11 - 56)**

9. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Economy and Regeneration upon the Proposed sale of assets
FOR DECISION (Pages 57 - 70)**
10. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Gofal upon the Future options for Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home, Bow Street
FOR DECISION (Pages 71 - 90)**
11. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall
FOR DECISION (Pages 91 - 96)**
12. **EXEMPT ITEM (Pages 97 - 100)**
The report (Appendix 1) relating to the item above is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If, following the application of the Public Interest Test, the Council resolves to consider this item in private, the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration, in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Act.

Members will be requested, when dealing with the items, to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the Meeting.
13. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Re-Designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation for Ceredigion including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
FOR DECISION (Pages 101 - 158)**
14. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Local Housing Market Assessment including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
FOR DECISION (Pages 159 - 288)**
15. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Policy, Performance and Public Protection upon the Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28
FOR DECISION (Pages 289 - 372)**
16. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Legal and Governance upon the Revised Coroner Pay Arrangements for 2024/2025
FOR DECISION (Pages 373 - 376)**
17. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2024-25
FOR DECISION (Pages 377 - 392)**

18. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy
FOR DECISION (Pages 393 - 402)**
19. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the 23/24 Controllable Revenue Budget - Financial Performance - Quarter 3
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 403 - 428)**
20. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the Quarter 3 Capital Programme Monitoring Report
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 429 - 438)**
21. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the Quarterly Treasury Management Performance Report 2023/24
FOR DECISION (Pages 439 - 448)**
22. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Ceredigion Carers Unit Annual Report 2022-2023 including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 449 - 472)**
23. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cynnal upon the Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report Quarter 2 2023-2024 including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 473 - 506)**
24. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cynnal upon the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report- Quarter 2 2023/24
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 507 - 570)**
25. **Any other matter the Chairman decides is for the urgent attention of the Cabinet**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register.

A Translation Service will be provided at this meeting and those present are welcome to speak in Welsh or English at the meeting.

Yours faithfully



Miss Lowri Edwards
Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services

To: The Leader of the Council and Members of the Cabinet
The remaining Members of the Council for information

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

Notice of the Decisions of the **Meeting of the Cabinet** held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on **Tuesday, 20 February 2024**

This Notice is published at 5.00pm on Thursday, 22 February 2024. Requests to call-in any decision to be delivered to the Head of Democratic Services by 5.00pm on Thursday, 29 February 2024. The decisions will come into force (if no valid call-in application is received) on Friday, 1 March 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor Bryan Davies (Chair), Councillors Catrin M S. Davies, Clive Davies, Gareth Davies, Keith Henson, Wyn Thomas and Alun Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Marc Davies, Endaf Edwards, Elaine Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Gwyn Wigley Evans, Keith Evans, Raymond Evans, Hugh Hughes, Gareth Lloyd, Ann Bowen Morgan, Caryl Roberts and Carl Worrall.

(10.00am - 1.22pm)

152 **Apologies**

- i. Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.
- ii. Councillor Rhodri Evans, Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee apologised for his inability to attend the meeting due to other Council commitments.
- iii. James Starbuck, Corporate Director apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.

153 **Personal matters**

Condolences were extended to the family of Gwilym Tudur, founder of Siop y Pethe, Aberystwyth who recently passed away.

154 **Disclosure of Personal/ Prejudicial Interests**

- i. Councillor Gareth Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 163 (appendix 5, item 63) and a personal interest in relation to agenda item 170.
- ii. Councillor Alun Williams declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 167.
- iii. Councillor Endaf Edwards declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 170 and in matters related to Council employees.

155 **To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet and any matters arising from those Minutes**

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 January 2024.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

156 **Any petitions received**

None.

157 Reports of any decisions (if any) having been called in from Overview and Scrutiny Committee

None.

158 Any feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee not otherwise on the agenda

None.

159 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Highways and Environmental Services upon the Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy Review including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DECISION:

1. To note the content of the report and feedback from the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. To approve the Ceredigion Harbour Management Policy (Appendix A), subject to the following changes, as set out in the report:

Page 8:

“6.2 Both types of Commercial moorings, once allocated are not transferable to a third party without the Council’s prior written consent. Any transfers will be in accordance with 18.2 of this policy.”

Page 14:

“Mooring and Facility Transfers

18.1 There are no transfer rights in relation to Leisure Moorings or facilities within Ceredigion managed Harbours.

18.2 Transfers related to Commercial moorings are subject to the Council’s prior written consent, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. Any consent given will be subject to the vessel currently allocated to the mooring remaining on the mooring following completion of the transfer.

Where consent is granted, a mooring transfer fee will be charged by the Council to the applicant taking on the mooring (please see current ‘Fees and Charges’). In addition to the transfer fee, the full mooring fees applicable to the vessel for the season will also apply (please see current ‘Fees and Charges’). Completion of the transfer will only take place on receipt of payment of these fees in full.”

Reason for the decision:

To adopt and implement a Harbour Management Policy which supports and facilitates the fair, consistent and transparent management of the harbours for the benefit of all harbour users.

160 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Highways and Environmental Services upon the Procurement of Residual Waste Treatment Contract

DECISION:

To agree to award the contract to the Most Economically Advantageous Tender, subject to a 10-day statutory standstill period.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure the continued disposal of the county's residual waste in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations.

161 EXEMPT ITEM

The report relating to item 160 on the agenda, Appendix A and B, is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If, following the application of the Public Interest Test, the Council resolves to consider this item in private, the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration, in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Act.

Members were requested, when dealing with the item, to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the Meeting.

DECISION:

That the item should remain exempt.

Not to exclude the public and press from the meeting.

Reason for the decision:

The document was not discussed in public.

162 To note the feedback from each Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To note the feedback from each Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

163 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the 24/25 Revenue Budget

DECISION:

1. To note that Mid & West Wales Fire Authority's approved 24/25 Fire levy for Ceredigion County Council is £5.440m, being an increase of £584k (12%). After allowing for assumed Pension costs funding from WG, this equates to a 1.1% Council Tax increase for Ceredigion residents.
2. To approve the schedule of Fees & Charges to be effective from 01/04/24 as outlined in:
 - a) Appendix 1
 - b) Appendix 2
 - c) Appendix 3
 - d) Appendix 4
3. To recommend to Full Council, in relation to Council Tax Premiums from 01/04/24, that:
 - a) From 01/04/24, 25% of all monies raised from the Council Tax premiums on Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties (net of Council Tax refunds / costs) should be ringfenced and used to support the Community Housing Scheme, subject at all times that the total level of funding held in the Community Housing Scheme shall not exceed £2.0m and that any funding beyond this level in any given year shall be used to support the general budget position.

- b) From 01/04/24, 75% of all monies raised from the Council Tax premiums on Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties (net of Council Tax refunds / costs) shall be retained and used to support the general budget position, in order to reduce the Council Tax burden on Ceredigion residents.
4. To recommend to Full Council, for the 24/25 Budget, that:
 - a) The 24/25 Budget Requirement is £193.572m, which includes all the Budget Reduction proposals outlined in Appendix 5, but with the exclusion of Item 63 regarding the AHP Collection Service.
 - b) The level of 24/25 proposed Council Tax for County Council purposes is a 11.10% increase (being 1.1% in relation to the Fire Authority Levy increase and 10.0% for all Council Services).
 - c) This would equate to a Band D increase of £172.45 (being £14.37 per month / £3.32 per week).
 5. To approve that the limit to be introduced for residual waste from 01/04/24 onwards would be 3 black bags (no larger than 60 litres each) per residential household per 3 weekly collection.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the 2024/25 Budget preparation to continue, so that Budget papers and Council Tax calculations can be prepared for the Full Council meeting on 29/02/24.

164 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 and the MRP Policy for 2024/25

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To recommend to Full Council:
 - a) the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for Borrowing and Investments for 2024/25;
 - b) the approval of the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25; and
 - c) that Council delegates authority to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, to amend the Treasury Management Strategy, and Investment Schedule, during the course of the year.

Reason for the decision:

To set a Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Policy for 2024/25.

165 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis at Comins Coch Primary School

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the consultation report.
2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.

Reason for the decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018.

- 166 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis at St Padarn's Catholic Primary School**

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the consultation report.
2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.

Reason for the decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018.

- 167 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning at Plascrug Primary School**

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the consultation report.
2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.

Reason for the decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018.

- 168 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning at Llwyn yr Eos Primary School**

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the consultation report.
2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.

Reason for the decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018.

- 169 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the Official Name for the new area School in the Aeron Valley**

DECISION:

To approve the name Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron as the name for the new area school.

Reason for the decision:
To approve the official name.

170 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools upon the LA Representative on Governing Bodies

DECISION:

To confirm the nominations outlined in the report as LA representatives on the Governing Bodies of the relevant School.

Reason for the decision:

To nominate representatives of the LA on Governing Bodies.

171 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Policy, Performance and Public Protection upon the Draft Corporate Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Framework

DECISION:

To approve the draft Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Framework.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure the Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Framework are up to date and fit for purpose.

172 To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Economy and Regeneration upon the Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Report including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet noted the report and the feedback from the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

173 Any other matter the Chairman decides is for the urgent attention of the Cabinet

None.

174 Supplementary Agenda - Finance and Procurement - Integrated Impact Assessment for Item 12

Item considered under item 163.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 March 2024

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis at New Quay Primary School

Purpose of the report: The purpose is for Cabinet to consider the consultation report and approve the publication of the statutory notice

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

A formal consultation was undertaken between the 15 September 2023 and the 17 November 2023 on the proposal to amend the language of the Foundation Learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis.

A total of 10 responses were received during the consultation of which 6 supported the proposal.

Following the publication of the statutory documents, a consultation report is attached which includes:

- A summary of the issues raised by consultees.
- Local Authority response by means of clarification of the concerns raised with supporting reasons.
- Estyn's response to the consultation.
- A response by the Local Authority to the Estyn report.

Appendix A

Consultation report including views by the School Council

Appendix B

Estyn's response to the proposal

Appendix C

Statutory Notice

If the proposal is approved by Cabinet, it must be published by way of a statutory notice.

The statutory notice must be published on a school day and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that anyone wishing to make an objection to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the Local Authority before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice is published.

Appendix D

Responses received during the consultation period.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact Assessments completed as part of the statutory consultation - [statutory-impact-assessment-new-quay.pdf](#)

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: Ensuring the long term sustainability of education in the community and ensuring a community of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Giving pupils the opportunity to contribute towards the target set by Welsh Government to increase the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050.

Collaboration: Discussions with the Governing Body have taken place whilst developing the proposal. The final decision will be made by Cabinet. The consultation involves extensive engagement and involvement with pupils, staff, Governors and the community.

Involvement: The proposal was subject to a formal statutory consultation which included targeted stakeholder engagement.

Prevention: Concerns raised are responded to through continuous and clear engagement with stakeholders and partners throughout the planning and consultation period.

Integration: The Welsh language is central to the operation of Ceredigion County Council and its strategic objectives. Community integration is central to all schools, creating an environment that support culture, heritage and the Welsh language. It is anticipated that the proposal will have no negative impact.

Recommendation(s):

Members are requested to consider the following:

- 1. To note the contents of the consultation report.**
- 2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.**

Reasons for decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018

Overview and Scrutiny:

Presented to Learning Communities – Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30 March 2023

Policy Framework:

The School Organisation Code – Welsh Government Statutory Code – 011/2018
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan – 2022 -2032

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages

Finance and Procurement implications:

0.5 FTE additional nursery teacher funding

Legal Implications:

n/a

Staffing implications:

Additional 0.5 FTE nursery teacher

Property / asset implications:

n/a

Risk(s):

Failure to deliver the outcomes of the WESP 2022-32 if the proposal is not approved.

Statutory Powers:

School Organisation Code – Welsh Government Statutory Code – 011/2018

Background Papers:

n/a

Appendices:

Appendix A – Consultation report including views by the School Council

Appendix B – Estyn’s response to the proposal

Appendix C – Statutory Notice

Appendix D – Responses received during the consultation period

Corporate Lead Officer:

Clive Williams, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools

Reporting Officer:

Clive Williams, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools

Date:

12 March 2024

Appendix A

Consultation report including views expressed by the School Council

Ceredigion County Council Response to Consultation Ysgol Cei Newydd.

Comments supporting the proposal

Comment Received	County Council Response
The proposal will increase pupil's bilingual skills thus ensuring greater opportunity in the future.	Comment of support noted
This will increase choice rather than diminish it which will allow pupils to contribute to a multi-lingual Wales.	It is agreed that being fully bilingual increases choice rather than lessens choice.
Immersion is the only way to achieve fluency and it will provide opportunities and skills.	Comment of support noted
This supports local culture and encourages learners to stay in the area.	Keeping young people in the locality is a county priority and aligns with Ceredigion Corporate Strategy 2022-27 and with the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028.
This supports Welsh Language Goals.	Comment of support noted
Needs appropriate funding to be successful.	Funding in the form of the Welsh Language grant and assistance provided by Welsh language Support Teachers will be allocated to support the proposal.
Help for parents.	The Welsh language lessons for parents will continue as part of collaboration with Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol. Resources will continue to be shared with parents via social media platforms and within the school website.
Use of contemporary and broad teaching methods, e.g Creative and expressive arts.	Comment noted
Council should consider Welsh language learning pathway from pre-school to 6 th form with vocational learning.	Comment noted
Re-word to all nursery / three-year-olds.	Comment noted
I propose a Welsh language stream in Penglais with a late-comers immersion centre.	Suggestion noted
Support for these transitioning schools.	Support will be continuous and constant in line with development plans.
Full support for the plan.	Comment of support noted.
Employability figures from Aberystwyth University show that bilingual students and those students who have studied through the medium of Welsh are more likely to be in graduate positions or studying post	Comments and statistics noted.

graduate subjects within 6 months of graduating. This is in comparison with students who are able to speak Welsh but who have not studied through the medium of Welsh as well as those who are unable to speak Welsh.	
The proposal ensures linguistic equity.	Comment noted
This should be the first step towards moving the rest of the school along the continuum.	Linguistic progression will be a priority as pupils advance through the school.
The case for linguistic and educational support for future pupils is a sound one.	Comment of support noted.
<p>We can only commend the proposal to introduce nursery provision in the three schools. <i>We know from experience across Wales, that starting children early in the school gives them a the best linguistic foundation and the start of the journey towards bilingualism and for many, multilingualism. This is much easier at a young age.</i></p> <p>The addition of a nursery class also ensures the viability of the school as the nursery will naturally feed the reception class. Linguistically, starting in nursery is a strength. This gives pupils a natural progression and is advantageous to parents/guardians so that they can feel at home earlier within the school community. Perhaps the addition of a teaching assistant within the budget would support and benefit the proposal.</p>	Comments noted. Funding has been allocated on a 0.5 teacher basis. The school will be able to use the funding in the most effective manner to meet the ever-changing circumstances of the school.

Comments against the proposal

Comment Received	County Council Response
<p>This proposal would significantly impact on the pupil numbers in the nursery setting and the school was already at capacity.</p> <p>Concerns at the location of the nursery class in the school as the school has insufficient space for additional classroom and there would be less staff.</p>	PLASC 2023 states that number of pupils on roll was 83 with the school potential capacity being 98 pupils. Therefore, the school is not operating at full capacity.

<p>As a setting we provide the local community with full-time childcare and part of the educational hours, 30 hours offer, flying start and holiday club, all of which is a valuable asset to working parents. Losing the educational funding would have an adverse impact on the setting and would be looking at closing.</p> <p>Teaching Welsh in the foundation phase is good, but 3 year olds are still babies and just another excuse to cut nursery and parent funding and put extra pressure on schools with all the funding cuts.</p>	<p>Funding for wrap around care would remain to be funded by the Welsh Government Childcare Offer, and the setting benefits from the extension of the Flying Start childcare offer for 2 year olds as of April 2023.</p> <p>See above.</p>
<p>We as CMCN are already providing a high-quality Welsh Speaking provision. We cannot understand why the need to remove educational hours from the Cylch has been made or understood?!!!!!!</p> <p>Most of the proposal in what would be offered to the children, we as a Cylch already do. We already provide a Welsh specialist nursery provision, resources and opportunities.</p> <p>The statutory impact assessment document notes that 'Nursery provision at the school will ensure that 3-year-old pupils can start school on a part time basis and as a result increase the number of pupils within the school.' We would like to ask how increasing the numbers of pupils at the school is a factor that Needs consideration when deciding to move early education from the Cylch Meithrin to the School. If the education element of 3 year olds is moved to the school, there is no certainty that the Cylch will be able to continue to provide wrap around care to those pupils</p>	<p>We acknowledge the high standard of education within the Cylch. However, the Principles for ensuring sustainable educational infrastructure document, (Cabinet May 2023) Core Principles 1.2.4 aim is to 'continue to develop education provision for 3-year-olds in schools as is appropriate'. This will, in line with the above document, help secure the future of primary school provision in the area. We acknowledge that there are some challenges with the site at ysgol Cei Newydd in relation to expanding to provide nursery provision. We will undertake further feasibility work to identify the most effective options.</p> <p>See above.</p>

<p>who will be at the school on a part time basis. The Cylch Meithrin will need to consider their viability, the additional cost of recruiting extra staff and the effect of losing the education element of funding for 3-year-olds.</p>	
<p>We have not been part of the consultation.</p> <p>Our views on the provision have not been considered, or the impact on the proposal on our setting.</p>	<p>The consultation process was widely circulated in accordance with the School Reorganisation Code (2018). Member of the WESP Forum include representative from the Early Years sector.</p> <p>The Addendum to the consultation notes the impact of the proposal on the setting.</p>
<p>LA funding has enabled the setting to develop resources indoors and out to meet the needs of the learners. It would be a great loss of money and resources if the proposal is to go ahead.</p>	<p>Resources would be retained by the setting for use with childcare provision offered.</p>
<p>The proposal states wrap around care would be provided by the setting, safety concerns regarding how staff/parents would transport children safely back to the setting due to a busy road and lack of pavements (photographic evidence provided).</p> <p>Due to the distance between the school and the Cylch and the route between both settings not being a safe route, it is not suitable to escort groups of children safely between the two settings. Consideration should be given to this before the proposal is finalised.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of parents to transport children to and from any setting of their choice. However, we do acknowledge the challenging route between both settings.</p>
<p>If the setting were to close as a result of the proposal concerns regarding loss of jobs of current staff without this major source of income.</p> <p>Also new school staff would need training whereas all staff at the setting are already fully and highly trained (list provided).</p>	<p>All teaching staff must hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and registered with the Educational Workforce Council. Additional funding of 0.5 teacher would be provided by the authority.</p> <p>Should the school advertise for support staff, the existing setting staff would be able to apply for any support staff roles, should they so wish. The school will follow CCC safe recruitment processes for any appointments. Professional Development opportunities and support is available for</p>

	all school staff.
Removing educational funding for 3-year-olds from the setting will affect the services available for families. This will also affect the viability and sustainability and the future of the setting. This proposal could result in the community losing an important provision in the area.	Comment noted. The care provision offered within the Cylch is of great benefit to the local community.
Children with Additional Learning Needs(ALN) who attend the Cylch receive extra support through the Ceredigion Referral Plan very early on, and benefit greatly by receiving support from the plan and County Professional. The Cylch staff understand the Needs of individual children and have the necessary skills through constant Professional Development. This Service is not available to schools.	<p>The county has committed to ensure that this will not be a problem through its ALN development plan.</p> <p>Person Centred Planning is in place and we will continue to plan to meet the needs of individual pupils. Implementing ALN from 0 to 25 years old ensures early recognition, pre school age. This gives an opportunity to plan provision and appropriate intervention before children start school.</p> <p>Suitable professional development and upskilling of staff will take place before pupils start school.</p> <p>All ALN support materials are available bilingually (Teachers Centre, training, intervention programmes, handbook, templates and communication resources). Therefore, all support materials are available bilingually.</p> <p>ALTE Level 3 or above is a requirement for all new appointments. When this is not possible a commitment to learn Welsh within the First two years of appointment is required.</p> <p>The County will provide Welsh language support and training for each member of staff following their appointment according to individual Needs.</p>
Yn y ddogfen gwybodaeth atodol o dan y pennawd "I ba raddau y bydd y cynnig yn integreiddio addysg blynyddoedd cynnar â gwasanaethau gofal plant..... Dywedir – "Os caiff y cynnig ei gymeradwyo, mi fydd gan rieni ddewis, sef bod eu plentyn yn aros yn y lleoliad nas cynhelir, neu'n mynychu'r ddarpariaeth feithrin yn yr ysgol yn rhan-	Statutory education does not start until children are 5 years old. However, if the proposal is approved due to the unique context of New Quay as regards to the location of the Cylch and the School, we will undertake an additional feasibility study in order to reach a sensible solution.

<p>amser.” Ydy hyn yn golygu byddai’ gan y rhieni dewis ble i anfon eu plant ar gyfer derbyn gwasanaeth addysg gynnar? Byddai’r ysgol a’r Cylch Meithrin yn cynnig y gwasanaeth hwn? Nid yw’n glir ac ychydig yn gamarweiniol oherwydd gall y darllenwr ei ddehongli mewn ffyrdd gwahanol ac felly ymateb i’r ymgynghoriad yn anymwybodol o’r ystyr cywir.</p>	<p>We apologise for any misunderstanding.</p>
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Estyn Response.

Comment Received	County Response
<p>Further clarification on the impact of the plan in areas such as teaching, pupil standards, leadership and management</p>	<p>The impact on the areas identified will be monitored as part of the school’s self-evaluation and quality assurance processes. Further development of the school’s Welsh language provision and standards has been identified as a priority within the school’s development plan.</p>
<p>The council does not identify whether there are non-maintained settings in the local area and whether these settings could be affected by this proposal.</p>	<p>An addendum was added to the consultation which addressed this point and the consultation period extended by two weeks.</p>
<p>Staff training</p>	<p>Positive collaboration and a shared understanding of WESP priorities with the Welsh Sabbatical Scheme has led to the availability of more places on suitable / required courses. The use of WG funding grant trochi has also been utilised effectively to develop support staff’s Welsh language skills.</p>
<p>How will potential extra support for pupils with ALN be provided when Welsh becomes an equal language of provision.</p>	<p>The county has committed to ensure that this will not be a problem through its ALN development plan.</p> <p>Person Centred Planning is in place and we will continue to plan to meet the needs of individual pupils. Implementing ALN from 0 to 25 years old ensures early recognition, pre-school age. This gives an opportunity to plan provision and appropriate intervention before children start school.</p> <p>Suitable professional development and upskilling of staff will take place before pupils start school.</p>

	<p>All ALN support materials are available bilingually (Teachers Centre, training, intervention programmes, handbook, templates and communication resources). Therefore, all support materials are available bilingually.</p> <p>ALTE Level 3 or above is a requirement for all new appointments. When this is not possible a commitment to learn Welsh within the First two years of appointment is required.</p> <p>The County will provide Welsh language support and training for each member of staff following their appointment according to individual Needs.</p>
<p>The proposal does not indicate how many nursery places will be accommodated at New Quay Primary School, whether there is space for these pupils and how this could impact the school in general.</p>	<p>PLASC January 2023 confirms that the school's capacity is 98, and the number on roll was 83. Current number of pupils on roll at the school is 79 and by September 2024 the number will be reduced to 68. Pre- admission numbers suggest a potential of 8 Reception age pupils with a further 5 pupils of nursery age depending on the outcome of the proposal.</p>
<p>There is no commitment to provide financial support for the school to release staff for sabbatical schemes and specific training.</p>	<p>Welsh in Education grant has been allocated to all T2 schools alongside the use of the 'Grant Trochi' to release staff and give appropriate training. Supply cover costs are covered by the WG Sabbatical scheme and follow up support provided by the Welsh Language Support Team.</p>
<p>The proposal does not specify whether the school has sufficient outdoor space and provision to cater for the needs of 3-year-old pupils.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The school already time table the available outdoor space for play times and make the most of the area available to them to support younger pupil's outdoor learning.</p>

School Council Ysgol Cei Newydd (6)

1. All understood the proposal- one member had discussed the proposal at home with parent as she works in the local Nursery.
2. All pupils (6/6) agree that being bilingual is important and that learning Welsh would help them communicate within their communities as well as support them with their future careers. They also thought that the more languages you learn the better it is for you.
3. Welsh lessons, special days to celebrate Welshness such as Shwmae Sumae, St David's Day Eisteddfod, Urdd Eisteddfod, Cewri Cei Committee, Assemblies, Awarded for speaking Welsh.
4. All agree that speaking Welsh is important for those living in Wales and half of them thought that they would probably stay in Wales to work in the future.
5. 5/6 agreed with the proposal that pupils in the Foundation Phase should receive Welsh medium education whilst one pupil thought it would be best to learn English until they are 4 then introduce Welsh. Half of the pupils thought that admitting Nursery age pupils at the age of three on a part time basis was a good idea. The other three had the following concerns:-
 - that there would be a loss of jobs in the current Nursery not run by the school
 - that there would be no room in the current school for the extra Nursery pupils
 - that it would be more work for current staff. It was explained that if part time pupils were accepted in the Nursery then an extra member of staff would be appointed.

Appendix B

Estyn's response to the proposal

Estyn's response on the proposal to amend language medium of the Foundation Learning and admit 3-year-old pupils on a part time basis at New Quay Primary School

This report has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/Conclusion

Estyn recognises the positive moves the local authority is proposing to develop the Welsh language in schools in the area. However, we do not have sufficient information to comment on the impact of the plan without further clarification in areas, such as the impact of the proposal on teaching, pupils' standards, leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The proposer has presented a suitable rationale for the consultation, outlining the reasons for the proposal to amend the language medium of foundation learning and to admit 3-year-olds to New Quay primary school on a part-time basis. They have also presented an appropriate rationale that is in line with the Welsh language in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The local authority has provided a suitably detailed description of the proposal and a projected timetable for implementation. The timetable is aimed at allowing staff at New Quay Primary School to build systematically on pupils' acquisition of the Welsh language over a period of four years.

The local authority has outlined appropriately a range of advantages and disadvantages of this proposal. The main advantage of this proposal is to ensure greater linguistic equity and consistency across the County. It also meets the aspirations of the Curriculum for Wales to produce pupils that are confident in both Welsh and English thereby creating bilingual citizens. However, the council does not identify whether there are non-maintained settings in the local area and whether these settings could be affected by this proposal.

The proposer has outlined a number of risks around the implications of training members of staff to a standard that will enable them to support pupils to develop their Welsh skills. They have expressed concern that the Welsh language sabbatical scheme may not meet the demand. They have identified that the skill set of staff who are currently able to teach through the medium of Welsh will be fully utilised. However, the proposer has not presented suitable mitigation against this potential risks.

The council has acknowledged that these changes may be more challenging for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). It identifies that it will try to ensure that every practical step will be taken to ensure as little disruption as possible. However, the proposal does not address how to meet the potential need for extra support that pupils with ALN may require when Welsh becomes an equal language of provision.

The proposer identifies fairly that there will be no change to current travel arrangements as a consequence of this consultation.

The local authority has considered how admitting 3-year-olds on a part-time basis will impact on other schools in the area. The report states that there are 21 nursery places in Bro Siôn Cwilt Primary School and that this data is not available for Llanarth school. However, the proposal does not indicate how many nursery places will be accommodated at New Quay Primary School, whether there is space for these pupils and how this could impact the school in general.

The local authority has undertaken an impact assessment on the Welsh language and considers that this proposal will have a positive impact on pupils up to the age of seven. They have completed a Community Impact Assessment (CIA) prior to the consultation.

The council has considered suitably the financial implications of this proposal. The local authority will provide 0.5 FTE nursery teacher funding for the school. However, there is no commitment to provide financial support for the school to release staff for sabbatical schemes and specific training.

Educational aspect of the proposal

The local authority has considered in part the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards and provision. They have included statements on standards in the Welsh language from Estyn's recent inspection in June 2023. This section is detailed and outlines current standards of attainment in the Welsh language clearly, however it makes little reference to the potential impact of the proposal on future standards.

The proposer has considered the likely impact of the proposal on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum at foundation learning. It has noted that this proposal is not anticipated to have a negative impact on their ability to deliver the curriculum in an appropriate, differentiated, broad and varied way. However, it does not specify whether the school has sufficient outdoor space and provision to cater for the needs of 3-year-old children.

The local authority has considered clearly the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It has outlined collaboration activities between partners and stakeholders and underlined the importance of involving people who have an interest in achieving the well-being goals.

Appendix C

Statutory Notice

Hysbysiad Statudol i wneud newid a reoleiddir i ysgol gymunedol a gynhelir, ysgol sefydledig, ysgol wirfoddol neu ysgol feithrin

Gan

**Gyngor Sir Ceredigion,
Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, Canolfan
Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23
3UE**

Hysbysir drwy hyn yn unol ag adran 42 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013 a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion fod Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, ar ôl ymgynghori â'r cyfryw bersonau ag sy'n ofynnol, yn cynnig newid **Ysgol Gynradd Cei newydd, Cei Newydd, SA45 9TE fel y bydd cyfrwng y cyfarwyddid yn y Dysgu Sylfaen yn Gymraeg a derbyn disgyblion 3 oed yn rhan amser**. Cynhelir yr ysgol gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion.

Cynhaliodd Cyngor Sir Ceredigion gyfnod ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn. Mae adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad sy'n cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan ymgynghoreion, ymatebion y cynigydd ac ymateb llawn Estyn ar gael ar wefan Cyngor Sir Ceredigion (www.ceredigion.gov.uk).

Cynigir gweithredu'r cynnig ar **1 Medi 2024**.

Bydd 14 o leoedd meithrin o fis Medi 2024. Byddai cynnig mynediad rhan amser i addysg yn 3 oed yn ehangu

Statutory Notice to make a regulated alteration to a maintained community, foundation, voluntary or nursery school

By

**Ceredigion County Council,
Schools Service, Canolfan
Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23
3UE**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Ceredigion County Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to alter **New Quay Primary School, New Quay, SA45 9TE** so that the language medium in the foundation learning is Welsh and to admit 3-year old pupils on a part time basis. The school is currently maintained by Ceredigion County Council.

Ceredigion County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response is available on Ceredigion County Council website (www.Ceredigion.gov.uk).

It is proposed to implement the proposal on **1 September 2024**

There will be 14 nursery places from September 2024. Offering access to education at 3 years of age on a part-

cyfleoedd caffael iaith disgyblion ac yn cyflwyno ecwiti darpariaeth mwy cyson o fewn yr ysgolion hynny sydd wedi eu pennu yn y categori Trosiannol 2*.

Prif nod y cynnig yw adeiladu ar y dilyniant ieithyddol cyfredol. Mae'r datblygiad yn golygu, erbyn Medi 2024, y byddai polisi addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ar waith ar draws y Dysgu Sylfaen yn Ysgol Cei Newydd.

Dyma'r amserlen weithredu:

Start date	School Year
Medi 2024	Derbyn disgyblion Meithrin rhan amser am y tro cyntaf
Medi 2025	Derbyn
Medi 2026	Blwyddyn 1
Medi 2027	Blwyddyn 2

Erbyn Medi 2028, byddai'r disgyblion Blwyddyn 3 yr ysgol â sail gadarn yn arbennig ar lafar a byddant yn medru adeiladu ar y sgiliau hynny tra hefyd yn datblygu eu sgiliau a'u haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Saesneg.

Gall unrhyw un wrthwynebu'r cynigion cyn pen cyfnod o 28 diwrnod o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynigion hyn, hynny yw erbyn **5 Mai 2024**.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Swyddog Arweiniol Corfforaethol ar gyfer Ysgolion, Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth,

time basis expands pupils' language attainment opportunities and provides a more equal and consistent provision within schools that have been placed in the T2 category*.

The main aim of the proposal is to build on the current linguistic progression. The development means that, by September 2024, there would be a Welsh medium education policy in place across the Foundation Learning at New Quay School.

The implementation timetable will be as follows:

Start date	School Year
Sept 2024	Admitting part time Nursery pupils for the first time
Sept 2025	Reception
Sept 2026	Year 1
Sept 2027	Year 2

By September 2028, the school's Year 3 pupils will have a sound foundation, especially orally, and will be able to build on those skills whilst also developing their skills and education through the medium of English.

Within a period of one 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by **5 May 2024** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to: Corporate Lead Officer for Schools, Ceredigion County Council, Schools Service, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23

<p>Ceredigion, SY23 3UE neu ebostio: cysgaceinewydd@ceredigion.llyw.cymru</p>	<p>3UE or email: wespnewquay@ceredigion.gov.uk</p>
<p>Llofnodwyd:</p> <p>Clive Williams Swyddog Arweiniol Corfforaethol ar gyfer Ysgolion Ar ran Cyngor Sir Ceredigion Dyddiad: 8 Ebrill 2024</p> <p>*https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/canllawiau-ar-gategoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg.pdf</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Clive Williams Corporate Lead Officer for Schools For Ceredigion County Council Date: 8 April 2024</p> <p>*https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021_12/guidance_on_school-categories_according-to-welsh_medium-provision.pdf</p>

Appendix D

Responses received during the consultation period

17. FFURFLEN YMATEB – YSGOL GYNRADD CEI NEWYDD

Mae'r ffurflen ymateb ganlynol yn caniatáu i randdeiliaid roi sylwadau ar y prif gynnis h.y. diwygio'r Gymraeg yn y Dysgu Sylfaen ynghyd â chaniatau derbyn oedran meithrin rhan amser i'r ysgol.

SYLWADAU

Cyfunaf yn gynt bod angen y datblygiadau iechydol a weddyl er mwyn cynyddu medrau amgylchedd y disgybliaid a sicrhau cyfleoedd ehangach iddynt yn y dyfodol. Mae'n gyfle i gynnis mwy o ddeun iddynt, a chyfrannu at fynd i mewn i Gymrae amgylchedd.

Llofnod:

Printiwch

eich Enw:

E-bost:

Cyfeiriad:

Dyddiad:

20/10/2023

Notdych os hoffech chi gael gwybod pan fydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori'n cael ei gyhoeddi:

Sylwer, oni bai eich bod yn nodi i'r gwrthwyneb, bydd eich sylwadau ar gael i'r cyhoedd fel rhan o gofnodion ffurfiol yr ymgynghoriad.

Dychweler erbyn **Hydref 30 2023** fan bellaf at:

Ymgynghoriad CSGA, Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, 2^{il} Lawr, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padam, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

Neu e-bostiwrch: cysgaceinewydd@ceredigion.llyw.cymru neu wespnnewquay@ceredigion.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
16 November 2023 11:22

To:

Ceredigion language provision New Quay

Subject:

Ymateb i'r Ymgynghoriad

You don't often get emails from [REDACTED]

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Diolch am y cyfle i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad. Carwn ddatgan fy mod yn aelod o Fforwm CSCA Ceredigion ac yn mynychu'r Fforwm fel cynrychiolydd o Brifysgol Aberystwyth. Nid yw'r ymateb hwn yn ddatganiad ar ran y Brifysgol.

Rwy'n gefnogol dros ben i'r cynnig.

Mae dogfennau'r ymgynghoriad wedi eu gosod allan yn glir ac maent yn delio'n dda gyda materion ymarferol sydd ynghlwm â newid o'r fath.

Mae'r achos o safbwynt cefnogi datblygiad ieithyddol ac addysgiadol disgyblion y dyfodol yn un hollol gadarn. Cadarn iawn hefyd yw'r rhesymeg o ran y cynnig fel rhan o amcanion CSCA Ceredigion sydd ei hun yn cefnogi nodau Llwyodaeth Cymru wrth gyflwyno'r Cwricwlwm newydd a Strategaeth Cymraeg 2050.

Yn gywir,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Y Brifysgol orau yn y DU am Ansawdd ei Dysgu a Phrofiad Myfyrwyr
Best University in the UK for Teaching Quality and Student Experience
(The Times and Sunday Times, Good University Guide 2021)

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

17 November 2023 15:02

Ceredigion language provision New Quay

Ymgynghoriad ar Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd

Dydych chi ddim yn cael negeseuon e-bost oherwydd bod y [link hwn yn bwysig](#).

Annwyl Syr / Madam

Carwn i nodi fy mod i'n cefnogi'r cynlluniau i gynnig addysg Gymraeg i ddisgyblion 3-7 oed ac addysg meithrin yn Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd. Mae'n ddatblygiad pwysig a fydd yn cefnogi polisi Llywodraeth Cymru o gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg i filiwn erbyn 2050. Drwy gydweithio â'r Coleg Gymraeg, mae Prifysgol Aberystwyth wedi ehangu ei darpariaeth Gymraeg yn helaeth dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Mae'r ffigurau cyflogadwyedd yn dangos bod myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg ac wedi astudio yn Gymraeg yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn gwaith lefel raddedig neu astudiaethau ôl-raddedig 6 mis ar ôl graddio na myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg ond heb astudio drwy'r Gymraeg a myfyrwyr sydd ddim yn medru'r Gymraeg. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym ni wedi gweld datblygiadau tebyg mewn addysg Gymraeg yn y sector addysg orfodol yn lleol ac nid oes modd i ganran sylweddol o fyfyrwyr sy'n dod inni o ysgolion Ceredigion fanteisio ar y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg. Mae'r datblygiad hwn yn gam yn y cyfeiriad iawn wrth sicrhau bod bob person ifanc yng Ngheredigion yn gallu manteisio ar addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r ysgol feithrin i'r brifysgol a thu hwnt.

Cofion gorau,

Cymraeg

Cymraeg

Please write to me in
Welsh or English

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 November 2023 16:49
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch; Ceredigion language provision Plascrug; Ceredigion language provision Llwyny-Yr-Eos; Ceredigion language provision St Padarn
Subject: WESP Consultation

[Some people who received this message don't often get emails from [REDACTED] learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

Apologies for the lateness of this email in relation to the consultation on changing the language of teaching at Plascrug, St Padarn's, Comins Coch and Llwyn yr Eos primary schools. I hope you are still taking comments.

As a bilingual Welsh - English speaker who uses both languages daily in my work and social life, I truly appreciate the value of the Welsh language. I moved to the area at the age of 9 and attended a Welsh medium primary school and have been grateful for this opportunity since.

Within my work role, I visit all of the primary schools in the Aberystwyth area on a regular basis to support staff and children.

However, I do not agree with the change of all schools within the Aberystwyth area to Welsh medium in the Foundation Phase. My reasons for this are as follows :

- Many of the families who register their children at the above 4 schools (Plascrug and St Padarn in particular) have moved to the area from different countries across the world. Their home languages vary from Arabic, Polish, Ukrainian, Igbo, Turkish and many others. Often their parents work in the local hospital and are contributing significantly to our local economy. If they do not have the option for an English - medium school for their children, will they move to the area? Or will this put them off doing so? Alongside this, some of these parents do not have English-language skills which allow them to help their children with homework as it is. By changing this to Welsh, you would be adding an additional barrier to this.
- These 4 schools are already incorporating a good level of Welsh into their day to day routines within the classroom, more and more so over the past 2 or so years and many of the children have a good level of basic Welsh by the end of year 1/2 which they can use in basic social interactions and beyond.
- There are excellent, experienced teachers within all of these schools whose level of Welsh language may not be sufficient to teach through it day to day. It is unfair to take quality staff away from children in the earliest, and crucial years of their education because of the language they feel confident teaching in.
- For children with Additional Learning Needs (particularly in relation to language and literacy) whose home language is English / any other language other than Welsh, the priority should be developing of their home language, which they can then build additional language(s) upon, if needed. By adding Welsh into the mix, you do add a layer of complexity and issues arise about which language they should receive Additional Learning Provision through. For children whose home language is Welsh, their parents will send them to one of the many local Welsh-medium primary schools available in the area.
- Choice - the beauty of the current system is that parents have a choice. They can choose whether they want their children to receive their education through the medium of English or Welsh. This, I feel, is a real advantage in our area and families appreciate this.

I hope you can take these points into consideration and that the parents within these schools have had / will have ample opportunity to share their thoughts too, not just in writing but in well-advertised discussion forums, where accessibility is taken into consideration (easy-read information, interpreters etc.)

Yours Sincerely,



[REDACTED] Clic 20/11/23

To whom it may concern,

I apologise if this is the incorrect method to respond to consultations, but there are no clear instructions on your website that I could find, so I hope this finds its way to the correct addressee.

In regards to the proposal to make 5 primary schools Welsh medium, I do not support this and strongly recommend the council reconsider. As an educator for over 10 years in both Welsh and English schools, and as a parent of a three year old who is soon to begin primary school on one of these schools, I am concerned this enforced Welsh language medium will ultimately lead to issues with literacy and oracy skills, which should really be the main educational focus post covid.

I am Welsh, I can speak decent Welsh, but English is my first language and the most widespread language in the world, and still the most broadly spoken language in Wales and Ceredigion specifically. There are more effective ways to encourage children to speak Welsh through second language classes, cultural classes, and bilingual streaming which don't potentially isolate a large population of the students and run the risk of them being left behind because they are being taught through a language they don't know and that will not be reinforced at home for many.

Furthermore there are very obvious logistical issues - teaching is in a recruitment crisis and to narrow the field of potential educators further has proved to be challenging on multiple schools already. I believe most parents would rather have their children taught by a trained professional who can speak conversational Welsh than an untrained teacher who can speak it fluently. Some jobs simply aren't being filled because there are no fluent Welsh applicants, and so the students are taught by non-specialist supply staff, which is obviously more detrimental to their education than having a bilingual teacher.

I support the need to embrace Welsh culture and encourage the learning of the language, but to enforce it from 3 when their cognitive abilities are still grasping the concepts of language will inevitably leave some students, particularly those with ALN, at a huge disadvantage, which doesn't seem to have been considered at all. I have seen this anecdotally already, with some students coming from English speaking households who are becoming isolated and deteriorating academically because they are unable to access the content in a lot of subjects - not because they are unintelligent, but because they can't understand. I fundamentally believe that all schools are responsible for ensuring that EVERY student has the chance to reach their potential, and yet the reports seem to spend a great deal of time considering political and financial aspects. Nowhere in the advantages/disadvantages tables does it reference pupils' wellbeing or the potential impact on their literacy and oracy development.

I doubt my response will be awarded much consideration, but the need to plead this case is one of both personal and professional significance to me.

Please reconsider.



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 November 2023 17:00

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Ychydig o Sylwadau Ynglyn At Ysgolion a'r Ddatblygiad Addysg Yng Ngheredigion

You don't often get emails like this, so why this is important

Annwy [REDACTED]

Rydw i'n gobeithio mae'r ebost hon yn ffindio chi'n iawn. Diolch yn fawr am i gyd o'r gwaith yr ydych yn ei wneud yng Ngheredigion a gyda'r Cyngor Sir.

Yn gobeithiol, byddwch chi'n hapus i ddarllen ychydig o fy syniadau a sylwaday ynglyn at y sistem addysg yng Ngheredigion. Anfonais i mewn sylwadau yn ystod cyfnod ymgynghoriad y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg Mewn Addysg rhyw dwy flynedd nol, ac dwi'n falch i gweld bod y Cyngor wedi neud mwy ne lai popeth nes i awgrymu!

Os mae'n addas, dwi'n moyn cynnig awgrymiadau hyd yn oed mwy eithriadol ar gyfer y ddyfodol - efallai mae nhw'n cael ei ystyried yn barod gan y Cyngor Sir.

Gyda'r amser yn dod ble mae pob plentyn yng Ngheredigion yn graddio o ysgol gynradd gyfrwng Cymraeg gyda Cymraeg rhygl, mae'n diddorol i meddwl am beth byddai'n digwydd ynglyn at addysg Saesneg yn sir.

Fel dwi'n deall, bydd na dim ond un ysgol sy'n addysgu drwy'r gyfrwng y Saesneg yn y sir, sef Ysgol Penglais. Er mwyn normaleiddio'r Cymraeg fel iaith y gymuned, dwi'n moyn awgrymu bod na ffrwd Saesneg yn cael ei sefydlu ynddo fe, a hefyd bod y ffrwd Saesneg yn dechrau yn blwyddyn 9, er mwyn plant sy'n symud i'r sir yn hwyr. Ar gyfer plant sy'n symud i Ceredigion ym mlwyddyn 7 neu 8, fasai'n bosib ddarparu Addysg Drochi Ar Gyfer Hwyrddyfodiaid, fel sy'n digwydd gyda'r Saesneg er mwyn hwyrddyfodiaid i'r sistem addysg y D.U.

Gall y sir gynnig addysg gyfrwng Saesneg er mwyn plant sy'n symud i Ceredigion am 13 oed neu'n hynach, a fyddai'n ffindio'n anodd addasu mor hwyr a ddysgu'r iaith.

Beth ydych chi'n meddwl am y syniad?

Diolch yn fawr iawn a chofion

17. FFURFLEN YMATEB – YSGOL GYNRADD CEI NEWYDD

Mae'r ffurflen ymateb ganlynol yn caniatáu i randdeiliaid roi sylwadau ar y prif gynnig h.y. diwygio'r Gymraeg yn y Dysgu Sylfaen ynghyd â chaniatau derbyn oedran meithrin rhan amser i'r ysgol.

Mae [REDACTED] yn cynnig gwasanaeth gofal ac addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg o safon i deuluoedd a phlant oedran 2-4 oed yn ardal Cei Newydd.

Mae Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd wedi cofrestru gydag Arolygaeth Gofal Cymru. Mae'r gwasanaeth hefyd yn derbyn cyllid gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion i gynnig ac i ddarparu addysg plant 3 oed, ac yn dilyn y Cwricwlwm i Gymru (ac felly yn cael eu harolygu gan Estyn yn rheolaidd). Yn ogystal â bod yn ddarparwyr ar gyfer y Cynnig Gofal Plant 30 awr a gwasanaeth gofal Dechrau'n Deg ar gyfer plant 2oed yn yr ardal. Mae'r Cylch hefyd yn cynnal clwb gwyliau yn ystod gwyliau'r haf i deuluoedd lleol. Mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion yn cydnabod fod y cylch o safon drwy eu hariannu i gynnig yr oll wasanaethau hyn, ac mae hyn yn brawf fod y gymuned yn derbyn addysg a gofal o safon. Mae ymrwymiad y staff cymwysedig, pwyllgor rheoli'r cylch a'r rhieni yn cyfrannu at lwyddiant y cylch.

Byddai'r penderfyniad i dynnu arian addysg plant 3 oed o'r gwasanaeth yn gam all effeithio'n enfawr ar y gwasanaeth a chynigir i'r teuluoedd, hefyd cael effaith a'r cynladwyedd a dyfodol y ddarpariaeth. Gall y cam hwn achosi'r gymuned i gollu gwasanaeth pwysig yr ardal.

Mae'r plant sydd ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY) sy'n mynychu'r cylch yn derbyn cymorth ychwanegol gan Gynllun Cyfeirio Ceredigion yn gynnar iawn yn eu bywyd ac yn elwa'n enfawr drwy dderbyn cefnogaeth gan y cynllun a'r unigolion proffesiynol y sir. Mae staff y cylch yn deall anghenion plant unigol a gyda'r sgiliau angenrheidiol drwy hyfforddiant parhaol. Nid yw'r gwasanaeth hyn ar gael i'r ysgolion.

Yn y ddogfen asesiadau effaith statudol nodir: "Bydd darpariaeth Meithrin o fewn yr ysgol yn sicrhau bod disgyblion 3 oed yn medru mynychu'r ysgol yn rhan amser ac yn cynyddu nifer y disgyblion sydd yn mynychu'r ysgol."

Hoffwn ofyn sut mae cynyddu nifer y disgyblion yn yr ysgol yn ffactor sydd angen ystyriaeth wrth benderfynu symud yr addysg gynnar o'r Cylch Meithrin i'r ysgol. Os symudir yr addysg plant 3 oed i'r ysgol nid oes unrhyw warant fydd y cylch yn medru parhau i gynnig gofal cofleidiol i'r plant fydd yn yr ysgol rhan amser. Byddai angen i'r Cylch Meithrin ystyried cynaliadwyedd y cylch, y gost o benodi staff ychwanegol a'r effaith o golli'r gyllideb arian 3 oed ar y cylch. Hefyd, oherwydd y pellter rhwng yr ysgol a'r cylch a'r ffaith bod y llwybr cerdded sy'n cysylltu lleoliad y Cylch gyda'r ysgol yn anaddas i hebrwng plant mewn grwpiau rhwng y ddau leoliad, fyddai angen ystyried sut byddai modd sicrhau diogelwch y plant cyn medru cynnig y gwasanaeth pwysig hwn.

Hefyd nodir: "Wrth newid cyfrwng iaith yr ysgol hyd at 7 oed a darparu addysg i ddisgyblion 3 oed yn yr ysgol mae'r cynlluniau sydd mewn lle i gefnogi'r cynnig yn rhoi'r cyfle i blant ddysgu a meithrin sgiliau Cymraeg o 3 oed ac yn sicrhau eu bod yn cael cymorth i wneud hynny drwy gydol eu taith addysg."

Mae Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd yn trochi'r plant yn yr iaith Gymraeg o ddwy oed i fyny. Mae pob gweithgaredd a phrofiad a chynigir yn y cylch drwy'r iaith Gymraeg. Mae'r plant yn derbyn addysg a gofal gan staff sydd a'r sgiliau i drochi'r plant yn yr iaith Gymraeg o'r diwrnod cyntaf un yn y cylch. Mae'r cylch hefyd yn medru cynnig cefnogaeth i'r rhieni i ddysgu'r Gymraeg drwy nifer o gynlluniau Mudiad Meithrin: Sesiynau Clwb Cwtsh a Chamau. Maent hefyd yn darparu gwersi Cymraeg eraill i rieni.

Mae'r Ddogfen Ymgynghorol - Gwybodaeth Atodol yn nodi ac yn cadarnhau'r uchod, sef: bod y Cylch Meithrin yn cynnig gwasanaeth cynhwysfawr ac o safon i'r teuluoedd yn y gymuned, hefyd yn nodi'r golled i'r teuluoedd os fydd y sir yn gweithredu ar y cynnig i ddiwygio cyfrwng iaith addysg cyfnod Sylfaen a derbyn disgyblion 3 oed yn rhan-amser yn ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd. Mae gwir angen rhoi sylw, ac ystyried yr effaith fydd y cynnig hwn ar wasanaeth y Cylch Meithrin a'r teuluoedd sydd angen gwasanaeth cynhwysfawr sydd yn cael ei ddarparu ar hyn o bryd gan y cylch, sy'n cynnwys gofal cofleidiol.

Yn y ddogfen gwybodaeth atodol o dan y pennawd "I ba raddau y bydd y cynnig yn integreiddio addysg blynyddoedd cynnar â gwasanaethau gofal plant.....

Dywedir – "Os caiff y cynnig ei gymeradwyo, mi fydd gan rieni ddewis, sef bod eu plentyn yn aros yn y lleoliad nas cynhelir, neu'n mynychu'r ddarpariaeth feithrin yn yr ysgol yn rhan-amser."

Ydy hyn yn golygu byddai' gan y rhieni dewis ble i anfon eu plant ar gyfer derbyn gwasanaeth addysg gynnar? Byddai'r ysgol a'r Cylch Meithrin yn cynnig y gwasanaeth hwn? Nid yw'n glir ac ychydig yn gamarweiniol oherwydd gall y darllenwr ei ddehongli mewn ffyrdd gwahanol ac felly ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad yn anymwybodol o'r ystyr cywir.

Llofnod: [REDACTED]

Printiwch eich Enw: [REDACTED]

E-bost: [REDACTED]

Cyfeiriad: [REDACTED]

Dyddiad: 16/11/2023

Nodwch os hoffech chi gael gwybod pan fydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori'n cael ei gyhoeddi:

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
26 September 2023 21:31

To:

Ceredigion language provision New Quay

Subject:

Ysgol Cei Newydd

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Noswaith dda,

New Quay Town Council has concerns

that the provision of 3-11 school in New Quay would significantly impact on the pupils numbers in the Ysgol Feithrin and Ysgol Cei Newydd was already at capacity.

Diolch

[REDACTED]

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The following feedback form allows stakeholders to comment on the proposal i.e amend language medium of the Foundation Learning and to admit 3-year-old pupils on a part-time basis.

COMMENT:

i think teaching welsh in the foundation phase is good. but 3 year olds are still babies and just another excuse to cut nursery and parent funding and put extra pressure on schools with all the funding cuts

Signature:	[REDACTED]
Print your Name:	[REDACTED]
E-mail:	[REDACTED]
Address:	
Date:	

Please indicate if you would like to be notified when the consultation report is published:

Please note, unless you state otherwise, that your comments will be available to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Return by 30 October 2023 at the latest to:

WESP Consultation, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

Or e-mail: cysgaceinewydd@ceredigion.llyw.cymru or wespnewquay@ceredigion.gov.uk



Ymateb e-bost i'r ymgynghoriad

[REDACTED] ysgol:

Sefydlwyd Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd dros hanner can mlynedd yn ôl, ac mae'n aelod Mudiad Meithrin. Ar hyn o bryd rydym ar agor 5 diwrnod yr wythnos, o 9yb tan 3yp, ac rydym yn darparu gofal plant ac addysg i blant o ddwy oed hyd at oed addysg llawn amser. Rydym yn lleoliad anstatudol a ariannir, sy'n darparu addysg gynnar i blant 3 oed yn dilyn y Cwricwlwm I Gymru, yn ogystal â gweithredu fel lleoliad Dechrau'n Deg, yn darparu gofal cynnar a chyfleoedd dysgu i blant o fod yn 2 oed. Yn ddiweddar, daethom yn ddarparwyr y Cynnig Gofal Plant, gan alluogi rhieni i gael mynediad at 30 awr o ofal plant a ariannir. Darperir hyn oll drwy'r Gymraeg. Rydym wedi'n cofrestru ag Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC) ac Estyn, sy'n arolygu'r Cylch Meithrin yn rheolaidd. Yn ogystal, ehangwyd y gwasanaeth yn ddiweddar i ddarparu gofal plant yn ystod gwyliau'r ysgol. Rydym yn cyflogi 4 aelod staff llawn amser, yn ogystal â staff achlysurol. Rydym yn cadw at reoliadau AGC a'r gymhareb o 1 aelod staff:8 plentyn 3 oed, a 1 aelod staff:4 plentyn 2 oed.

Fel Cylch Meithrin a lleolir yng Nghei Newydd, rydym eisoes yn cynnig darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg o safon. Ni allwn ddeall y rheswm tu ôl i ddiddymu oriau addysg y cylch – nid ydym yn deall pam wnaed y penderfyniad hwn?!!!

Mae deiliant 1 y cynnig, bod "Rhagor o blant meithrin/3 oed yn cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg" yn ffeithiol anghywir am ein bod yn lleoliad sy'n siarad Cymraeg sy'n defnyddio'r dull trochi i ddarparu addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, dan arweiniad staff cymwys sy'n siarad Cymraeg. Câi'r plant eu trochi yn y Gymraeg o fod yn 2 flwydd o oed.

Fel cylch, rydym EISOES YN CYNNIG y rhan fwyaf o'r hwn y byddai'r cynnig yn ei ddarparu i blant!!!!

Nid ydym wedi cael ein cynnwys yn y trafodaethau a arweiniodd at yr ymgynghoriad hwn; ni roddwyd ystyriaeth i'n safbwyntiau na'n ddarpariaeth, nac ychwaith fu unrhyw ystyriaeth o effaith y cynnig ar ein lleoliad. Ni ystyriwyd dyfodol y Cylch Meithrin gan y datganiad effaith a pharatowyd gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion.

Rydym yn lleoliad blynyddoedd cynnar sefydledig sy'n cynnig rhyddid i'r plant symud o'r tu mewn i'r tu allan yn rhwydd, gan gwrdd â'u hanghenion yn amser nhw eu hunain. Rydym yn cynnig mynediad rhwydd a digonedd o le, sydd yn aml yn helpu gydag ymddygiad gan fod plant yn rhydd i ryddhau egni fel y mynnent. Mae gan blant Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd fynediad at gyrtiau tennis, cae pêl droed, y goedwig, y traeth, ac ati. Mae gennym ni ddigon o staff i ganiatáu hyn. Pe symudir y dosbarth meithrin i'r ysgol, a fydd y gymhareb o staff i blant yn effeithiol? A fydd y plant yn colli'r cyfleoedd hyn ac yn cael llai o brofiadau o ganlyniad?

Mae'r cylch yn darparu gofal plant llawn amser i'r gymuned leol, o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, yn ogystal â'r oriau addysg, y cynnig plant 30 awr, Dechrau'n Deg a chlwb gwyliau. Mae'r cyfan o werth mawr i rieni sy'n gweithio. Rydym yn gweithio'n agos â'r gymuned leol a thîm blynyddoedd cynnar y cyngor a Mudiad Meithrin i sicrhau darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r ansawdd uchaf. Oherwydd ystod ein cynnig, mae gennym niferoedd da yn mynychu ac rydym yn gynaliadwy. Byddai colli'r cyllid addysg yn cael effaith andwyol ar y cylch. Nid yn unig y byddem yn colli cyllid y Cyfnod Sylfaen, ond hefyd mae yna bosibiliad y byddem yn colli'r cyfle i ddarparu'r Cynnig Gofal Plant 30 awr a ariannir.

Dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf mae'r cyngor wedi rhoi dros £65,000 o gyllid i'r cylch, ac mae hwn wedi ein galluogi i ddarparu ystod o gyfleoedd, y tu mewn ac yn yr awyr agored. Mae'r Cylch Meithrin yn meddu ar ystod o adnoddau/gweithgareddau i'n galluogi i gwrdd â holl anghenion a diddordebau'r plant, a theimlwn fyddai bwrw ymlaen a'r cynnig yn arwain at arian ac adnoddau yn cael eu gwastraffu.

Rydym hefyd yn bryderus ynghylch ble fydd y dosbarth Meithrin yn yr ysgol. A fydd yr ysgol gynradd yn medru darparu gofod, adnoddau a chyfleoedd digonol i'r plant, ac a fydden nhw'n derbyn yr un lefel o gefnogaeth gan staff gymwys?

Rydym yn bryderus ynghylch gallu'r Cylch Meithrin i ddarparu gofal cofleidiol i'r plant fyddai'n mynychu'r ysgol yn rhan amser. Sut fyddai'r rheini/staff yn cludo'r plant yn ddiogel yn ôl i'r Cylch Meithrin? Nid oes palmentydd ar y daith yn ôl i'r caban, ac mae'r ffyrdd yn brysur ac yn gul. Eto, mae hyn yn codi pryderon ynghylch diogelwch. Efallai bydd y rhieni sy'n gweithio'n lleol yn medru codi eu plant o'r ysgol ar ddiwedd y sesiwn ysgol a'u cludo i'r caban; ond bydd y rhai sy'n dibynnu ar y gofal dydd llawn a darperir gan y Cylch Meithrin yn colli'r gwasanaeth hwn, a gall hynny arwain at broblemau iddynt wrth weithio, neu orfod defnyddio gwasanaeth gwahanol y tu allan i ardal Cei Newydd.

Pe bai'r cynnig yn cael ei roi ar waith mae'n bosib y bydd staff presennol Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd yn colli'u swyddi neu bydd angen i'r cylch gau gan na fydd gennym nifer digonol o blant yn mynychu i gynnal y lefel angenrheidiol o incwm sydd ei angen ar y cylch.

Os na fydd y nifer o blant 2 oed yn mynychu'r cylch yn ddigonol i alluogi'r Cylch Meithrin i aros yn gynaliadwy gall hynny arwain at golled y gwasanaeth hwnnw hefyd, a bydd yn golygu na fydd yna ddarparwyr Dechrau'n Deg yn yr ardal. Mae hyn hefyd yn peri'r cwestiwn, beth ddigwyddith i'r Cylch Meithrin ei hun - y caban a'r ardal tu allan a'r holl adnoddau gwerthfawr sydd gennym?

Mae Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd yn croesawu pob plentyn gwaeth be fo'i anghenion, a chyfeirir plant at y Cynllun Cyfeirio os oes angen cefnogaeth ychwanegol arnyn nhw. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio'n agos â'r Therapyddion Llefaredd ac Iaith, Ymwelwyr Iechyd, Dechrau'n Deg, Prif Swyddog ADY, a nifer o fudiadau eraill i sicrhau bod plant yn derbyn y gefnogaeth sydd angen arnyn nhw pan maen nhw ei angen.

Mae staff Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd wedi eu cymhwyso'n llawn, i'r safonau uchaf. Dyma restr o'r hyfforddiant a chymwysterau a deilir gan staff Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd:

Cymwysterau Staff

- Lefel 5 – Uwch Ymarferydd
- Lefel 3 – Diploma
- Lefel 3 – Trawsnewid i Waith Chwarae

Hyfforddiant ar y Cwricwlwm ac Addysg Gynnar

- Deall y Cwricwlwm I Gymru
- Cynllunio yn y Foment
- Hyfforddiant ar Sgemâu
- Dysgu trwy'r Dirwedd
- Dysgu Proffesiynol Cyfnod Sylfaen
- Jabadao
- Gwaith Coed

- Y Dull Trochi Iaith
- Ymwybyddiaeth Iaith Gymraeg
- Camau

Hyfforddiant Gorfodol Statudol

- Diogelu Lefel 2
- Diogelu Plant ac Oedolion Lefel 1
- Y Ddyletswydd Atal
- Cymorth Cyntaf
- Hylendid Bwyd Lefel 2
- Alergedd ac Anoddefedd Bwyd
- Trin â Llaw
- Iechyd a Diogelwch
- Rheoli Risg
- Gweithdrefnau Traws-heintio ac Addysg Iechyd Deintyddol

Cefnogi Plant ag ADY a Datblygiad Ieithyddol

- Elklan – hyfforddiant Llefaredd ac Iaith
- Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (hyfforddiant ADY)
- Iaith a Chwarae
- Rhyngweithiad Dwys
- Hyfforddiant arwyddo 'Sign Along'
- Hyfforddiant Ymlyniad Wellcomm
- Hyfforddiant 'Incredible Years'
- Hyfforddiant craidd SEND i'r blynyddoedd cynnar
- Addysgu Tîm
- Deall Awtistiaeth
- Dysgu gydag Awtistiaeth – blynyddoedd cynnar
- Ymwybyddiaeth ASD
- Awtistiaeth - Deall Cyfathrebu Effeithiol
- Profiadau Plentyndod Cynnar Niweidiol
- Trawma yn y Blynyddoedd Cynnar
- Deall Syndrom Tourette

Hyfforddiant ar Ddiogelu Plant ac Oedolion sy'n Agored i Niwed

- Sut i hyrwyddo cymhwysedd cymdeithasol ac emosiynol plant
- CCUHP
- Cydraddoldeb ac Amrywiaeth
- Diogelu oedolion rhag troseddau yn erbyn pobl sy'n agored i niwed

Fel y gallwch ddychmygu, rydym yn bryderus iawn ynghylch y cynnig hwn, a'r effaith gaiff ar y Cylch Meithrin a'r gymuned leol. Edrychwn ymlaen at eich ymateb i'n pryderon.

Cofion gorau,



Consultation Email Response

[REDACTED] school reorganization document:

We as a Cylch Meithrin based in Cei Newydd are already providing a high-quality Welsh speaking provision. We cannot understand why the need to remove educational hours from the Cylch has been made or understood?!!!!

On the proposal outcome 1: "More nursery/ three-year-old children being educated through the medium of Welsh" is factually incorrect as we are a Welsh speaking setting, providing a Welsh education through the immersion method, carried out by highly qualified Welsh speaking staff. As we take children from 2 years old, the 2-year-olds also get immersed in the Welsh language. If the proposal was to go ahead, and we were to close, those 2-year-old children would likely be at home with parents or grandparents, which in our area are mainly English speaking. This means those children would not start hearing the Welsh language until they start school at 3, therefore, they would miss out on a whole year of the Welsh language.

Most of the proposal in what would be offered to the children, we as a Cylch ALREADY DO!!!!!!!!

We already provide a Welsh specialist nursery provision, resources, and opportunities.

We have not been part of the consultation, our views or the provision have not been considered, or the impact of the proposal on our setting. We are a well-established early year's setting offering free flow, where children decide whether they play inside/outside. Meeting their own needs in their own time. We have open access, plenty of space which often helps with behavior as the children can appropriately release energy. Children at CM Cei Newydd have access to the tennis courts, park, football pitch, the woods, the beach etc. We have sufficient staff to be able to allow this. If the Meithrin class is to be moved to the school, they will have much less staff, meaning these opportunities would not be as possible.

We as a Cylch provide the local community with full-time childcare, Monday to Friday, and are part of the educational hours, 30 hours offer, flying start and holiday club, all of which is a valuable asset to working parents. We work closely with the local community and receive great support, as well as working with the local council early years team and Mudiad Meithrin, in order to provide a high-quality Welsh speaking provision. Due to all we offer we have good numbers and sustainability. If we were to lose educational funding this would have an adverse impact on the Cylch and would be looking at closure.

In the past two years the local council have provided the Cylch with over £65,000 of funding which has enabled us to offer a range of opportunities, both inside and outside. Both areas are already fully equipped with resources/activities to meet all children's needs and interests and feel this would be a great loss of money and resources if the proposal is to go ahead.

We also have concerns over where the Meithrin class will be in school. As the primary school has insufficient space, no room on the yard for a cabin, and only 4 classrooms currently in the school. The children wouldn't receive the same amount of care/attention as there would be less staff. The proposal also states potential wrap-around care given by us, this raises concerns over how would parents/staff transport the children safely back to Meithrin? As the walk back to the cabin has no pavements and busy, narrow roads. Again, raising concerns over safety.

If the proposal was to go ahead, we would be looking at closure and the loss of jobs for the current staff at CM Cei Newydd as we would not be able to continue without this major source of income. It also raises the question as to what would happen to the Cylch Meithrin? The cabin and outside area, and all the valuable resources we have.

Financially, the council will have to train all the "new" staff, whereas all the staff at CM Cei Newydd are already fully and highly trained. Here is a list of current training and qualifications held by staff at CM Cei Newydd:

- Level 5 – Advanced Practitioner
- Level 3 – Diploma
- Level 3 – Transition to Playwork
- Understanding the Curriculum for Wales
- Planning in the Moment
- Safeguarding Level 2
- Prevent Duty
- First Aid
- Level 2 Food Hygiene
- Elklan – Speech and Language training
- Additional Learning Needs (ALN training)
- FGM
- Early Years SEND core training
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Trauma in the Early Years
- How to promote Children's Social and Emotional Competence
- Language and Play
- Intensive Interaction
- Cross Infection Procedures and Dental Health Education
- UNCRC
- Health and Safety
- Manual Handling
- Equality and Diversity
- Risk Management
- Understanding Autism
- Learning with Autism Early Years
- ASD Aware
- Foundation Phase Professional Learning
- Camau
- Jabadao
- Food Allergy and Intolerance
- Safeguarding Children and Adults Level 1
- Welsh Language Awareness
- Autism – Understanding Effective Communication
- VAWDASV
- Ask and Act
- Understanding Tourette Syndrome
- SCaN

- Protecting Individuals at Risk of Vulnerability Crimes
- Wellcomm training
- Incredible Years training
- Language Immersion Method
- Learning through Landscapes
- Team Teach
- Woodworking training
- Sign Along training
- Attachment training
- Schema training

As you can imagine we are extremely concerned over this proposal and the impact it will have on the Cylch Meithrin and the local community. We await your response to our concerns.

Kind regards





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **riad ar ddiwygio cyfrwng iaith y dysgu sylfaen a derbyn yn Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd**

Mae [REDACTED] yn fudiad sy'n ymgyrchu'n ddi-drais dros y Gymraeg a holl gymunedau Cymru.

Mae [REDACTED] yn croesawu'r cynnig i newid cyfrwng iaith lefel 1 Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd i'r Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn bwysig iawn am y rhesymau canlynol:

- Addysg Gymraeg yw'r unig ffordd o greu siaradwyr Cymraeg hyderus. Ar hyn o bryd mae plant yn Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd yn colli cyfleoedd o beidio derbyn addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg. Mater o degwch yw hyn.
- Yn ogystal, yn ôl polisiâu Llywodraeth Cymru mae angen newid darpariaeth addysg i fod yn gyfrwng Gymraeg fel rhan o gyfraniad y sir at sicrhau miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.
- Er bod Ceredigion ymhlith y siroedd â'r ganran uchaf o siaradwyr Cymraeg mae'r tri Chyfrifiad diwethaf wedi dangos cwmp yn niferoedd a chanran siaradwyr y sir.
- Gan mai 9% o ddisgyblion Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd sy'n siarad Cymraeg gartref, yr ysgol fydd unig gyswllt nifer o blant yr ardal a'u rhieni â'r Gymraeg. Mae addysg Gymraeg yn hanfodol yn yr ardal er mwyn creu siaradwyr Cymraeg.
- Byddai newid iaith y ddarpariaeth hyd at flwyddyn 2 yn gam cychwynnol pwysig tuag at hyn gyrraedd polisiâu Llywodraeth Cymru a rhoi'r Gymraeg i holl blant y sir.
- Er hynny, mae'n bwysig nodi mai cam cychwynnol ddylai hyn fod a'n bod yn disgwyl symud gweddill yr ysgol ar hyd y continwrm hefyd.
- Addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg yw'r unig ffordd o sicrhau bod ein bod ifanc yn gadael yr ysgol yn siarad y Gymraeg yn hyderus. Bydd addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg hyd at flwyddyn 2 yn sail dda i adeiladu arno felly, ond er mwyn datblygu eu sgiliau Cymraeg mae angen i blant barhau i dderbyn addysg Gymraeg.
- Mae angen newid cyfrwng addysg yr holl ysgol er mwyn galluogi disgyblion i barhau ag addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg.
- Ymhellach, mae ysgolion eraill dalgyloch Ysgol Uwchradd Aberaeron yn dysgu trwy'r Gymraeg yn barod. Mae'r sefyllfa anarferol yn Ysgol Cei Newydd yn creu problemau yn Ysgol Uwchradd Aberaeron o ran iaith addysg ac o ran cynnal ethos Gymraeg yn yr ysgol.

- Dylid dechrau ar y gwaith o symud ysgol Aberaeron at fod yn ysgol Gymraeg hefyd. Petai'r cyngor yn penderfynu symud yr ysgol gynradd gyfan at fod yn ysgol Gymraeg byddai holl ysgolion y dalgylch yn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg ymhen saith mlynedd.

- Mae angen dirfawr am siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Ngheredigion a Chymru yn gyffredinol er mwyn cynnal gwasanaethau cyhoeddus cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae'r cyngor sir ei hun ac awdurdodau a sefydliadau eraill yn cael trafferth recriwtio siaradwyr Cymraeg, felly byddai cynhyrchu mwy o siaradwyr rhugl ac hyderus yn helpu'n fawr gyda hyn.

Mae'n glir i ni bod angen symud holl ysgolion y sir ar hyd y continwrm ieithyddol at fod yn gyfrwng Cymraeg.

Felly mae [REDACTED] yn cefnogi'r cynigion i newid iaith Dysgu Sylfaen Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd at fod yn Gymraeg yn gryf ac am weld polisïau'n cael eu llunio'n fuan i gefnogi dilyniant a sicrhau bod disgyblion yn hyderus i barhau a'u haddysg trwy'r Gymraeg hyd at 18 oed.

Yn benodol, dylid sicrhau bod blwyddyn 3-6 yn gyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn 3 mlynedd o gyflwyno'r newidiadau a newid Ysgol Uwchradd Aberaeron yn gyfrwng Cymraeg llwyr o fewn 7 mlynedd o gyflwyno'r newidiadau gan y bydd pob ysgol sy'n ei fwydo'n ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg.

[REDACTED]
Tachwedd 2023

[REDACTED]

ar y

Cynnig i ddiwygio cyfrwng iaith Dysgu Sylfaen y 5 ysgol a ganlyn; Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd, Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch, Ysgol Gynradd Plascrug, Ysgol Gynradd Llwyn yr Eos ac Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Padarn Sant a newid oed derbyn disgyblion i gynnwys disgyblion 3 oed rhan amser mewn 3 o'r ysgolion hynny, sef Ysgol Cei Newydd, Ysgol Comins Coch ac Ysgol Gatholig Padarn Sant.

15 Tachwedd 2023

1. Dymuna [REDACTED] ddiolch am y cyfle i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad hwn gan Gyngor Cyngor Sir Ceredigion.

Y mae cyfundrefn gynllunio addysg Gymraeg trwy'r Cynlluniau Strategol y Gymraeg mewn addysg yn gorfod bod yn rhan graidd o gynllunio darpariaeth addysg pob Awdurdod Lleol. Ers Medi 2022, mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion wedi bod yn gweithredu cynllun newydd a gytunwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru..

Cynyddu cyfleoedd i ddysgwyr fedru caffael y Gymraeg fel eu bod yn medru ei defnyddio'n rhwydd yw sail uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru i gyrraedd miliwn o siaradwyr ac y mae dogfen gynllunio addysg Gymraeg y Llywodraeth ei hun yn nodi

"Mae Cymraeg 2050 yn glir mai trochi cyfrwng Cymraeg - sef lle mae cyfrwng yr addysgu a'r dysgu yn cael ei gyflwyno'n gyfan gwbl neu'n bennaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg - yw'r model mwyaf dibynadwy ar gyfer creu siaradwyr Cymraeg gyda'r sgiliau a'r hyder i ddefnyddio'r iaith yn gyfforddus yn eu bywydau bob dydd."

(Tudalen 3:

<https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/canllawiau-gynlluniau-strategol-cymraeg-addysg.pdf>)

2. Sylweddolwn faint y gwaith a ddaw wrth aildrefnu ysgolion yn yr **Coed Tain** ac y wir y mae Sir fel Ceredigion yn cynnig her ychwanegol gyda'i natur ddaearyddol faith a gwledig. Y mae [REDACTED] wedi ein calonogi gan awydd y Sir i drawsnewid addysg yn y blynyddoedd cynnar i gael ei gyflwyno trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Gyda gweithredu'r cynlluniau 10 mlynedd y mae cyfle gwirioneddol i wneud gwahaniaeth i hygyrchedd Addysg Gymraeg o fewn Sir Ceredigion i fwy o blant a da yw gweld bod y sir wedi cychwyn gweithredu yn

gynnar yn y cylch newydd er mwyn sicrhau gwireddu'r uchelgais hon cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

3. Yn hytrach nag ymateb i ymgynghoriad pob ysgol yn unigol, cyfeirir ein hymateb at bob ysgol sydd yn rhan o'r ymgynghoriad hwn, gan fod pob un wedi eu nodi fel ysgolion Categori Trosiannol 2, gyda'r bwriad i gyfrwng dysgu bob un symud y dysgu Sylfaen i'r Gymraeg yn raddol fesul blwyddyn.
4. Mae sicrhau profiad trochi ieithyddol gyflawn i ddisgyblion yn hanfodol wrth iddynt gaffael iaith sydd nid o reidrwydd yn iaith y cartref. Mae bod mewn amgylchedd lle mae'r Gymraeg yn brif gyfrwng yr addysgu a'r hamdden, yn cynyddu'r cyfleoedd hynny'n sylweddol i sicrhau profiad trochi llawn a dwy iaith o leiaf o oedran cynnar iawn. Mae'r cynnig hwn felly'n gam allweddol i sicrhau gwell cyfleoedd i fwy o blant y sir gaffael y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg o oed cynnar.
5. Yn yr ysgolion hynny lle cynigir ychwanegiad o ddosbarth meithrin, gallwn ond canmol y cam hwn. Gwyddwn o brofiad ar draws Cymru bod cychwyn ein plant yn gynnar yn yr ysgol yn rhoi'r sail ieithyddol orau iddynt ac y mae taith at ddwyieithrwydd, ac i nifer, amlieithrwydd, tipyn yn haws yn ifanc iawn. Y mae ychwanegu dosbarth meithrin hefyd yn cynorthwyo hyfywedd y dosbarth derbyn ac yn ei sgil yr ysgol gyfan, gan fod y dosbarth meithrin yn bwydo'r derbyn yn naturiol. Yn ieithyddol, dyma yw cryfder mwyaf cychwyn yn y dosbarth meithrin, mae'r dilyniant yn naturiol i'r plentyn ac yn wir o fantais i rieni/gofalwyr i ymgartrefu mewn cymuned ysgol yn gynharach. Tybed a oes angen ffactora cynorthwydd dysgu i'r gyllideb ar gyfer yr ysgolion hyn ond ffactora hefyd yr un aelod o staff cynorthwyol i fuddion y cynlluniau hefyd?
6. Mae gan y weithred o ymgynghori'r cyfrifoldeb i fesur yr effaith ar nifer o wahanol agweddau yn cynnwys y Gymraeg a hyn ar gychwyn y broses o ymgynghori. Rhaid i Awdurdod Lleol ddangos eu bod yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r effeithiau o weithredu cynllun a fydd yn cael effaith ar gynlluniau addysg Gymraeg ac yn wir ar y gymuned ehangach. Yr ydym yn gweld bod y sir wedi creu astudiaethau effaith gofalus a thrwyadl. Tybed a fyddai cyfeiriad wedi gallu bod at fewnfudwyr a'r gefnogaeth ieithyddol ar eu cyfer hwy yn rhan o'r asesu effaith hwn fel bod cynllun dir ar sut y gellid cefnogi pawb a ddaw i fyw i'r cymunedau hyn yn y strwythurau newydd.
7. Rhaid i ni bwysleisio bod newid wedi bod yn ysbryd y CSCAu ers y weithdrefn newydd. Nid system o ymateb i'r galw am addysg Gymraeg dylai fod mwyach ond creu'r galw a symbylu twf. Rhaid i hyn ddigwydd mewn modd rhagweithiol gyda chynllunio bwriadus yn amlwg. Yn achos Ceredigion, rydych yn gwneud gosodiad cadarn am gyfrwng iaith addysg y sir yn yr ysgolion hyn ac ar y daith i wireddu'ch dyhead i bob plentyn gael y cyfle gorau i gaffael dwy iaith o leiaf. Mae hyn i'w ganmol yn fawr.
8. Byddai wedi bod o fudd i weld pa ddarpariaethau gofal plant neu gylchoedd meithrin a'u cyfrwng sydd yn nalgylch pob ysgol. Gwyddwn fod darpariaeth gofal cyn ysgol a'r gallu i deuluoedd dderbyn gofal cofleidiol yn hanfodol i ddewis rhieni. Mae hygyrchedd darpariaeth Gymraeg di-dor, a'r llwybr yr un mor glir i addysg Gymraeg yn hanfodol.

9. Byddai wedi bod yn dda hefyd i weld y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael i blant drosglwyddo i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg petai rhieni'n dymuno hynny. Pa ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael ar gyfer trochwyr hwyr neu fewnfudwyr?
10. Pa gefnogaeth a roddir i ddisgyblion Cymraeg fel iaith ychwanegol (WAL) sydd yn dod i'r gymuned heb y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg?
11. Nodir yn adran 2.1 Canllawiau ar gategoreiddio ysgolion yn ôl y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth Cymru:

Yr egwyddor o beidio a symud yn ôl

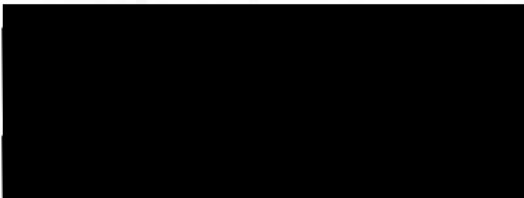
Un o'r egwyddorion craidd wrth gyflwyno'r trefniadau newydd yw na ddylai ysgolion gynnig llai o ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y dyfodol nag a wnaed yn y gorffennol. Rydym am sicrhau bod dysgwyr yn cael cymaint o gyfleoedd â phosibl i ddefnyddio eu Cymraeg mewn cymaint o gyd-destunau gwahanol â phosibl yn ystod y diwrnod ysgol. Bydd hyn yn golygu ein bod yn rhoi'r cyfle gorau i'n dysgwyr ddod yn siaradwyr Cymraeg hyderus, sy'n gallu defnyddio'r iaith ym mhob agwedd ar fywyd.

Pa gefnogaeth fydd ar gael i ysgolion i sicrhau hyn, i gynnal hyn ac yn fwy na hynny i gefnogi symud pellach ar hyn y continwmm i ysgolion petai corff llyworaethol yn dymuno hyn i'r ysgol? Wrth sefydlu sail ieithyddol gadarn i ysgol, y mae'r momentwm i ddysgu mwy yn debygol o ddatblygu'n naturiol. Pa gymorth ffurfiol fydd ar gael i'r ysgolion hyn fwrw ati felly?

Cytunwn felly gyda'r cynnig i'r newid hwn ym mhob un o'r ysgolion a ymgynghorir arnynt gan edrych ymlaen at sicrhau bod y daith drosiannol yn un sydd yn y pendraw yn sicrhau deilliannau ieithyddol cwbl ddwyieithog o leiaf i blant yr ysgolion hyn ac yn wir i holl blant Ceredigion yn y pendraw.

Byddwn yn barod i drafod ein hymateb gyda swyddogion a chynghorwyr Cyngor Sir Ceredigion ar unrhyw amser cyfleus fel arfer.

Yn ddiffuant,



CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Proposed sale of assets

Purpose of the report: To seek approval to sell two Ceredigion County Council assets.

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Clive Davies, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration

Introduction

A number of the Council's assets are being reviewed currently through the Development Group, advised by the Asset Development Panel. Assets that are surplus to the Councils' requirements (e.g., empty assets or assets that have or are reaching the end of the use for council services) are reviewed based on a set of criteria, including the potential for the asset to be of value in the following terms:

- Alignment with Corporate Priorities.
- Alignment with Economic Priorities (as expressed in the Economic Strategy).
- Ceredigion County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Opportunities - either external funding, market interest etc.
- Viability of a range of potential options, including disposal of the asset.

Where an asset is recommended for disposal, the following is taken into consideration:

- that any opportunity for development by CCC may be limited in its return.
- there are obvious opportunities / interest in the market.
- there are insufficient resources to realise a development potential, even where an opportunity may be present.

Assets recommended for disposal

Assessments are on-going on a range of assets, and the following assets have been assessed by the panel and a report was submitted to the Development Group recommending their disposal as set out below:

i. Land and Buildings Derwen Gardens, Adpar

Reference – Appendix 1, which sets out the rationale for the recommendation to dispose of the asset at the open market as a complete package of lots.

Whilst there would be an opportunity for the Council to undertake some of the infrastructure / site development work, the financial gains would, in our opinion be

marginal, and the resources of the team are going to be focused on other strategic assets across the County. In the meantime, this asset is likely to cost the Council an increasing amount of revenue expenditure in maintenance and repairs.

Estimated value - £525,000 - £700,000

It is proposed that the asset is sold on the open market, ensuring that all efforts are made to broaden the visibility of the sale process to maximise the value achieved.

ii. Garage Glyndwr Road, Aberystwyth

Reference – Appendix 2, which sets out the rationale for a recommendation to sell the asset on the open market.

The property has been subject to an annual license since 2003 with 28 days notice for specific use for domestic lock up. The licence is with the adjoining veterinary business. The current value of the licence is £800 / year on the basis of domestic use. This asset has been retained and protected due to the proximity of the neighbouring Tesco development as it may have been a potential access point. The adjoining development is now complete, and the site is now surplus to requirements. Works are now required for the external elements to bring up to standard (cost approximately £5,000-£10,000).

The Asset Team have been approached by the veterinary practice to purchase the garage. On the basis of the potential rental value, the asset has been valued at **approximately £30,000**. There is a potential additional marriage value of £5,000.

The service will ensure that the current holders of the licence are made aware of the intention to sell the property in advance of the sale.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

The recommended sales of the asset forms part of a broader asset development programme, that looks overall at the portfolio of assets held by Ceredigion County Council and their value to the Council in terms of their existing use. Any assets recommended for disposal have been deemed to be surplus to the Council's requirements to fulfil its Corporate objectives.

As such, this action does not impact on residents and businesses in Ceredigion in general, but the recommended action will generate capital receipts that will support Ceredigion County Council's capital programme.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term:	N/A
Collaboration:	N/A
Involvement:	N/A
Prevention:	N/A
Integration:	N/A

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet approves in principle the decision to sell the following assets:

- 1) Land and Buildings Derwen Gardens, Adpar
- 2) Garage Glyndwr Road, Aberystwyth

Reasons for decision:

To generate capital receipts from surplus assets.

Overview and Scrutiny:

The decision to sell these specific assets has not been discussed at the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee, however the Council's performance in maximising the use of its assets is scrutinised by the Corporate Resources scrutiny committee and is overseen by the Development Group.

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy 2022-27

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

The generation of capital receipts will contribute to the delivery of all four of the Council's Well-being objectives. In particular it will help deliver the objective of Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages, as the capital receipts generated from the sale of former schools will contribute to the schools improvement programme.

Finance and Procurement implications:

Generation of Capital receipts

Legal Implications:

The sales process will follow the required procedures by ensuring the sales follow an open process.

Staffing implications:

The Assets team will conduct the sale. There are no further long-term staffing implications.

Property / asset implications:

The sales will generate a capital receipt from assets and reduce the Council's liability to maintain the assets.

Risk(s):

There are risks to the Council in not being able to realise the full market potential for the assets, and therefore generating lower than expected capital receipts for the asset. In the long term, this would lead to a risk of being unable to reduce liabilities from surplus assets.

Statutory Powers:

The Council has Statutory powers to sell its assets under the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land in any manner they wish provided that the disposal is not at an undervalue.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Land and Buildings Derwen Gardens, Adpar

Appendix 2- Garage Glyndwr Road, Aberystwyth

(The appendix provides the land registry information on the assets being recommended for sale)

Corporate Lead Officer:

Russell Hughes-Pickering, Corporate Lead Officer: Economy and Regeneration

Reporting Officer:

Arwyn Davies, Corporate Manager, Growth and Enterprise

Date:

7/3/24

Asset Site Feasibility

PAD 001 Land and Buildings Derwen Gardens Adpar



THE SITE / PLANS



Principal author: Graeme Lane

Date - January 2024

SITE BASED BUSINESS RISK APPRAISAL

SITE DETAILS

Site Name:	Land and Buildings, Derwen Gardens, Adpar,
Property Mix:	Offices and Stores with land 1000m2 0.25Acre and Car Park 220m2 Old yard and stores 700m2 0.2 Acre Land 5,500m2 1.33 Acres
Funding (Source, amount, spending, restrictions)	Business rates £7222/annum Business rates £3424/annum Business Rates £2141/annum Total £12,793/annum Annual Maintenance
Policy support	Housing Allocation in the LDP

SECTION 1 – Scheme Sustainability Assessment

	Risk Indicator	Score (1-5)	Development Manager Comment
1.1	Local Area and suitability for development	5	Derwen Gardens is largely residential. Discussions have taken place with Developers and a Housing Association both who are in discussions with neighbouring landowners and expressed interest in developing this and the wider sites.
1.2	Development/ Land Bank/ Disposal	5	Disposal - Residential purposes and support Housing demand needs and gain some much-needed capital receipts for Local Authority. The Local Authority does not have the internal resources to self-develop.
1.3	Housing/ Commercial Light industrial	4	Housing is the predominant development In the area mostly ex council housing stock which has benefited from energy performance improvements including EWI
1.4	General environment	2	The site with Offices has deteriorated over the past 10 years and has been subjected to ASB and damage both internally and externally.
1.5	Environmental / Green Space and Carbon impacts	2	2 of the sites have green space one of which is adjacent to a play area. There is a tree border between the old yard and the green space, and the site is SSW gently sloping.
1.6	Community well-being	4	This site would increase development opportunity for housing and unlock neighbouring sites creating local employment and training during construction and post maintenance.
	Total Score	22	

SECTION 2 - Development Risk Assessment

	Risk Indicator	Score (1-5)	Comment
2.1	Stakeholder Support		Asset Development Team – recommend open market sale of combined sites to one purchaser. A private developer or social landlord with experience to develop would be able to unlock the full potential this site offers. Asset Panel - Development Group -
2.2	Technical /Construction	3	Significant development opportunity can be unlocked by this site however will require the phosphates issues to be resolved ahead of any planning approvals.
2.3	Legal	4	Freehold ownership of the sites identified, and any further risks pass to new owners
2.4	Strategic Priorities and Regeneration	5	Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment Creating Caring and Healthy Communities Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities
	Total Score	12	

SUMMARY

Scheme Sustainability Assessment	22 out of 30
Development Risk Assessment	12 out of 20
Site Based Business Risk Appraisal Score	34 out of 50

SECTION 3 – Scheme Based Financial appraisal.

Background

In September 2015 a report was presented to Cabinet recommending the sale of land off Derwen Gardens to an adjoining landowner at an agreed price of £200,000. Cabinet agreed to the sale as recommended. Following the decisions arrangements were put in place to sell the land but the sale did not proceed to completion. This was represented to Cabinet in 2017 where discussions resumed as the landowner who was considering working with a developer to bring forward the land for housing. However, did not progress.

The current condition of the buildings is poor to very poor condition with dry rot prevalent in half of the main building. External elements are either failing or damaged to a point of requiring boarding up or reactive maintenance. The properties have been combined to offer a significant development opportunity for a larger scale developer to develop a plan creating access to adjoining land. The current insurers have requested the Council to Fence off the building completely due to safety issues related to anyone who breaks in who could fall through the rotten floors. The buildings have been subjected to damage, break in's and numerous reports of alarms being triggered which have now been turned off altogether. The largest building is considered to dangerous to access due to dry rot and the cost of making good would be prohibitive. This site would also offer potential for development.

Project Value

Indicative £125,000 - £150,000 for the office buildings and land to the south

Indicative £200,000 - £250,000 Land To north of Old yard

Indicative £100,000 - £150,000 Old yard site

Indicative £100,000 - £150,000 Hope value for access to surrounding land.

Indicative **£525,000 - £700,000 Value**

Scheme Viability

Selling the combined site to one developer will ensure the future development and control by the purchaser. One ownership is critical to avoid ransom strips which would hold up progress.as work will be required on the adjacent sites to preserve the development opportunity via improved visibility splays. The combination of these sites unlocks greater opportunity which support the Housing waiting list demands. Progress is being made on the Teifi Catchment regarding Phosphates and is being used as a pilot to progress works and activity with significant funding.

SECTION 4 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Asset Development Service Manager Comments

It is recommended that Asset Panel / Development Group and Cabinet resolve to sell the Council's freehold interest of the combined sites of land and buildings off Derwen Gardens, Adpar. Best value will be achieved from private developers of the wider development opportunity/adjoining landowner to maximise the potential of the allocated housing development site.

The sale will realise a Capital receipt for the Council and enable development of an allocated housing development site.

Date: 5/2/24

Asset Panel Comments

Happy to proceed as Allocated on LDP for housing
Legal due diligence to be carried out
Review in 12 months should sale not be successful

Date: 5/2/24

Development Group Recommendation:

Support the sale of the property as recommended, with the caveat that all efforts are made to broaden the visibility of the sale process to maximise the value achieved.

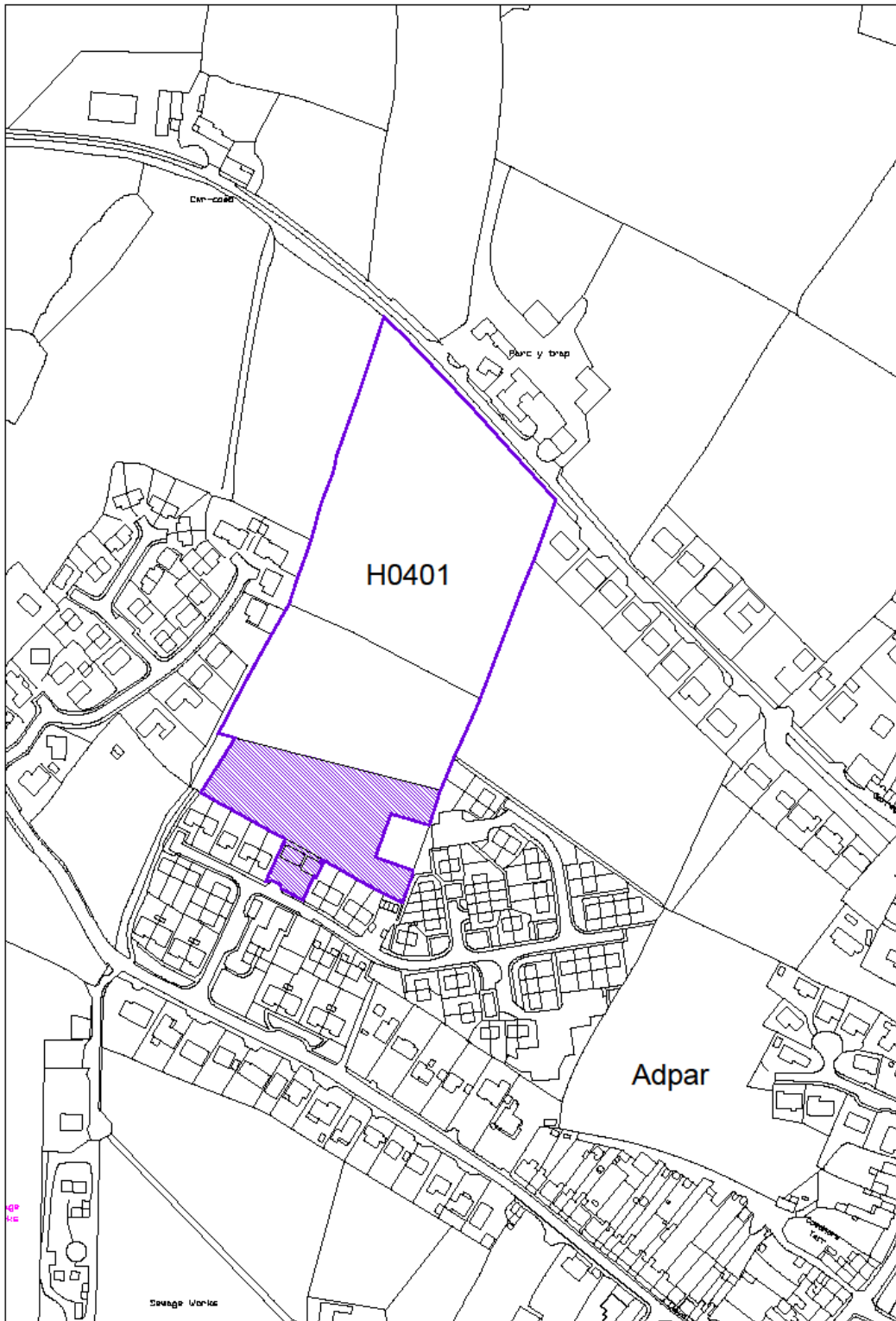
Date: 12/2/24 and 21/2/24

Cabinet Resolution:

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 1

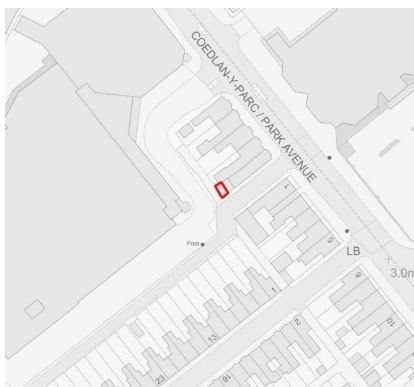


Asset Site Feasibility

Garage Glyndwr Road, Aberystwyth.



THE SITE / PLANS



Principal author: Graeme Lane

Date - January 2024

SITE BASED BUSINESS RISK APPRAISAL

SITE DETAILS

Site Name:	Garage Glyndwr Road, Aberystwyth
Property Mix:	Garage
Funding (Source, amount, spending, restrictions)	No NDR Annual Maintenance – none / minimal
Policy support	Previously covered by a policy not to sell within the former asset disposal policy

SECTION 1 – Scheme Sustainability Assessment

	Risk Indicator	Score (1-5)	Development Manager Comment
1.1	Local Area and suitability for development	4	The local vets are or were currently using as part of their business. This has limited development opportunity but would offer the current lessee the opportunity to improve the existing space.
1.2	Development/ Land Bank/ Disposal	4	Disposal – to enable an expansion of business.
1.3	Housing/ Commercial Light industrial	4	Commercial use
1.4	General environment	4	The site is need of minor repairs and ongoing maintenance
1.5	Environmental / Green Space and Carbon impacts	5	The area is wholly developed with negligible impact.
1.6	Community well-being	4	Little impact except improving local business opportunity
	Total Score	25	

SECTION 2 - Development Risk Assessment

	Risk Indicator	Score (1-5)	Comment
2.1	Stakeholder Support		Asset Development Team – recommend open market sale. Asset Panel - Development Group -
2.2	Technical /Construction	4	Already developed

2.3	Legal	4	Freehold ownership of the site identified, and any further risks pass to new owners
2.4	Strategic Priorities and Regeneration	2	Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
Total Score		10	

SUMMARY

Scheme Sustainability Assessment	25 out of 30
Development Risk Assessment	10 out of 20
Site Based Business Risk Appraisal Score	35 out of 50

SECTION 3 – Scheme Based Financial appraisal.

Background

The property has been subject to an annual license since 2003 with 28 days notice for specific use for domestic lock up. The licence is with the adjoining veterinary business. The current value of the licence is £800 / year on the basis of domestic use. This asset has been retained and protected due to the proximity of the neighbouring Tesco development as it may have been a potential access point. The adjoining development is now complete, and the site is now surplus to requirements. Works are now required for the external elements to bring up to standard (cost approximately £5,000-£10,000)

The Asset Team have been approached by the veterinary practice to purchase the garage. On the basis of the potential rental value, the asset has been valued at approximately £30,000. There is a potential additional marriage value of £5,000.

Project Value

Garage value £30,000+ on the open market

SECTION 4 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Asset Development Service Manager Comments

It is recommended that Asset Panel / Development Group recommend to Cabinet to move this from the Corporate estate resolve to sell the Council's freehold interest of this site. Best value will be achieved from marriage value from the current licensee. The sale will realise a Capital receipt for the Council.

Signed:

Date:

Asset Panel Comments

Signed:

Date:

Development Group Recommendation:

Signed:

Date:

Cabinet Resolution:

Signed:

Date:

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Future options for Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home, Bow Street

Purpose of the report: To seek direction and approval on:
The statutory requirement to consult on the transfer of the residential care service from Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Introduction

Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home, Aberystwyth, has 90 en-suite bedrooms and sundry support facilities and is registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) as a Residential Care Home for adults. The home was handed over by the Methodist Homes Association in November 2023 to the council and has provided opportunities for Direct Services to consider its residential care home estate and how this could be developed for the future. In the North of the County, it has presented a specific opportunity in relation to Cartref Tregerddan.

There is an opportunity to bring forward the re-structuring of residential care provision across the Aberystwyth area, merging Tregerddan RCH and Hafan y Waun RCH. Not only will this help to address the ageing estate, that in many cases is unfit for purpose and requires significant capital investment to upgrade it to the required standard, but also provides opportunity for improved facilities (such as en-suite bedrooms), better access for families due to restrictive parking at Cartref Tregerddan and poor access at the home for emergency vehicles. There are also general economies of scale in terms of staffing support and service access.

Occupancy at Tregerddan RCH

There are currently 20 residents at Tregerddan in a variety of placement offerings. Alongside this, there are six Step-up / Step-down beds. These are associated with a pilot project managed jointly with Hywel Dda University Health Board supporting the efficient discharge of clients from hospitals.

Occupancy at Hafan y Waun RCH

There are currently 50 residents placed at Hafan y Waun, accommodated in three of the five wings within the home, with an opportunity to increase by a further 40 residents in the two remaining wings.

Consultation Proposals

There is a statutory requirement to consult both the clients and their families alongside our staff. We are seeking permission from cabinet to progress with the consultation in relation to:

1. Transfer the permanent, temporary, and short-term placements from Tregerddan Residential Care Home into the Hafan y Waun wing comprising 20 bedrooms.
2. Review the 6 Step-up / Step-Down residents to establish their care and support need pathways (post the six-weeks support). This may result in:
 - a) transfer into HyW residential care where capacity allows.
 - b) return home - potentially awaiting a package of care.
3. Staff will transfer with the residents from Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun; providing continuity of care. This supports the ongoing wellbeing of the residents, families, and the staff themselves, throughout the process.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

The IIA is in production in parallel with work being undertaken on Capital Funding initiatives across the estate

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

- Long term:** Transferring the provision from Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun supports the longer-term sustainability of residential care provision in the North of Ceredigion.
- Collaboration:** A project group is being created with colleagues from Hywel Dda University Health Board, along with discussions with Aberystwyth University and other partners.
- Involvement:** A 12-week consultation is planned for families, residents, staff and wider public stakeholders.
- Prevention:** The proposal will support the sustainability of residential care provision in the North of the County.
Provide an opportunity to enhance the numbers of apprenticeship and offer a career pathway locally.
Reduce the requirement for significant Capital Investment to a facility that is of an age.
Reduce the risk currently of emergency vehicles not being able to access the home due to access issues.
- Integration:** The need to work in collaboration with health to ensure that there is access to timely primary care provision e.g., GP
This impact assessment has considered the impact on the four pillars of well-being. We will continue to collaborate with other public bodies and service areas in the Council to mitigate any further impact that may be identified as we progress with the proposal.

Recommendation(s):

To approve to progress with the statutory requirement to consult on the transfer of the residential care service from Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home.

Reasons for decision:

In order to progress with the proposals and the potential budget efficiencies attached to the proposal.

Overview and Scrutiny:

This paper has not been through Healthier Communities Overview and scrutiny Committee but the findings of the consultation will be presented prior to Cabinet.

Policy Framework:

Social Services and Well Being Act (2014), Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment:

Transferring Cartref to Hafan y Waun will maintain employment in the Aberystwyth and the surrounding area.

Creating caring and healthy communities:

By having a large residential care provision providing a range of specialist provision in Aberystwyth. Proposal will ensure that residential care services are sustainable, fit for purpose and able to meet the needs both now and in the future, of the people of Ceredigion

Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages:

Providing learning opportunities for student nurses at Aberystwyth University.
Developing apprenticeship opportunities near large secondary schools for young people 16+

Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities:

By re-locating Cartref Tregerddan into Aberystwyth it provides better bus networks for staff to travel to work.
Reducing the use of multiple buildings and electricity etc.
Improved access for staff, families and emergency vehicles.

Finance and Procurement implications:

There are budget implications in relation to the proposals with efficiencies proposed

Legal Implications:

N/A

Staffing implications:

All staff from Tregerddan will be supported via the managing change process and will be offered equivalent roles across the rest of the Residential Care Home estate

Property / asset implications:

Consideration to re purpose estate (Cartref Tregerddan)

Risk(s):

Outcome of consultation to move residents is not positive

Statutory Powers:

- Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act
- Regulation of Social Care Wales Act

Background Papers:

N/A

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Integrated Impact Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Donna Pritchard, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Gofal

Reporting Officer:

Nerys Lewis, Corporate Manager: Direct Services

Date:

22.02.2024



INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

Proposal Details

Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative	
Transfer of the residents and staff of Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home, Bow Street into a section of Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home, Aberystwyth.	
Service Area	Officer completing IIA
Direct Service	Nerys Lewis
Corporate Lead Officer	Strategic Director
Donna Pritchard	James Starbuck
Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal	
Following the acquisition of Hafan y Waun Care Home, Aberystwyth, this proposal is focused on the review of future options for Tregerddan Care Home in Bow Street and the opportunity to transfer the residents to Hafan Y Waun Care home as well as the proposal to consult with staff and residents of Cartref Tregerddan regarding the proposed transfer.	
Who will be directly affected by this proposal? HINT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents currently placed at Cartref Tregerddan • Families of the residents • Staff of Cartref Tregerddan 	
Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial phase of the proposal will be to consult with the residents, families and staff of Cartref Tregerddan (proposal to go out to consultation in readiness for consideration at Cabinet (19th March 2024). 	

Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

Version Number	Author	Decision making stage HINT	Date Considered	Description of any amendments made HINT
V1.0	Nerys Lewis	Pre Consultation/Budget setting	January 2024	n/a

Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.	Transferring Cartref to Hafan y Waun will maintain employment in the Aberystwyth and the surrounding area.
Creating caring and healthy communities	By having a large residential care provision providing a range of specialist provision in Aberystwyth. Proposal will ensure that residential care services are sustainable, fit for purpose and able to meet the needs both now and in the future, of the people of Ceredigion.
Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages	Providing learning opportunities for student nurses at Aberystwyth University. Developing apprenticeship opportunities near large secondary schools for young people 16+.
Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities	By re-locating Cartref Tregerddan into Aberystwyth it provides better bus networks for staff to travel to work. Reducing the use of multiple buildings and electricity etc. Improved access for staff, families and emergency vehicles.

National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

People - The proposals support individuals to live and work in the local community, providing opportunities to promote individual and community resilience. Older people will have the opportunity to be cared for in their local area with strong connections to the local community

Place – supporting people to access local community resources

Enterprise – creating opportunities for ‘social enterprises’ as well as promoting local businesses as a means to meet needs. Maximising the opportunities that the facility (HYW) provides.

Connectivity – linking individuals and families to local solutions within their own communities.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable, and the transfer of the residents to a better environment within their local area will be a positive move and provide greater opportunities for local inclusion. Improved environment will support meeting RISCA requirements.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Providing local solutions to meeting needs of service users reduces carbon emissions/footprint

What evidence do you have to support this view?

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Proposals will improve access to services, reduce need for out of county solutions to meeting needs of older people.

Reduce the need for people to be placed in dementia facilities out of county

What evidence do you have to support this view?

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click [here](#) for information)

Children and Young People up to 18	None / Negligible
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People 18-50	Positive
---------------------	----------

Older people 50+	Positive
-------------------------	----------

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Positive

- Improved environment for children visiting older relatives and/or family members.

- Improved environment for residents to live and maintain independence for longer e.g., en-suite, access to kitchen area for making their own refreshments.
- Maintaining provision in North Ceredigion reducing the need to go out of County
- Individuals living with Dementia not requiring to move on as provision available within the home.

What evidence do you have to support this?

- Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Wales (RISCA) requirements for new provision requiring e.g en-suites for all bedrooms.
- National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Proposal provides opportunities to provide equity across services and delivery

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)

Hearing Impairment	Positive
Physical Impairment	Positive
Visual Impairment	Positive
Learning Disability	Positive
Long Standing Illness	Positive
Mental Health	Positive
Other	Choose an item.

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Local services closer to home, dementia care focus with improved access, greater opportunities in relation to range of opportunities available. The environment within Hafan y Waun is purposely dementia friendly, which has a positive impact on people with visual and hearing impairment as well as mental health and chronic illness.

What evidence do you have to support this?

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Proposals provides opportunities to provide equity across services and delivery

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)

Trans Women	None / Negligible
Trans Men	None / Negligible
Non-binary people	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

No impact anticipated

What evidence do you have to support this?

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

N/A

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click [here](#) for information)

Bisexual	None / Negligible
Gay Men	None / Negligible
Gay Women/Lesbian	None / Negligible

Heterosexual/Straight	None / Negligible
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
No impact anticipated	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need	
What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
N/A	

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click here for information)	
People who are married	None / Negligible
People in a civil partnership	None / Negligible
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
No impact anticipated	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need	
What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
N/A	

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click here for information)	
Pregnancy	None / Negligible

Maternity	None / Negligible
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
No impact anticipated	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?	
N/A	

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click here for information)	
Asian / Asian British	None / Negligible
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	None / Negligible
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	None / Negligible
White	None / Negligible
Other Ethnic Groups	None / Negligible
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
No impact anticipated	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
N/A	

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)

Buddhist	None / Negligible
Christian	None / Negligible
Hindu	None / Negligible
Humanist	None / Negligible
Jewish	None / Negligible
Muslim	None / Negligible
Sikh	None / Negligible
Non-belief	None / Negligible
Other	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

No impact anticipated

What evidence do you have to support this?

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

N/A

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women? (Click [here](#) for information)

Men	None / Negligible
Women	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

No impact anticipated

What evidence do you have to support this?

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?

N/A

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community? (Click [here](#) for information)

Members of the Armed Forces	None / Negligible
Veterans	None / Negligible
Spouses	None / Negligible
Children	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

No impact anticipated

What evidence do you have to support this?

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

N/A

Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Provision of more local based services should reduce travelling, and cost, for the friends and relatives of individuals that receive the service.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
N/A	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
N/A	

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. HINT
The proposal will provide further opportunities for volunteering in the local area. Opportunities for enhancing and developing local community resources will bring benefits to the general population. Increased local provision will help individuals to maintain their community connections.
What evidence do you have to support this view?
Through Age Wellbeing Strategy 2022- 2027
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?
Ensure that there is effective communication and engagement at a local/community level.

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.	
Delivering services locally and keeping individuals within their own communities will enhance the opportunities to maintain local connections, promote the Welsh language and access services that are meaningful to them.	
What evidence do you have to support this view?	
National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable and suggests that the approaches prevent siloed approaches to service delivery and marginalisation of specific groups such as people with care needs and dementia	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?	
Ensure that the 'Active Offer' is provided and tailoring services to meet the language and cultural needs of the individual	
With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?	
Click here for information	
Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	Positive
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language	Positive
What evidence do you have to support this view?	
As above	
What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?	
As above	

National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. <u>HINT</u>
Expected positive impact due to people being cared for and supported locally, no increased travelling for families due to proximity to existing home.
What evidence do you have to support this view?
Local provision
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?
N/A

Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

What will you do?	When?	Who is responsible?	Progress
Cabinet proposal to go out to consultation	March 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	
We will ensure that the 'Active Offer' is provided, upskill staff and tailor services to meet the language and cultural needs of the individual.	Ongoing	Through Age Wellbeing services	
We will ensure that there is effective communication and engagement at a local/community level.	March 2024 – September 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	
If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)			
How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?			
Through the Through Age Wellbeing Programme Governance.			

Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



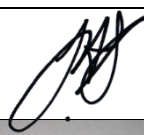
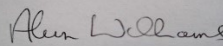
<p>Long term Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring the provision from Tregarddan to Hafan y Waun supports the longer term sustainability of residential care provision in the North of Ceredigion.
<p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project group is being created with colleagues from Hywel Dda University Health Board, along with discussions with Aberystwyth University and other partners.
<p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 12 week consultation is planned for families, residents, staff and wider public stakeholders.
<p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal will support the sustainability of residential care provision in the North of the County. • Provide an opportunity to enhance the numbers of apprenticeship and offer a carer pathway locally. • Reduce the requirement for significant Capital Investment to a facility that is of an age. • Reduce the risk currently of emergency vehicles not being able to access the home due to access issues.
<p>Integration Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to work in collaboration with health to ensure that there is access to timely primary care provision e.g., GP • This impact assessment has considered the impact on the four pillars of well-being. We will continue to collaborate with other public bodies and service areas in the Council to mitigate any further impact that may be identified as we progress with the proposal.

Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
Risk Description	Impact	Probability	Score (Impact x Likelihood)		
Inability to progress with the proposal impacting on budget	4	2	8		

Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager	Nerys Lewis		21/02/2024
Corporate Lead Officer	Donna Pritchard		21/02/2024
Corporate Director	James Starbuck		21/02/2024
Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Alun Williams		21/02/2024

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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall

Purpose of the report: To consider the asset transfer of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Cllr Catrin MS Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Customer Services

1. Background and Context

Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall is operated by a charitable trust and is a facility consisting of a 25m swimming pool, learner pool, hall space and fitness suites. It is centrally located in the town on Napier Street, adjacent to the Fairfield Car Park and Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi / Cardigan Integrated Childcare Centre.

The Chair of Trustees has contacted senior officers of the local authority to highlight the cashflow issues the Memorial Pool and Hall is experiencing and that despite the best efforts of the trustees and the 'Friends of the Pool' to raise money, it is no longer financially viable for the trust to operate the facility. Due to this, the Trustees have taken the difficult decision to close the facility at the end of the month.

The difficulties experienced by the trust have become a common occurrence amongst leisure facilities across the United Kingdom, particularly following the corona virus pandemic. Specific challenges faced by Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall include:

- A 472% increase in gas costs following the end of a fixed pricing contract on 31.12.2023 from £20,000 per annum to an estimated £115,000 per annum
- Income levels yet to recover to pre pandemic levels
- Frequent mechanical failures which result in the temporary closure of the swimming pools and difficulty in maintaining an ambient water temperature
- A facility constructed in 1976/77 that a recent condition survey has identified requires works valued at over £900,000 to be carried out over the next 5years. (The condition survey was carried out as part of the council's feasibility study for the Wellbeing Centre in Cardigan).

In recognition of the contribution that the facility makes to the provision of health & wellbeing in Cardigan and the surrounding communities, and to safeguard its use for that purpose, the trustees of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall have approached the Council to ask if we would consider an asset transfer of the facility, following its formal closure by the Trust into Council ownership.

The trust will be required to ensure they comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 prior to transfer.

2. Strategic Fit

There is a clear link to the corporate objective of *Creating Caring and Healthy Communities* for the asset transfer of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall into Council ownership and in particular the following commitments in the Corporate Plan:

- Progressing with plans to develop Wellbeing Hubs serviced by a Wellbeing Centre in the North and South of the county
- People of all ages know where and how to access focussed and universal services in person and online to maintain their own wellbeing and independence
- Blended opportunities to access services
- Encourage and enable people to get physically active so they can benefit from positive health and wellbeing
- Assist our Ageing population to be physically and socially active, supporting their independence

At the Cabinet meeting held on the 06.12.2022 a decision was made to develop the county's second Wellbeing Centre in Cardigan. The Memorial Pool and Hall site is one of locations being considered for the Wellbeing Centre as part of the feasibility study currently being undertaken. However, it must be recognised that the creation of the Wellbeing Centre is dependent on securing funding.

More information is provided in the Exempt report attached (Appendix 1).

3. Proposal:

It is proposed that the site on which Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall is situated, and the associated building is transferred by way of an asset transfer to the Council.

4. Legal Considerations

Sections 24 (1) and (2)(c) under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provide a general power of competence to local authorities which would enable the local authority to undertake the asset transfer of the facility into local authority ownership:

24 Local authority's general power of competence

(1) A qualifying local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do, even if that thing is, in nature or extent or otherwise -

(a) unlike anything a qualifying local authority may do apart from this section;

(b) unlike anything that other public bodies may do.

(2) Where subsection (1) confers power on an authority to do something, it confers power to do it in any way whatsoever, including—

(a) power to do it anywhere in Wales or elsewhere;

(b) power to do it for a commercial purpose or otherwise for a charge, or without charge;

(c) power to do it for, or otherwise than for, the benefit of the authority, its area, or persons resident or present in its area.

This is a power of first resort.

Should the proposal be approved by Cabinet, the Council and the trustees of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall would work together to affect the asset transfer as soon as is practicably possible. This would be subject to a formal legal agreement to bind both parties.

5. Financial Considerations

There are both one-off and ongoing costs to be considered:

i) One-off Transfer Cost

There would be a one-off cost associated with the asset transfer to the Council. The exact figure would crystallise at the point of asset transfer and therefore will be confirmed as part of the legal process.

More information is provided in the Exempt report attached Appendix 1

ii) Ongoing Revenue costs

The Trust are closing the Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall facility at the end of March 2024, prior to any asset transfer. Given the Council's wider financial position, core funding does not exist to operate the facility as a going concern as that could only have happened by placing an even higher burden on Ceredigion residents through Council Tax.

The Council does not therefore intend to re-open and operate the facility. In inheriting a closed facility, the Council will need to protect the integrity of the site pending the outcome of the Wellbeing Centre feasibility study.

More information is provided in the Exempt report attached Appendix 1.

6. Other Considerations

Impact on School Swimming: Currently 3 of the county's primary schools receive swimming lessons at Cardigan Memorial Pool. The nearest potential alternative provision is out of county which is significantly closer than the nearest in county provision. Discussions have yet to take place with the schools or providers regarding alternative provision.

Sport Wales: More information is provided in the Exempt report attached Appendix 1.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?

No, the report is in relation to an asset not owned or operated by the Council.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: Not applicable
Collaboration: Not applicable
Involvement: Not applicable
Prevention: Not applicable
Integration: Not applicable

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet agrees:

- 1. In principle for the asset known as Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall to be transferred into the ownership of the Council under Sections 24 (1) and (2)(c) of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**
- 2. That the asset transfer is undertaken to enable the Council to deliver quality services that contribute to the improved wellbeing of residents in the South of the county.**
- 3. To acknowledge and note the Financial Matters contained within the Exempt report.**
- 4. To authorise Officers to work with the Trustees of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall to proceed with the asset transfer of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall into Council ownership at the earliest practical opportunity, ensuring the completion of all necessary legal agreements to achieve this.**

Reasons for decision:

To protect a location and facility that is strategically important to the provision of health & wellbeing services within the South of the county.

Overview and Scrutiny:

None

Policy Framework:

Not Applicable

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages

Finance and Procurement implications:

There would be a cost associated to the asset transfer of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall to Council ownership and there would be annual revenue implications for the authority in protecting the integrity of the asset.

Legal Implications:

Should the matter proceed, then Legal Services will undertake further due diligence to include pre-contract enquiries and searches as is usual in conveyancing transactions.

The trust will need to comply with its obligations under the Charities Act 2011 prior to asset transfer.

Staffing implications:

Not applicable

Property / asset implications:

The addition of Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall to the Council's property portfolio and asset register which would also include insurance and inspection matters.

Risk(s):

That the site and property is lost for the purposes of health & wellbeing.

That the feasibility study for the Wellbeing Centre in Cardigan has yet to conclude.

The development of the Wellbeing Centre in Cardigan will be dependent on attracting sufficient capital funding to bring the project to fruition.

Statutory Powers:

Sections 24 (1) and (2)(c) under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Background Papers:

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Exempt report

Corporate Lead Officer(s):

Greg Jones - Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar (Interim)

Duncan Hall - Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

Elin Prysor - Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance

Reporting Officer(s):

Greg Jones - Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar (Interim)

Carwyn Young - Corporate Manager: Wellbeing Centres

Date:

01/03/2024

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Report for the Re-Designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation for Ceredigion

Purpose of the report: For Elected Members to consider and ratify the Re-designation of an Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation in Ceredigion (2024 - 2029)

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection

Introduction

The Housing Act 2004 Part 2 places a duty on LAs to licence Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) of 3 or more storeys, five or more persons, forming two or more households.

- The aim of the legislation is to ensure adequate:
 - Management, amenity and safety standards
 - Control of anti-social behaviour, noise and waste management in HMOs
 - Kitchen and bathroom amenities and facilities
 - Ensure they are managed by 'fit and proper persons'
 - Specify a maximum number of people avoiding overcrowded conditions.
 - Mandatory and discretionary 'licence conditions' relating to:
 - Heating: adequate means of space heating
 - Washing / kitchen facilities - hot and cold water, suitable cooking, storage and food preparation facilities, suitable refuse disposal facilities
 - Satisfactory certificate of:
 - Fire precautionary facilities, equipment and installations
 - Gas appliances and installations;
 - Declarations as to the safety of electrical appliances and furniture;

In addition to Mandatory HMO Licensing the LA **may** also designate additional licensing, in the whole or part of the Authority's area, based on the number of occupiers/ households and storeys).

- The LA must consider:
 - significant proportion of the HMOs poorly managed giving rise to problems affecting the tenants or members of the public and community more widely.

- whether there are any other courses of action available to them.
- making the designation will significantly assist them to deal with the problems.

Current Situation

Ceredigion County Council has operated an Additional Licensing scheme since 2009. The first designation Additional Licensing Scheme came into force on 1st April 2009 up to 31st March 2014 covering the whole of Ceredigion.

The second designation Additional Licensing Scheme came into force on the 14th April 2014 and was operative up to 13th April 2019, and applied to:

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming two or more households: Aberystwyth, Llanbadarn Fawr, Borth, Llanfarian, Lampeter.
- Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

The third designation Additional Licensing Scheme came into force on the 14th April 2019 and is operative up to 14th April 2024, and applies to:

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming three or more separate households regardless of the number of storeys in the following specified wards only:
 - i. Aberystwyth Bronglais
 - ii. Aberystwyth Central
 - iii. Aberystwyth North
 - iv. Aberystwyth Penparcau
 - v. Aberystwyth Rheidol
 - vi. Faenor
 - vii. Llanbadarn Fawr Padarn
 - viii. Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien
- The whole of the County of Ceredigion for:
 - HMOs occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of storeys, and
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

Review of the Additional Licensing Scheme

Section 60 of the Housing Act 2004 provides that the designation must from time to time be reviewed and if it is to continue must be re-declared at the end of a 5 year period (in April 2024). A thorough review and evaluation of the additional licensing scheme has been undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the existing scheme and to consider the options for whether an Additional Licensing Scheme should continue for a further 5 years from 2024-2029. As part of this review and evaluation a 10-week Public Consultation has been undertaken between 15th December 2023 and 23rd February 2024.

Legislative process

A legislative procedure is required to be followed in declaring an Additional Licensing Scheme, as contained within sections 56-60 of the Housing Act 2004. In April 2007, the Welsh Government issued approval to local authorities (The Housing Act 2004 (Additional Licensing) (Wales) General Approval 2007) stating that councils may

introduce an Additional Licensing Scheme without obtaining Assembly approval, providing that certain requirements are met. In particular, the Council must:

- i. consider that significant proportion of the HMOs of that description are being managed ineffectively as to give rise, or likely to give rise, to one or more particular problems either for those occupying the HMOs or for members of the public;
- ii. consider whether there any other courses of action available to them that might provide an effective method of dealing with the problem or problems in question;
- iii. consider that making the designation will significantly assist them to deal with the problems,
- iv. Consult persons likely to be affected by the designation.
- v. Ensure that any exercise of the power is consistent with the authority's overall housing strategy.
- vi. Seek to adopt a co-ordinated approach in connection with dealing with homelessness, empty properties and anti-social behaviour affecting the private rented sector, both:
 - (a) as regards combining licensing under this Part with other courses of action available to them, and
 - (b) as regards combining such licensing with measures taken by other persons.

If, following consultation, it is deemed that an Additional Licensing Scheme ought to be re-introduced, the LA can approve the scheme under a general consent regime, as laid down in guidance provided by LACORS, and provide a Public Notice of Designation at least **3 months** before the Scheme becomes operational.

The aim of this report and accompanying Appendices is to demonstrate compliance with these sections of the Housing Act by supplying the evidence required to support the proposal, including full details of the consultation exercise undertaken.

Public Consultation

A Public Consultation was carried out between 15th December 2023 and 23rd February 2024. Questionnaires were delivered by hand within Aberystwyth town and Lampeter to a mixture of owner-occupied properties, Houses in Multiple Occupation and other rented properties. The questionnaire was also available online and at the county's libraries.

County Councillors, members of the Landlords Steering-Group, The University, Dyfed-Powys Police, Mid Wales Fire and Rescue and all other relevant departments of the Council with an interest were also consulted.

The Consultation documents were placed on the Ceredigion County Council corporate website, utilising the Engagements and Consultations facility. Various social media outlets such as Facebook, X / Twitter were similarly deployed.

Summary of Findings

Only 17 responses to the Consultation were received and details of the questionnaire are available in Appendix 2. Of those that responded 65% were in favour of re-designating the Additional Licensing Scheme.

Whilst the response to the Consultation is low, this could be an indicator of the effectiveness of the scheme over the last 15 years and the subsequent decline in anti-social behaviour, noise and waste management issues associated with this type of premises.

Analysis of data relating to the licensing of these premises in the last five years is contained in Appendix 1.

During the Pandemic students returned to their homes and undertook their studies online. In addition, all physical inspections of residential premises including HMOs were suspended for long periods. This included both programmed licensing inspections and licence application checks. The suspension of inspections during this time had a knock-on effect of delaying licenses being renewed and an interruption to the routine licence inspection programme creating a large backlog of properties requiring inspection. This in turn has impacted the standards of repair experienced in HMO properties that have been inspected in the last 18 months as we recover from the Pandemic. This is reflected in the data recorded in respect of the number of Licenses issued in 22/23 with conditions attached as seen in the Table below.

Year	Number of full licences issued	Number of conditional licences issued
2019/20	89 %	11%
2020/21	92 %	8 %
2021/22	84 %	16 %
2022/23	78 %	22 %
2023/24	68 % (April – Nov)	32 % (April to Nov)

The ratio of licences issued with conditions has increased post Covid -19 suggesting a slip in overall standards during this period.

Benefits of Re-Designating Additional Licensing Scheme

The HMO Additional Licensing scheme has been running for nearly 15 years and the Council has significant experience of this area of regulation and believes the continuation of the scheme within Ceredigion will deliver the following benefits:

- New HMOs can make a valuable contribution to housing stock. HMOs provide accommodation for a wide range of groups, including young professionals, students, refugees and persons on low incomes. However, such conversions must be completed appropriately, and licensing provides a mechanism to regulate such properties.
- Licensing ensures properties are maintained to an appropriate standard to protect tenants' health and safety and they are appropriately managed.
- Ensure standards of accommodation provide a safe and healthy environment by examining hazards such as damp, cold, heat, falls, fire, electrical safety, gas safety, suitable room sizes, adequate kitchens / bathrooms for the number of tenants, food safety, biocides, lead, asbestos etc.
- Reduces levels of anti-social behaviour and crime. Licence conditions require the landlord to deal with this within the curtilage of the licensed properties. We would expect the landlord to inform tenants that their behaviour was

unacceptable in the first instance and if the behaviour continues, to seek possession of the property.

- A more secure and stable living environment for tenants and neighbours. Reduce complaints of poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents and pests.
- A more attractive area for businesses and residents. Continuing the work with the Council's Waste Management team by including waste storage requirements as licence conditions to Improve waste and recycling compliance.
- Direct benefits for tenants include regular inspections of properties by Council Officers leading to improved welfare and confidence in the landlord due to compliance with standards set by licensing.
- Benefits for the community as a whole, including fewer environmental problems, protection of vulnerable persons who might otherwise live in poor condition properties and inclusion of the properties on the Public Register.

Since the introduction of the Council's 3rd Additional Licensing scheme in 2019, significant numbers of properties have been improved, many of which would have been outside the scope of Mandatory licensing and as such it is likely that, without the Council's Additional licensing scheme, a much smaller number would have been improved.

Evidence indicates problems with housing conditions and more generally for the community may be found in and caused by small as well as large HMOs.

Without the designation of an Additional Licensing scheme in the county, the Council will not have such an effective, proactive mechanism to ensure that these smaller properties are regulated and brought up to a satisfactory standard and properly maintained at that standard.

Despite the good work undertaken to improve properties through the current Additional Licensing scheme, it is evident that many properties still require improvement, and some tenants are not being adequately protected. Further work is required.

Options

The Options to be considered are:

Option 1 - To continue with the Additional Licensing Scheme in its current form, whereby licensing applies to:

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming three or more separate households regardless of the number of storeys in the following specified wards only:

Aberystwyth Bronglais, Aberystwyth Central, Aberystwyth North, Aberystwyth Penparcau, Aberystwyth Rheidol, Faenor, Llanbadarn Fawr Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien.

- The whole of the County of Ceredigion for:
 - HMOs occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of storeys, and
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

Option 2 - Licensing all properties which meet the following criteria on a county wide basis:

- Those properties occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of stories, AND
- Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004) created by converting buildings into flats where the conversions did not meet the Building Regulations 1991 Standards and they have not been subsequently brought up to the relevant standards.

Option 3 - To allow the existing Additional Licensing Scheme to expire on the 14th April 2024 and not declare/designate an Additional scheme in its place.

Recommendation

Having considered all the evidence and the benefits of having an Additional Licensing Scheme together with the response to the Public Consultation, it is recommended that Option 1 be considered for re-designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for a further 5 years from 2024 – 2029. The numbers of HMOs in both the Lampeter and Cardigan area are low. The data for the last 5 years does not support the introduction of an Additional Licensing Scheme in these areas.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? Yes

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: The proposal is for a period of 5 years at which time the Licensing scheme will be reviewed and evaluated to determine whether it should continue. The scheme is self-financing.

Collaboration: We currently liaise with colleagues in Highways and Public Protection, together with external partners such as the Police, Fire Authority and University, Agents and Landlords in delivering the scheme.

Involvement: A Public Consultation has been undertaken for a period of 10 weeks. This has included information and questionnaires available on the website and through social media. Directly consulting with known landlords and agents. Targeted letters, information and questionnaires to a selection of properties in the current Designation area of Aberystwyth and Lampeter.

Prevention: The proposal tackles specific properties meeting the criteria for the Additional Licensing scheme and aims to improve conditions for those residing within the properties and other residents living within the vicinity of the licensed properties.

Integration: The proposal seeks to assist services in both Highways and Public Protection in relation to waste management and anti-social behaviour and noise issues.

Recommendation(s):

OPTION 1: To redesignate the Additional Licensing Scheme to include:

- a. Those properties occupied by 3 or more persons, forming three or more separate households in the following specified wards only: Aberystwyth - North, Central, Penparcau, Rheidol and Bronglais; Llanbadarn Fawr – Padarn and Sulien, Faenor

AND

- b. Licensing all properties which meet the following criteria on a county wide basis:
- Those properties occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of stories, AND
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004) created by converting buildings into flats where the conversions did not meet the Building Regulations 1991 Standards and they have not been subsequently brought up to the relevant standards.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with legislative requirements.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Presented to the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th March 2024

Policy Framework:

Housing Strategy 2023-2028

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating Sustainable, Greener and Well-Connected Communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

N/A

Legal Implications:

N/A

Staffing implications:

N/A

Property / asset implications:

N/A

Risk(s):

The existing Additional Licensing Scheme will end on the 14th April 2024. Additional Licences already issued will continue to run until they either expire or are revoked by the LA. No new or renewal of licences will take place. This will result in a loss of income where it is not considered appropriate to declare a new scheme. However, It should

be noted that loss of income should not be used as a reason to declare an Additional Licensing Scheme.

Statutory Powers:

Housing Act 2004

Background Papers:

N/A

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Review and Evaluation of Additional Licensing Scheme 2018-2024

Appendix 2- Public Consultation Response

Appendix 3- Integrated Impact Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Greg Jones, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar

Reporting Officer:

Llyr Hughes, Corporate Manager: Housing Services

Date:

27/02/2024



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Review of Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation in Ceredigion 2018 - 2024



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1. Introduction and General Background in Wales and UK.

1.1 Mandatory HMO (House in Multiple Occupation)Licensing

A scheme under the Housing Act 2004, that came into force in Wales in June 2006. It requires landlords to obtain a licence for certain types of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). HMOs are properties that are rented out to three or more unrelated people who share facilities such as a kitchen and bathroom.

The Mandatory Licensing Scheme applies to HMOs that meet the following criteria:

- They have three or more storeys and five or more occupants who do not form a single household.
- They are converted buildings that have been converted into flats or bedsits, even if they have fewer than three storeys and five occupants.
- They are purpose-built flats that are let to three or more unrelated people who share facilities.

Landlords of HMOs that are subject to the Mandatory Licensing Scheme must apply for a licence from their local council. The licence application process typically involves providing the council with information about the property, including its condition, amenities, and management arrangements. The council will then inspect the property to ensure that it meets certain minimum standards.

If the council is satisfied that the property meets the standards, it will issue a licence. The licence will specify the conditions that the landlord must comply with, such as requirements for fire safety, electrical safety, and gas safety.

Landlords who fail to comply with the Mandatory Licensing Scheme can be fined up to £20,000. They may also have their licences revoked and be served with a Prohibition Notice, preventing them from renting out their property.

In April 2007, the Welsh Assembly Government issued guidance to local authorities, (The Housing Act 2004 (Selective Licensing) (Wales) General Approval 2007) indicating that councils may introduce an Additional Licensing Scheme without obtaining Assembly approval, providing that certain requirements of the legislation with regard to evidence, consultation with interested parties and implementation are carried out.

1.2 Additional Licensing Scheme HMO (House in Multiple Occupation)

An Additional Licensing Scheme HMO is a type of HMO that is licensed by a local council under Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004. Additional Licensing Schemes are introduced in areas where the council believes that there are issues with smaller HMOs and that their management would also benefit from inclusion in a management and licensing scheme.

The scope of Additional Licensing Schemes can vary from one council to another, but they typically cover most rented property with 3 or more occupiers who form 2 or more households. This means that even if a property does not meet the criteria for the Mandatory Licensing Scheme, it may still be subject to an Additional Licensing Scheme.

Additional Licensing Schemes run for a period of 5 years, after which the council must re-declare the scheme. If the council decides not to re-declare the scheme, then the licences that have been issued will expire.

The following property types **are** classed as HMOs under the Additional Licensing Scheme:

- An entire house or flat which is let to 3 or more tenants who form 2 or more households and who share a kitchen, bathroom or toilet.
- A house which has been converted entirely into bedsits or other non-self-contained accommodation and which is let to 3 or more tenants who form two or more households and who share kitchen, bathroom, or toilet facilities.
- A converted house which contains one or more flats which are not entirely self-contained (i.e., the flat does not contain within it a kitchen, bathroom, and toilet) and which is occupied by 3 or more tenants who form two or more households.
- A building which is converted entirely into self-contained flats if the conversion did not meet the standards of the 1991 Building Regulations and more than one-third of the flats are let on short-term tenancies. (Housing Act 2004 s257)

2 General Background and History in Ceredigion

In Ceredigion, as from 1st April 2009, Ceredigion County Council introduced an Additional Licensing Scheme covering the following categories of HMOs:

- Occupied by three or more persons, forming two or more households.
- Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004), created by converting buildings into flats where the conversions did not meet the Building Regulations 1991 Standards and they have not been subsequently brought up to the relevant standards.

The Council chose to vary the scheme so that different rules apply to different areas or wards in the County. This approach has been taken elsewhere by other councils - often where areas of larger cities are wholly dominated by student lets, for instance. This approach was based on there being evidence of significant variations in the character of a region and in the demands on the Council's services historically.

To this end it was originally decided that the following wards were included: **Aberystwyth North, South, West, East; Llanbadarn Fawr, Faenor, Borth, Tirymynach, Cardigan, Lampeter.**

Since April 2009 as required by legislation, the Additional Licensing Scheme has been reviewed and following public consultation, re-declared at the end of two five-year periods in 2014 and 2019. Therefore, at this time it is necessary to undertake a reappraisal and consultation exercise to establish the effectiveness of the existing scheme and to consider the options for whether an Additional Licensing Scheme should continue for a further 5 years from 2024-2029 (unless revoked sooner).

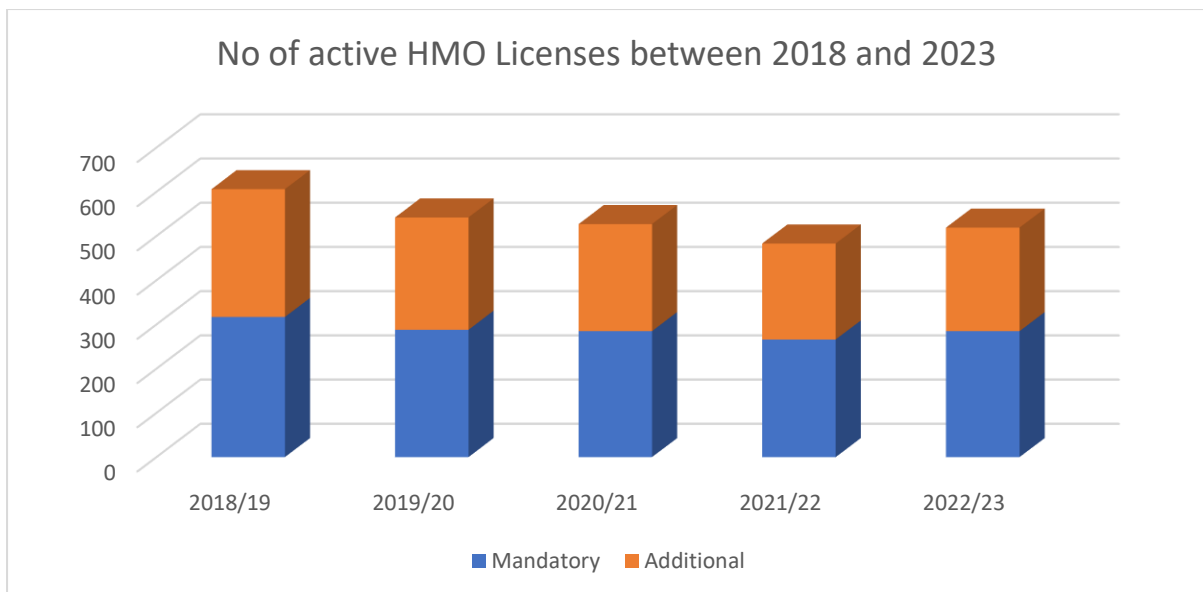
3. HMO Licensing Facts and Figures

An evaluation of the Additional Licensing Scheme has been undertaken to evidence what has been achieved during the scheme and to provide background to the issues within the areas covered.

- 20.6% of population in Ceredigion are in Private rented properties (equivalent of 6,371 households) according to the ONS Survey 2021 (this compares to an all-Wales average of 14%).
- Of the total private rented sector there were 519 licensed HMOs (31st March 2023) A further 149 in the application process for renewal of licences. Of those licensed, 234 were properties licenced in accordance with the current Additional Licensing Scheme parameters.
- Of those currently licensed 56% are Mandatory, 40% Additional Shared Houses & 4% Additional Converted Flats.

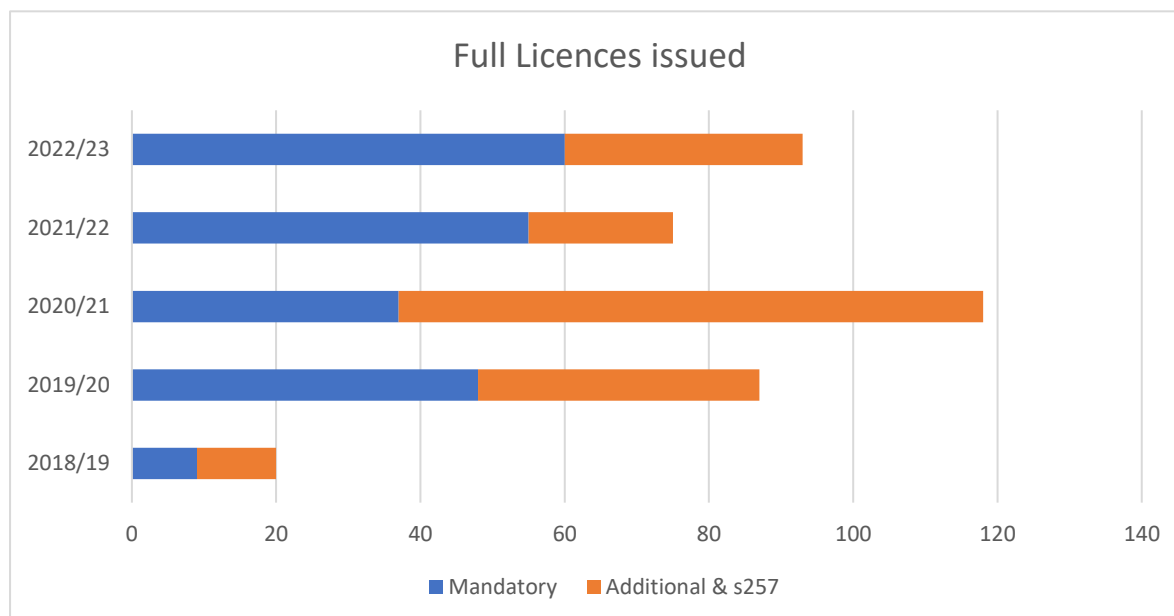
3.1 Operational Licences

Fig. 1 Operational Licensed HMOs by Type 2019 to 2023



The Graph above highlights the number of operative HMO Licences (both Mandatory & Additional) from the introduction of the initial Additional Licensing Designation on the 19th April 2019 up to the 31st March 2023. It should be noted that the dip in licensed premises between 2021 & 2022 is likely to be attributable to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic when it was not possible to undertake licence inspections. This led to a delay in the renewal of expiring licences and the inability to issue licences to new premises. As can be seen from the figures the number of licensed properties has increased in the last 12 months.

Fig. 2 Number of Full and Conditional Licences 2019 to 2023



The graph above shows the split in the number of mandatory and additional licences issued without conditions since the introduction of the current Additional Licensing Designation on the 19th April 2019 up to the 31st March 2023.

The table below shows the percentage of licences issued with and without conditions.

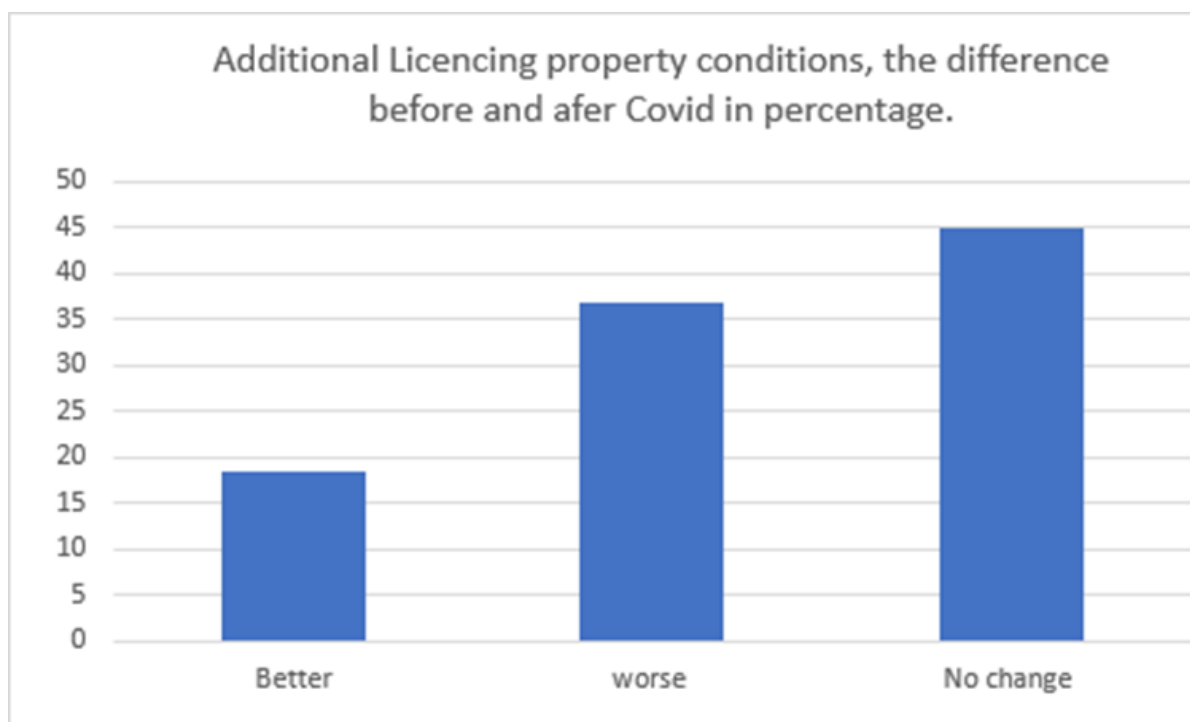
Fig. 3 HMO Licensing: Total Licences Full / Conditional 2019 to 2023

Year	Number of full licences issued	Number of conditional licences issued
2019/20	89 %	11%
2020/21	92 %	8 %
2021/22	84 %	16 %
2022/23	78 %	22 %
2023/24	68 % (April – Nov)	32 % (April to Nov)

Programmed inspections were suspended during lockdown. This impacted the number of renewal and new licences that were issued in this time. It can also be seen that the ratio of licences issued with conditions has increased post Covid -19 suggesting a slip in overall standards during this period.

Analysis of a 25% sample of inspection records for properties with additional licences indicate that 37% were in a worse condition post Covid than their last inspection prior to the Pandemic.

Fig. 4 Percentage difference in condition before and after Covid 19 Pandemic



3.2 HHSRS Analysis: Ceredigion (2018 to 2023)

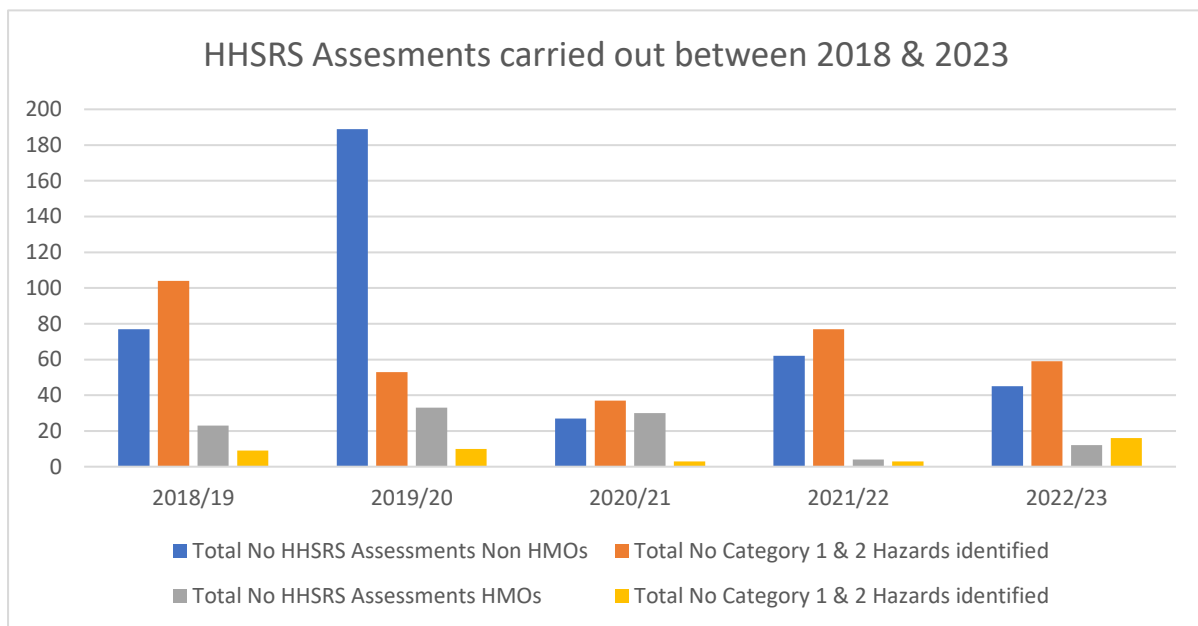
The information presented here covers the condition of residential properties, including Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), assessed under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).

Below is an analysis of significant Category 1 and 2 Hazards identified in Ceredigion over the period April 2018 to 31st March 2023.

Fig. 5 Category 1 and 2 Hazards identified in Ceredigion 2019 to 2023

Year	Total No HHSRS Assessments Non HMOs	Total No Category 1 & 2 Hazards identified	Total No HHSRS Assessments HMOs	Total No Category 1 & 2 Hazards identified
2018/19	77	104	23	9
2019/20	189	53	33	10
2020/21	27	37	30	3
2021/22	62	77	4	3
2022/23	45	59	12	16

Fig. 6 Category 1 and 2 Hazards identified in Ceredigion 2018 to 2023



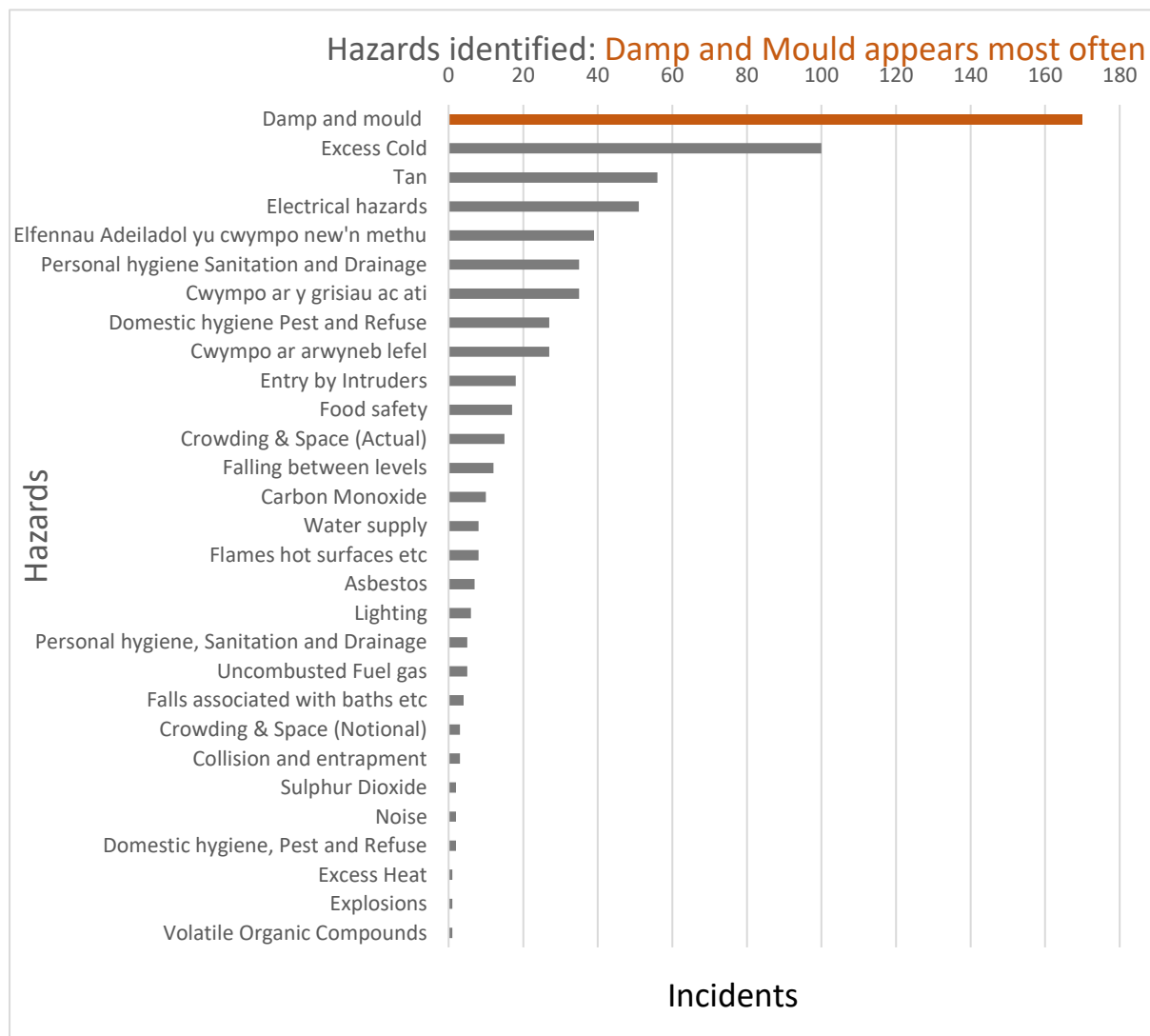
The HHSRS is used to determine whether residential premises are safe to live in. It replaced the Fitness Standard in July 2006. Local authorities use the System to determine whether a hazard exists that may cause harm to the health and safety of a potential occupant. Hazards are divided into two categories. Those which score high on the scale (and therefore the greatest risk) are called Category 1 hazards. Those that fall lower down the scale and pose a lesser risk are called Category 2 hazards. Where a condition is classified as a Category 1 hazard the local authority has a **duty** to take the appropriate enforcement action. The local authority **may** take enforcement action in respect of Category 2 hazards.

3.3 HHSRS Hazards Identified

A range of Hazards are identified during HHSRS assessments – Damp and Mould and Excess cold occur most frequently as indicated in Fig.7 below.

Within Ceredigion there are significant incidents of Damp and Mould Growth deficiencies identified within HMOs which may be attributable to inefficient heating systems, lack of insulation and disrepair. Fire safety defects in HMOs are also significant. Excess cold hazards illustrate the adequacy of the heating, insulation, and ventilation measures within the property. SAP/ EPC data is also taken into consideration. HMO licensing within the county has helped to ensure sufficient heating and insulation is provided within licensed properties.

Fig. 7 Category 1 and 2 Hazards identified in Ceredigion 2019 to 2023



3.4 Housing, Environmental and Nuisance Complaints/Service Requests in the Private Rented Sector

Below we consider the demand on the service in relation to licensing visits, housing inspections and following complaints in relation to housing standards, management, tenancy and nuisance related complaints associated with Houses in Multiple Occupation. These are categorised into the following.

- Licensing and Programmed Inspections:** Relates to inspections of licensed HMOs and includes both those initiated on receipt of an HMO application and any risk based programmed inspections required during the license period based on the size of the property and housing and management standards.
- HHSRS and Property Conditions:** These relate to complaints associated with housing and management standards which may present either Category 1 or 2 hazards under the HHSRS or maintenance and management concerns. These are usually in response to complaints made by the occupants or their representatives.

- **Eviction and Tenancy Matters:** These include complaints of instances of alleged harassment, illegal eviction, and tenancy agreement disputes as examples.
- **Empty Property Complaints:** Previously licensed HMOs which are vacant and having a negative impact on the local community.
- **Unlicensed HMOs:** Includes proactive and complaint lead investigations made by the authority into unlicensed HMOs.
- **Noise Complaints:** Complaints directly attributable to the occupants and/ or their visitors in HMOs.
- **Nuisance – Waste:** Complaints made to the authority regarding waste and refuse accumulations, fly-tipping and wrongly presented domestic waste directly attributable to HMOs.
- **Nuisance – other:** Relates to issues causing a nuisance to either occupants or local residents and may include drainage and odorous complaints as examples.

The last 5 years have seen a reduction in nuisance and waste related complaints associated with licensed HMOs. This may be due to the existence of the licensing regime but is also likely to be impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic and fewer properties being occupied during the various lock downs.

The graph below indicates the number of noise complaints received that were associated with HMO premises in the Aberystwyth area. No complaints were received relating to HMOs in the towns of Lampeter and Cardigan during this period.

Fig. 8 Nuisance and refuse related complaints associated with HMO premises.

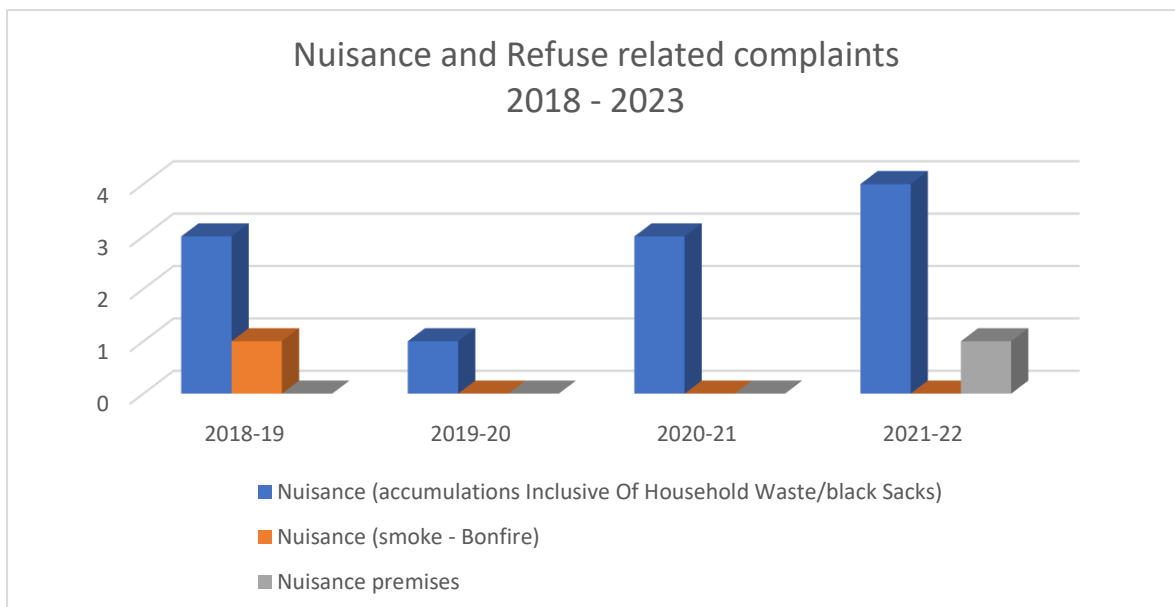


Fig. 9 Noise complaints received between 2019 and 2023 associated with Licensed HMOs

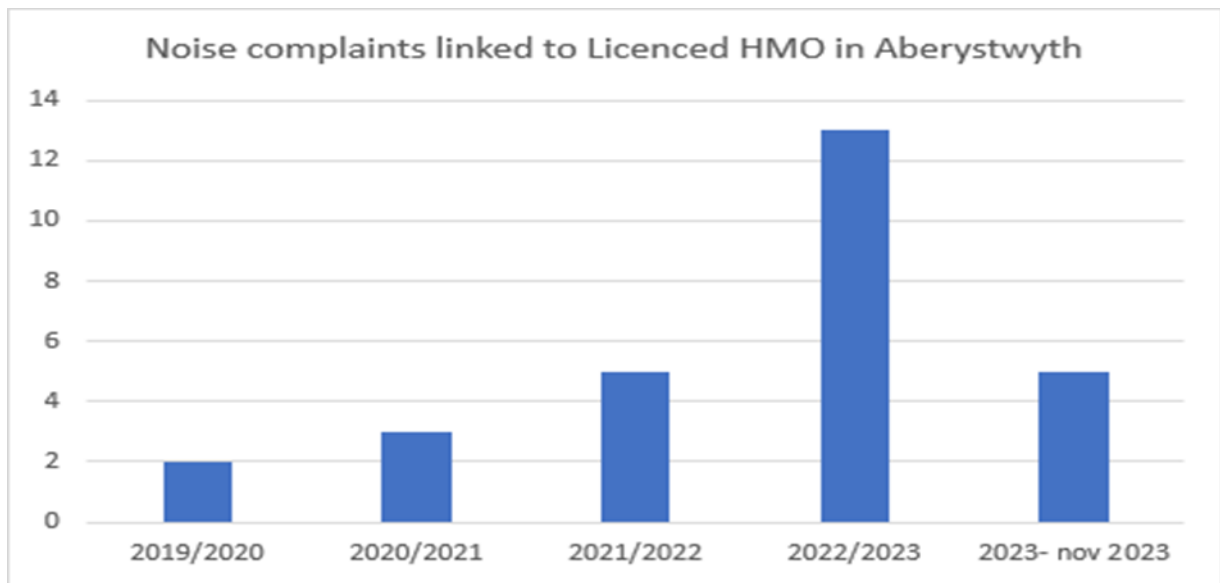
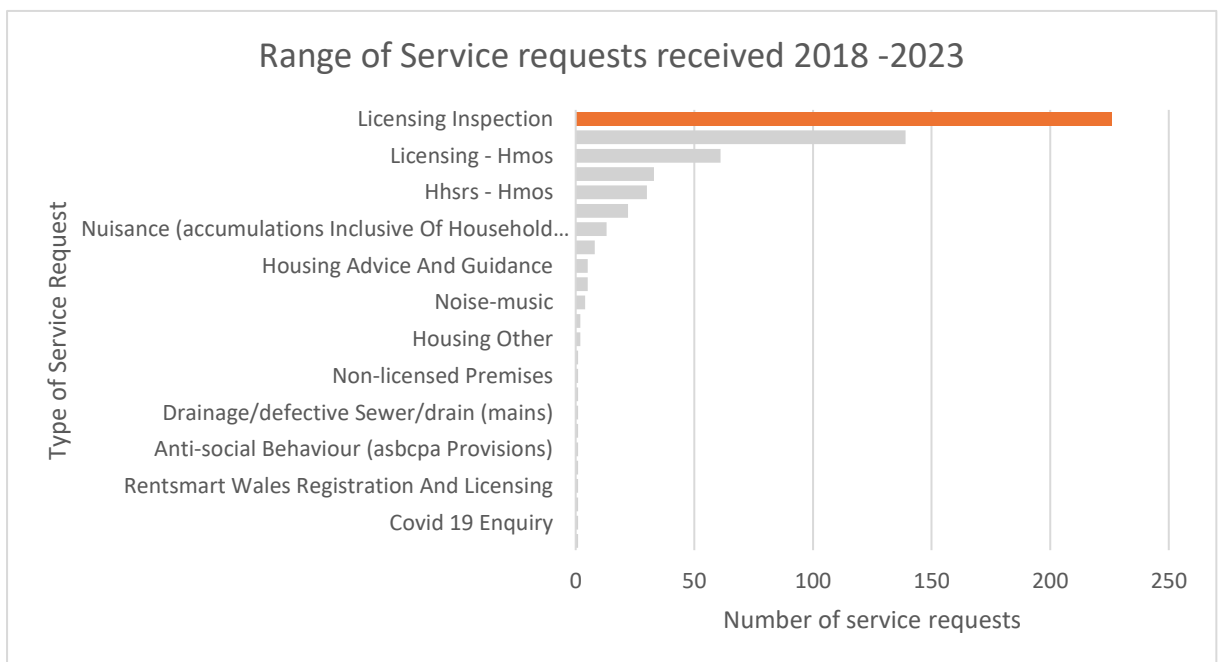


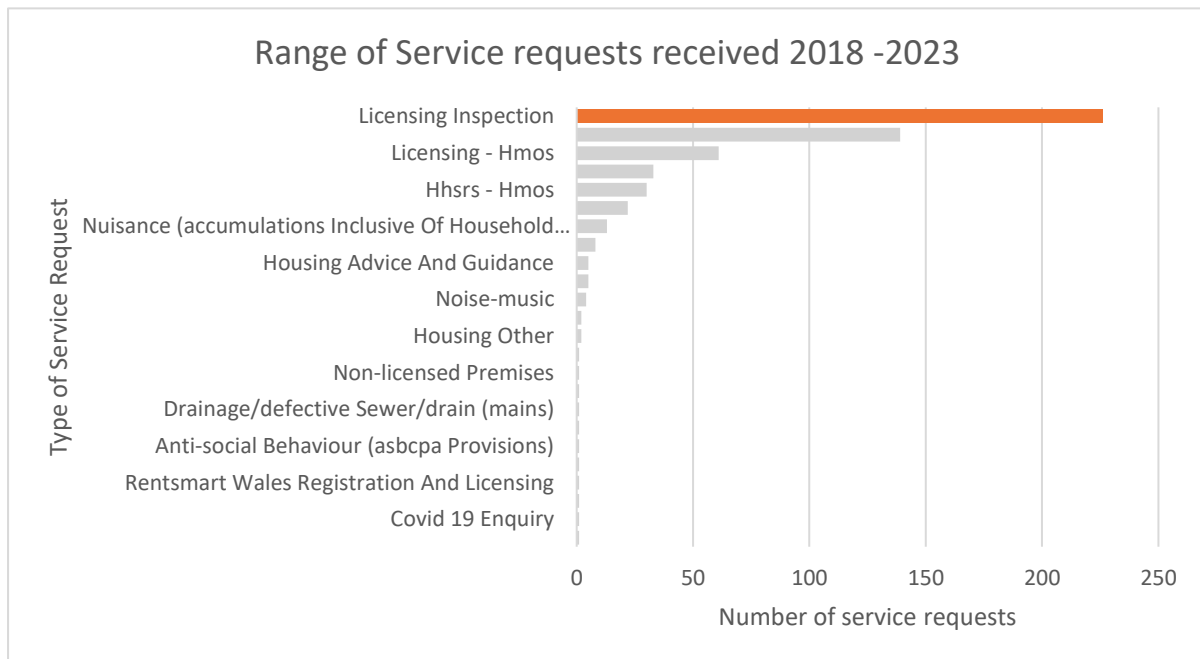
Fig. 10 Housing related Service requests received 2018 – 2023.



The above graph indicates the range and number of service requests received by the Housing Service during the last 5 years.

Fig. 11 overleaf indicates the range and number of service requests relating to HMO properties between 2018 -2023.

Fig. 11 Range of Service Requests received 2018 – 2023.



3.5 The effects of the Covid19 Pandemic

The Covid 19 Pandemic had a significant impact on both the mandatory and additional HMO licensing schemes. The County has 2 Universities and a significant number of HMO's particularly in Aberystwyth are occupied by students. During the Pandemic students returned to their homes and undertook their studies online. In addition, all physical inspections of residential premises including HMOs were suspended for long periods. This included both programmed licensing inspections and licence application checks.

The suspension of inspections had a knock-on effect of delaying licenses being renewed and an interruption to routine licence programme creating a large backlog of properties requiring inspection. This in turn has impacted the standards of repair experienced in HMO properties that have been inspected in the last 18 months as we recover from the Pandemic. This is reflected in the data recorded in Fig.3 in respect of the number of Licenses issued in 22/23 with conditions attached.

During the Pandemic, Ceredigion saw a significant growth in property prices as demand outstripped supply. Prices began to increase as soon as the Pandemic reached Wales in March 2020 and grew significantly throughout 2021.

As a result, nationally, Ceredigion has the 4th highest Housing Affordability Ratio behind Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. This makes it harder for local people and first-time buyers to purchase in their chosen communities, especially when considering earnings in Ceredigion are below average. The median annual earnings, by place of residence, was £23,576 in 2021 in Ceredigion.

This in turn increases the demand for accommodation in the County. Several Landlords have taken the opportunity to leave the rental market and have sold their

properties. This in turn has resulted in a decrease in the number of HMOs in the County.

3.6 Summary Findings

Whilst much progress has been made in recovery from the pandemic, the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will assist the Authority in the continued improvement of housing standards in Houses on Multiple Occupation.

The decline in complaints relating to anti-social behaviour, noise and waste management issues show the effectiveness of having the Additional Licensing Scheme in place.

4. Rent Smart Wales

Licensing by Rent Smart Wales and both Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing are continuing to work well in tandem.

HMO licensing is dealt with under Housing Act 2004 and is entirely enforced by local housing authorities. Rent Smart Wales registration and licensing requirements were introduced by Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Cardiff Council, working as Rent Smart Wales, is the single licensing authority for Wales. Elements of enforcement are shared between the single licensing authority and local housing authorities by agreement and delegation of authority.

A Mandatory or Additional HMO licence relates to a specific licence holder concerning a specific HMO. Each property requires a separate HMO licence. Anyone letting or managing a residential property in Wales let under a domestic tenancy requires a licence from Rent Smart Wales. This applies to properties let to single households as well as those let in multiple occupation. They do not require a separate licence for each property they let or manage.

4.1 Summary Findings

An HMO licence cannot replace a Rent Smart Wales licence and vice versa. Licensing by Rent Smart Wales and both Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing are continuing to work well in tandem and are combining to improve housing conditions and tenancy standards.

5. Links to Policies, Plans and Strategies

5.1 Local Housing Strategy 2023 – 2028 – ‘Housing for all’

The Housing Strategy for Ceredigion has been reviewed and a new Strategy for 2023-2028 developed in Partnership with the RSL’s operating in the County. The Strategy sets out Ceredigion’s vision and plans for Housing in the County for the next 5 years providing a firm foundation for dealing with the priorities facing housing and housing related services in Ceredigion.

The priorities identified by the strategy are as follows:

- Increasing supply and improving housing conditions
- Supporting people in their own homes and communities

Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation helps to deliver in key areas within the strategy. Those key areas include providing affordable and good quality accommodation in Ceredigion with the improvement of housing standards at the core of the strategy, in summary this includes:

- Improving housing standards by removing Category 1 hazards that impact on health and safety in all tenures
- Ensuring homes are safe from fire
- Working to improve thermal efficiency and reduce fuel poverty
- Supporting the delivery and enforcement of Rent Smart Wales requirements
- Ensuring the use of model contracts, introduced by The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016
- Ensuring all qualifying Houses in Multiple Occupation in the county are licensed

5.2 Corporate Strategy 2022 – 27

The Corporate Strategy sets out our priorities called Corporate Well-Being Objectives, along with our ambitions and the steps to achieve these over the next five years. The Strategy informs everything the Council does. It is based on a wide-ranging review of evidence and needs-assessments.

The strategy outlines four well-being objectives, which include:

- Boosting the economy, supporting businesses and enabling employment
- Creating caring and healthy communities
- Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages
- Creating sustainable, green and well-connected communities

The Objectives have also been identified through the lens of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This involved identifying how we could maximise our contribution to the national well-being goals and ensure that we used the sustainable development principle to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.3 Through Age & Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027

This strategy is a key part of the Ceredigion County Council Corporate Strategy that illustrates the main priorities for the Council. The priorities aim to enable the delivery of services that will enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being for the people of Ceredigion.

The current economic crises together with low incomes has placed increasing difficulties on the ability of people to access safe, affordable housing.

One of the key priorities within the corporate strategy is to enable individual and family resilience. Access to an improved choice and quality of safe affordable housing is a key factor in achieving this.

5.4 Summary Findings – Housing Strategies

1. The Housing Strategy for Ceredigion has been reviewed and a new Strategy for 2023 -2028 developed in Partnership with the RSL's operating in the County. The Strategy sets out Ceredigion's vision and plans for Housing in the County for the

next 5 years. Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation helps to deliver on several key areas within the strategy.

2. The Corporate Strategy (2022-2027) highlights the main priority areas for Ceredigion County Council over the next 5-year period. The Additional Licensing Designation and associated Review takes into account the aims of the Corporate Strategy and has a particular role in achieving improved accommodation standards and the condition of housing across the County.
3. The Through Age & Wellbeing Strategy focuses on preventative services which help people to remain independent or regain the independence they want and value. Additional HMO Licensing helps to deliver on this element of the Strategy.

6. Implementation of an Additional Licensing Scheme

The overall purpose of an Additional Licensing Scheme is to improve the standard of rented property within the county. This includes all properties that are considered HMOs within the definition of the scheme. The department will continue to work closely with members of the public and organisations noted below to ensure the Additional Licensing Scheme will secure real benefits for tenants and the neighbouring communities in general as well as other Council services and external organisations and agencies. This will be achieved through:

- Continued engagement with landlords and lettings agents, to ensure well managed and safe HMO accommodation using licensing regulatory provisions.
- Improve the condition of HMOs relating to amenities and repair through Licensing and associated legislative controls and ensuring overcrowded conditions are avoided.
- Continued engagement with the local communities and their representative to improve management practices around waste, noise and anti-social behaviour concerns in neighbouring communities.
- Continued partnership working with colleagues in Highways and Environmental Services, Mid and West Wales Fire Authority, Universities and Guild of Students representatives and Rent Smart Wales as examples. This is to ensure targeted and intelligence led enforcement of those not in compliance with appropriate licensing and housing and safety standards.

When considering the implementation of the Additional Licensing Scheme, the Council firmly believes that securing sustained improvements to the private sector stock in Ceredigion can only be achieved through a robust partnership approach involving tenants, landlords, Universities, local communities and the voluntary and private sectors including various council services working collectively. The department continues to deliver on service improvement in relation to HMO Licensing, areas that have been addressed to date include:

- Changes to the HMO Application Form making the process of applying for a licence easier through the simplification of the licensing application form and introduction of a Renewal Licence Application Form.
- Introduction of a reduced licensing fee for landlords on renewal of an HMO Licence in circumstances where:

- a) Application is received prior to the expiry of the existing licence and
 - b) Licence Renewal Application is full and complete including all certification, documentation and appropriate payment and
 - c) The licence holder has, for the previous licence period complied with all licence conditions (including submission of the annual Gas Safe Certificate if applicable) and
 - d) The licence holder and/or nominated manager are appropriately registered and licensed with Rent Smart Wales, and
 - e) There has been no Housing Act 2004 Part 1 Notice has been served on the licence holder/person in control within the previous licensing period.
- Continued review and updating of information on the Ceredigion Web Pages providing information on licensed HMOs through a GIS enabled Public Register and the provision of advice and guidance to landlords on a range of housing standards and HMO Licensing matters.
 - The introduction of a new Web-based database system which has streamlined the application process for local authority officers introducing wholesale changes to the way HMO Licensing, enforcement and housing inspection information is recorded by the authority.

7. Public Consultation

As part of the review of the HMO Additional Licensing Scheme, every five years, it is a mandatory requirement that a Public Consultation is carried out. The authority is required to ensure that a thorough consultation exercise is conducted with all those likely to be affected by the licensing designation. A guide for practitioners from Local Government Regulation recommends a minimum consultation period of 10 weeks and this was carried out in Ceredigion between 15th December 2023 and 23rd February 2024.

Questionnaires were delivered by hand within Aberystwyth town and Lampeter to a mixture of owner-occupied properties, Houses in Multiple Occupation and other rented properties. The questionnaire was also online and available at the county's libraries.

County Councillors, members of the Landlords Steering-Group, The University, Dyfed-Powys Police, Mid Wales Fire and Rescue and all other relevant departments of the Council with an interest were also consulted.

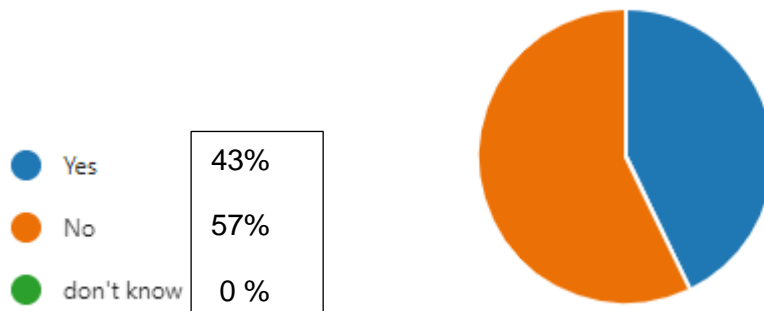
In addition, the Consultation was placed on the Ceredigion County Council corporate website, utilising the Engagements and Consultations facility. Various social media outlets such as Facebook, X / Twitter were similarly deployed.

A complete copy of the findings of the Public Consultation is included in Appendix 2

8. Key Questions and responses relating to the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme

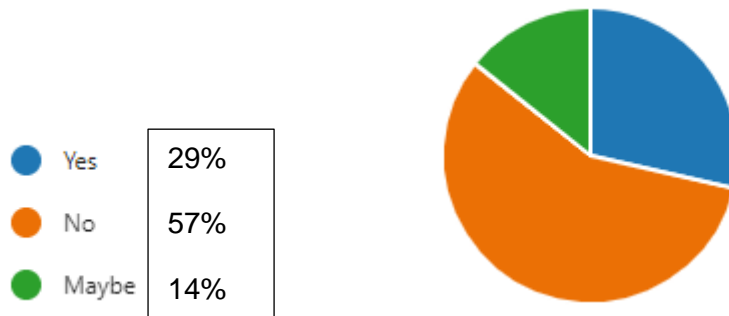
There was a total of 17 responses received to the Public Consultation. The graphs below indicate that 65% percent of those that responded to the questionnaire generally support the re-designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme and only 6% opposed the re-designation with 29% unsure.

Q. Do you think that landlords and agents manage properties in your area to an acceptable standard?



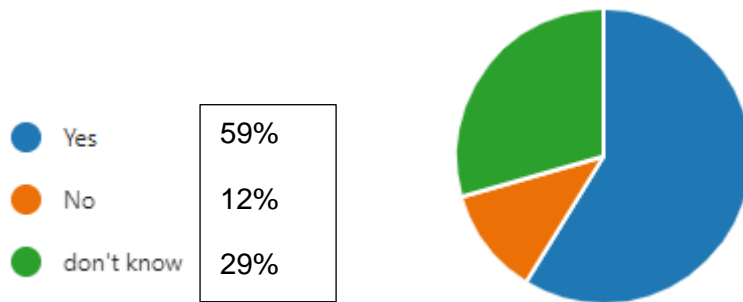
A: Results show that there is almost a 50:50 split in the public's general opinion regarding the current good management of HMOs. Over 50% feel that more work is needed to raise the standard generally and continuation of the scheme will assist in this provision.

Q. Do you think Rent Smart Wales licensing of landlords is sufficient to ensure proper management of your property?



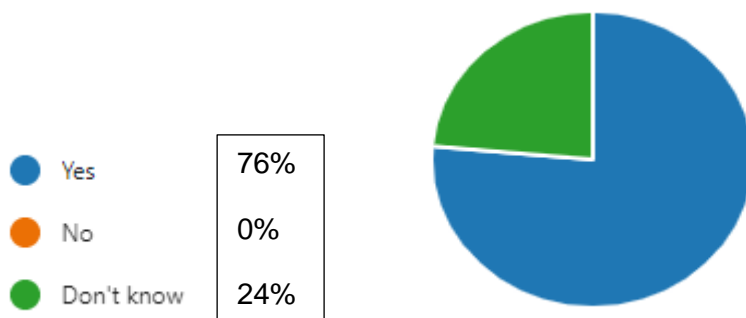
A: The findings would indicate that there is a general opinion that Rent Smart Wales on its own is not sufficient to ensure the effective management of private rented properties and that a combination of the two schemes is desirable to raise standards.

Q. Do you think that HMO Licensing benefits the community as a whole?



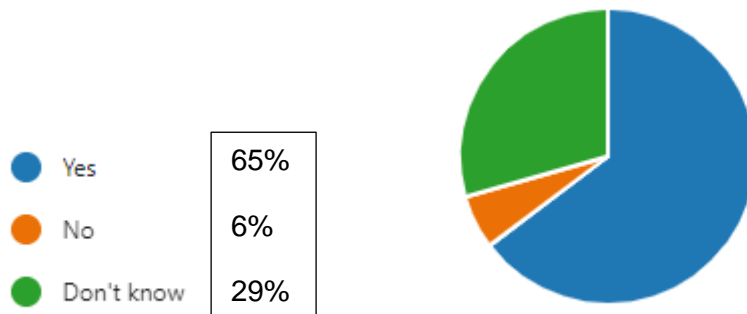
A: This chart would indicate a strong support for HMO licencing generally and that it does benefit the community.

Q: Do you think the HMO Licensing Scheme benefits tenants of HMOs?



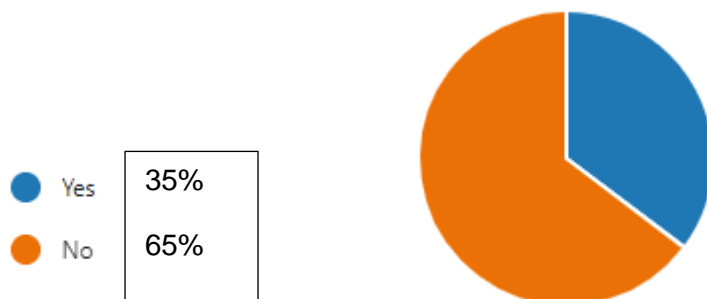
A: The evidence in this chart strongly supports that HMO licencing does benefit tenants with regards to housing conditions, safety and tenancy.

Q. Do you support the continuation / introduction of an Additional Licensing Scheme?



A: Only a very small minority of the responses oppose the continuation of the additional licencing scheme in the Aberystwyth area. The majority recognise the benefits of the scheme.

Q: Do you think the number of storeys should be taken into consideration as part of the HMO Licensing Scheme?



A: The evidence extracted indicates that most respondents feel the number of stories in a property should not be considered with regards to HMO licencing and that they recognise the benefits of licensing all HMOS.

8.1 Summary of Findings

From the questions and answers received it can be reasonably concluded that there is a good understanding of and broad support for the continuation of the Licensing Scheme from both tenants and the broader public.

9. Benefits of having an Additional Licensing scheme

The HMO Additional Licensing scheme has been running for nearly 15 years and the Council has significant experience of this area of regulation and believes the continuation of the scheme within Ceredigion will deliver the following benefits:

- New HMOs can make a valuable contribution to housing stock. HMOs provide accommodation for a wide range of groups, including young professionals, students, refugees and persons on low incomes. However, such conversions must be completed appropriately, and licensing provides a mechanism to regulate such properties.
- Ensure properties are maintained to an appropriate standard to protect tenants' health and safety and are appropriately managed.
- Ensure standards of accommodation provide a safe and healthy environment by examining hazards such as damp, cold, heat, falls, fire, electrical safety, gas safety, suitable room sizes, adequate kitchens / bathrooms for the number of tenants, food safety, biocides, lead, asbestos etc.
- Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and crime. Licence conditions require the landlord to deal with this within the curtilage of the licensed properties. We would expect the landlord to inform tenants that their behaviour was unacceptable in the first instance and if the behaviour continues, to seek possession of the property.
- A more secure and stable living environment for tenants and neighbours. Reduce complaints of poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents and pests.
- A more attractive area for businesses and residents. Continuing the work with the Council's Waste Management team by including waste storage requirements as licence conditions to improve waste and recycling compliance.
- Direct benefits for tenants include regular inspections of properties by Council Officers leading to improved welfare and confidence in the landlord due to compliance with standards set by licensing.
- Benefits for the community as a whole, including fewer environmental problems, protection of vulnerable persons who might otherwise live in poor condition properties and inclusion of the properties on the Public Register.

Since the introduction of the Council's 3rd Additional Licensing scheme in 2019, significant numbers of properties have been improved, many of which would have been outside the scope of Mandatory licensing and as such it is likely that, without the Council's Additional licensing scheme, a much smaller number would have been improved.

Evidence indicates problems with housing conditions and more generally for the community may be found in and caused by small as well as large HMOs.

Without the designation of an Additional Licensing scheme in the county, the Council will not have such an effective, proactive mechanism to ensure that these smaller properties are regulated and brought up to a satisfactory standard and properly maintained at that standard.

Despite the good work undertaken to improve properties through the current Additional Licensing scheme, it is evident that many properties still require improvement, and some tenants are not being adequately protected. Further work is required.

10. Proposals for the future of the Additional Licensing Scheme in Ceredigion

After considering the evidence gathered during the review and evaluation of the Additional Licensing Scheme 2018 – 24, the options below are being offered for consideration to determine whether the Ceredigion County Council Additional Licensing Designation should be renewed for the period 2024 - 2029. Proposals to consider include:

Option 1 - To continue with the Additional Licensing Scheme in its current form, whereby licensing applies to:

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming three or more separate households regardless of the number of storeys in the following specified wards only:
Aberystwyth Bronglais, Aberystwyth Central, Aberystwyth North, Aberystwyth Penparcau, Aberystwyth Rheidol, Faenor, Llanbadarn Fawr Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien.
- The whole of the County of Ceredigion for:
 - HMOs occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of storeys, and
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

Option 2 - Licensing all properties which meet the following criteria on a county wide basis:

- Those properties occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of stories, **AND**
- Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004) created by converting buildings into flats where the conversions did not meet the Building Regulations 1991 Standards and they have not been subsequently brought up to the relevant standards.

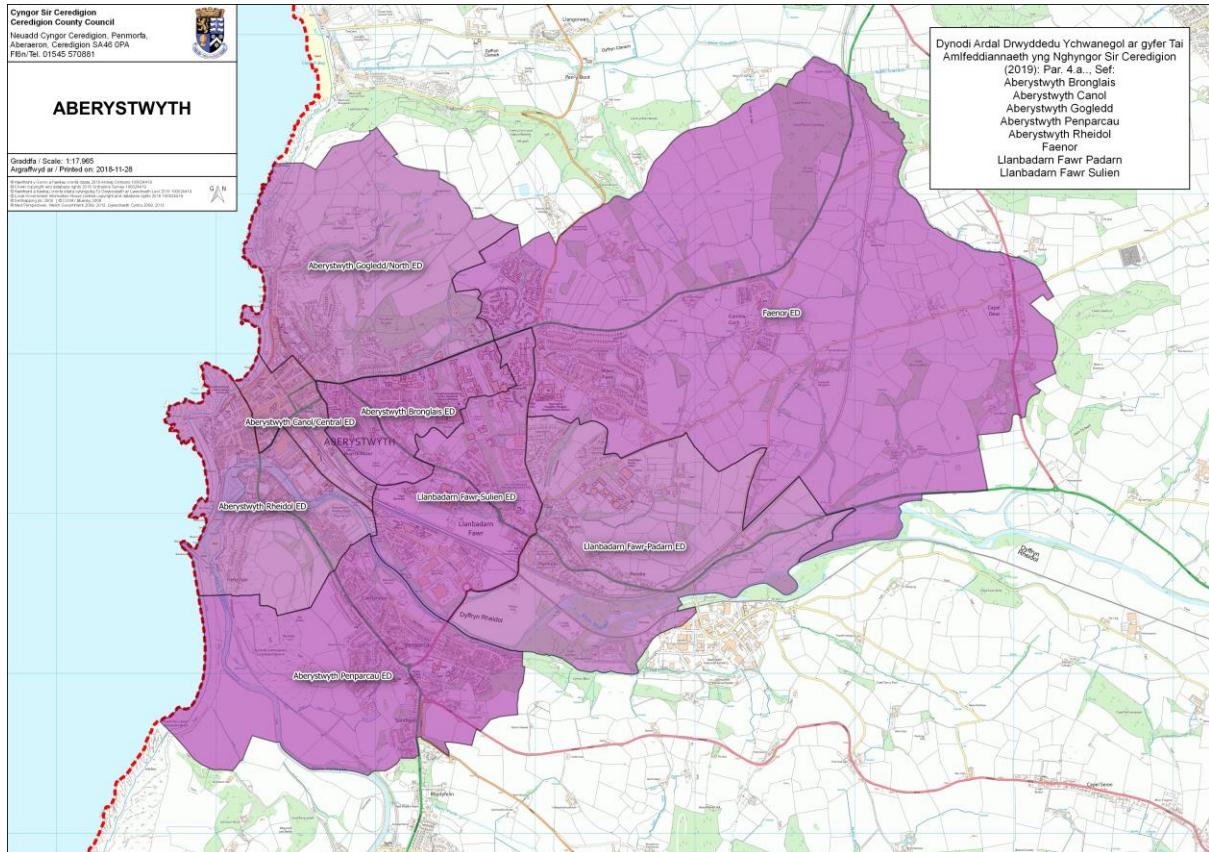
Option 3 - To allow the existing Additional Licensing Scheme to expire on the 19th April 2023 and not declare/designate an Additional scheme in its place.

11. Recommendation

Having considered all the evidence and the benefits of having an Additional Licensing Scheme together with the response to the Public Consultation, it is recommended that Option 1 be considered for re-designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for a further 5 years from 2024 – 2029. The numbers of HMOs in both the Lampeter and Cardigan area are low. The data for the last 5 years does not support the introduction of an Additional Licensing Scheme in these areas.

12. Appendix 1

11.1 Map showing extent of current Additional Licensing Scheme in Aberystwyth



RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Review of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Mandatory and Additional Licensing Schemes for Ceredigion

The Housing Act 2004 introduced a requirement for certain Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) to be licensed. This enables Local Authorities to ensure that HMOs are suitably equipped with amenities and facilities for the number of occupants residing in them and are effectively managed by 'fit and proper persons'.

HMOs are rented houses which are shared by more than one household, for example, shared student houses and houses converted into flats/bedsits.

The **Mandatory** Licensing Scheme applies to larger, high-risk HMOs of 5 or more occupants and of 3 or more storeys.

The **Additional** Licensing Scheme is a discretionary licensing scheme. Since April 2019 Ceredigion County Council has run an Additional Licensing scheme which has incorporated the following.

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming three or more separate households regardless of the number of storeys in the following specified wards only:
 - i. Aberystwyth Bronglais
 - ii. Aberystwyth Central
 - iii. Aberystwyth North
 - iv. Aberystwyth Penparcau
 - v. Aberystwyth Rheidol
 - vi. Faenor
 - vii. Llanbadarn Fawr Padarn
 - viii. Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien
- The whole of the County of Ceredigion for:
 - HMOs occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of storeys, and
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

This Additional scheme is due to end in April 2024 and the Council is reviewing whether this scheme should be continued in its current form, extended, reduced or otherwise changed.

The results of this questionnaire will enable Ceredigion County Council to ensure that the HMO Mandatory and Additional Licensing Schemes that operate in the County are achieving the desired outcomes and will be used to address any concerns in future schemes that we may introduce.

The consultation will close on Friday 23rd February 2024

You can also complete the survey online via Ceredigion County Council Engagement and Consultation webpage or via this QR code.



1. What is the postcode of your home address?

2. Which of these best describes you?

Private Tenant

Social housing tenant

Owner Occupier

Landlord

Letting Agent

3. What kind of property do you live in? (Owner occupiers and tenants only) (*please tick*):

Flat single family occupancy

House single family occupancy

Shared house with others (not one family)

Shared flat with others (not one family)

If flat, how many flats are there in the block?

If shared house or flat, how many people live there?

How many storeys are there in the house/flat you live in?

4. How long have you lived at the property?

Questions 5 - 10 are for tenants only.

5. If you are a tenant, please provide details of what was provided by your landlord when you moved in? *Tick all that apply*

Written Tenancy Agreement

Information about refuse collection days

Details of how deposit is protected

Your responsibilities as a tenant

Copy of gas safety certificate

Copy of energy performance certificate

Inventory

Location of gas, electric, water meters

How to silence fire alarm

Rent book

6. If you are a tenant, are you concerned about any of the following in relation to your home?

- Not enough amenities (i.e. toilet, kitchen facilities)
- Waste, storage and refuse
- Fire safety
- Too little space/too many people
- Security
- Efficient heating system/ adequate insulation (Energy Efficiency)
- Property in poor state of repair
- Damp and mould
- Security of your tenancy (getting evicted)
- Other, please specify

7. If you are a tenant, are you aware of the requirement for landlords to be licenced under Rent Smart Wales?

- Yes No

8. Do you think that the Rent Smart Wales Scheme has improved the quality of your home or relationship with your landlord?

- Yes No

Please explain further.

9. Do you think that landlords and agents manage your property or other properties in your area to an acceptable standard?

- Yes No Don't Know

Please comment further if necessary:

10. Do you think Rent Smart Wales licencing of landlords is enough to ensure proper management of your property?

- Yes No Don't Know

Please comment further if necessary:

These questions are for ALL

11. Are you concerned about any of the following in relation to your area?

- Noise, nuisance
 Litter, waste and refuse
 Unkempt and overgrown gardens/forecourts
 Properties detrimental to the amenity of the area (untidy properties)
 Burglary
 Anti-Social Behaviour
 Other crime
 Other, please specify

12. Do you have any ideas about how these could be tackled?

13. Do you think that the Licensing Scheme for HMOs benefits the community?

- Yes No Don't Know

Please comment further if necessary:

14. Do you think a HMO Licensing Scheme benefits tenants of HMOs?

- Yes No Don't Know

Please comment further if necessary:

15. Do you support the continuation/ introduction of an Additional licencing scheme?

- Yes No Don't Know Depends on the scheme/ in part

Please explain your answer:

16. Please indicate which of the following types of property you would like to see licenced?

- A dwelling shared by 5 persons or more and 3 storeys or more – *This is mandatory and will continue*
- A dwelling occupied by one family
- A dwelling shared by 2 or more families/ households
- A dwelling shared by a family/household and a non-related lodger
- A dwelling shared by a family/ household with two or more lodgers
- A dwelling shared by three single people, not related
- A dwelling shared by four single people, not related
- A dwelling shared by five or more single people, not related

17. Do you think the number of storeys should be taken into consideration as part of the licensing scheme?

- Yes No

If yes, what number of storeys should be licensed? No. of floors?

Please return this questionnaire to the following address:

Ceredigion County Council, Community Wellbeing Service
Canolfan Rheidol
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UE
Ref: Additional Licensing Review 2023

Email: housing@ceredigion.gov.uk

The consultation will close on Friday 23rd February 2024



Equality Monitoring Form

These questions are optional, but we need to ask them to understand if our consultation has reached the right people (in accordance with the requirement of the Equality Act 2010) and to understand how different groups may be affected by the proposal allowing us to address this if we can.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act, any information requested on the following questions is held in the strictest confidence for data analysis purposes only.

1. Age: What is your age group?

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 45 – 64 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 – 24 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65+ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 – 44 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Gender: What is your gender?

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Male | <input type="checkbox"/> | Female | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer Not To Say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Transgender: Is your gender the same now as when assigned at birth?

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|

4. Sexual Orientation: Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Heterosexual/Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay Man | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay Woman/Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (state if desired) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Note: This question should only be asked of people age over 16.

5. Partnership: Which of the following options describes your partnership status?

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Single | <input type="checkbox"/> | Widowed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Married | <input type="checkbox"/> | Civil Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Living with Partner | <input type="checkbox"/> | Separated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

6. National identity: How would you describe your national identity?

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> | British | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| English | <input type="checkbox"/> | Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please describe) | |
- _____

7. Race: What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| White | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gypsy Travellers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black/African/Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please State) | |
| Mixed | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
- _____

8. Language: What is your preferred language?

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| English | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (including British Sign Language) | |
- _____

Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?

Understand spoken Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speak Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>
Read Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Disability: Do you have a long term physical or mental health condition or illness that reduces your ability to carry out day to day activities

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If you answered 'Yes' please indicate which applies to you:

Hearing Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical / Mobility Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speech Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)	

10. Caring Responsibilities: Do you look after or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long term physical or mental ill-health, disability or problems related to old age?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
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11. Religion or Belief: What is your religion?

Christian (all denominations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Atheist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for completing this form.



INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

Proposal Details

Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative	
Redesignation of Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation	
Service Area	Officer completing IIA
Housing	Tracy Evans
Corporate Lead Officer	Strategic Director
Greg Jones	James Starbuck
Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal	
To consider the Review and Evaluation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation 2018 – 24 and consider whether the Scheme should be redesignated for a further period of 5 years	
Who will be directly affected by this proposal? HINT	
Landlords, Agents, Members of the Public	
Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?	
Public Consultation held between December 15th and the 23 rd February 2024	

Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

Version Number	Author	Decision making stage HINT	Date Considered	Description of any amendments made HINT
01	Tracy Evans	Post Consultation	23/02/2024	N/A

Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.	
Creating caring and healthy communities	
Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages	
Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities	The proposal seeks to regulate smaller houses in multiple occupation to ensure that residents of the County are able to reside in safe affordable housing that meets relevant housing standards.

National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click here for information)
Licensing of HMOs ensures that residents of the County are living in safe affordable accommodation that can be monitored and regulated in a consistent manner to meet current housing standards.
What evidence do you have to support this view?
Where proactive monitoring and inspection of this type of housing is not undertaken there is evidence that housing standards slip. Resulting in people living in unhealthy environments that are costly to run impacting both health and poverty. This was evident

through the Covid Pandemic when routine inspections of this type of premises were suspended for long periods of time.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

The negative impact of the licensing scheme is the cost to the Landlord to obtain a licence. This is mitigated by the benefits to the tenants of living in accommodation that meets current housing standards.

National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

The proposal does not directly contribute to this goal

What evidence do you have to support this view?

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing peoples mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact on residents.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

No negative impacts identified

National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click [here](#) for information)

Children and Young People up to 18	Positive
People 18-50	Positive
Older people 50+	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing peoples mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact on residents.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing health and wellbeing. e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

There should be no negative impact from this proposal on the general population

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

None identified

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)

Hearing Impairment	Positive
Physical Impairment	Positive
Visual Impairment	Positive
Learning Disability	Positive
Long Standing Illness	Positive
Mental Health	Positive
Other	Choose an item.

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing **all** people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact on residents.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

No negative impacts identified.

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)

Trans Women	Positive
Trans Men	Positive
Non-binary people	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the WHO.	
What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
No negative impacts identified.	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click here for information)	
Bisexual	Positive
Gay Men	Positive
Gay Women/Lesbian	Positive
Heterosexual/Straight	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.	

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

No negative impacts identified.

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click [here](#) for information)

People who are married	Positive
People in a civil partnership	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing **all** peoples mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the WHO.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

No negative impacts identified.

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click [here](#) for information)

Pregnancy	Positive
Maternity	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing **all** people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in

that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

No negative impacts identified

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click [here](#) for information)

Asian / Asian British	Positive
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Positive
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	Positive
White	Positive
Other Ethnic Groups	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing **all** people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing peoples health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

No negative impacts identified.

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)

Buddhist	Positive
Christian	Positive
Hindu	Positive
Humanist	Positive
Jewish	Positive
Muslim	Positive
Sikh	Positive
Non-belief	Positive
Other	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing **all** people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

No negative impacts identified.

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women? (Click [here](#) for information)

Men	Positive
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Women	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the WHO.	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
No negative impacts identified.	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?	

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community? (Click here for information)	
Members of the Armed Forces	Positive
Veterans	Positive
Spouses	Positive
Children	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
No negative impacts identified	

Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all peoples mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in that is free from conditions such as damp and mould. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g. Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation.	
What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
No negative impacts identified.	
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?	
This proposal is an opportunity to improve and monitor living conditions for people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage .	

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. HINT
Living in safe affordable housing is a key factor influencing all people's mental health and wellbeing in addition to giving them a healthy environment to live in which positively impacts their physical health. Where people are happier in their home and general health, this has positive impacts for their social wellbeing and community involvement. The scheme has operated in one form or another since

2009. This has shown a positive impact over the years in relation to waste management and anti-social behaviour and nuisance complaints which can have a negative impact on communities. As such the continuation of the Additional Licensing Scheme will have a positive impact for all.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

There is a wealth of evidence available that indicates that housing is a major factor in influencing people's health and wellbeing e.g., Safe housing is included in the Determinants of Health as defined by the World Health Organisation. Introduction of an Additional Licensing Scheme over the last 15 years has shown an overall decline in the number of complaints reported by the community in respect of anti-social behaviour, noise and waste management issues.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

No negative impacts identified.

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Impact on this goal is considered to be neutral

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The housing Service is available to both English and Welsh speakers. In excess of 50% of the staff speak welsh.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

None identified

With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?

Click [here](#) for information

Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	None / Negligible
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language	None / Negligible
What evidence do you have to support this view?	
The Housing Service/Additional Licensing Scheme is available in both English and Welsh	
What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?	
Documentation is available in Welsh and English. 50% plus of the staff speak both English and Welsh	

National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. <u>HINT</u>
The impact on this goal is considered to be positive as the regulation of these premises allows properties to be improved to meet current standards. This includes tackling fuel efficiency which impacts climate change.
What evidence do you have to support this view?
There is a wealth of evidence to support the view that tackling energy efficiency in homes will assist with CO2 reduction
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?
No negative impacts identified

Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

What will you do?	When?	Who is responsible?	Progress
N/A			
<p>If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)</p>			
<p>The only negative impact of the proposal identified was the cost to landlords in obtaining a licence. It is considered that the benefits to residents, communities, and climate change out way this impact. Costs are calculated on a cost recovery basis only and are based on the number of habitable rooms in the property.</p>			
<p>How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?</p>			
<p>The impact and effectiveness of the proposal will be monitored through the Strategic Housing Partnership.</p>			

Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015


<p>Long term Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The proposal is for a period of 5 years at which time the Licensing scheme will be reviewed and evaluated to determine whether it should continue. The scheme is self-financing</p>
<p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>We currently liaise with colleagues in Highways and Public Protection, together with external partners such as the Police, Fire Authority and University, Agents and Landlords in delivering the scheme.</p>
<p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>A Public Consultation has been undertaken for a period of 10 weeks. This has included information and questionnaires available on the website and through social media. Directly consulting with known landlords and agents. Targeted letters, information and questionnaires to a sample of properties in the current Designation area of Aberystwyth and Lampeter.</p>
<p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The proposal tackles specific properties meeting the criteria for the Additional Licensing scheme and aims to improve conditions for those residing within the properties and other residents living within the vicinity of the licensed properties.</p>
<p>Integration Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The proposal seeks to assist services in both Highways and Public Protection in relation to waste management and anti-social behaviour.</p>

Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
Risk Description	Impact	Probability	Score (Impact x Likelihood)		
Falling housing standards and fire risks	High	Higher than average	16		
Increased anti-social behaviour	High	Higher than average	16		
Increased waste management and increased prevalence of pests	High	Higher than average	16		

Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager	Llyr Hghes		28/02/2024
Corporate Lead Officer	Greg Jones		27/02/2024
Corporate Director	James Starbuck		27/02/2024
Portfolio Holder	Matthew Vaux		28/02/2024

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19.03.2024

Title: Report for the Re-Designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation for Ceredigion

Purpose of the report: To provide feedback following the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of March 2024

Background:

The Housing Act 2004 Part 2 places a duty on Local Authority's to licence Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) of 3 or more storeys, five or more persons, forming two or more households.

Committee Members were asked to consider the following options for the Redesignation of an Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation in Ceredigion (2024 -2029).

Options

The Options to be considered are:

Option 1 - To continue with the Additional Licensing Scheme in its current form, whereby licensing applies to:

- HMOs occupied by three or more persons, forming three or more separate households regardless of the number of storeys in the following specified wards only:
Aberystwyth Bronglais, Aberystwyth Central, Aberystwyth North, Aberystwyth Penparcau, Aberystwyth Rheidol, Faenor, Llanbadarn Fawr Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien.
- The whole of the County of Ceredigion for:
 - HMOs occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of storeys, and
 - Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004)

Option 2 - Licensing all properties which meet the following criteria on a county wide basis:

- Those properties occupied by 5 or more persons, forming two or more separate households, regardless of the number of stories, AND
- Section 257 HMOs (Housing Act 2004) created by converting buildings into flats where the conversions did not meet the Building Regulations 1991 Standards and they have not been subsequently brought up to the relevant standards.

Option 3 - To allow the existing Additional Licensing Scheme to expire on the 14th April 2024 and not declare/designate an Additional scheme in its place.

Following discussion, Committee Members considered the following recommendation:

Recommendation

Having considered all the evidence and the benefits of having an Additional Licensing Scheme together with the response to the Public Consultation, it is recommended that Option 1 be considered for re-designation of the Additional Licensing Scheme for a further 5 years from 2024 – 2029. The numbers of HMOs in both the Lampeter and Cardigan area are low. The data for the last 5 years does not support the introduction of an Additional Licensing Scheme in these areas.

Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. Approve Option 1 as outlined above.

Councillor Caryl Roberts
Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Local Housing Market Assessment

Purpose of the report: To inform Cabinet of the content of the Ceredigion Local Housing Market Assessment (2023)

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection

Background

The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) is a Statutory requirement of all local authorities, under the Housing Act 1985, placing a duty on Local Authorities to periodically assess the level of housing need in the County. LHMA's are considered as part of the evidence base for preparing Local Development Plans, Strategic Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies. Local authorities are expected to rewrite LHMA's every five years and refresh that LHMA once during that five-year period (between years two and three). Ceredigion are currently at the refresh stage. The deadline for submission is 29th March 2024.

Methodology

Since our last LHMA, which was published in 2020, Welsh Government have developed a Tool to carry out the LHMA to ensure that all local authorities are using a consistent methodology and national data sources and to ensure LHMA's are all on a consistent timetable, Ceredigion County Council in house Research, Housing and Planning Policy teams have used the WG provided tool to undertake this refresh. However, for Ceredigion, the Tool has been problematic and caused us substantial delays in the production of the LHMA. In light of this, a request for an extension of the deadline date was made, though this request was denied.

Versions of the tool did not work for Ceredigion as a result of technical errors with the tool and the declining household projections for Ceredigion. This has subsequently delayed our production of the LHMA. However, Welsh Government made amendments to the tool, and we are now working with version 3.2, which has provided the following headline outputs:

Headline results for LHMA

- The tool estimates that 278 houses will be needed annually between 2022 and 2027 (*gross need*). Of which, 92% (256) will be affordable housing, and 8% (22) will be market housing.
- The first five-year outputs are heavily distorted towards affordable housing and do not align with our expectations. Local data and insight, alongside past trends highlight that the market housing need estimated by the tool is significantly

lower than expected, whilst the affordable housing need is higher. The remaining 10-year outputs are much lower, however, the split between affordable and market housing is more plausible.

- The tool estimates that the greatest need within the social rented sector is for 1-bedroom properties. This is in-line with our expectations and is supported by evidence.
- Since the previous LHMA (2019), the estimated annual additional *net* housing need for Ceredigion has reduced by 35, from 202 in 2019 to 167 in 2022. This is plausible given our population decline. However, the change in the distribution of need amongst tenures does not seem realistic. In 2019, market housing comprised of 60% of the annual requirement, compared to as little as 13% for the first 5 years of this LHMA period.

In terms of specific housing requirements, it was identified that:

- Approximately 1,893 households would need to move to an accessible/adapted home by 2037.
- The number of multi-generational households should fall over the LHMA period, which may reduce the number of overcrowded households.
- There is a significant shortfall in temporary accommodation in Ceredigion that will need to be met.
- Ceredigion's population is continuing to age, meaning that there will be a greater need for specialist accommodation by 2037, such as Extra Care (+75), Sheltered Housing (+550), Residential (+71) and Nursing Care Homes (+271).
- The number of students at Aberystwyth University and Lampeter Campus (UWTSD) are projected to increase over the LHMA period. There is an identified need for more private rented accommodation within the Aberystwyth HMA.

Important to note: the above figures are high level estimates of future requirements, based on assumed prevalence rates and models, and therefore should only be used as a guide.

In Summary

The LHMA identifies that we should deliver 145 affordable housing units and 22 market housing units a year for the first 5 years (*net need*). This would effectively deal with all our backlog of housing need i.e. those who qualify on the housing register. And a further 22 market housing plus 11 affordable housing per year, for the following 10 years. Which manages on-going needs once the back log has been cleared.

However, it must be recognised that this would be a significant challenge and in reality, past build rates tell us the opposite delivery is true, where far fewer affordable properties are delivered and more market housing. It will be a challenge to manage such a situation going forward.

The estimated low annual market housing need is largely due to Ceredigion's projected demographic and household trends over the 15-year period, in addition to the County's lower than average earnings and higher than average house prices and rents. It is important to note, that initially the principal projection (Welsh Government's preferred projection) was used. The principal projection estimates that Ceredigion's population and the number of households will decline between 2022-2037 (a reduction

of 1,607 residents and 128 households), which resulted in *no* market housing need. Therefore, we decided to use the higher variant household projection, which is based on high population assumptions. Although this variant assumes a more positive picture, the household growth over the 15-year period is still relatively small (+500 households).

The high annual affordable housing need is mostly due to the large number of applicants on the housing register (1,700), which is causing a backlog of need. In addition, the tool assumes that this backlog will be met within the first five years of the LHMA period, which reflects the higher need for affordable housing (145) between 2022-2027 and the lower need (11) for the remaining 10 years.

However, it is worth noting that due to our replacement Local Development Plan being on pause this LHMA will have limited value to Ceredigion housing and planning policy teams at present. The replacement LDP or SDP will require a full rewrite version of an LHMA, with a full rewrite required by March 2025.

For the next LHMA rewrite our intention is to commission a demographer/planning consultant to produce a range of population and housing growth scenarios for Ceredigion. This will provide further clarity on the housing growth options available to us, which can feed into the WG LHMA tool. It is hoped that the chosen projection will result in a more accurate housing requirement across the LHMA period (i.e., greater need for market housing). Further consideration to this and subsequent costings will be undertaken in due course and part of the commissioning will be to provide a methodological approach for the Council to use in-house longer term, for undertaking the LHMA in future years.

The Draft Local Housing Assessment was presented to Leadership Group on the 6th December 2023. Discussions were had which suggested that the argument around the unexpectedly low market need should be strengthened within the Assessment. For example, in order to support this, Growth Deal figures (job and income creation) should be included as these could potentially lead to an increase in a need for market homes.

In addition, it was requested that a letter be sent to the Welsh Minister for Housing, from Ceredigion's Council Leader, to highlight our concerns with the Tool's methodology and outputs. A formal written response from the Welsh Minister for Housing was received at the beginning of February.

Consultation

Following agreement at Leadership Group, a consultation on the Draft Local Housing Market Assessment began on 14th December with a presentation to the Strategic Housing Partnership, the Consultation ran until 19th January 2024 (5 weeks). The Consultation returned several responses following in person discussions in the Strategic Housing Partnership and subsequently 2 formal written responses were received. No direct questions were asked of respondents, simply to feedback and comment on the Assessment itself. The responses have been shared with a corresponding LHMA Working Group response, within the LHMA. Typing and grammar errors within the written responses have been amended for reader ease, however, the content and context remain as they were submitted.

Consultation findings

As with previous discussions at LG, it was noted within the Consultation responses that the key themes of consultation were:

- Lack of confidence in the Tool's methodology to calculate the housing need
- Lack of confidence of the Tool's housing need estimations (particularly market housing need)
- Limitations of using the 2018-based projections as a key input (these are outdated and do not consider economic plans for the County)

Local Housing Market Assessment Additions

As a result of the consultation, and internal reviewing, the following additions have been made to the LHMA:

- Page 5 (Summary) – two additions were made, to highlight the unexpectedly low market housing need estimations and to ensure the reader is aware of the Tool limitations.
- Page 8-10 – Argument strengthened to highlight the inaccuracy of the tool's estimations and outline the limitations of the methodology, including the figures relating to the Growing Mid Wales Growth Deal.
- Page 32-34 – Map amended to reflect most recent data available (Median House Prices) and a new figure included to outline the household affordability in Ceredigion and Wales. An addition was made within the text to highlight the different median household data used, which results in different household affordability ratios.
- Page 38-39 – An addition was made to outline the limitations of using 2018-based projections.
- Page 60 – An addition was made to outline the potential for duplication across the future specific housing need requirements section, due to different models being used.

With these additions strengthening the Assessment it is viewed that, with agreement, this will be the final document adopted and published, with a rewrite of the LHMA to follow in due course.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been completed on this occasion. The Assessment is an assessment of housing need and any necessary policies or actions which may follow will form part of the Housing Strategy and/or the Local Development Plan. Both of which have their own IIA's in place. Any future policies or actions will have an IIA completed, as appropriate.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term:	N/A
Collaboration:	N/A
Involvement:	N/A
Prevention:	N/A
Integration:	N/A

Recommendation(s):

To approve the LHMA following the end of the consultation period and adopt.

Reasons for decision:

To meet statutory requirement and meet deadline imposed.

Overview and Scrutiny:

At the time of writing the Report, the Strategy has not been discussed at Scrutiny. The Strategy is being presented to O&S on the 11th March 2024.

Policy Framework:

N/A

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

- Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
- Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
- Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

At present there are no associated finance and procurement implications, but there will be associated finance and procurement implications in undertaking the full review of the LHMA by 2025 as the LA wish to appoint a suitably qualified demographer to develop a bespoke Ceredigion population projection for use with the tool.

Legal Implications:

N/A

Staffing implications:

N/A

Property / asset implications:

N/A

Risk(s):

The LHMA as published does not accord with our expectation and past delivery rates, therefore the inherent risk to the authority is around utilising this as evidence for basing future projected growth. In order to ameliorate this risk for the full re-write of the LHMA in 2025 Ceredigion specific population projections will be developed utilising all available evidence to support further market housing need.

Statutory Powers:

Housing Act 1985

Background Papers:

N/A

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Local Housing Market Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Greg Jones, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar

Reporting Officer:

Llŷr Hughes, Corporate Manager – Housing Services

Date:

06/02/2024

LHMA

Ceredigion

Local Housing Market
Assessment
2023 - Refresh
(Draft – January 2024)



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

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Headline Results

167

Estimated annual additional housing *net* need for Ceredigion.



35

Since the previous LHMA (2019) the estimated additional housing need for Ceredigion has reduced by 35 (-17%) *



145

Affordable housing dwellings required (*net*) per year between 2022 and 2027. (86% of total housing need)



22

Market housing dwellings required per year between 2022 and 2037. ** (14% of total housing need).



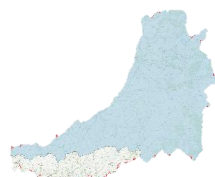
Aberystwyth HMA

Has the greatest annual need (*net*) for affordable housing (65) between 2022 and 2027. (45% of overall affordable housing net need across 4 HMAs).



Teifi Valley HMA

Has the greatest annual need (*net*) for market housing (7) between 2022 and 2037 (31% of overall market housing need across 4 HMAs).



Specialist

Accommodation

There is a projected increased need for Extra Care (+75), Sheltered Housing (+550), Residential Care (+71) and Nursing Care Homes (+271) by 2037.



Shortfall in temporary accommodation

There is a significant shortfall in temporary accommodation in Ceredigion which will need to be met.



Multi-generational households

The number of multi-generational households in Ceredigion should fall over the LHMA period, which may reduce the number of overcrowded households.



Accessible and Adapted Housing

Between 1,893 (min) and 5,179 (max) households will need adapted housing between 2022 and 2037.



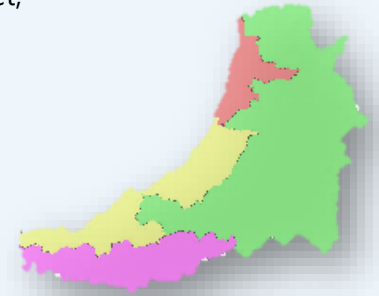
*Care should be taken when comparing figures as different methodologies were used.

** The estimated market dwelling need is much lower than expected and not reflective of the situation in Ceredigion.

Summary

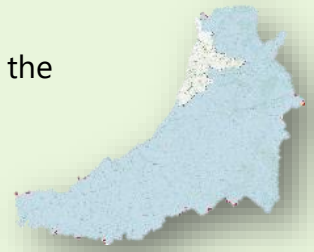
Ceredigion

- This is **Ceredigion's Local Housing Market Assessment (refresh)**, which updates the previous 2019 LHMA, to provide an up-to-date picture of the market, affordable and specific housing needs across the County.
- The **LHMA tool produced by the Welsh Government** has been used to determine the **housing needs** for Ceredigion by **Housing Market Areas (HMAs)** (2022-2037).
- Within the LHMA tool it was possible to choose between using principal, higher or lower household projections (2018-based) as a basis for the calculations. The **higher variant** is the preferred projection, as supported by local evidence.
- Local data and insight alongside past trends, highlight that **the market housing need** estimated by the tool is **significantly lower than expected**, whilst the **affordable need is higher**. This is not reflective of the situation in Ceredigion.
- **Caution should be taken** when using the market need estimations, which are inaccurate due to the **tool's methodological limitation** (assumes that all existing unmet need will be met through affordable housing only), and the use of the **higher variant projection**, which **does not consider** any housing need from plans for **economic growth**.
- Over the 15-year LHMA period (2022-2037), the tool estimates a *net* need for **1,172 dwellings**, **28% (330)** should be **market housing** and **72% (842)** should be **affordable homes**.
- Over the first five years (2022-2027), the tool estimates a *net* need of **167 dwellings** per year. Of the dwellings required, 13% (**22**) should be **market housing** and 87% (**145**) should be **affordable housing**.
- In terms of bedroom requirements, the tool estimates the greatest need for **affordable housing** is for **1 bed properties**, which is in-line with our expectations and is supported by local evidence.
- In terms of special housing requirements:
 - the number of **multi-generational households** in Ceredigion should **fall**.
 - there is a **significant shortfall** in **temporary accommodation** in Ceredigion which will need to be met.
 - there will be a greater need for **Extra Care (+75)**, **Sheltered Housing (+550)**, **Residential (+71)** and **Nursing Care Homes (+271)** by 2037.
 - the number of **students** at Aberystwyth University and Lampeter Campus (UWTSD) is expected to **increase**. There is an identified future need for more private rented accommodation in the Aberystwyth HMA.



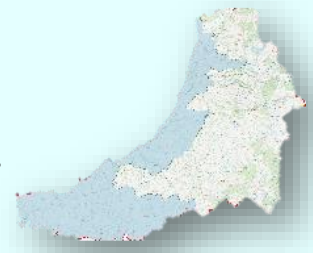
Aberystwyth HMA

- The Aberystwyth HMA is the **smallest HMA (118km²)** and encompasses the town of Aberystwyth and its immediate neighbours.
- For the first five years of the LHMA period, there is a *net* need for **71 dwellings per year** (43% of all need), this is the **highest** estimated need across the four HMAs.
- Aberystwyth HMA has the second highest **market housing** need (**6 or 27%**) and the greatest **affordable housing** *net* need (**65 or 45%**) over the first five years of the LHMA period.



Other HMA

- The Other HMA encompasses the **largest area (1,063km²)** but has the lowest number of households. It includes the northeast of Ceredigion.
- For the first five years of the LHMA period, there is a *net* requirement for **12 dwellings per year**, which is the lowest need out of all four HMAs, equating to 7% of the total overall need.
- Other HMA has the **lowest estimated need** for **market housing (3/14%)** and **affordable housing (9/6%)**.



Coastal HMA

- The Coastal HMA has the **second largest area (332km²)** and encompasses the southwest coastline of Ceredigion.
- For the first five years of the LHMA period, there is a *net* need for **33 dwellings per year**, which is the second lowest out of the four HMAs and equates to 20% of the overall need.
- The estimated annual **market housing** need is **5 (23%)** and **affordable housing** need is **28 (19%)**



Teifi Valley HMA

- The Teifi Valley HMA has the **second smallest area (294km²)** and encompasses Southwest Ceredigion.
- For the first five years of the LHMA period, there is a *net* requirement for **50 dwellings per year**, this is the **second highest** estimated need of the four HMAs and equates to 30% of all need.
- Teifi Valley HMA has the **highest annual market housing need (7 or 31%)**, and the **second highest affordable need (43 or 30%)**.



1. Background

Under the 1985 Housing Act, local authorities are responsible for taking a periodic review of housing need in their area. It is vital that local authorities have a comprehensive understanding of their local housing markets and provide a robust evidence base for effective strategic housing and planning services. To fulfil this requirement, local authorities in Wales must develop Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs).

1.1. Additional housing need estimates

This Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMA) estimates the additional housing need likely to be required by Ceredigion, split by housing market areas and tenures. The latest LHMA rewrite was prepared by Opinion Research Services (ORS), on behalf of Ceredigion County Council in 2019 and signed off by Welsh Government in 2020. Utilising section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities are expected to rewrite their LHMAs every five years and refresh that LHMA once during that five-year period (between years two and three). As such, this LHMA is a refresh to Ceredigion's 2019 LHMA.

The Welsh Government published the LHMA tool and accompanying guidance in 2022. The Tool is to be used by all local authorities in Wales as the sole basis of evidence for the calculation of housing need. The 'refresh' template set out in the Welsh Government guidance has been used to structure the Assessment. In addition, the previous LHMA has been reviewed in order to provide this up-to-date assessment of general, affordable and special housing needs.

It is important to note that the methodology (Welsh Government LHMA tool) used for this LHMA is different to the methodology adopted in the 2019 LHMA rewrite (ORS model). Therefore, caution should be taken when comparing the two Assessments and the housing need figures. Section 2.1 highlights the differences between the two approaches.

1.2. Latest additional housing need estimates

This section looks at the outputs from the LHMA tool. As requested in the Welsh Government LHMA guidance (appendix A), the following screenshots from the tool have been provided. Within the LHMA tool it was possible to choose between using principal, higher or lower household projections (based on the 2018 projections) as a basis for the calculations.

1.2.1. Household Projections

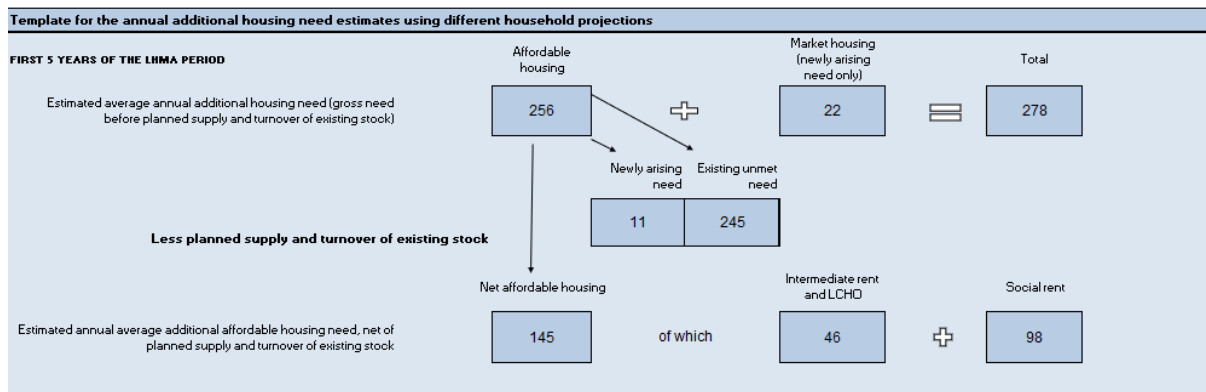
Household projections are a key data input of the LHMA tool, determining the newly arising need over the LHMA period. Section 1.3.9. outlines the different projections according to the Welsh Government 2018-based projections. Looking at past build rates and other sources (e.g., Local Housing Occupancy Survey), there is clearly a current need for additional dwellings, particularly market housing in Ceredigion, and past trends indicate that this need will continue (refer to Section 1.3.13. for further detail). As such, it was agreed by Ceredigion County Council that the higher variant projection is the preferred projection. Although it is acknowledged that the projected number of households (using the higher variant) is relatively low, which combined with lower-than-average earnings and higher than average house prices, is resulting in a lower-than-expected need for market housing over the LHMA period.

The higher variant and principal projections have been run and the section below provides an analysis of the outputs.

1.2.2. Higher variant outputs

Firstly, the outputs from the tool using the *higher variant* are considered. As reflected in Figure 1 below, the estimated annual additional housing *gross need* (before planned supply and turnover of existing stock) for the first five years of the LHMA period (2022-2027), is 278 for Ceredigion. Of these, the tool estimates that 256 (92%) would be affordable housing and 22 (8%) would be market housing.

Figure 1: Annual additional housing need estimates using the higher variant projection.



*Figures may not sum due to rounding within the tool

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool V 2.3, 2023)

The need figures for the first 5 years are misleading and not in-line with our expectations, particularly the estimated market dwelling requirements. Local data and insight alongside past

trends, highlight that the market housing need estimated by the tool is significantly lower than expected, whilst the affordable need is higher.

The market housing requirement estimated by the tool is a cause for concern. The tool estimates that as little as 22 open-market properties are required per year between 2022 and 2037, which is considerably lower than expected and not an accurate estimation of the future market housing need for Ceredigion.

There are three key factors which suggest that the tool's market dwelling estimations are inaccurate, these are:

- A methodological limitation of the Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) tool
- The 2018-based housing projections used to determine newly arising need
- Local qualitative and quantitative evidence

LHMA tool – methodological limitation

The tool has an underlying methodological limitation which impedes the accuracy of the estimated market housing need requirements for Ceredigion. The tool combines the existing unmet need (which is only for affordable housing), with the newly arising need (which includes both affordable and market housing). As such, the total need figures are heavily distorted towards the affordable sector, particularly within the first five years of the LHMA period (as this is when the tool assumes all existing need should be met). This limitation is exacerbated further in rural local authorities with a declining population (like Ceredigion), as market housing need is based solely on population and household projections.

Household projections – newly arising need

The Welsh Government 2018-based household projections are estimating a lower household growth than expected. Whilst we recognise that the 2018-based are the most recent projections available at the time of writing, they were produced five years ago and can be considered outdated. As reflected in Section 1.3.9 Number of Households, the 2018-based projections do not take account of the recent reduction in average household size (as recorded by the 2021 Census), which if considered, could result in a higher growth in the number of households.

The 2018-based projections estimate the future number of households in Ceredigion *if* a set of assumptions (based on demographic trends) are to continue, they do not however attempt to predict the impact of future policies or changing economic circumstances. Therefore, this input does not consider any need arising from the Council's corporate direction, which is to boost the local economy, nor does it consider any emerging need from on-going investments into the area, such as Growing Mid Wales, the Levelling Up Fund, or the Shared Prosperity Fund.

It is anticipated that the Council's Corporate Strategy and on-going economic investment to the area will increase the number of jobs across the County, which has the potential to translate into a higher household growth. For example, the Growing Mid Wales Growth Deal is projected to create 500-600 net additional full time equivalent jobs in Ceredigion, which estimates a gross value added (GVA) between 215,000,000 and £262,500,000 by 2032.¹ Not only does this challenge the tenure affordability element of the tool, but also the projected household growth as estimated by the Welsh Government household projections.

¹ Ceredigion County Council (2023) – Economic and Community Development Service.

We acknowledge the option to use our own ‘user projections’ within the tool, however, during the LHMA our scope to produce alternative and robust projections was very limited, and any deviation from the default projections would need to be justified. The next full LHMA rewrite will seek to address these issues by considering a range of different growth scenarios e.g., employment-led and dwelling-led projections.

Local evidence – quantitative and qualitative

Evidence from past build rates and responses to the Housing Occupancy Survey (refer to Section 1.3.15), tells us the opposite distribution of tenure and delivery is true. The evidence demonstrates a greater need for market homes and a lower need for affordable homes, compared to the tool’s estimations. Over the last five years, on average, 144 market houses have been built annually, which greatly exceeds the tool’s estimated need for 22 market houses annually. As reflected in the responses to the Housing Occupancy Survey, a number of these are occupied by residents. To further support this discrepancy, qualitative evidence from our consultation on the Draft LHMA highlights that there is a strong demand for market dwellings in Ceredigion (refer to Appendix 5 – Consultation Responses).

It is acknowledged that the County has a declining population, higher-than-average house prices and lower than average incomes (refer to Section 1.3.10), which is resulting in a smaller proportion of these *additional* households being able to afford open-market prices. However, we would not expect these characteristics to result in a need as little as 22 market dwellings per year. Particularly as the build rate of market dwellings per year is 144 and local evidence tells us that these are occupied.

In terms of affordable need, both the *net* and *gross* affordable need over the first five years,² are higher than expected. On average, 43 affordable dwellings are built per year (2018-2023), which is far less than the estimated annual *gross* and *net* need for affordable housing (256 and 145 dwellings respectively). However, when the annual affordable need estimates are averaged over the 15-year period (refer to Figure 5), the annual affordable need reduces to 56 per year, which is plausible. It should be noted that the tool only considers 3-year plans of affordable stock, and not the 5-years as specified within the guidance (as the Registered Social Landlords operate on 3-year plans). This has therefore resulted in a higher *net* affordable need. It is recognised that the funding for the Social Housing Grant (SHG) is increasing, which could make the delivery of the *net* affordable housing need more plausible.

Figure 2 below shows a detailed breakdown of the estimated annual additional affordable housing need by HMA and tenure. These results are the *net* need, which considers the turnover of existing stock and planned supply.

² Net affordable need: takes into consideration the planned supply and existing stock – this data was collected from our Registered Social Landlords and Ceredigion County Council.

Figure 2: Detailed breakdown of the additional housing net need estimates over the first 5 years of the LHMA period.

Basis of the household projections Higher Variant

Detailed breakdown of the additional housing need estimates over the first 5 years of the LHMA period

LHMA Report Table 1: Estimated annual additional affordable housing need by HMA and tenure (net need, net of turnover of existing stock and planned supply)

The first table provides the additional affordable housing need estimates on the following basis:
 * at HMA level
 * by tenure (LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)
 * annual estimate for the first 5 years of the LHMA period
 * the estimates have been reduced to allow for turnover of existing affordable stock and planned supply.

HMA	(a) one bedroom	(b) two bedrooms	(c) three bedrooms	(d) four+ bedrooms	(e) Social rent (a) + (b) + (c) + (d) = (e)	(f) Intermediate rent	(g) LCHO	(h) Affordable Housing (h) = (e) + (f) + (g)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	71	8	8	11	98	7	39	145
Aberystwyth	34	0	5	5	44	3	19	65
Other	5	0	-	1	6	1	2	8
Coastal	12	5	3	2	23	1	4	28
Teifi Valley	20	2	-	4	26	2	15	43

**Figures may not sum due to rounding within the tool.*

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V2.3, 2023).

The bedroom figures and distribution across the HMAs are in-line with our expectations. The results show that there is a greater need for 1-bedroom properties compared to 2, 3 and 4+ bedroom properties in Ceredigion. The greatest need for affordable housing is within the Aberystwyth HMA, which is allocated 45% (65) of the total affordable housing need. These figures are supported by evidence in the Housing Strategy,³ Housing Register and Prospectus.⁴

Figure 3 below outlines the annual additional total housing *gross* need estimates by HMA for the first 5 years of the LHMA period.⁵ This data indicates that annual housing requirements (affordable and market) is greatest in the Aberystwyth HMA (122), followed by the Teifi Valley HMA (83), the Coastal HMA (55) and lastly the Other HMA (19).⁶

Figure 3: Estimated annual additional total housing need by HMA and tenure (gross need).

LHMA Report Table 2: Estimated annual additional total housing need estimates by HMA and tenure (gross need, before turnover and supply)

The second table provides the additional total housing need estimates on the following basis:
 * includes market and affordable housing
 * at HMA level
 * by tenure (owner occupier, private rented sector (PRS), LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)
 * annual estimate for the first 5 years of the LHMA period

HMA	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing (c) = (a) + (b)	(d) Owner occupier	(e) Private rented sector	(f) Market Housing (f) = (d) + (e)	(g) Additional housing need (g) = (c) + (f)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	189	67	256	9	14	22	278
Aberystwyth	88	27	115	3	4	6	122
Other	10	5	15	1	2	4	19
Coastal	38	12	50	2	3	5	55
Teifi Valley	53	22	75	3	5	7	83

**Figures may not sum due to rounding in the tool.*

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V2.3, 2023).

In terms of affordable housing, there is a greater need for social rented properties per year (189) compared to Intermediate Rent or Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) properties (67),

³ Ceredigion County Council (2023). Housing for All 2023-2028. Available at: [Housing for All \(ceredigion.gov.uk\)](https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/housing-for-all)

⁴ Ceredigion County Council (2022). LA Prospectus (PDP) – Ceredigion

⁵ These dwelling estimates are a *gross* need, as the calculations do not take into consideration the planned supply and existing turnover of stock.

⁶ Figures may not sum due to rounding in the tool.

estimating 74% and 26% of the total overall affordable need respectively. Whilst within the market sector, there is a greater need for houses in the private rented sector, compared to the owner occupier sector.

The need figures for the remaining 10 years are low (see Figure 4 below), however, the split between market housing and affordable housing is more realistic. It is estimated that 67% of the total housing need will be market housing (a requirement of 22 dwellings per year) and 33% will be affordable housing (a requirement of 11 dwellings per year) between 2027 and 2037. This distribution amongst the tenures aligns more closely with local data and previous trends. The change in distribution is expected due to the tool's assumption that all existing unmet need is met within the first 5 years.

Figure 4: Detailed breakdown of the additional total need estimates over the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period.

Detailed breakdown of the additional total housing need estimates over the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period

LHMA Report Table 3: Estimated annual additional housing need estimates by HMA and tenure for the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period

The third table provides the additional housing need estimates on the following basis:

- * at HMA level
- * by tenure (owner occupier, private rented sector (PRS), LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)
- * annual estimate for the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period
- * the estimates are based solely on newly arising need (it is assumed any existing unmet need is met during the first 5 years)
- * the affordable housing need estimates in should be combined with the affordable housing need in Table 1 to produce a 15-year estimate of affordable housing.
- No further allowance has been made for supply at this point as it becomes less accurate to predict committed supply and turnover beyond year 5.

HMA	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing	(d) Owner occupier	(e) Private rented sector	(f) Market Housing	(g) Additional housing need
			(c) = (a) + (b)			(f) = (d) + (e)	(g) = (c) + (f)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	8	3	11	9	14	22	33
Aberystwyth	3	1	4	3	4	6	11
Other	1	0	2	1	2	4	5
Coastal	1	1	2	2	3	5	7
Teifi Valley	2	1	3	3	5	7	10

**Figures may not sum due to rounding within the tool*

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V2.3, 2023)

The tool also provides the overall additional *net* housing need by HMA and tenure over the full 15 years of the LHMA period (see Figure 5 overleaf). Between 2022 and 2037, the tool suggests that the total *net* need for affordable houses would be 834 (56 per year). Of these, 68% (569) would need to be social rent properties and 32% (265) should include Intermediate rent and LCHO properties. Although not included in the table below, the estimated market housing requirement over the full 15 years of the LHMA period is 330 dwellings.

Figure 5: Estimated annual overall additional affordable housing need by HMA (net need) over the 15 years of the LHMA.

Headline 15-year Affordable Housing Need Estimate

Table 4: Estimated annual overall additional affordable housing need by HMA and tenure (net need) over the 15 years of the LHMA

Table 4 provides the additional affordable housing need estimates on the following basis:
 *at HMA level
 *by tenure (intermediate housing and social rent)
 *annual estimate for the 15 years of the LHMA period
 *the affordable housing need estimates are a combination of the additional estimates from table 1 (net estimates) and table 3.
 (no further allowance has been made for supply and turnover of existing stock as it becomes less accurate to predict beyond year 5)

HMA	Average annual estimates			15-year estimates		
	(a)	(b)	(c)			
	Social rent	Intermediate rent and LCHO	Affordable Housing	Social rent	Intermediate rent and LCHO	Affordable Housing
			(c) = (a) + (b)			(c) = (a) + (b)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	38	18	56	569	265	834
Aberystwyth	17	8	25	248	120	369
Other	3	1	4	41	17	58
Coastal	8	2	11	126	32	159
Teifi Valley	10	6	17	153	96	249

**Figures may not sum due to rounding in the tool.*

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V2.3, 2023)

The breakdown of the data items and key assumptions utilised within the LHMA tool are outlined in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Data items, key assumptions and HMA assumptions utilised within the LHMA tool.

Data items / Key assumptions						
	Basis	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Change in income growth	Default	2.33%	2.76%	2.84%	2.77%	3.58%
Change in house prices	Default	-1.12%	-5.67%	1.14%	3.43%	3.59%
Change in private rent prices	Default	5.04%	1.77%	1.67%	1.86%	2.49%
Change in income distribution growth	Greater Inequality	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Number of years to clear existing unmet need	5 years					
Market housing affordability criteria	30%					
Social rent affordability criteria	35%					
Data item	Data Sources	Basis of the data				
Income data by HMA	Paycheck	2022				
House price paid data by HMA	Land Registry Data	Calendar year				
Rent prices	Rent Officers Wales	Calendar year				
Household projection basis	Higher Variant					
Percentage of households considered for owner occupier tenure that go on to buy	60%					
HMA assumptions						
HMA	FTB property price	FTB property value to income ratio	Min. income for intermediate rent	Max. income for intermediate rent		
Aberystwyth	£ 180,956	4.5	£ 21,245	£ 23,000		
Other	£ 177,990	4.5	£ 18,051	£ 20,000		
Coastal	£ 222,487	4.5	£ 18,035	£ 20,000		
Teifi Valley	£ 174,005	4.5	£ 16,922	£ 19,000		

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V3.2, 2023)

As reflected above, all the default assumptions provided within the tool were used. The highest proportion of households considered for owner occupier tenure that go on to buy (from the range deemed appropriate by Welsh Government) was used (60%). This was chosen as there

is a relatively high proportion of owner-occupiers in Ceredigion, in addition to retirees, and research shows that older people are more likely to own their home outright.⁷

It is acknowledged that the first-time buyer property prices quoted above are very low for Ceredigion. According to the tool, the highest price for a first-time buyer property was in the Coastal HMA (£222,487) whilst the lowest was in the Teifi Valley HMA (£174,005). There is more information evidencing this in Section 1.3.8.

The following tables have been included to summarise the above overview of outputs and provide further insight into the issues and challenges that have arisen from using the tool. It is acknowledged that the inclusion of this table is only a requirement for the LHMA rewrite (and not refresh), however, it is hoped that this information will add value to the assessment, particularly as this is the first time that the tool has been used.

Table 1 below outlines the key issues identified with the calculations and outputs, which is a summary of the above section, and Table 2 highlights the data inputs used and any issues that have arisen.

Table 1: Issues identified with calculations and outputs from the LHMA tool (higher variant).

Key data inputs	Key issues identified with calculations / outputs
1. Market housing need covering owner occupier and private rented sector	1.The market housing need is significantly lower than expected. 2.The private rented sector need is slightly greater than the need for owner-occupier housing, which is different to the expectation.
2. Affordable housing need covering social rent and immediate housing	1.The affordable housing need is higher than expected. 2.The distribution between the social rent and intermediate tenures is logical, with a greater need for social rent compared to LCHO. 3.The bedroom size requirement in the social rented sector aligns with our expectations and is supported by local evidence.
3. Scenario testing tables	1. N/A.
4. Five-year outputs / ten-year outputs	1.The first five-year outputs are too large of a proportion; it seems unrealistic that all existing unmet need will be met within the first 5 years. 2.The first five-year outputs are heavily distorted towards affordable housing and do not align with our expectations. In addition, the distribution does not align with local policy. Ceredigion's LDP policy directs that 20% of all dwellings within a development are affordable and is based on detailed viability evidence. ⁸ 3.The need figures for the remaining 10 years are very low, however, the split between affordable and market housing is more logical.

⁷ ONS (2023). Living longer: changes in housing tenure over time. Available at: [Living longer - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/livinglonger)

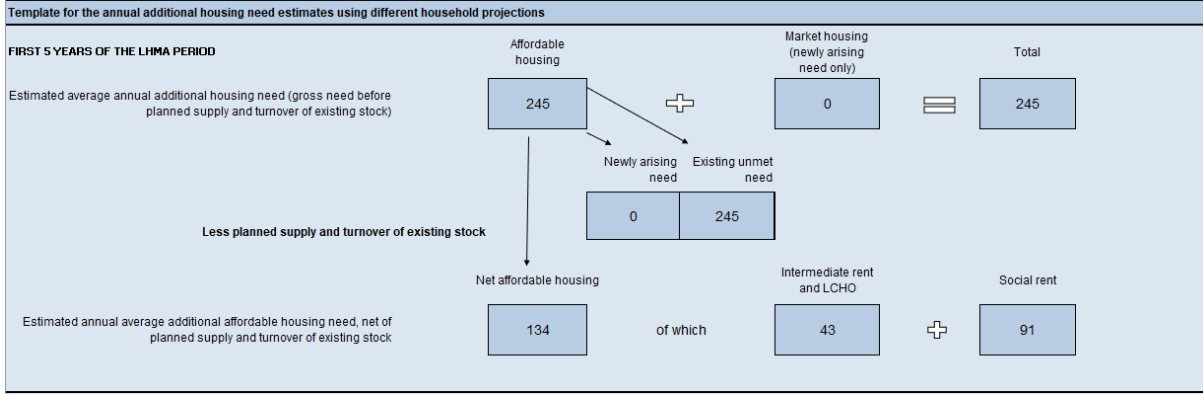
⁸ Ceredigion County Council (2007). Local Development Plan – Volume 1 Strategy and Plans.

Table 2: Key issues identified within the tools data inputs.

Key data inputs	Key issues identified with the data inputs
1. Housing Market Areas (HMAs)	1. There are differences between the HMAs used in this assessment and the 2019 LHMA, as they are based on different ward boundaries. Therefore, care should be taken when comparing the Teifi Valley and Coastal HMAs across periods (further information in Appendix 1).
2. Household data	1. All household projections (principal, higher and lower) that were inputted in the tool resulted in a lower number of market housing dwellings over the LHMA period than expected. It's acknowledged that the 2018-based projections are based on previous 5-year trends and are therefore dated and should be used with caution. They do not consider more recent trends, such as the decline in the household size in Ceredigion reflected in the most recent Census (2021).
3. Rent data	1. The rent data was provided by calendar year by Rent Officers Wales. As this is the default rent data, this has been used.
4. Income data	1. CACI Paycheck Income data was used. The 2023 data was used; however, the tool does not allow users to change from 2022 (this is why it appears as 2022 within Figure 6).
5. House price paid data	1. The Land Registry data was used – 2020, 2021 and 2022 (which was automated within the tool).
6. Existing unmet need	<p>1. Data based on the Council's Common Housing Register and Affordable Housing Register was used, in addition to information on concealed households and homeless households in temporary accommodation (from the 2021 Census and Stats Wales).</p> <p>2. Allocating households to the appropriate tenures (social, intermediate and LCHO) was challenging as there are overlaps between the income thresholds within our local policy, in addition to a wider criterion used to allocate need.</p> <p>3. A key limitation of the tool is that all the existing unmet need is allocated to affordable housing, which significantly overstates the affordable housing need and understates market housing need for Ceredigion. There may be households within that unmet need that can afford market housing.</p>
7. Existing stock and planned supply	1. The tool requires 5-year plans for planned supply, however, Ceredigion's Registered Social Landlord's (RSLs) operate on 3-year plans. Therefore, this may have inflated the net affordable annual need figures slightly.

1.2.3. Principal Projection outputs

The outputs from the tool using the principal household projections are included in the tables overleaf. An overview of the results is provided at the end of the section.



Basis of the household projections: **Principal**

Detailed breakdown of the additional housing need estimates over the first 5 years of the LHMA period

LHMA Report Table 1: Estimated annual additional affordable housing need by HMA and tenure (net need, net of turnover of existing stock and planned supply)

The first table provides the additional affordable housing need estimates on the following basis:
 *at HMA level
 *by tenure (LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)
 *annual estimate for the first 5 years of the LHMA period
 *the estimates have been reduced to allow for turnover of existing affordable stock and planned supply.

HMA	(a) one bedroom	(b) two bedrooms	(c) three bedrooms	(d) four+ bedrooms	(e) Social rent (a) + (b) + (c) + (d) = (e)	(f) Intermediate rent	(g) LCHO	(h) Affordable Housing (h) = (e) + (f) + (g)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	66	6	8	11	91	5	38	134
Aberystwyth	32	-	5	5	41	2	18	61
Other	4	-	-	1	5	0	2	7
Coastal	11	5	3	2	21	1	4	26
Teifi Valley	19	1	-	4	24	2	15	40

LHMA Report Table 2: Estimated annual additional total housing need estimates by HMA and tenure (gross need, before turnover and supply)

The second table provides the additional total housing need estimates on the following basis:
 *includes market and affordable housing
 *at HMA level
 *by tenure (owner occupier, private rented sector (PRS), LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)
 *annual estimate for the first 5 years of the LHMA period

HMA	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing (c) = (a) + (b)	(d) Owner occupier	(e) Private rented sector	(f) Market Housing (f) = (d) + (e)	(g) Additional housing need (g) = (c) + (f)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	182	63	245	-	-	-	245
Aberystwyth	85	26	111	-	-	-	111
Other	9	5	14	-	-	-	14
Coastal	37	12	48	-	-	-	48
Teifi Valley	51	21	72	-	-	-	72

Detailed breakdown of the additional total housing need estimates over the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period

LHMA Report Table 3: Estimated annual additional housing need estimates by HMA and tenure for the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period

The third table provides the additional housing need estimates on the following basis:

*at HMA level

*by tenure (owner occupier, private rented sector(PRS), LCHO, intermediate rent and social rent)

*annual estimate for the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period

*the estimates are based solely on newly arising need (it is assumed any existing unmet need is met during the first 5 years)

*the affordable housing need estimates in should be combined with the affordable housing need in Table 1 to produce a 15-year estimate of affordable housing.

No further allowance has been made for supply at this point as it becomes less accurate to predict committed supply and turnover beyond year 5.

HMA	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing	(d) Owner occupier	(e) Private rented sector	(f) Market Housing	(g) Additional housing need
			(c) = (a) + (b)			(f) = (d) + (e)	(g) = (c) + (f)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aberystwyth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coastal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teifi Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Headline 15-year Affordable Housing Need Estimate

Table 4: Estimated annual overall additional affordable housing need by HMA and tenure (net need) over the 15 years of the LHMA

Table 4 provides the additional affordable housing need estimates on the following basis:

*at HMA level

*by tenure (intermediate housing and social rent)

*annual estimate for the 15 years of the LHMA period

*the affordable housing need estimates are a combination of the additional estimates from table 1 (net estimates) and table 3.

(no further allowance has been made for supply and turnover of existing stock as it becomes less accurate to predict beyond year 5)

HMA	Average annual estimates			15-year estimates		
	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing	(a) Social rent	(b) Intermediate rent and LCHO	(c) Affordable Housing
			(c) = (a) + (b)			(c) = (a) + (b)
Additional housing need estimates by tenure	30	14	45	456	215	671
Aberystwyth	14	7	20	206	100	306
Other	2	1	2	25	10	35
Coastal	7	1	9	106	22	128
Teifi Valley	8	6	13	119	83	202

Data items / Key assumptions

	Basis	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Change in income growth	Default	2.33%	2.76%	2.84%	2.77%	3.58%
Change in house prices	Default	-1.12%	-5.67%	1.14%	3.43%	3.53%
Change in private rent prices	Default	5.04%	1.77%	1.67%	1.86%	2.43%
Change in income distribution growth	Greater Inequality	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%

Number of years to clear existing unmet need	5 years
Market housing affordability criteria	30%
Social rent affordability criteria	35%

Data item	Data Sources	Basis of the data
Income data by HMA	Paycheck	2022
House price paid data by HMA	Land Registry Data	Calendar year
Rent prices	Rent Officers Wales	Calendar year
Household projection basis	Principal	

Percentage of households considered for owner occupier tenure that go on to buy	60%
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HMA assumptions

HMA	FTB property price	FTB property value to income ratio	Min. income for intermediate rent	Max. income for intermediate rent
Aberystwyth	£ 180,956	4.5	£ 21,245	£ 24,159
Other	£ 177,990	4.5	£ 18,051	£ 21,007
Coastal	£ 222,487	4.5	£ 18,035	£ 21,007
Teifi Valley	£ 174,005	4.5	£ 16,322	£ 19,957

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Welsh Government Local Housing Market Assessment Tool, V3.2, 2023)

The tool's outputs using the principal household projections do not reflect the current situation in Ceredigion. As reflected in Section 1.3.9, the principal household projections estimate a 0.4% decline in households over the LHMA period, equating to 128 less households in 2037. This input is having a significant impact on the annual additional housing need for Ceredigion, particularly the market housing figures.

The estimated average annual additional housing need (*gross need*) for Ceredigion over the first 5-years of the LHMA period is 245. Of those, 100% are allocated to affordable housing and 0% to market housing. Given that on average 144 market houses are completed annually, this estimated *no need* for the County is not realistic and is contrary to our expectations (as reflected in the section above). Again, the tool's assumption that all existing unmet need is allocated to affordable housing is significantly impacting the estimated market need figures.

For the remaining 10-years of the LHMA period, the tool estimates that there is no need. This is because all of the additional housing need is derived from the existing unmet need, and as the tool assumes this is met within the first 5-years, there is no requirement for the remaining 10 years. Again, this does not align with our expectations and is a limitation of the tool's assumptions.

1.3. Housing Market and Socio-economic and Demographic Trends

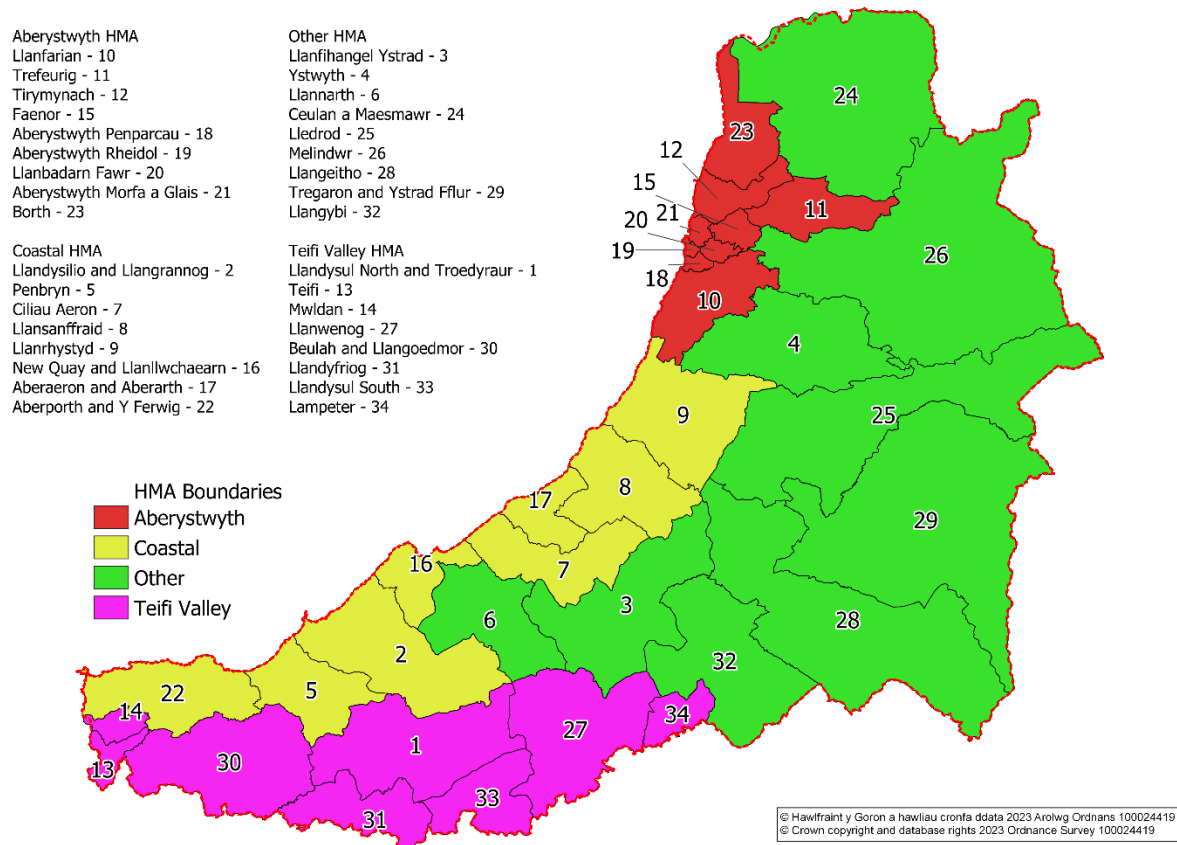
This section will outline any changes considered worthy of noting in the housing market, including any changes in socio-economic and demographic trends since the previous LHMA in 2019. Due to the recent publication of the 2021 Census results, most datasets have been revised since the LHMA rewrite, resulting in an up-to-date profile of Ceredigion's HMAs. As the HMA boundaries have changed since the previous LHMA (due to electoral ward boundary changes which the HMAs are based on), care should be taken when making comparisons between the Coastal and Teifi Valley HMA.

1.3.1. Geographical size

This update considers housing data and need across four Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Ceredigion. The four HMAs are: Aberystwyth (118 Km²), Coastal (332 Km²), Teifi Valley (294Km²) and Other (1,063 Km²), which were defined on the basis of their unique socio-economic and demographic characteristics (refer to Figure 7). These HMAs are formed through the aggregation of wards; and are therefore based on ward boundaries.

There is a slight difference between the Coastal and Teifi Valley HMAs used within this assessment compared to the 2019 LHMA, due to the changes made to the electoral ward boundaries in 2022. The Coastal HMA has gained 29 Km² from the Teifi Valley HMA and means that the Coastal HMA now encompasses all of Ceredigion's southwest coast. Please refer to Appendix 1 for further information on the changes to the HMAs.

Figure 7: Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Ceredigion



(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

1.3.2. Demography

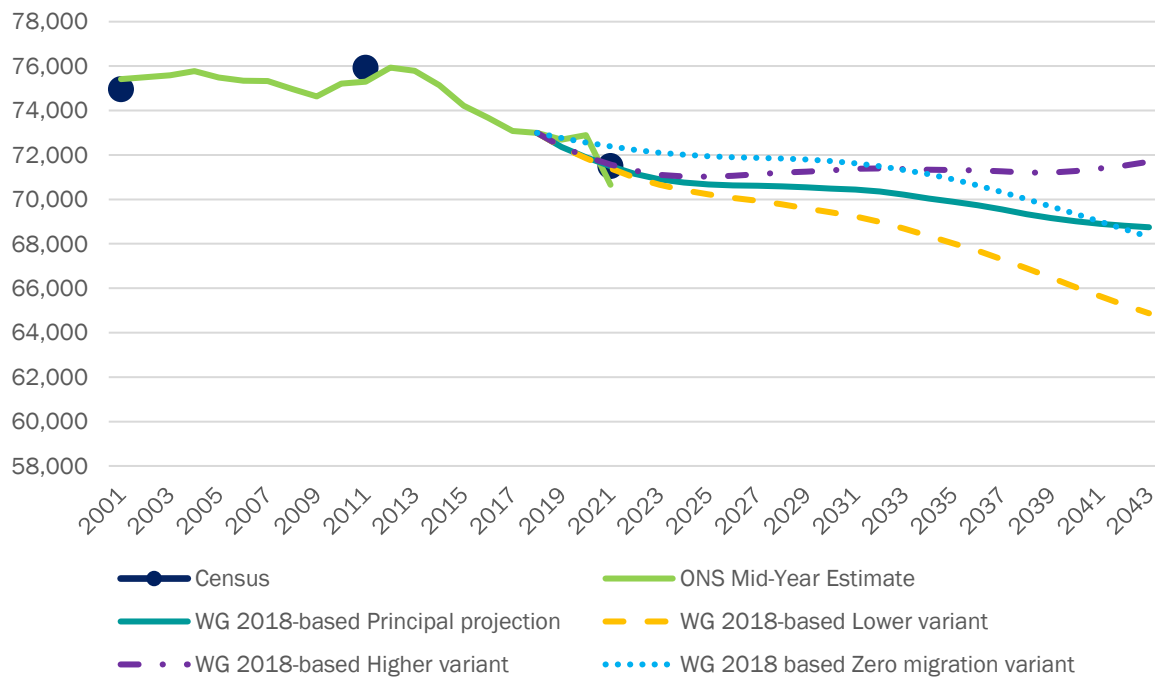
This section will provide an overview of the population (including a breakdown of population characteristics) by housing market area, and any notable demographic trends which have occurred in Ceredigion since the previous LHMA.

According to the 2021 Census, the population of Ceredigion is 71,500, which is a decrease of 5.9% since the previous census held in 2011.⁹ This is notably lower than the 1.4% growth recorded for Wales. Similarly, the latest Mid-Year-Estimates (MYEs) series demonstrates an overall population decline in Ceredigion, from its peak of 76,000 in 2012 to 70,660 in 2021 (refer to Figure 8).¹⁰

⁹ Stats Wales (2022). Usual resident population by age and local authority. Available at [Usual resident population by age and local authority \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

¹⁰ The stark difference between the 2021 Census population estimates and the 2021 mid-year population estimates (-810 residents/1.1%) is to certain extent, expected. This is due to the unusual nature of the period in question (between March and June 2021). The seasonality in migration patterns and the unique pandemic circumstances alongside the roll out of the vaccination programme increased the sensitivity of the migration component. What looks like a stark change in the population of Ceredigion over the three-month period, could be interpreted as little evidence of little, or effectively no change, in the population.

Figure 8: Ceredigion: 2018-based Population Projections with Census and MYE



(Source: ONS, 2001, 2011 and 2021 Census; Welsh Government, Population Projections)

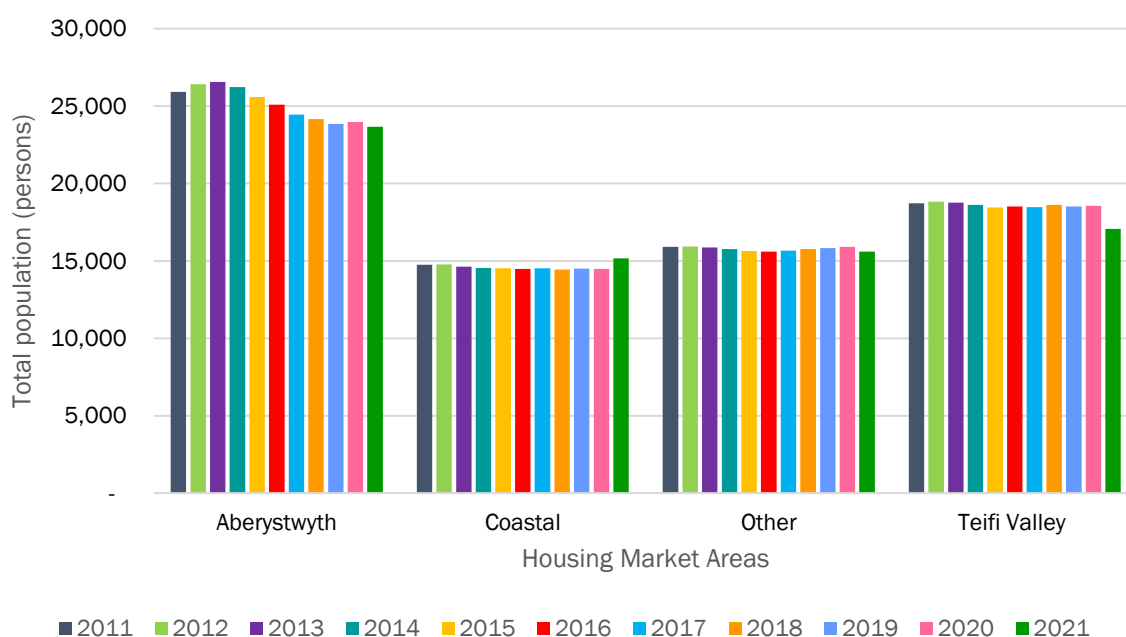
According to the latest population projections (2018-based), this trend of population decline is expected to continue (refer to Figure 8), a reduction of 2.3% (1,610 residents) over the 15-year LHMA period.

The different scenarios in Figure 8 clearly show the impact that alternative migration, fertility, and mortality assumptions can have on the future projections. The 2018-based population projections suggest a small increase of 27 residents (higher variant) and decrease of 3,674 residents (lower variant) in Ceredigion over the same period (2022-2037). Variant projections provide an indication of the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour, especially for long-term projections.

Figure 9 below highlights the overall population estimates for each HMA from 2011-2021. Out of the four HMAs, Aberystwyth has the greatest population (23,660) in 2021, followed by Teifi Valley (17,060), Other (15,590), and Coastal (15,160).¹¹ Across all four HMAs there is an overall pattern of gradual decline over the decade, which follows the County-wide trend (refer to Figure 9). The Aberystwyth HMA demonstrates the most significant fall in population, declining by 8.7% (2,261) over the decade, from 25,920 in 2011 to 23,660 in 2021. Whilst there was only a small reduction in population across the other three HMAs (Coastal, Other and Teifi Valley) over the same period.

¹¹ ONS (2022) – Census: TS007 – Age by single year. Available at: [TS007 - Age by single year - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/ts007)

Figure 9: Total population estimates 2011-2021 by HMA.



(Source: ONS, Mid-Year Estimates (2011-2020)¹²; ONS, Census 2021 Population Estimates.¹³)
 *Caution should be taken when interpreting the 2020-2021 population trend, as the 2021 data uses the revised HMA boundaries which are based on the new electoral ward boundaries.

According to recent data (refer to Table 3 below) the population of Ceredigion is older than the national picture. Approximately 47.0% residents in the County are aged 50 years and over, of which 11.8% are aged 75 years and over. This is significantly greater than the Welsh average of 41.8% and 9.8%. The population proportions of children and working age groups are smaller in Ceredigion compared to the national equivalents. In 2021, 13.1% of children in the County were under the age of 15 (compared to 16.6% nationally), whilst 61.0% were aged 15-64, compared to 62.2% nationally.

¹² NOMIS (2011-2020). Population estimates – small area based by single year of age. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk) (Accessed: 19.06.23).

¹³ ONS (2022). Usual resident population by age and local authority. Available at: [Age by single year - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Table 3: Age profile for Ceredigion and Wales by 5-year age groups – 2021 Census.

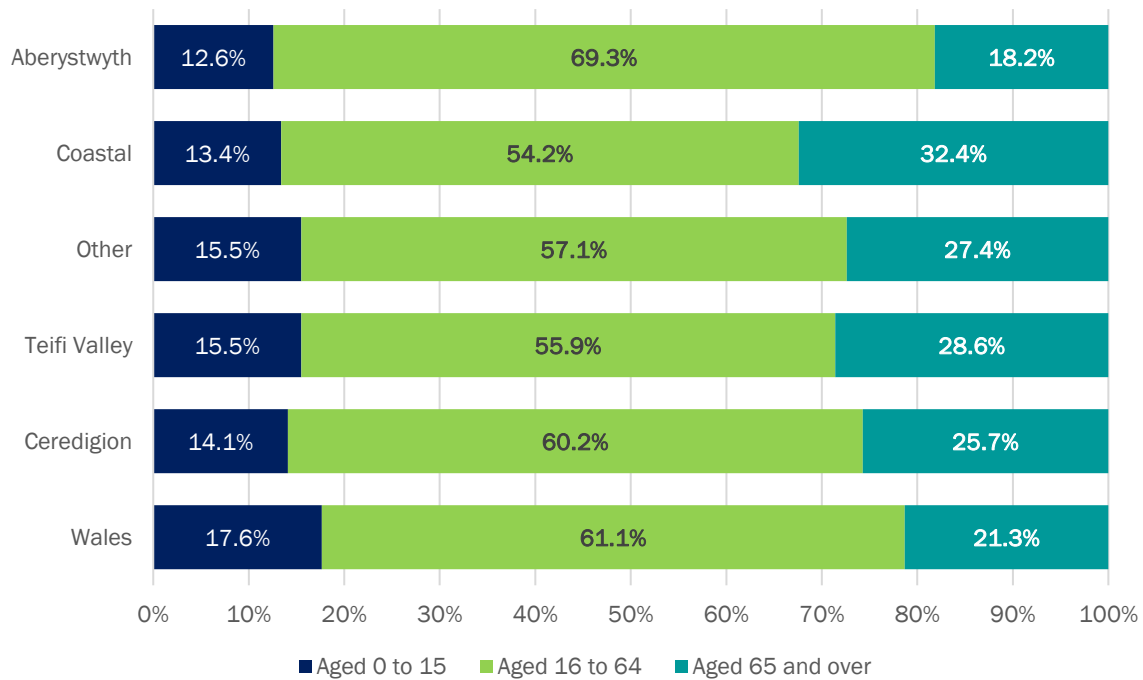
	Ceredigion		Wales	
	number	%	number	%
All usual residents	71,475	100.0	3,107,493	100.0
Aged 4 years and under	2,709	3.8	155,086	5.0
Aged 5 to 9 years	3,288	4.6	175,925	5.7
Aged 10 to 14 years	3,424	4.8	182,702	5.9
Aged 15 to 19 years	4,792	6.7	175,770	5.7
Aged 20 to 24 years	6,366	8.9	187,675	6.0
Aged 25 to 29 years	3,652	5.1	186,460	6.0
Aged 30 to 34 years	3,455	4.8	196,215	6.3
Aged 35 to 39 years	3,268	4.6	186,231	6.0
Aged 40 to 44 years	3,170	4.4	175,351	5.6
Aged 45 to 49 years	3,707	5.2	186,077	6.0
Aged 50 to 54 years	4,752	6.6	215,680	6.9
Aged 55 to 59 years	5,364	7.5	222,672	7.2
Aged 60 to 64 years	5,140	7.2	199,606	6.4
Aged 65 to 69 years	4,930	6.9	177,641	5.7
Aged 70 to 74 years	5,012	7.0	181,337	5.8
Aged 75 to 79 years	3,718	5.2	131,497	4.2
Aged 80 to 84 years	2,379	3.3	88,994	2.9
Aged 85 years and over	2,349	3.3	82,574	2.7

(Source: Census 2021.)

Figure 10 demonstrates the variation of age profiles within Ceredigion. The HMA of Aberystwyth has the greatest proportion of working age residents (aged 16-64) and lowest proportion of residents aged 65 and over. Whilst, the Coastal HMA has the greatest proportion of residents over the age of 65 and lowest proportion of working age residents. In terms of the proportion of children, the Other and Teifi Valley HMAs are slightly higher than the County's average (14.1%), but lower than the Welsh average (16.5%). Whilst the Aberystwyth and Coastal HMAs comprise of a lower percentage of children compared to both the Ceredigion average and Welsh average.

This age composition is unsurprising given that the Aberystwyth HMA attracts around 7,845 to 8,000 students to the area annually and traditionally the coastal areas have been very popular places for people to retire to.

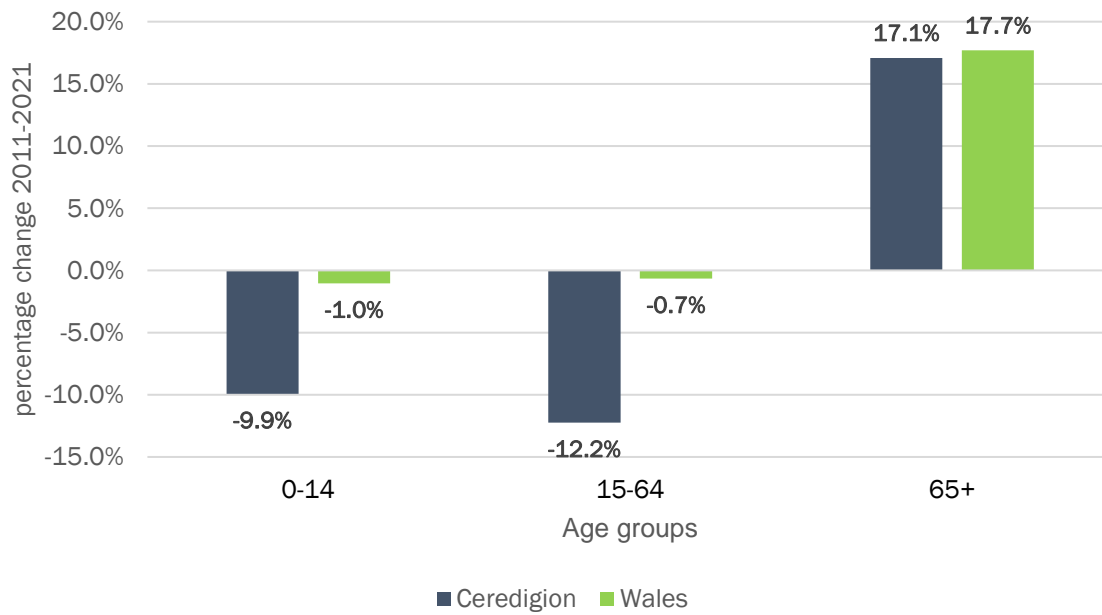
Figure 10: Estimated Age Profile - Housing Market Area, Ceredigion and Wales 2021.



(Source: Census 2021)

Ceredigion’s population is ageing. During the period between the 2011 and 2021 Census, the size of the 65 and over age group increased by 17.1%, which is similar to the national increase (17.7%). In contrast, the population aged 64 and under has reduced, a decline of 9.9% for children below 15 and a 12.2% decline for adults aged 15-64. These demographic trends in the County can be attributed to the declining fertility rates, outward migration of younger people, an increase in life expectancy and the 1960s “baby boomers” entering retirement age. The trend of ageing is replicated nationally, however, the patterns in the lower age groups across Wales are not as evident. Figure 11 below highlights the change in the age profile in Ceredigion and across Wales between 2011 and 2021 according to the Census.

Figure 11: Change in number of residents in each age band between 2011 to 2021.



(Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021)

According to the Welsh Government’s 2018-based projections, this trend of population ageing is set to continue. By 2037 the Welsh Government projects that one in three people in Ceredigion will be aged 65 and over, an increase from approximately one in four in 2021.¹⁴ Whilst, by 2037 the number of children (aged 15 and under) and working age population (aged 16 -64) are set to decrease by 6.2 percentage points and 0.7 percentage points respectively.

As reflected in Ceredigion County Council’s Housing for All Strategy (2023-2028),¹⁵ the ageing population will have an impact on the type of housing need in the future. There will be a growing need for houses that can be adapted, which can support people at different stages of their life.

1.3.3. Ethnicity

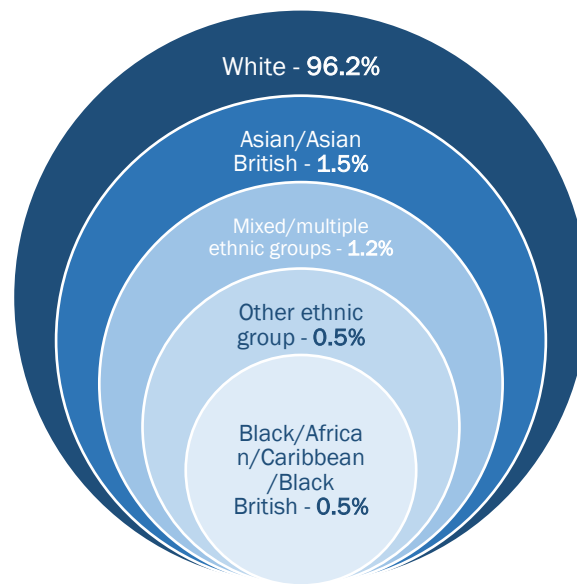
According to the 2021 Census data, Ceredigion’s population largely comprises of people noting their ethnicity as ‘White’ (96.2%). The rest of the population is made up of those identifying as Asian/Asian British (1.5%), Mixed/multiple ethnic groups (1.2%), Other ethnic groups (0.5%) and Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (0.5%).¹⁶

¹⁴ ONS (2022) – Census: TS007 – Age by single year. Available at: [TS007 - Age by single year - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/ts007).

¹⁵ Ceredigion County Council (2023). Housing for All 2023-2028. Available at: [20a9485dcf070e3d73006dcace32d11c Housing Strategy 2023-2028.pdf \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com/20a9485dcf070e3d73006dcace32d11c/Housing_Strategy_2023-2028.pdf)

¹⁶ ONS (2022) – Census: TS021 - Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/ts021)

Figure 12: Percentage of ethnic groups present in Ceredigion (2021)



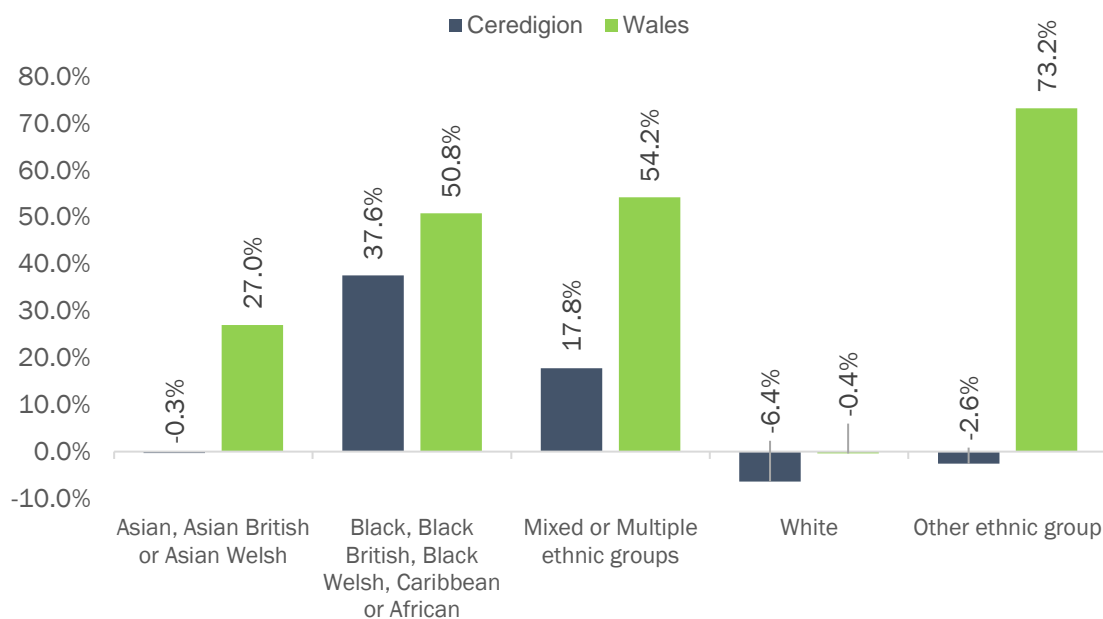
(Source: Census 2021)

Figure 13 below demonstrates how the percentage of different ethnic groups has changed between 2011 and 2021. In Ceredigion, the greatest increase was seen in the Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnic group (+37.6%), whilst the White ethnic group saw the greatest decrease (-6.4%). When comparing Ceredigion data with the national data, we can see similar trends for most ethnic groups, however, they differ when we look at the Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic group and the Other ethnic group. Ceredigion experienced a decrease of -0.3% within this group, whilst Wales saw a 27.0% increase. Additionally, the Other ethnic group saw a decrease of -2.6% in Ceredigion, but across Wales there was a significant increase of 73.2%.^{17 18}

¹⁷ ONS (2022) – Census: TS021 - Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/ts021)

¹⁸ ONS (2011) – Census: QS201EW – Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qc201ew)

Figure 13: Percentage change in number of different ethnic groups between 2011 and 2021.



(Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021)

Table 4 below demonstrates the percentage of people identifying by each ethnic group in all 4 HMAs in Ceredigion.

Out of the four HMAs the Aberystwyth HMA is the most ethnically diverse¹⁹ area. The Aberystwyth HMA had the highest proportion of residents identifying with Asian, black or mixed ethnic groups (5.5%) however, the lowest percentage of those identifying as White (93.6%) or 'other' ethnic groups (0.0%). The ethnicity of the other three HMA's (Coastal, Other, Teifi Valley) are fairly similar. The Coastal HMA has the greatest proportion of people identifying as White (98.5%).^{20 21}

Table 4: Percentage of different ethnic groups by HMA (2021).

	Aberystwyth	Coastal	Other	Teifi Valley
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	2.8%	0.5%	0.3%	1.2%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	1.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.7%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%
White	93.6%	98.5%	98.4%	97.1%
Other ethnic group	0.8%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%

(Source: Census 2021)

¹⁹ 'Ethnically diverse' here refers to the percentage of the population that is not from the white ethnic group.

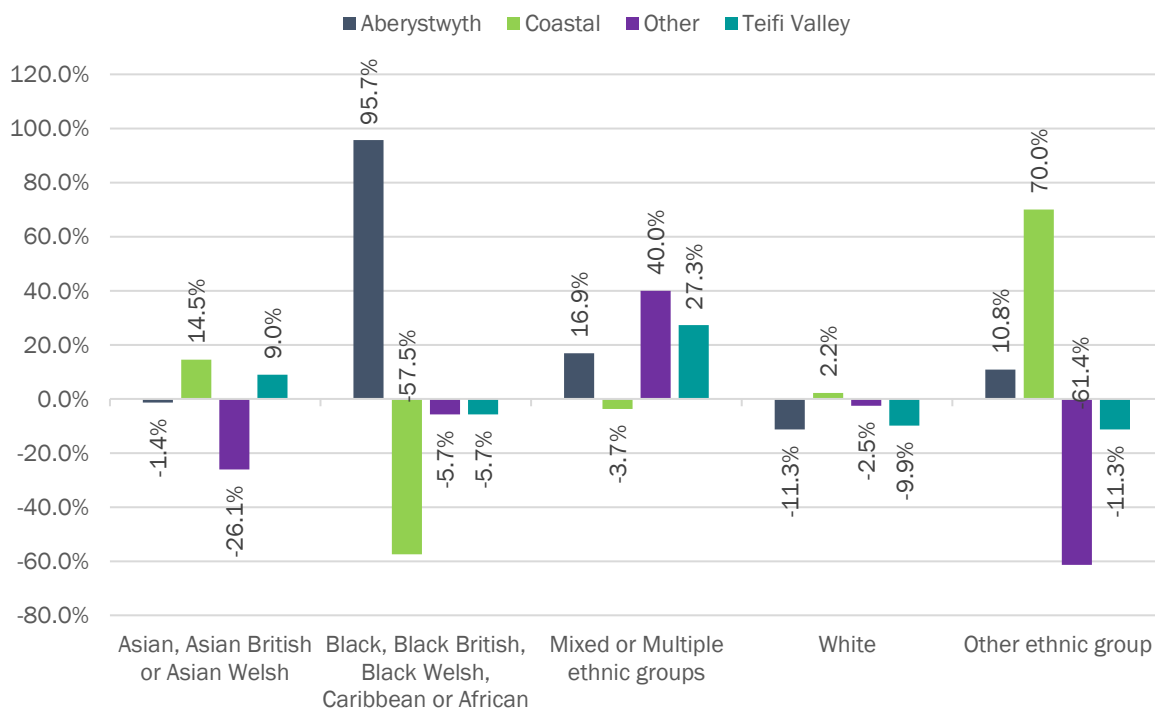
²⁰ ONS (2022) – Census: TS021 - Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

²¹ ONS (2022) – Census: TS021 - Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

The greater diversity of the Aberystwyth HMA can be attributed to the town of Aberystwyth itself, which is referred to as the business centre of the County and is home to a university and regional hospital. The town attracts a diverse range of people to the area from across the UK and overseas to work, live and study.

Figure 14 below demonstrates the percentage change in the number of people identifying as various ethnic groups by HMA in Ceredigion, between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census. At a first glance, there is a notable increase for certain ethnic groups in Ceredigion, however, the number of residents within these groups was so low in 2011 the chart distorts the significance of the change. The greatest increase was seen in the Aberystwyth HMA where there was a 95.7% (+132) increase in the number of people identifying as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African. Whilst the most significant decrease was seen in the Other HMA, where the number of those identifying as ‘other’ ethnic group fell by -61.4% (-35).^{22 23}

Figure 14: Percentage change in number of different ethnic groups between 2011 and 2021, by HMA.



(Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021)

*Please note the boundary changes to the HMA's. The 2023 HMA's now include the newest 2022 ward boundaries, whereas the 2019 HMA's included the 2011 ward boundaries. Changes have been made to the Coastal and Teifi valley HMA's and therefore are not comparable between years.

1.3.4 Disability

Providing appropriate housing is important to ensure that those with a long-term health problem or disability have the opportunity to live independently and forms a key part of the

²² ONS (2022) – Census: TS021 - Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomisweb.co.uk](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

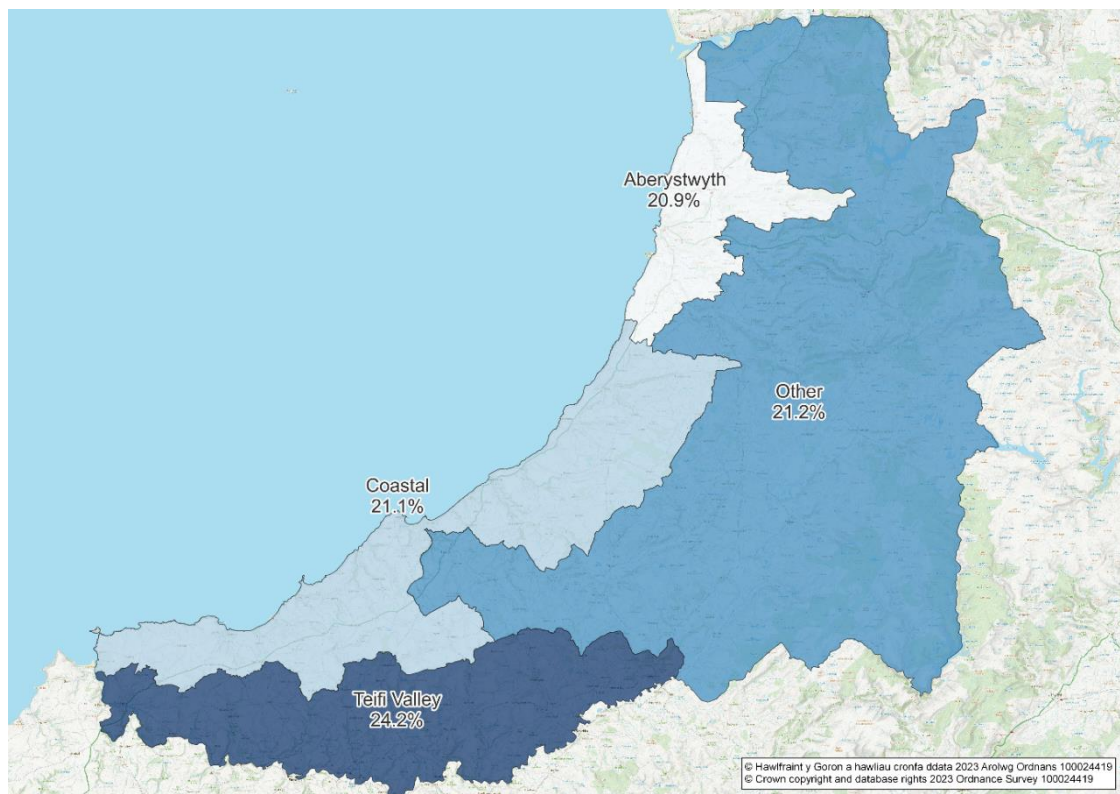
²³ ONS (2011) – Census: QS201EW – Ethnic Group. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomisweb.co.uk](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

Council’s prevention agenda. If someone suffers from a long-term health problem or disability, it may mean that they would be unable to use stairs or common facilities in their home to their full extent. Under the Equality Act (2010), an individual is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. *Caution should be taken when comparing disability data between the two censuses, as disability was assessed in a different way and therefore is only broadly comparable.*

According to the latest Census data (2021), 21.9% of Ceredigion’s population comprised of people classed as having a long-term health problem or disability, which is very similar to the national average (21.6%).²⁴ Since the 2011 Census, the percentage of people with a long-term health problem or disability has increased slightly, by 0.3 percentage points.²⁵

Within Ceredigion, the proportions of people with a health problem or disability varies. As reflected in Figure 15 overleaf, just under a quarter of the Teifi Valley Housing Market Area (HMA) (24.2%) have a long-term health problem or disability, which is the highest percentage out of the four HMA’s. Aberystwyth HMA has the lowest percentage of people with a long-term health problem or disability (20.9%). This could be attributed to the younger age profile of the Aberystwyth HMA, largely driven by the high proportion of students residing in the area. Additionally, Aberystwyth town may not have the most appropriate housing for those with mobility issues, as there are many flats with stairs and terraced houses, which can be difficult to adapt, making it a less desirable location to reside for people with a long-term health problem or disability.

Figure 15: Percentage of those with long-term health problem or disability by HMA.



(Source: Census 2021)

²⁴ ONS (2022) – Census: TS038 – Disability. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/).

²⁵ Ibid.

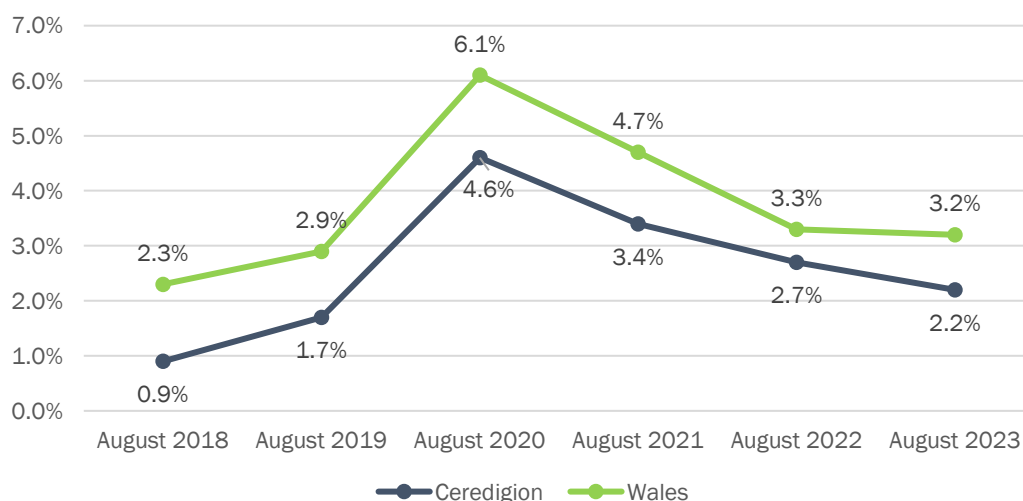
It is expected that the number of older people in Ceredigion will increase in the future. There tends to be higher levels of disability, health and mobility problems amongst older people, meaning there will likely be an increased requirement for specialist housing options.

1.3.5 Employment

Claimant Count data provides an insight into the proportion of the working age population claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), in most cases claiming this allowance means that they are unemployed. Figure 16 below shows us the proportion of the working age population (aged 16-64) that were claiming JSA between 2018 and 2023, in Wales and in Ceredigion. This data shows that the claimant count has been increasing since 2018 before reaching a peak in 2020. We can attribute the increase in 2020 to the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic through national lockdowns, trading restrictions and large proportions of the workforce in key sectors such as tourism and hospitality being furloughed and some businesses closing completely.²⁶ Since then the percentage of people claiming JSA has decreased, however, remains above 2019 levels.

The Claimant Count in Ceredigion has always been slightly lower than the Welsh average. In August 2023, the proportion of people claiming job seekers allowance in Ceredigion was 2.2%, whilst the national average was 1 percentage point higher (3.2%).²⁷ *Claimant Count statistics are not available by wards and therefore cannot be analysed at HMA level.*

Figure 16: Percentage of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (2018 – 2023).



Source: ONS (2018-2023).

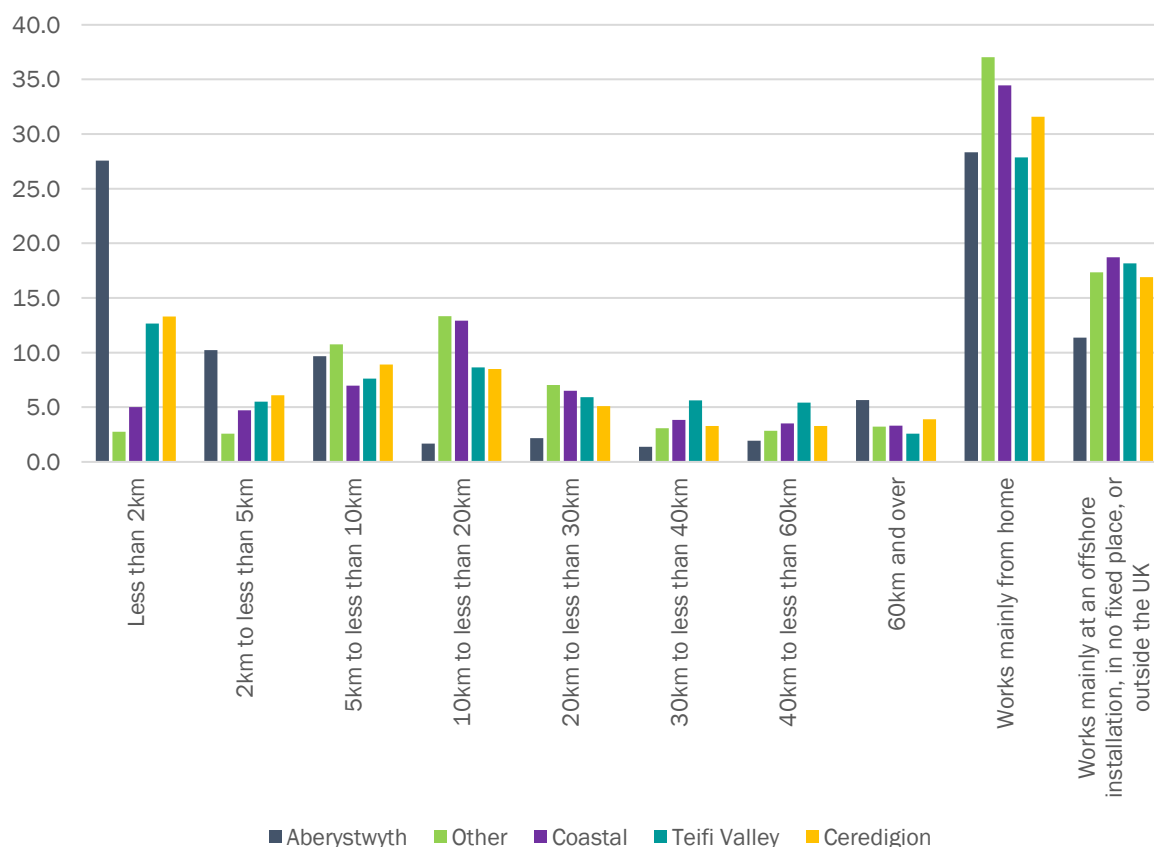
²⁶ ONS - Claimant Count (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023). [Online]. Available at: [Claimant Count - Data Sources - home - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

²⁷ ONS - Claimant Count (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023). [Online]. Available at: [Claimant Count - Data Sources - home - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

1.3.6 Commuting Patterns

Commuting to work patterns are considered a key factor when identifying housing market areas. As reflected in Figure 17 below, just under a third of the workforce mainly work at or from home (31.6%),²⁸ this has increased from 20.9% since the 2011 Census.²⁹ On average, the distance travelled to work has decreased for Ceredigion residents. This change is partly attributed to the COVID-19 Pandemic response, which resulted in an increase in the number of employees working from home. However, it is recognised that the population continues to change and therefore the figure is likely to be slightly lower today as some will have returned to the office/workplace. There were 467 million vehicle miles travelled on roads in Ceredigion in 2022, which although increasing since the Pandemic, is still lower than the peak of 507 million in 2019, or 92% of the pre-pandemic level.

Figure 17: Distance travelled to work.



(Source: Census 2021)

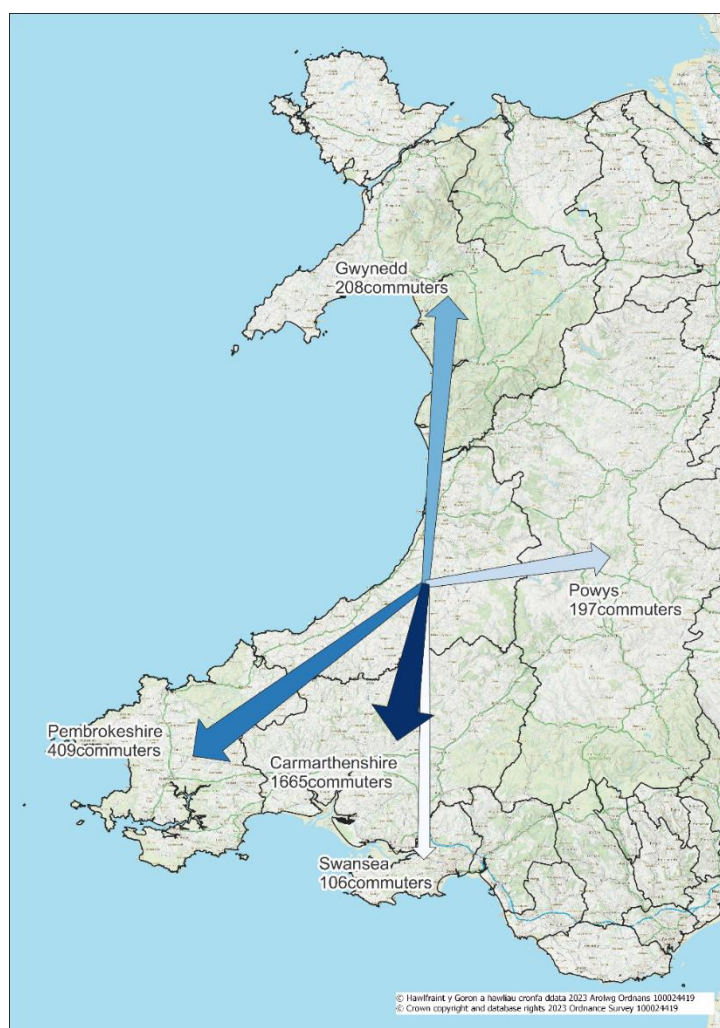
Across the HMAs, commuting distances are relatively similar. The exception being within the Aberystwyth HMA, which has by far the greatest proportion of residents that travel the shortest distance (less than 2km). This is expected as the Aberystwyth HMA includes the main town of Aberystwyth, which is the centre of employment in Ceredigion.

²⁸ ONS (2022) Census – TS058 – Distance Travelled to Work. [Online]. Accessible at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

²⁹ ONS (2011) Census – QS702EW – Distance Travelled to Work. [Online]. Accessible at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

The 2021 origin destination workplace flow data outlines commuter location patterns for Ceredigion. The majority of Ceredigion's workforce work within the County (88.5%). The top five commuter locations for Ceredigion are Carmarthenshire (5.5%/1,665), Pembrokeshire (1.6%/ 409), Gwynedd (0.7%/208), Powys (0.6%/197) and Swansea (0.3%/106), most of which are neighbouring local authorities.³⁰ The commuting patterns are slightly different to 2011, when less people recorded their workplace in Ceredigion (again, this could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic response). Furthermore, the Isle of Anglesey appeared in the top five commuting locations in 2011, but this was replaced with Swansea in 2021. However, caution should be taken when comparing the two datasets. It is unclear how representative the census statistics are of travel to work patterns on Census Day itself. The map below demonstrates the top five commuter locations of Ceredigion's workforce.

Figure 18: Top 5 places of work of the Ceredigion Workforce (2021).



(Source: ONS 2023)

³⁰ ONS (2023). ODWP01EW – Location of usual residence and place of work. Available at: [Origin-destination data, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)

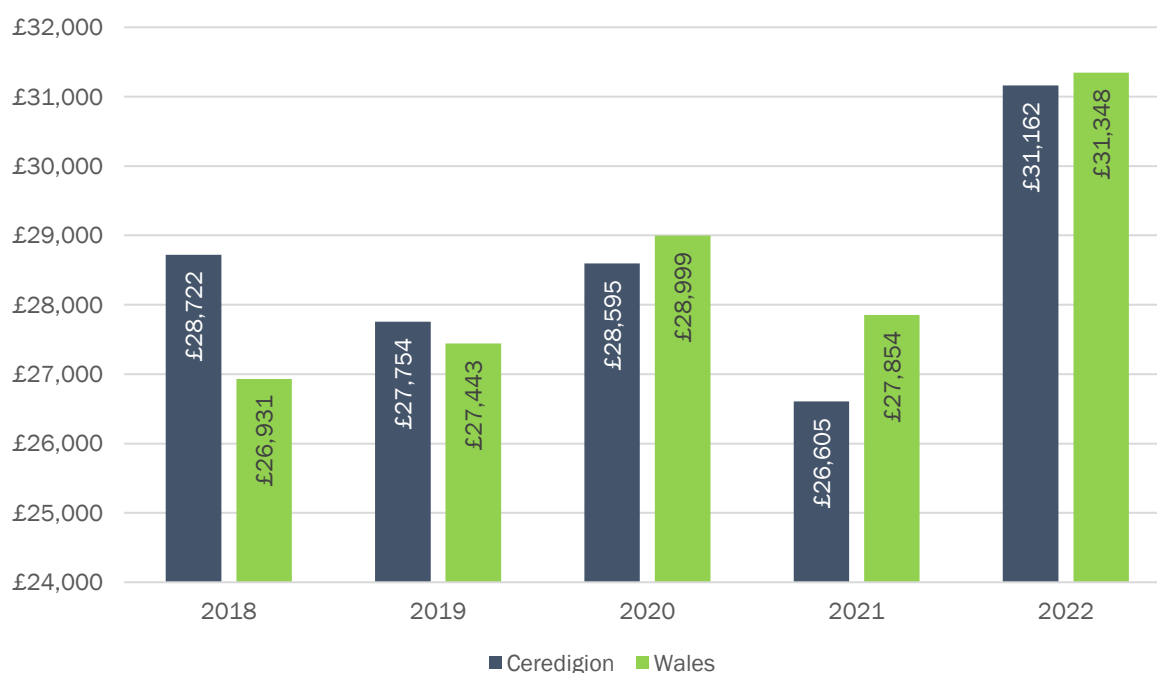
1.3.7 Earnings and Incomes

Levels of earnings and incomes tend to impact the type of accommodation households reside in. There are multiple sources of earnings and income data available. (*Earnings refer to money earned from employment, whereas income includes earnings, pensions, and other investments*).

The following figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), assess individual earnings. According to the 2022 ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earning, Ceredigion's full-time employees (resident based) have a median earned gross earnings of £29,119, this is lower than the national figure of £30,846, but noticeably below that of the UK as a whole, £33,279.³¹

By using CACI Paycheck data, it is possible to specifically look at household incomes in Ceredigion. Figure 19 below demonstrates the median household income levels between 2018 and 2022. In 2018 and 2019, median incomes in Ceredigion were higher than the national averages across Wales. Since 2020, Ceredigion's median annual incomes have been lower than the national averages, with the largest difference in 2021, where the median income in Ceredigion was £1,249 less than the national average.

Figure 19: Median income in Wales and Ceredigion (2018 – 2022).



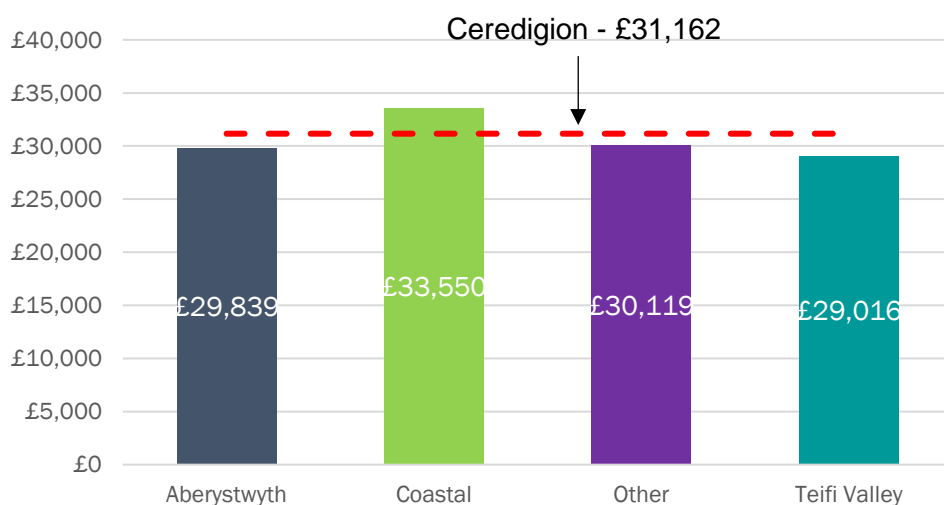
(Source: CACI Paycheck 2018 – 2022)

Data from CACI Paycheck also enables us to drill down and look at household incomes by HMA (refer to Figure 20). Household incomes vary slightly across the four HMAs. The Coastal HMA has the highest median household income (£33,550), this is around £2,388 higher than the Ceredigion average in 2022. The Teifi Valley area had the lowest median income in 2022

³¹ ONS (2022). Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)

(£29,016), £2,146 lower than the County’s average.³² Whilst the Aberystwyth and Other HMA median household incomes are fairly similar, £29,839 and £30,119 respectively.

Figure 20: Median household income in Ceredigion and by HMA (2022).



(Source: CACI Paycheck 2022)

With high house prices and low incomes, Ceredigion is unaffordable to many, making it challenging for first time buyers to get onto the property ladder, people to access safe and affordable housing, and for residents to remain in their communities. Ceredigion County Council’s Housing Strategy 2023-2028 outlines these challenges and has actions to alleviate these issues.

1.3.8 Housing Affordability

The issue of housing affordability remains one of the key challenges both locally and nationally. Ceredigion is known for having lower than average incomes but higher than average house prices. One way of understanding the significance of this impact on households is by looking at the affordability ratio (by dividing median house prices by household income). This section looks specifically at the affordability ratio in Wales, Ceredigion and by HMA currently, and any changes since the previous LHMA.

To calculate household affordability across the various geographical areas, different median house price data has been utilised.³³ The ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas (HPSSAs)³⁴ is used to calculate affordability for Wales and Ceredigion, whilst the Land Registry Price Paid data by ward level (utilised within the tool) is used for the HMA affordability.³⁵³⁶ The median household income used for both calculations is CACI Paycheck.

³² CACI Paycheck (2022).

³³ Note: this is because the full data file for the Land Registry price paid data could not be downloaded.

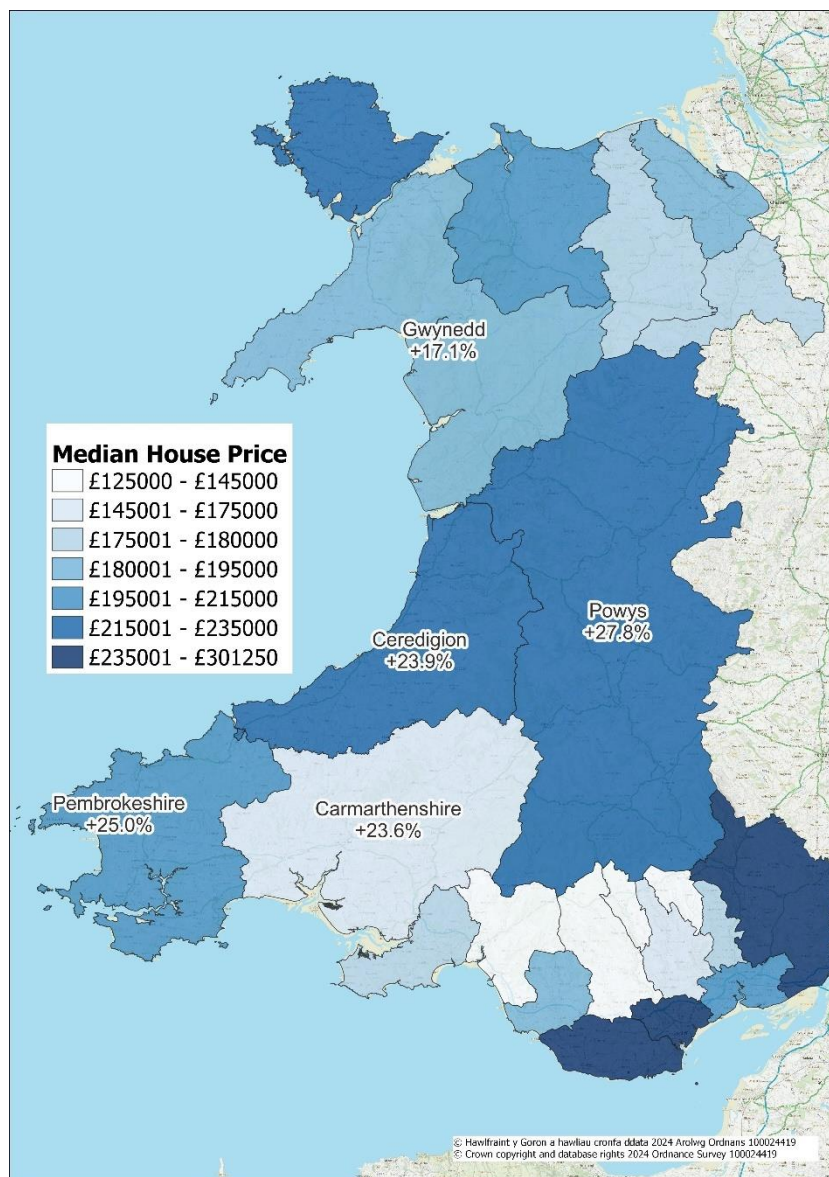
³⁴ ONS (2023). House price statistics for small areas in England and Wales. Available at: [House price statistics for small areas in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/house-price-statistics-for-small-areas)

³⁵ Welsh Government (2023). LHMA: documents – Wales Land Registry data 2022. Available at: [Local housing market assessment \(LHMA\): guidance for local authorities | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/local-housing-market-assessment-lhma-guidance-for-local-authorities)

Due to the different sources being used, the HMA household affordability cannot be directly compared with the Ceredigion or Wales level figures.

Figure 21 displays the median house prices and the growth rates of Ceredigion and its neighbouring local authorities from year ending September 2019 to 2022. According to the ONS, house prices across Wales have increased by 18.8% to £190,000 from September 2019 to September 2022. The region outperformed England, which saw the median house price increase by 13.6% to £275,000. Since 2019, house prices have increased in all 22 local authorities in Wales. Despite the recent higher interest rates, the sharp rise in rents, together with high rates of inflation, house prices are continuing to rise.

Figure 21: Median House Prices across Wales and % change in prices in West Wales between 2019 and 2022.



(Source: ONS, 2023)³⁷

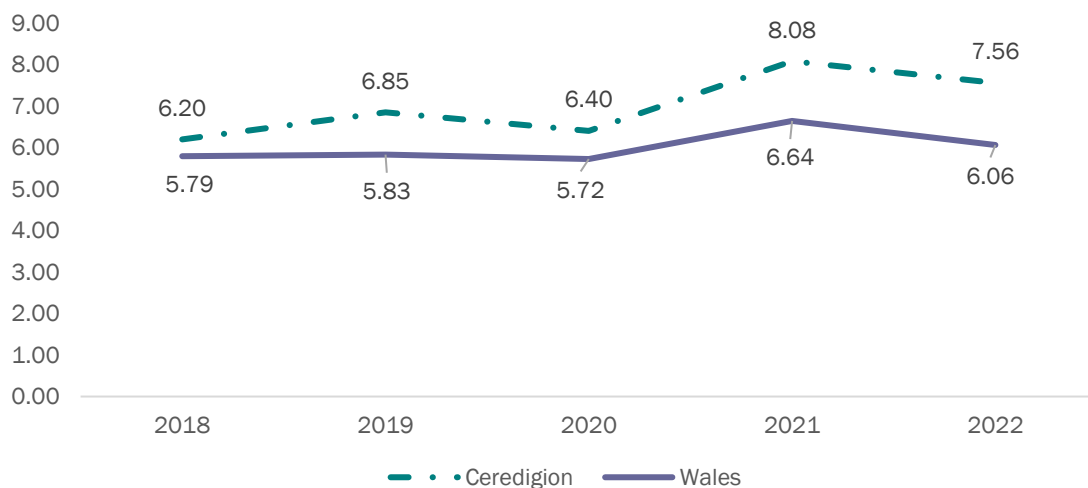
³⁷ ONS (2023). House price to workplace-based earnings – median house prices by local authority and nation. Available at: [House price to workplace-based earnings ratio - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/house-price-to-workplace-based-earnings-ratio)

Ceredigion experienced the eighth largest median house price increase of Welsh local authorities since 2019, with house prices rising by 23.9% (+45,000) from £190,000 in September 2019 to £235,500 in September 2022. Out of the neighbouring local authorities, Ceredigion has the highest median house price, and the County experienced the third greatest increase in median house prices, behind Powys (+27.8%) and Pembrokeshire (+25.0%). To some extent this can be attributed to pandemic-related impacts, such as the desire to move to rural locations, the heightened demand for larger properties and pent-up buyer demand from lockdowns, in addition to the extension of the stamp duty holiday.

In addition to higher-than-average house prices, Ceredigion residents' incomes are below the national average (as reflected in Section 1.3.7 above). Although median incomes have experienced an increase in recent years from £27,750 in 2019 to £31,160 in 2020, they remain slightly below the Welsh average (£31,350).

Figure 22 below outlines the change in the ratio of median house prices with median household incomes since 2018. In 2022, the median house prices were 7.56 higher than the median earnings in Ceredigion. The equivalent for Wales was 6.06. The chart highlights that over the last five years the ratio has grown slightly, remaining consistently above the national average.

Figure 22: Household affordability ratio 2018-2022, Ceredigion and Wales.



Source: ONS (2023) and CACI Paycheck 2018-2022.

Table 5 below outlines the latest household affordability ratio by HMA. In 2022, the Coastal HMA had the highest affordability ratio of 8.4, meaning that households would be expected to pay 8.4 times more than their income for a property. The Aberystwyth HMA had the lowest affordability ratio of 7.5 and is the most affordable area in Ceredigion to buy a home. ^{38 39}

³⁸ CACI Paycheck (2022).

³⁹ HM Land Registry (2023). Open Data. [Online]. Available at: [HM Land Registry Open Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/hm-land-registry-open-data)

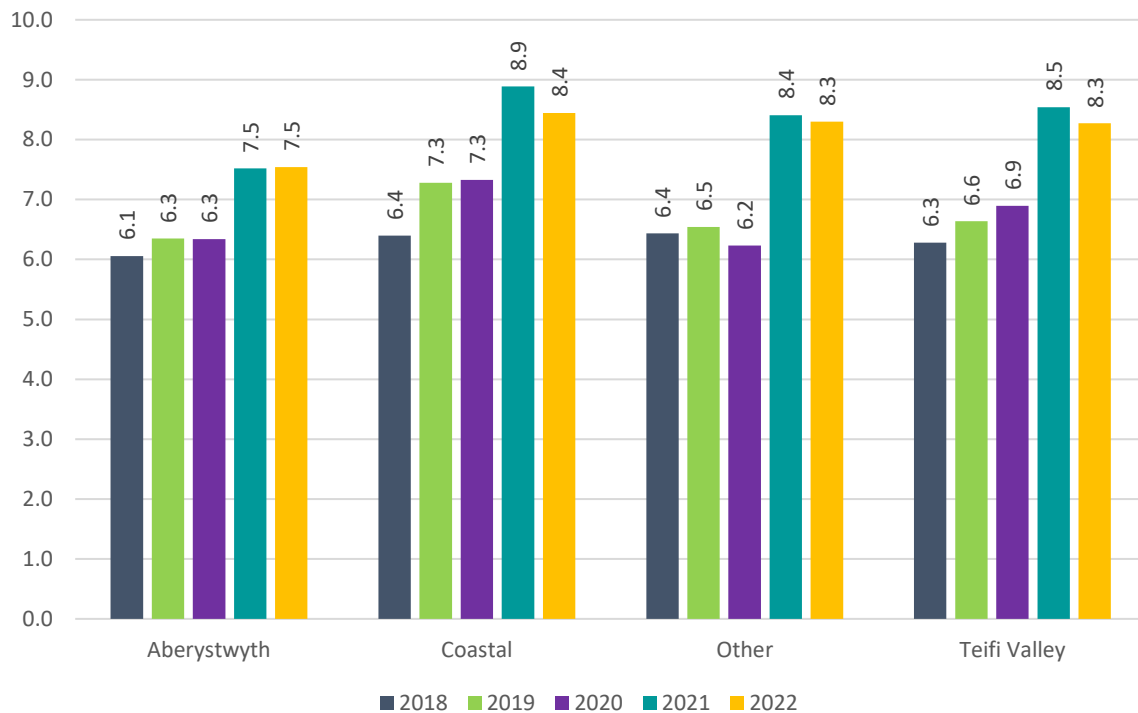
Table 5: Household affordability ratio by HMA in Ceredigion (2022).

HMA	Median House Price (2022)	Gross Median Household Income	Affordability Ratio
Aberystwyth	£225,000	£29,840	7.5
Coastal	£283,250	£33,550	8.4
Other	£250,000	£30,120	8.3
Teifi Valley	£240,000	£29,020	8.3

(Source: CACI Paycheck 2022 & Land Registry Data)⁴⁰⁴¹

Figure 23 below shows the affordability ratio by HMA, between 2018 and 2022. These trends show us that it has become less affordable to buy a house in all areas since 2018.

Figure 23: Household Affordability ratio by HMA between 2018-2022.



*Please note the boundary changes to the HMA's. The 2023 HMA's now include the newest 2022 ward boundaries, whereas the 2019 HMA's included the 2011 ward boundaries. Changes have been made to the Coastal and Teifi valley HMA's and therefore are not comparable between years.

(Source: CACI Paycheck 2018,2019,2020,2021,2022 & Land Registry Data)

The affordability ratio in almost all areas reached a peak in 2021, this is unsurprising considering the significant increase in house prices during this time. The highest affordability

⁴⁰ ONS (2023). Median house prices by ward: HPSAA dataset 37. Available at: [Median house prices by ward: HPSAA dataset 37 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/householdincomeanddebt/datasets/medianhousepricesbyward)

⁴¹ ONS (2023). Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9. Available at: [Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/householdincomeanddebt/datasets/medianhousepricesforadministrativegeographies)

ratio was seen in the Coastal HMA, in 2021, where households needed to pay up to 8.9 times more than their wages for a property.^{42 43}

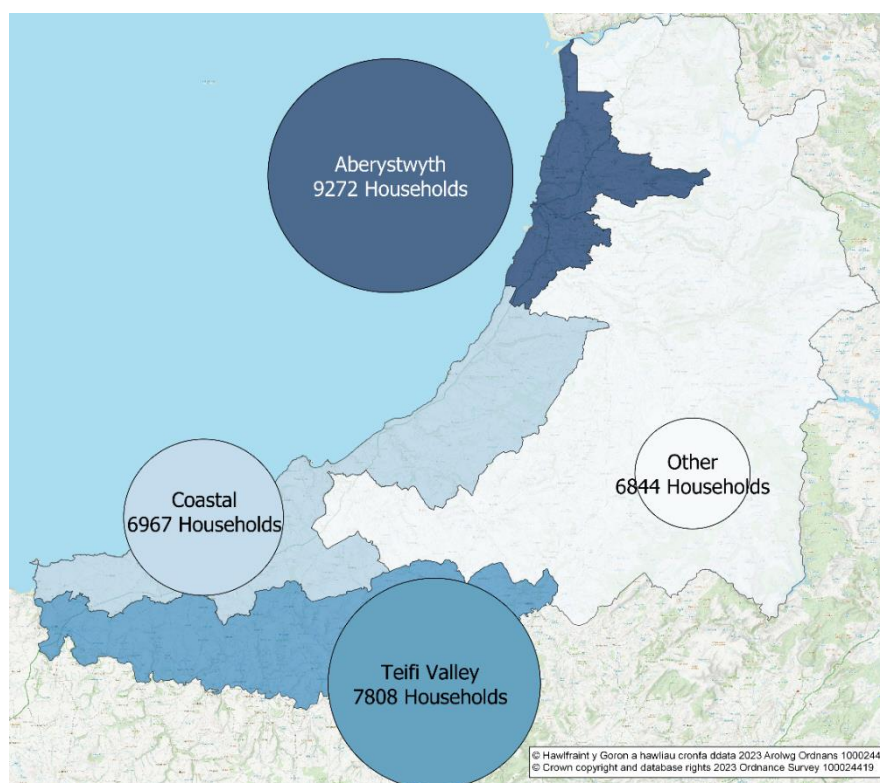
The declining affordability of the housing market in Ceredigion has historically been a significant issue, becoming even more prevalent during the post-pandemic cost of living crisis and housing crisis. Data from our Housing Register highlights how acute the situation is in Ceredigion, by the end of January 2023, there were 1,750 Housing Register applications seeking affordable housing in Ceredigion, up from 1,400 in 2018.

1.3.9 Number of Households

According to the 2021 Census, Ceredigion has approximately 30,893 households. When we look at the national figures, Ceredigion's household total amounts to around 2.3% of all households in Wales (1,347,114).⁴⁴

As reflected in Figure 24, the distribution of households across all HMAs is fairly even. The Aberystwyth HMA has the highest number of households across the four HMA's, with a total of 9,272 households. This amounts to just under one third (30.0%) of all households in Ceredigion. The area with the least number of households is the Other HMA, which comprises of 6,844 households, and around 22.2% of all households in Ceredigion.

Figure 24: Number of households by Housing Market Area (2021).



(Source: Census 2021)

⁴² CACI Paycheck (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

⁴³ HM Land Registry (2023). Open Data. [Online]. Available at: [HM Land Registry Open Data](#)

⁴⁴ ONS (2022) - Census: TS041 – Number of Households. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

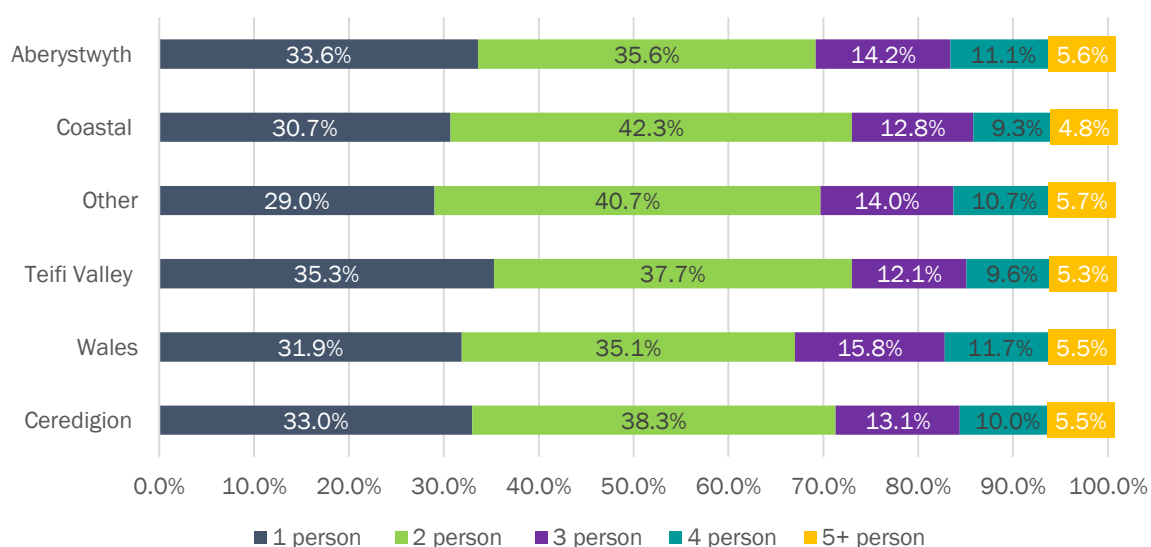
The 2021 Census revealed that the number of households in Ceredigion fell by 2.2% since 2011, from around 31,600 in 2011 to 30,900 in 2021. By comparison, the number of households in Wales grew by 3% in the same period.⁴⁵ On average, the number of households has decreased, however at a much slower rate than the population decrease (5.9%)⁴⁶, this implies that the average size of households⁴⁷ is slightly falling across Ceredigion.

Since 2011, the average household size in Ceredigion has decreased from 2.3 in 2011 to 2.2 in 2021. This reflects the recent increase in one-person households within the County. By comparison, the average household size in Wales remains unchanged since 2011 (2.3 residents per household).⁴⁸

Figure 25 below highlights the size of households within Ceredigion compared to the County and the national average. In 2021, one third of households (33.0%) in Ceredigion included only one person, which is higher than the national average of 31.9%.

Analysing the data by HMA, shows that there is some variation between areas. In both the Aberystwyth HMA and the Teifi Valley HMA, over a third of households contain only one person (33.6% and 35.3% respectively), whereas the Coastal and Other HMA's comprise of a lower proportion of 1 person households (30.7% and 30.9% respectively). The Aberystwyth HMA has the highest proportion of larger households (with 4+ people), around 16.7%. This is expected given the high proportion of students in the area that occupy houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

Figure 25: Household size - HMA, Ceredigion and Wales (2021)



(Source: Census 2021)

⁴⁵ ONS (2022) – Census: TS041 – Number of Households. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/statistics/TS041).

⁴⁶ ONS (2022). How life has changes in Ceredigion: Census 2021. [Online]. Available at: [How life has changed in Ceredigion: Census 2021 \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2021).

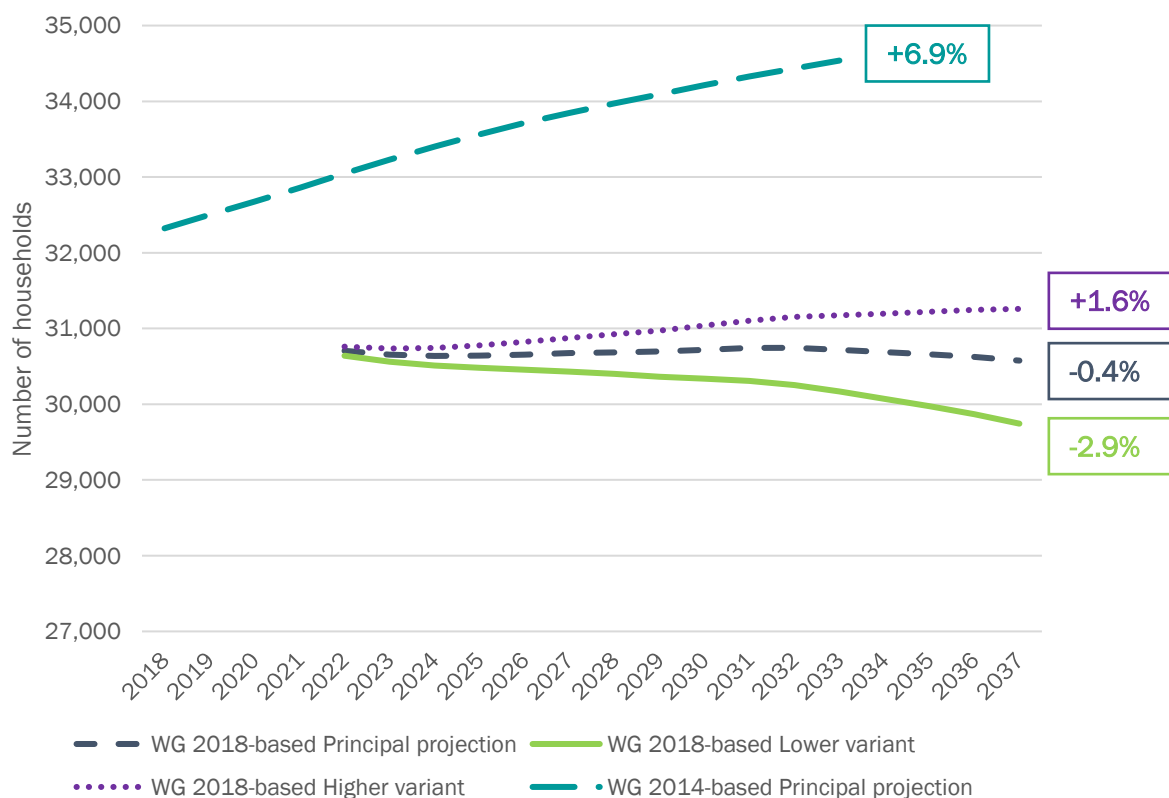
⁴⁷ Average household size is the average number of people per household. It is calculated by dividing the overall number of usual residents in households by the overall number of households.

⁴⁸ ONS (2022). How life has changes in Ceredigion: Census 2021. [Online]. Available at: [How life has changed in Ceredigion: Census 2021 \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2021).

Household projections provide an indication of the future number of households and their composition. They are based on population projections and assumptions about households from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. The projections are a key data input of the LHMA tool and used to calculate the newly arising need over the LHMA period.

According to the latest household principal projections (2018-based), in Ceredigion, it is estimated that the number of households will decline by 0.4% (-129) from 30,704 to 30,575 over the 15-year LHMA period (see Figure 26 below). By comparison, the total number of households at a Wales level is projected to increase by 5.6% between 2022 and 2037.⁴⁹

Figure 26: Welsh Government household projections 2018-based and 2014-based - Ceredigion (2018 to 2037).



(Source: Stats Wales 2020)

The two other projections (variant projections) are based on alternative scenarios of fertility, mortality and migration compared to the principal projection. The higher variant is based on high fertility, life expectancy and migration assumptions, whilst the lower variant is based on low fertility, life expectancy and migration assumptions.

The higher variant is the only projection that estimates a growth in the number of households in Ceredigion over the LHMA plan period by 1.6%, albeit relatively low (+500 households). Both the principal projection and lower variant projection estimates a reduction of households, by 128 and 897 households respectively (between 2022-2037).

Although the higher variant has been used as the 'preferred projection' within the tool, the 2018-based household projections are now dated, and therefore should be used with

⁴⁹ Stats Wales (2020). Household projections by variant and year. Available at: [Household projections by variant and year \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/household-projections-by-variant-and-year)

caution. Household projections tend to become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward. The 2018-based do not consider the most recent reduction in the average household size, a decline from 2.3 in 2011 to 2.2 in 2021. This reflects the decrease in fertility rates and increase in the number of people living alone in Ceredigion. A decrease in household size could lead to the number of households to remain growing for quite some time, even after the population decline has started.

The previous LHMA utilised the 2014-based household projections, which estimated an overall growth in households, by 6.9% (+2,215 households) between 2018 and 2033. This is significantly different to the most recent 2018-based projections. The differences between the 2014-based and 2018-based reflect the change in demographic trends seen during this time period. Additionally, the differences reflect a change made to the methodology between the two sets of projections, and the change of the base year of the projections.⁵⁰ As such, the estimated number of market housing need, derived from the *newly arising need* is expected to be significantly lower than the 2019 LHMA estimations.

1.3.10 Household Composition

The majority of households in Ceredigion are made up of single-family households (60.4%), this is slightly lower than the national average of 63.1%. Within the single-family household composition in Ceredigion, 10.9% are cohabiting couple families, 8.7% are lone parent families and 0.5% are classed as an other single-family household.⁵¹

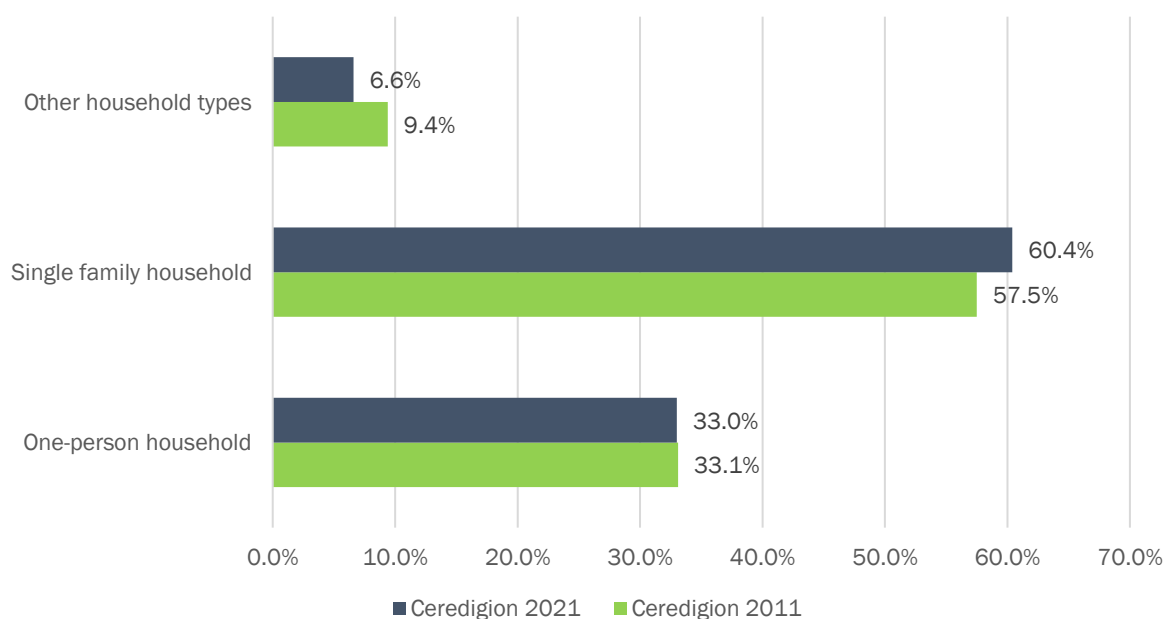
Ceredigion has a slightly higher percentage of one-person households (33.0%) compared to the Wales average of 31.9%. The composition of households has changed slightly over the last 10 years. There has been a 2.9 percentage point increase in single-family households since 2011 (57.5%), a 2.8 percentage point decrease in the percentage of other household types in Ceredigion, whilst the percentage of one-person households since 2011 remains unchanged (0.1 percentage point decrease).⁵²

⁵⁰ Welsh Government (2020). Local authority household projections for Wales: 2018-based (revised). Available at: [Local authority household projections for Wales: 2018-based \(revised\) \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/local-authority-household-projections-for-wales-2018-based-revised)

⁵¹ ONS (2022) – Census: TS003 – Household Composition. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/nomis/official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

⁵² ONS (2011) – Census: KS105EW – Household Composition. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/nomis/official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

Figure 27: Household Composition in Ceredigion (2011 & 2021).



(Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021)

Table 6 below demonstrates the percentage of various household compositions by HMA, Ceredigion and Wales. The Coastal HMA has the highest percentage of single person households over the age of 65 (18.3%), this is higher than Ceredigion (16.5%) and the National average (14.6%).⁵³ The Coastal HMA also has the highest percentage of households made up of couples aged over 65 (16.5%), whilst the Aberystwyth HMA has the lowest percentage (9.5%). This is unsurprising when we consider the University in the Aberystwyth HMA, which tends to draw in younger people aged between 18-25 years old.⁵⁴ All four of Ceredigion’s HMAs have a lower percentage of households made up of couples with children, compared to the national average, with the Teifi Valley HMA having the lowest percentage (19.1%).⁵⁵

Table 6: Percentage of household composition by Housing Market Area (2021).

HMA	Single person over 65	Other single person	Couple both aged over 65	Other couples without children	Couple with children	Lone parent	Other
Wales	14.6%	17.3%	10.2%	16.5%	23.8%	12.0%	5.6%
Ceredigion	16.5%	16.5%	12.8%	18.2%	20.2%	8.7%	7.1%
Aberystwyth	14.7%	20.4%	9.5%	16.6%	19.2%	8.7%	10.9%
Coastal	18.3%	13.1%	16.5%	19.5%	19.4%	7.4%	5.7%
Other	15.1%	13.8%	13.4%	20.8%	23.0%	8.2%	5.5%
Teifi Valley	18.3%	17.3%	12.9%	16.9%	19.1%	10.0%	10.7%

(Source: Census 2021)

⁵³ ONS (2022) – Census: TS003 – Household Composition. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/statistics/TS003)

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

1.3.11 Occupancy Rating

The table below demonstrates the occupancy rating in bedrooms according to the 2021 Census in Ceredigion and Wales. Additionally, the table includes the change in the number of people in these different groups since the previous Census in 2011.

In Ceredigion, it is more common to have an under-occupied house than an over-occupied property. In 2021, 80.3% of households in Ceredigion were under-occupied, compared to 76.4% nationally. Just 1.4% of households in Ceredigion are overcrowded (430 houses), compared to 2.2% nationally.⁵⁶

Table 7: Occupancy rating Ceredigion and Wales – 2011 and 2021

Occupancy rating	Ceredigion	Wales	Change in number in Ceredigion since 2011	Change in number in Wales since 2011
2 or more spare bedrooms	47.3%	41.7%	3.1%	8.3%
1 spare bedroom	33.0%	34.7%	-1.6%	0.9%
No spare bedrooms	18.3%	21.4%	-8.6%	2.0%
1 bedroom too few	1.2%	1.9%	-49.8%	-22.6%
2 or more bedrooms too few	0.2%	0.3%	-43.5%	-18.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	-	-

(Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021)

The number of overcrowded houses in Ceredigion has reduced between 2011 and 2021, and this is the case across all HMAs. There is a notable decrease in the proportion of overcrowded households over the decade, by 392 (47.8%) from 820 in 2011 to 428 in 2021. These differences are far greater than those seen nationally between 2011 and 2021.^{57 58}

Table 8: Occupancy rating by HMA (2021).

	Aberystwyth	Coastal	Other	Teifi Valley
2 or more spare bedrooms	40.5%	53.7%	51.6%	46.0%
1 spare bedroom	33.1%	31.8%	33.9%	33.3%
No spare bedrooms	24.7%	13.4%	13.2%	19.5%
1 bedroom too few	1.5%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
2 or more bedrooms too few	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%

(Source: Census 2021)

Amongst the HMAs, overcrowded households are more common in the Aberystwyth HMA (136/ 1.8% of all households), and least common in the Coastal HMA (79/ 1.1% of all households).

⁵⁶ ONS (2022) – Census TS052 - Occupancy Rating for bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

⁵⁷ ONS (2022) – Census TS052 - Occupancy Rating for bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

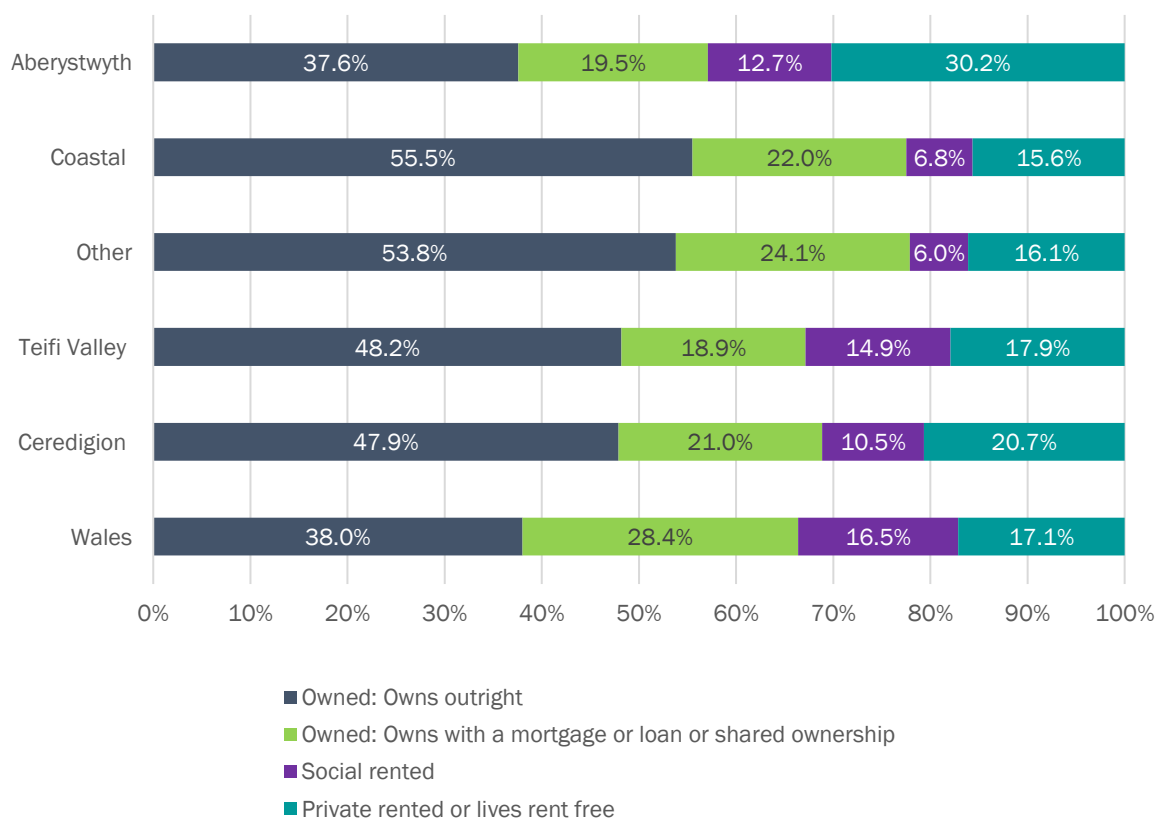
⁵⁸ ONS (2011) – Census QS412EW – Occupancy Rating (bedrooms). [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

1.3.12 Households by Tenure

Figure 28 below compares the tenure of households in Ceredigion in 2021 with that recorded for Wales. The majority of households in Ceredigion owned their home outright or with a mortgage or loan (or shared ownership) in 2021 (68.9%), which is higher than the Welsh average (66.4%). Of those, just under half (47.9%) were owned outright and just under a quarter (21.0%) were owned with a mortgage or loan (or shared ownership) compared to 38.0% and 28.4% respectively at a national level. Under a quarter of households rented privately or lived rent free (20.7%) in Ceredigion, which is higher than the national average of 17.1%. Whereas the percentage of households in the social rented sector in Ceredigion in 2021 (10.5%) was significantly lower than the national average of 16.5%.⁵⁹

Notably, Ceredigion is the local authority in Wales with the smallest social housing sector (10.5%).⁶⁰ Consequently, many households that are eligible for social housing are unable to access it due to limited supply within the County, pushing them into the private sector where rents are much higher.⁶¹

Figure 28: Tenure within Ceredigion and across Wales – 2021.



(Source: ONS, 2021 Census)

⁵⁹ ONS (2022) – Census TS054 - Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁶⁰ ONS (2022) – Census TS054 - Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁶¹ Ceredigion County Council (2022) Social Housing Register.

Breaking this down by HMA highlights a notable variation in Ceredigion's tenure profile. The Aberystwyth HMA has by far greatest proportion of households in the private rented sector or living rent free (30.2%). The remaining three HMA's (Teifi Valley, Other and Coastal) have fairly similar proportions of households living in the private rented sector or living rent free.⁶² Over three quarters of the households residing in the Coastal HMA and Other HMA own their houses, and of these, over half own their houses outright. On the other hand, the Aberystwyth HMA has the lowest proportion of households in the owner-occupier sector (57.1%), which is significantly lower than the national average (66.4%).⁶³

The greatest proportion of households living in the social rented sector reside in the Teifi Valley HMA (14.9%), however this percentage is below the national average (16.5%). Whilst the smallest social rented sector is found in the Other HMA (6.0%), which is significantly lower than the average across Wales (16.5%).⁶⁴

Since 2001, changes to the tenure composition have occurred in Ceredigion, particularly in terms of the balance between owner-occupiers and those privately renting (see Figure 28 and Table 9 below).

Table 9: Households by tenure: Ceredigion (2001-2011).

Tenure of household	Total households			Net change	
	2001	2011	2021	2001-2011	2011-2021
Owner occupied	21,590	21,320	21,180	-260	-150
Social rented	3,720	3,200	3,240	-520	+40
Private rented	4,170	6,280	6,370	+2,110	+100
Shared ownership	90	110	100	+20	-10
Living rent free/other	1,410	660	10	-760	-650
TOTAL	30,970	31,560	30,890	+590	-670
Owner occupied	69.7%	67.6%	68.6%	-2.1%	+1.0%
Social rented	12.0%	10.1%	10.5%	-1.9%	+0.4%
Private rented	13.5%	19.9%	20.6%	+6.4%	+0.7%
Shared ownership	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Living rent free/other	4.6%	2.1%	0.0%	-2.5%	-2.1%

(Source: Census 2001, Census 2011 & Census 2021)

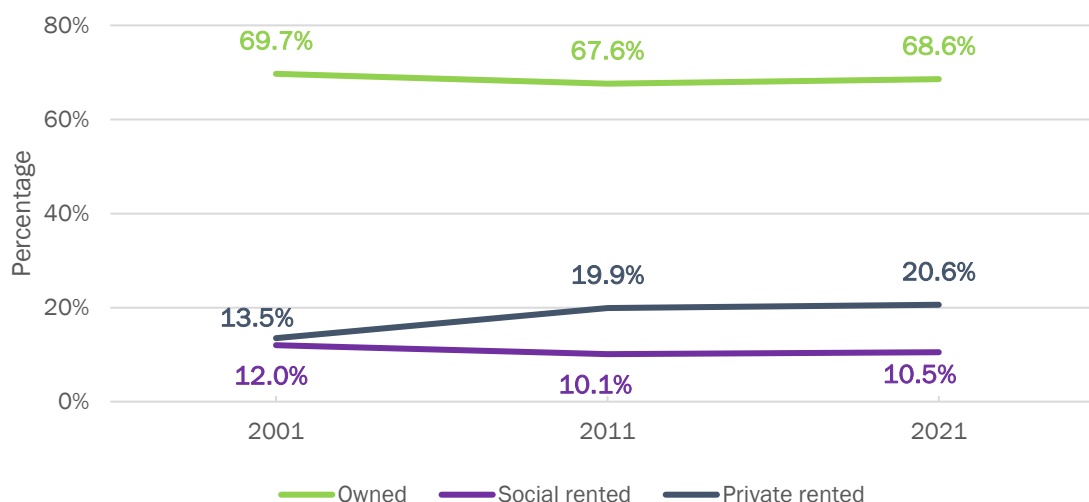
*Figures may not sum due to rounding

⁶² ONS (2022) – Census TS054 - Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

Figure 29: Percentage of households by tenure in Ceredigion (2001-2021).



(Source: Census 2001, Census 2011 & Census 2021)

The tenure changes highlighted in Table 10 and Figure 29 show:

- From 2001-2011:** the number and percentage of owner occupiers decreased slightly from 21,590 (69.7%) to 21,320 (67.6%) (a reduction of 260 households/ -2.1 percentage points), whilst the number of private rented households increased from 4,170 (13.5%) to 6,280 (19.9%), a gain of 2,110 households or 6.4 percentage points. The number of social tenants reduced by 520 households, a decrease of 1.9 percentage points. Notably, the Right to Buy was abolished throughout Wales in 2019, which may lead to future increases in the social rented sector.^{65 66}
- From 2011-2021:** the percentage of owner occupier housing in Ceredigion increased slightly, from 67.6% (21,320) in 2011 to 68.6% (21,180), however, remains below the 2001 level of 69.7%. Although, proportionately more households own their home in 2021, the actual number is 150 less due to population decline over this period. Market conditions (e.g., rising property prices, cost of living crisis, rising interest rates) have hindered households' progression up the ladder in recent years. Having said that, Ceredigion was the only local authority in Wales to experience an increase in the proportion of owner occupiers between the 2011 and 2021 Census. At the same time, the rate of private and social rented homes also increased slightly (by 0.7 and 0.4 percentage points respectively), while rent-free households decreased from 660 in 2011 to 10 in 2021 (a loss of 650 households/ down 2.1 percentage points).^{67 68 69}

⁶⁵ ONS (2001) Census – KS018 Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁶⁶ ONS (2011) Census – WD403EW Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁶⁷ ONS (2001) Census – KS018 Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁶⁸ ONS (2011) Census – WD403EW Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

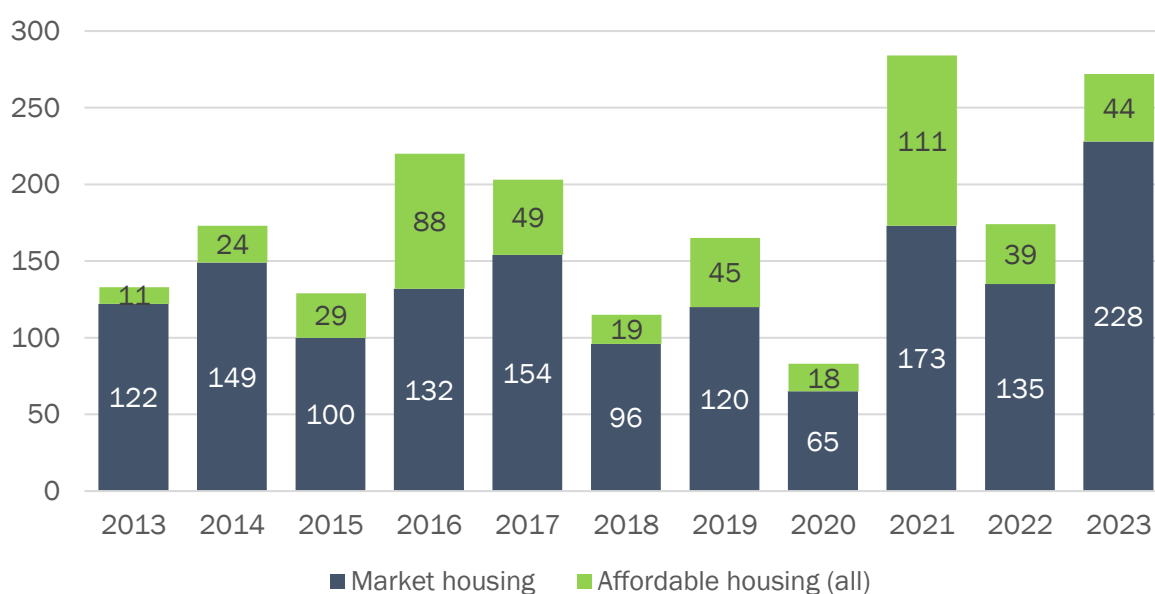
⁶⁹ ONS (2022) – Census TS054 - Tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

1.3.13 Dwelling Completions by Tenure

Dwelling completions alongside other information (such as, the Local Housing Occupancy Surveys) can be used to assess the levels of housing supply and demand within the County. Although a section on dwelling completions is not required under the Welsh Government guidance, this information feeds into the analysis of the additional housing needs estimated by the LHMA tool (refer to Section 1.2), and the justification for utilising the higher variant household projection.

As reflected in Figure 30 below, the number of new dwellings completed over the decade has varied, however, the last three years have experienced a slight increase (2021-2023). Over the last decade, the number of market housing completions has remained largely above 100 per year (except 2020, which is largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions). Over the last five years, 144 market houses per year have been built on average, compared to 64 affordable homes.⁷⁰ The number of market housing completions every year has greatly exceeded the number of affordable housing completions.

Figure 30: Past build rates of affordable and market housing - Ceredigion (2013-2023).



(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

Since the previous LHMA in 2019, a total of 601 market homes and 212 affordable homes have been completed. Market housing completions increased by 90% to 228 between 2019-2023, and accounted for almost three quarters (74%) of all completions. Whilst the number of affordable housing completions has remained fairly similar (except during 2021 which saw the greatest level of completions over the decade), and accounted for 26% of all completions between 2019 to 2023.

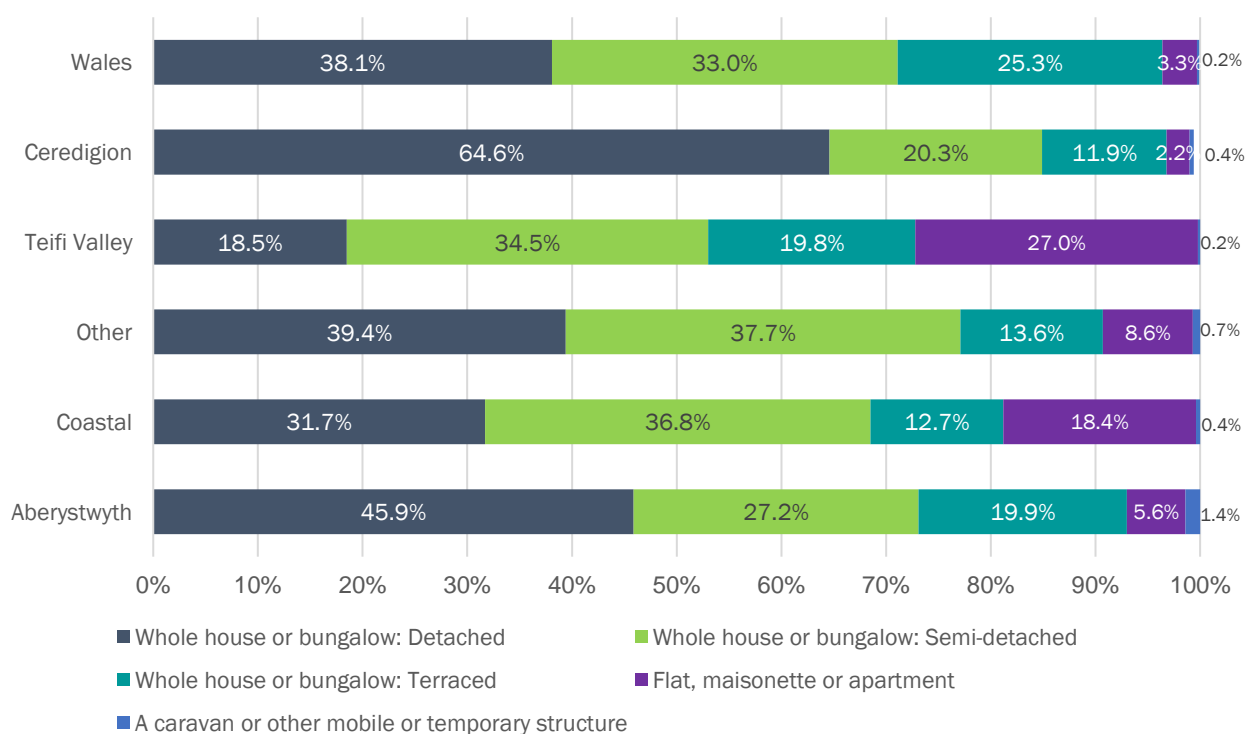
Our Housing Occupancy Survey's (2018, 2019 and 2020) highlight that a large majority of these completed dwellings are being occupied by local residents, however, it should be acknowledged that the survey's response rate in recent years has been fairly poor.

⁷⁰ Affordable homes include Social rent, Intermediate rent and LCHO (Discounted For Sale).

1.3.14 Owner Occupier Position

Over half (64.6%) of Ceredigion’s owner-occupied households reside in detached houses or bungalows. This is far greater than the average in Wales (38.1%). Just 2.2% of households reside in a flat, maisonette or apartment and just 0.4% in a caravan or other mobile temporary structure, in Ceredigion.⁷¹ Figure 31 below, showcases the percentages of accommodation type for owner occupiers, in Wales, Ceredigion and by HMA in Ceredigion.

Figure 31: Tenure by Accommodation Type – Owner-occupied sector.



(Source: Census 2021)

*Note: figures may not sum due to rounding.

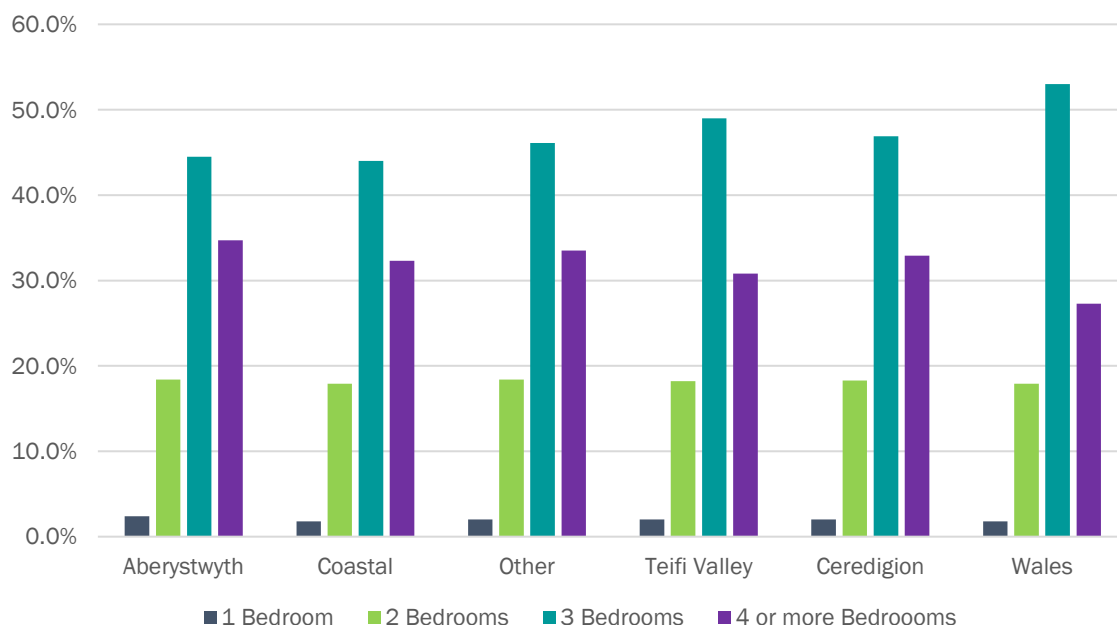
The only HMA in which a detached house is not the most common form of accommodation for owner-occupiers is the Teifi Valley HMA, semi-detached houses are most common here (34.5%). The Teifi Valley area is also the HMA with the highest percentage of owner-occupiers residing in a flat, maisonette or apartment (27.0%). The other and Coastal HMAs are the areas with the highest percentage of owner occupiers residing in a semi-detached house or bungalow, with 37.7% and 36.8% respectively.⁷²

⁷¹ ONS (2022) – Census RM0003 - Tenure by Accommodation Type. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/rm0003)

⁷² ONS (2022) – Census RM0003 - Tenure by Accommodation Type. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/rm0003)

Just under half (46.9%) of owner-occupiers in Ceredigion reside in a home with 3 bedrooms, with 32.9% residing in a home with 4 or more bedrooms. 18.3% of owner-occupiers reside in a 2-bedroom home, whilst just 2.0% live in a 1-bedroom home, although it should be noted that this is marginally higher than the Welsh average of 1.8%.⁷³ Figure 32 below represents the size of accommodation resided in by owner-occupiers' households, in Wales, Ceredigion and by each HMA in Ceredigion.

Figure 32: Number of Bedrooms by Accommodation Type – Owner-occupied sector.



(Source: Census 2021)

The size profile of owner-occupiers doesn't vary greatly across all HMA's in Ceredigion. In all four areas, 3 bedroomed homes are most common, followed by 4-bedroom, 2 bedroom and lastly, 1-bedroom homes.⁷⁴

Table 10 below demonstrates the average property price by dwelling type in 2022 in Ceredigion and Wales, according to the Land Registry. Overall, the average property price in Ceredigion is 14.7% higher than the national average. Although, detached and semi-detached properties in Ceredigion are lower than the national average price, whilst terraced house are 19.0% higher than the Welsh average and flats are 3.5% higher.⁷⁵

⁷³ ONS (2022) – Census RM136 - Tenure by Number of Bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics)

⁷⁴ ONS (2022) – Census RM136 - Tenure by Number of Bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/market-statistics)

⁷⁵ HM Land Registry (2023). Open Data. [Online]. Available at: [HM Land Registry Open Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/hm-land-registry-open-data)

Table 10: Average property price and number of sales by dwelling type (2022).

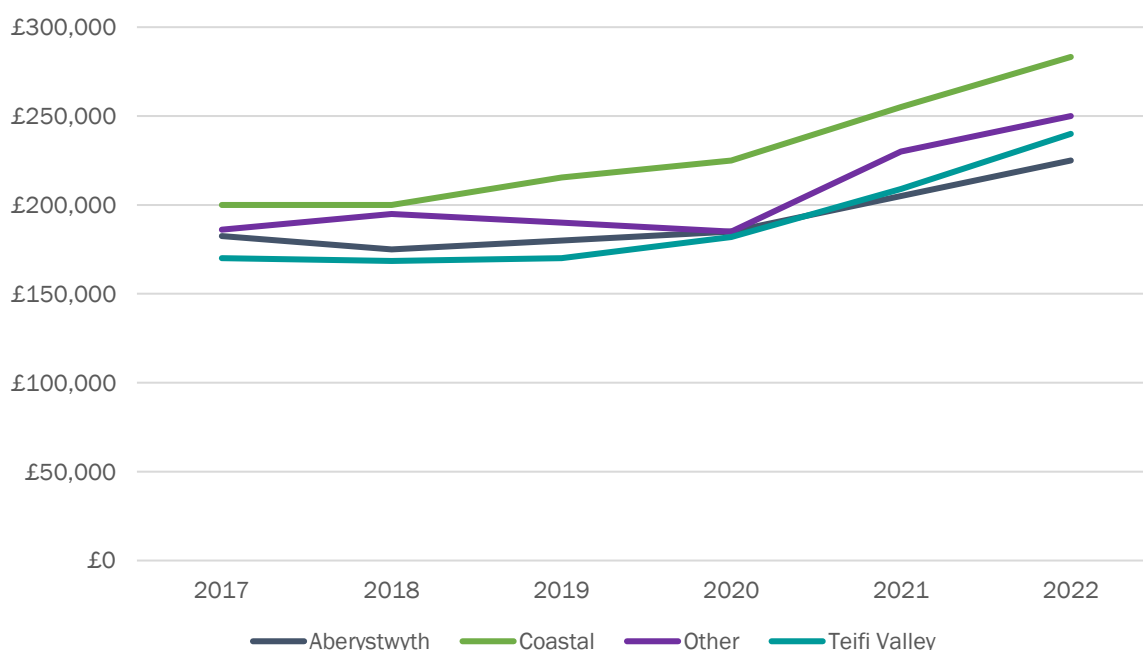
Dwelling Type	Ceredigion		Wales	
	Average Price	No. of Sales	Average Price	No. of Sales
Detached	£339,765	441	£360,622	11,695
Semi-detached	£214,969	195	£218,721	12,270
Terraced	£204,272	213	£171,572	14,721
Flats	£158,565	45	£153,214	3,395
Overall average price	£271,142	894	£236,379	42,081

(Source: Land Registry)

The number of sales by dwelling type varies in Ceredigion and Wales. For example, across Wales, terraced houses see the highest number of sales in 2022 (14,721), whilst in Ceredigion, detached houses saw the highest number of sales (441). Flats were the least sought after in Ceredigion (45) and across Wales (3,395), in 2022, this is unsurprising when we consider that flats are more common in the rental sector.⁷⁶

As shown in Figure 33 and Table 11 below, the Coastal HMA has continuously had the highest median house price compared to all other HMAs, whilst the median house prices in the Teifi Valley HMA has remained the lowest over this period (2017-2022) As of 2022, the Coastal HMAs median house price was £283,250, this is just over £12,000 higher than Ceredigion’s average house price (£271,142), in 2022, and almost £44,000 higher than Teifi Valleys median house price (£240,000).⁷⁷

Figure 33: Median House Prices by HMA between 2017 and 2022.



(Source: Land Registry)

⁷⁶ HM Land Registry (2023). Open Data. [Online]. Available at: [HM Land Registry Open Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/hm-land-registry-open-data)

⁷⁷ Ibid.

Table 11: Difference in Median House Prices between 2017 and 2022.

HMA	Median House Price 2017	Median House Price 2022	% Difference
Aberystwyth	£182,500	£225,000	+23.3%
Coastal	£200,000	£283,250	+41.6%
Other	£186,094	£250,000	+34.3%
Teifi Valley	£170,000	£240,000	+41.2%

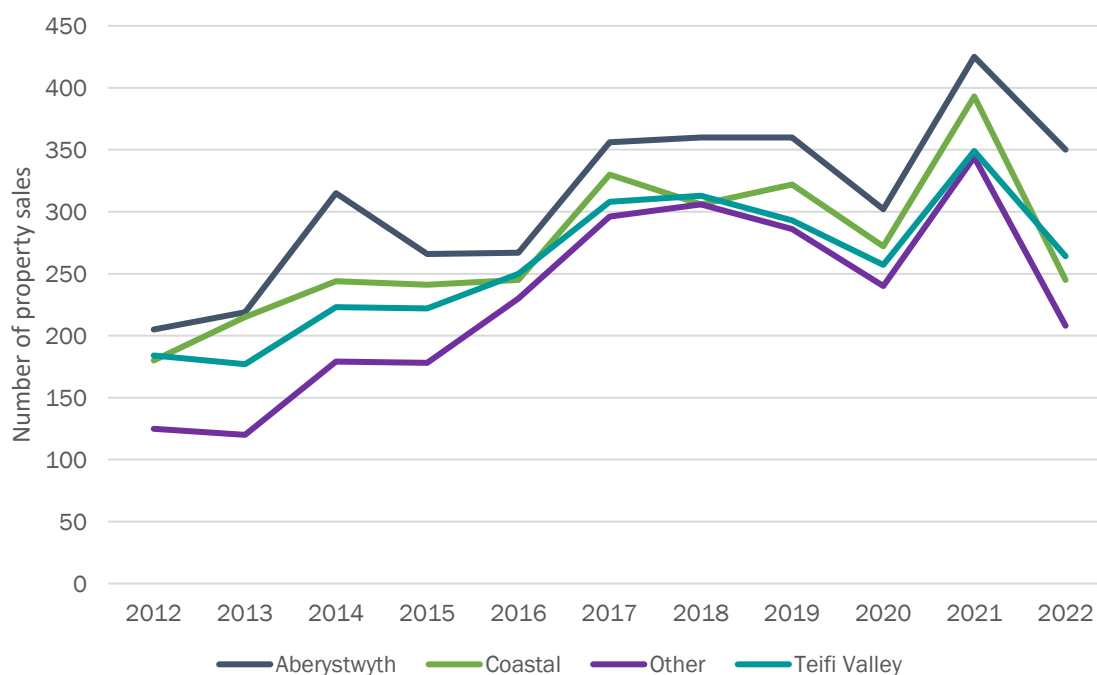
(Source: Land Registry)

It is unsurprising that the Coastal area has the highest median house prices in Ceredigion considering the area is home to Aberporth, New Quay and Aberaeron, which are extremely desirable places to live given their coastal location. Additionally, the Coastal HMA has the highest percentage of second homes in Ceredigion, with 41% of second homes located within this HMA. As is alluded to in Section 1.3.17. on second homes, there is often a link between second homes and higher house prices, as second homes tend to be in more picturesque areas which by their nature have higher house values.

Additionally, the Coastal HMA has experienced the highest percentage increase in its median house prices since 2017 (+41.6%), closely followed by the Teifi Valley area which as seen a +41.2% increase between 2017 and 2022. The Other HMA and the Aberystwyth area have seen lower percentage increases, +34.3% and +23.3% respectively, but these are still considerable increases.⁷⁸

The number of property sales in all HMAs have followed similar trends as Ceredigion, as shown in Figure 34 below.

Figure 34: Number of Sales by Housing Market Area 2012-2022.



(Source: HM Land Registry)

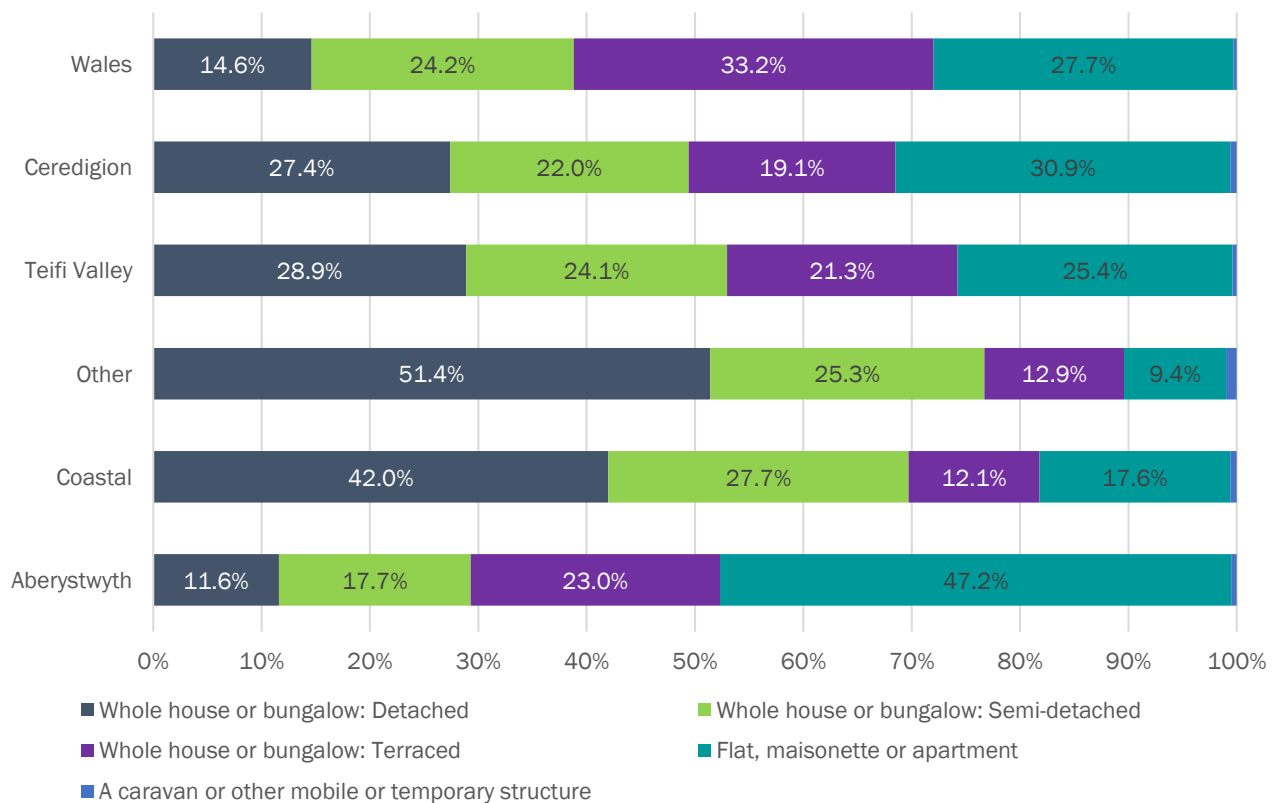
⁷⁸ HM Land Registry (2023). Open Data. [Online]. Available at: [HM Land Registry Open Data](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/hm-land-registry-open-data)

Amongst the HMAs, the Other HMA has continuously had the lowest number of property sales, apart from in 2018, where the number of property sales in the Coastal HMA dipped below the Other HMA level. Meanwhile, the Aberystwyth HMA has consistently had the highest number of property sales in Ceredigion. Similar to Ceredigion’s overall trends, all HMAs experienced a peak in the number of property sales in 2021, followed by a large decrease in 2022.⁷⁹ This peak can be attributed to the extension of the Stamp Duty Land Tax Holiday to July 2021, as buyers rushed to complete their house purchases ahead of the deadline.

1.3.15 Private Rented Sector

Figure 35 below demonstrates the type of accommodation resided in by private rented households in Wales, Ceredigion and by HMA. In Ceredigion, there is a fairly even split of those residing in a detached dwelling (27.4%), those residing in a semi-detached dwelling (22.0%), a terraced dwelling (19.1%) and those residing in a flat, maisonette or apartment (30.9%), this differs for those residing in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure, where 0.6% of private renters reside.⁸⁰

Figure 35: Tenure by Accommodation Type – Private Rental Sector



(Source: Census 2021)

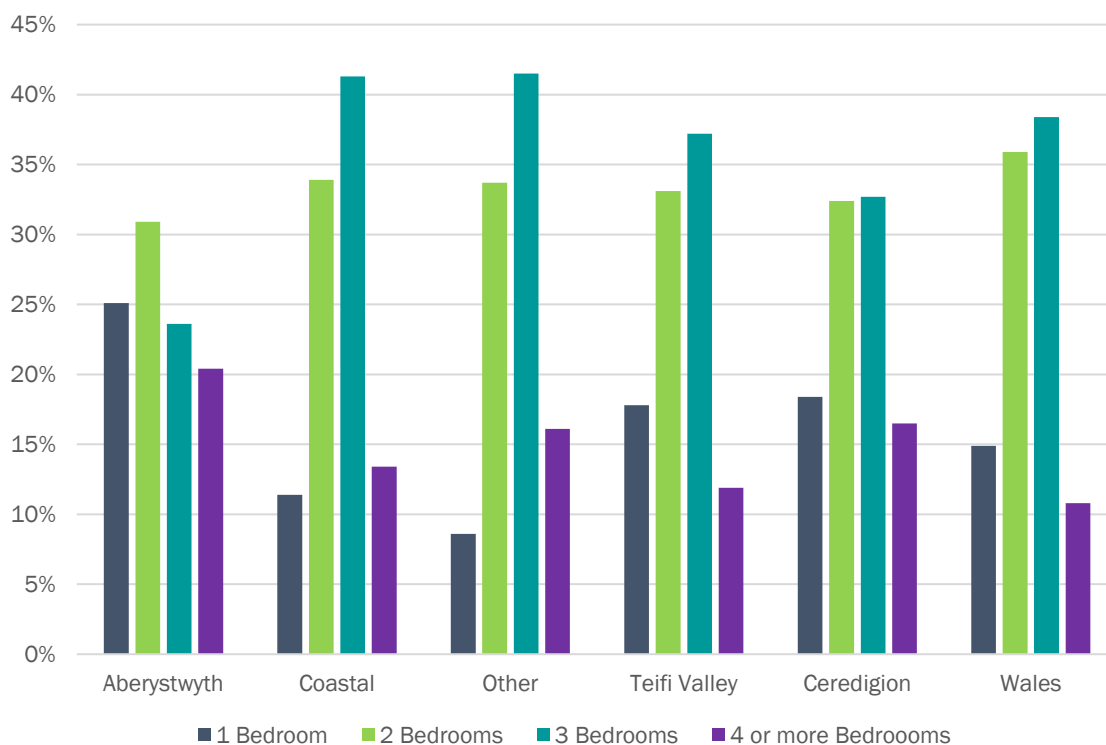
⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ ONS (2022) – Census RM0003 - Tenure by Accommodation Type. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

The characteristics of accommodation type in the private rented sector across the HMAs varies. There is a relatively low percentage of private renters residing in a detached or semi-detached dwelling (11.6%) in the Aberystwyth HMA, whilst almost half (47.2%) of private renters reside in a flat, maisonette or apartment. The Other HMA has a very different make-up, with over half 51.4% residing in a detached dwelling and just 9.4% residing in a flat, maisonette or apartment, this is not surprising given that the Other HMA is more rural and significantly less densely populated than the Aberystwyth HMA.

In Ceredigion, the majority of private renting households reside in 2- or 3-bedroom dwellings. Figure 35 below shows the size of accommodation resided in by private rented households in Ceredigion. Contrary to owner-occupier households, there is a greater proportion of households residing in 1-bedroom dwellings in the private rented sector (18.4%), than in dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms (16.5%).⁸¹

Amongst the HMAs, with the exception of the Aberystwyth HMA, the most common privately



rented household size is a 3-bed. The Aberystwyth HMA is the only area where the majority of private rented households reside in 2-bedroom households (30.9%). The Aberystwyth area has a notably high percentage of households within the private rental sector residing in 1-bedroom dwellings (25.1%). This area also sees the highest percentage of dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms within the private rental sector (20.4%) out of all four HMAs. This characteristic is unsurprising when we consider that a fair amount of those renting within the private sector are university students, who tend to rent larger properties/HMOs.⁸² **Figure 36: Number of Bedrooms by Accommodation Type – Private Rental Sector.**

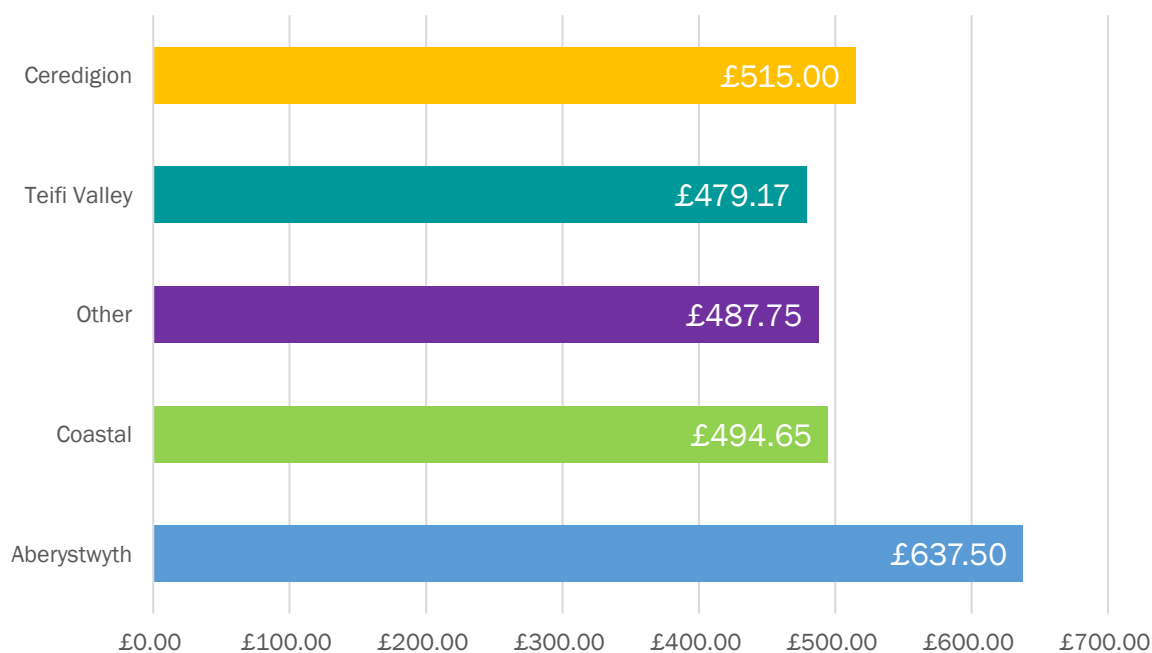
(Source: Census 2021)

⁸¹ ONS (2022) – Census RM136 - Tenure by Number of Bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/statistics/2022/census/rm136-tenure-by-number-of-bedrooms)

⁸² ONS (2022) – Census RM136 - Tenure by Number of Bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/statistics/2022/census/rm136-tenure-by-number-of-bedrooms)

HMA rent data by bedroom size was provided by Rent Officer Wales for the purpose of undertaking the LHMA. This data is used in the LHMA tool and uses the calendar year for 2022. The data shows the number of rentals at the 30th percentile position. The Aberystwyth area has the highest monthly rental costs, with a median rent of £637.50 per month, this is almost £125 more than the median rent across Ceredigion. The lowest median rent is across the Teifi Valley area (£479.17) which is lower than the average median rent for Ceredigion.⁸³

Figure 37: Median monthly rent – Private Rental Sector



(Source: Rent Officers Wales, Welsh Government)

Welsh Government also provided information on the number of lettings recorded in each HMA in 2022, an additional input of the LHMA tool. As reflected in Table 12 below, the Aberystwyth and Teifi Valley HMAs see the highest number of private rents in Ceredigion with 479 and 429 respectively, whilst the lowest number of lettings occurred in the Other HMA (113 rents). These figures are unsurprising when we consider the overall tenure of each HMA as demonstrated above.⁸⁴

Table 12: Number of total rents – Private Rental Sector (2022).

Area	Total Rents
Aberystwyth	479
Coastal	227
Other	113
Teifi Valley	429
Ceredigion	1,248

(Source: Rent Officers Wales, Welsh Government)

⁸³ Welsh Government (2023) Rent Officers Wales – Private Rents.

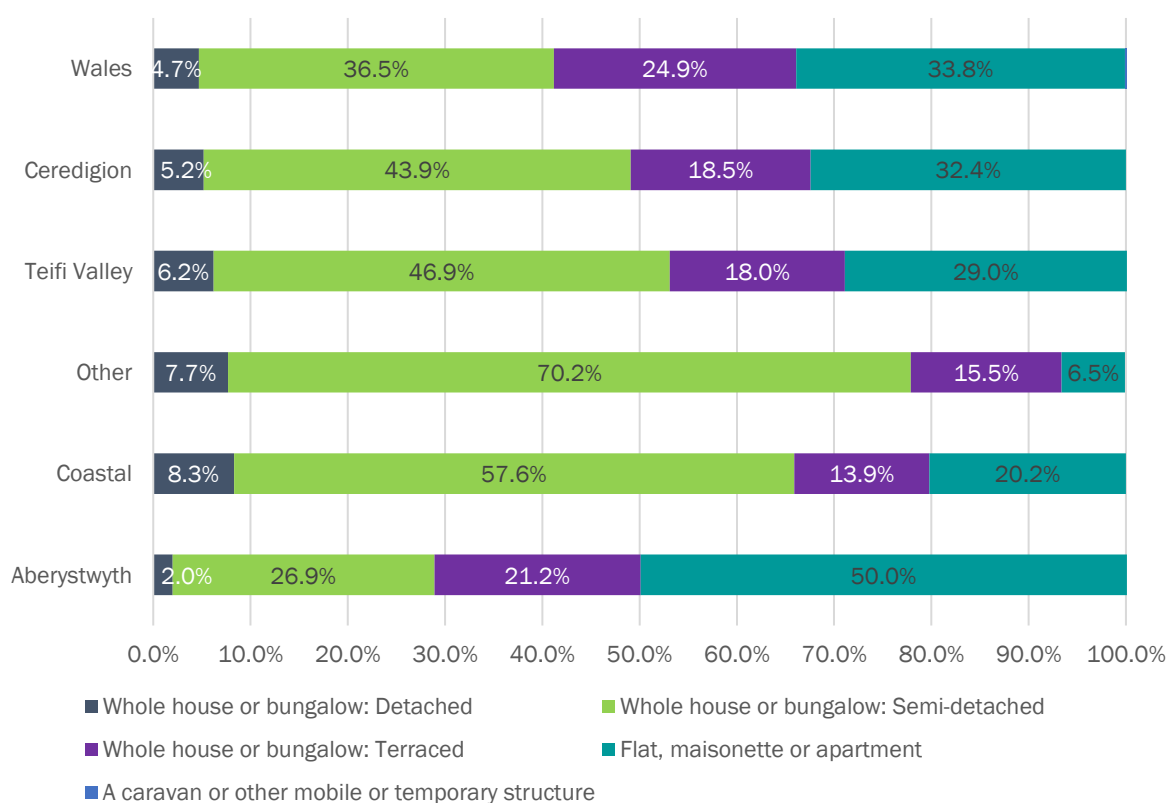
⁸⁴ Ibid.

1.3.16 Social Rented Sector

As shown in Figure 38 below, the majority of Ceredigion’s social rented sector households reside in semi-detached dwellings (43.9%), with the minority residing in caravan, mobile home or other temporary structure (0.0%), followed by detached dwellings (5.2%).⁸⁵

Amongst the HMAs, the Other HMA has the highest percentage of those residing in a semi-detached dwelling (70.2%), this area also sees the lowest percentage of those residing in a flat, maisonette or apartment (6.5%). The make-up of the Aberystwyth area differs greatly to this, where half (50.0%) of social rented households in the Aberystwyth area reside in a flat, maisonette or apartment.⁸⁶

Figure 38: Tenure by Accommodation Type – Social Rental Sector.



(Source: Census 2021)

Figure 39 below, shows the accommodation size for households within the social rental sector, in Wales, Ceredigion and by HMA. The majority of households within the social rental sector in Ceredigion reside in dwellings with 2 bedrooms (41.7%), followed by dwellings with 3 bedrooms (32.9%) then dwellings with 1 bedroom (21.4%) and lastly, dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms (3.8%).⁸⁷

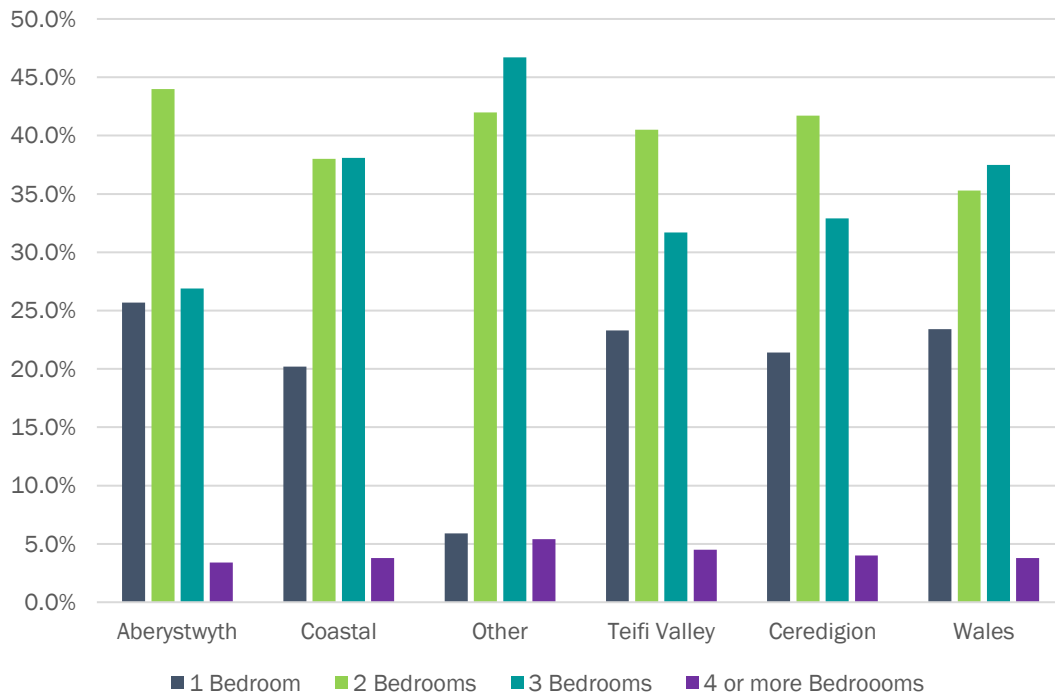
⁸⁵ ONS (2022) – Census RM0003 - Tenure by Accommodation Type. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁸⁶ ONS (2022) – Census RM0003 - Tenure by Accommodation Type. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

⁸⁷ ONS (2022) – Census RM136 - Tenure by Number of Bedrooms. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

Similarly, the majority of households within the social rental sector across the four HMAs reside in 2- or 3-bedroom homes, however, a higher percentage of households reside in 1-bedroom dwellings in the Aberystwyth, Coastal and Teifi Valley HMA, compared to the Other area.⁸⁸

Figure 39: Number of Bedrooms by Accommodation Type – Social Rental Sector.



(Source: Census 2021)

Table 13 below demonstrates the weekly social rents by bedroom size in Ceredigion, in flats and houses.

Table 13: Weekly Social Rents by bedroom size in Ceredigion (2023).

Property Size	Rent Figure - Flat	Rent Figure - House
1 bed	£86.80	£90.25
2bed	£113.40	£119.25
3bed	£138.50	£148.00
4bed	N/A	£174.50

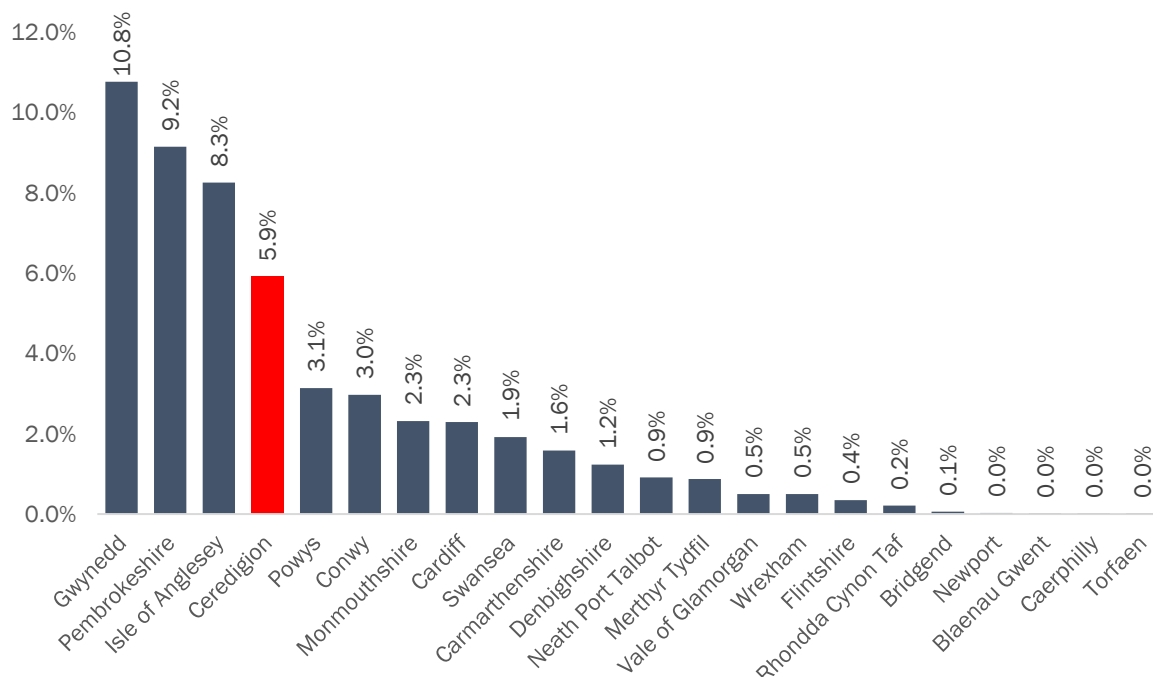
(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

⁸⁸ Ibid.

1.3.17 Second Homes

Ceredigion has the fourth highest rate of holiday let and second home ownership (5.9%) of all local authorities in Wales.⁸⁹ The County has lower rates of second home ownership and holiday lets than its neighbouring coastal authorities Gwynedd (10.8%) and Pembrokeshire (9.2%), but higher rates compared to non-coastal authorities.

Figure 40: Percentage of Second Homes by Local Authority.



(Source: Welsh Government)

The table below shows the total number of known second homes in Ceredigion since 2018. Overall, the number of second homes has remained fairly consistent since 2018, peaking in 2022 at 1,846, then reducing back to 1,750 in 2023.⁹⁰

Table 14: Number of Second Homes in Ceredigion by Housing Market Area 2018-2023.

HMA	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aberystwyth	368	385	382	370	453	447
Other	456	427	322	392	394	332
Coastal	696	723	717	683	734	719
Teifi Valley	225	224	233	216	265	252
Ceredigion	1,745	1,759	1,654	1,661	1,846	1,750

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Council Tax Department)

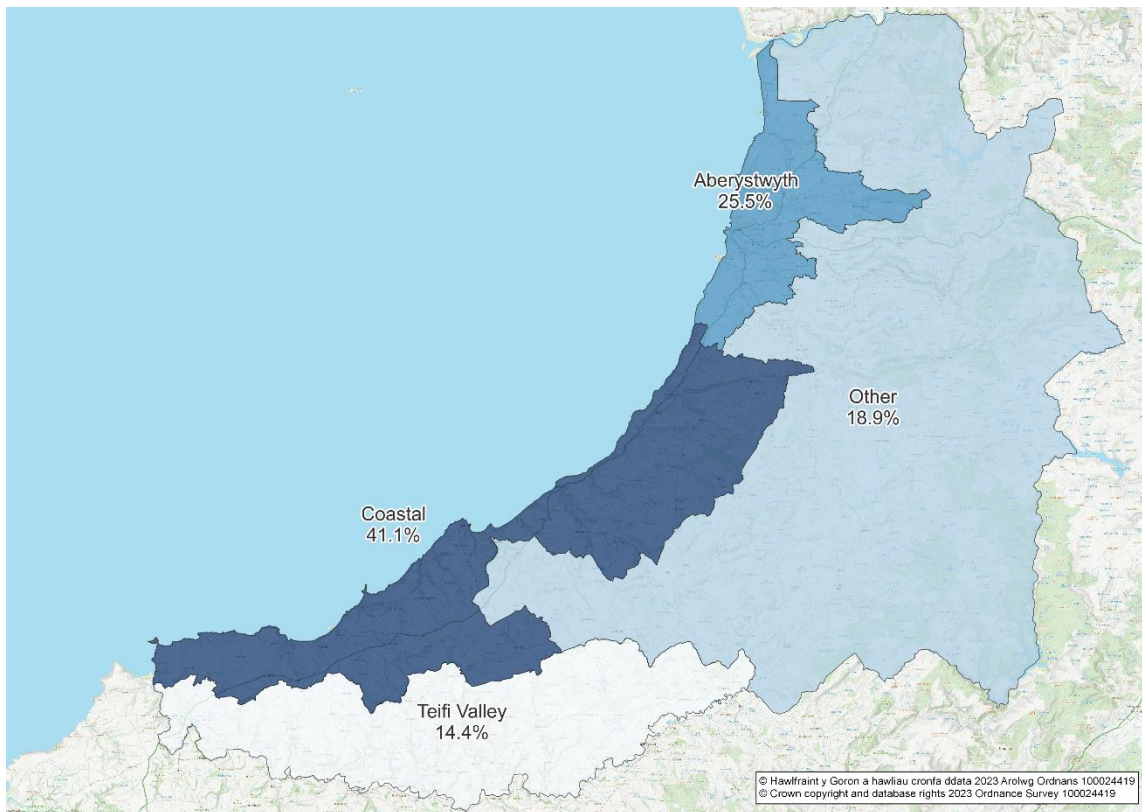
The following map illustrates the percentage of second homes by Housing Market Area in 2023. This data demonstrates that the Coastal HMA has the highest percentage of second homes (41.1%) and Teifi Valley has the lowest (14.4%).⁹¹

⁸⁹ Ceredigion County Council (2021) *Ceredigion Second Homes and Holiday Lets Data*. [C. Ceredigion second homes and holiday lets data.pdf](#)

⁹⁰ Ceredigion County Council (2018-2023) Council Tax Data.

⁹¹ Ibid.

Figure 41: Percentage of Second Homes by Housing Market Area 2023.



(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Council Tax Department)

The Coastal HMA has recurrently had the highest number of second homes, which is expected due to the desirable coastal locations (such as, Aberaeron, New Quay and Gwbert, located within the Coastal HMA) drawing second homeowners to the area. Second homes tend to be in traditional tourism economic dependant areas, which naturally have higher house values given their location.⁹²

Second homes bring a number of benefits to Ceredigion; however, they also are associated with drawbacks. They form part of the non-serviced accommodation market which annually from 2007 to 2018 has accounted for between 70% and 73% of tourism economic impact in Ceredigion (£233.83 million according to STEAM 2018).⁹³ On the other hand, second homes are associated with a reduced availability of residential housing with potential negative impacts on affordability, impacts on services and amenities of local communities, a lack of permanent population to support local facilities, and local impacts on Welsh language rates.⁹⁴ The higher the number of second homes in a county, the greater these impacts tend to be.

The Welsh Government's Report – Second and Holiday Homes and the Land Use Planning System⁹⁵, did not find a correlation between the location of holiday homes and house prices. Instead, the findings suggested that the urban-rural migration on a permanent basis is the key driver of housing demand and subsequently unaffordable house prices. However, analysing the household affordability ratio's by HMA's suggest there may be a link.

⁹² Ceredigion County Council (2021) *Ceredigion Second Homes and Holiday Lets Data*. [C. Ceredigion second homes and holiday lets data.pdf](#)

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Welsh Government (2021) Research on Second homes: evidence review summary. [Research on second homes: evidence review summary | GOV.WALES](#)

⁹⁵ Ibid.

Table 15: Affordability Ratio by HMA (2022).

HMA	Median House Price (2022)	Median Household Income	Affordability Ratio
Aberystwyth	£225,000	£29,839	7.5
Coastal	£283,250	£33,550	8.4
Other	£250,000	£30,119	8.3
Teifi Valley	£240,000	£29,016	8.2

**Figures may not sum due to rounding.
(Source: Land Registry, ONS & CACI Paycheck)*

Table 15 above outlines the affordability ratio by HMA. There may be a correlation between the location of holiday home and house prices in the Coastal HMA, however, it is difficult to be certain (as other variables such as household income also play a key role).

The Coastal HMA has the highest affordability ratio, which means that local residents would need to pay 8.4 times their annual income for a property in the Coastal HMA. The Coastal HMA also has the highest percentage of second homes (41.1%). This said, when looking at the Aberystwyth HMA; this area has the lowest affordability ratio of 7.5, but the second highest percentage of second homes in the county (25.5%).

With increasing numbers of second homes / holiday homes and people moving to Ceredigion, the Welsh language could be at risk. Additionally, if second homes are having an impact on housing affordability, this could result in Welsh speaking residents moving out of the County to find a more affordable home. Ceredigion is one of the heartlands of the Welsh language and has the third highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales (according to the 2021 Census),⁹⁶ the prospect of increasing numbers of second homes are sparking concerns for the Welsh language and its future in the County.

Addressing the issues of second homes, holiday homes ownership and the conversion of residential properties to holiday lets, in addition to increasing the supply and range of affordable homes are priorities of the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-2027. As a result of the Ceredigion Second Homes and Holiday Lets Report,⁹⁷ the Council is currently consulting with the public on potential increases to second home and empty property council tax premiums. The consultation asks residents their opinions on the future levels of council tax premiums, including what impacts any change could have on local communities, the Welsh language, tourism, and the economy.

1.3.18 Empty Homes

An Empty Home is a dwelling which has been unoccupied for a period of 6 months or more and is liable for Council Tax⁹⁸ Whilst a Long-Term Empty Property is a dwelling which is vacant and substantially unfurnished for continuous period of at least 1 year. For these properties an additional 25% Council Tax Premium is charged.

⁹⁶ ONS (2022) – Census TS033 – Welsh language skills (speaking). [Online] Accessible at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/).

⁹⁷ Ceredigion County Council (2021) *Ceredigion Second Homes and Holiday Lets Data*. [C. Ceredigion second homes and holiday lets data.pdf](#)

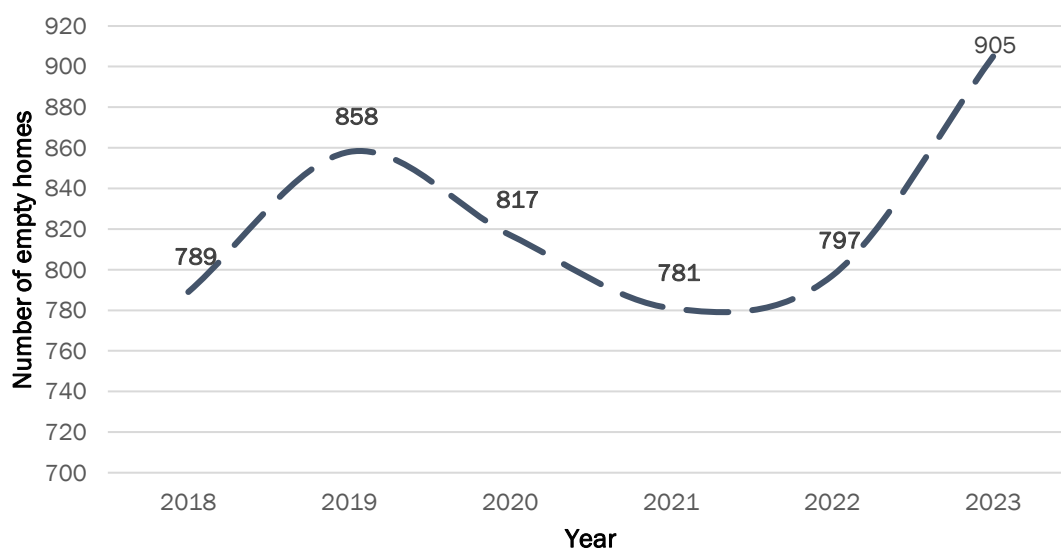
⁹⁸ CLILC and WLGA (2020). Measuring local authority performance 2019-2020. Accessible at: [Measuring local authority performance 2019-20 - Data Cymru](#)

Whilst in some cases empty properties are returned to occupation after a short time. The properties that are left empty for long periods can have detrimental impacts on the local residents and communities. They attract anti-social behaviour, pose environmental health problems and contribute to a general decline in communities. Most importantly, they are an underused community asset when there is a shortage of housing across the County and could be occupied by someone who is in need. ⁹⁹ Ceredigion County Council recognises that bringing empty properties back into the community plays a key role in helping increase the much-needed affordable housing for residents across the County.

Data from Council Tax shows that 2.7% of the total chargeable dwellings (33,856) in Ceredigion were empty as at August 2023, which equates to 905 dwellings. Of these, over half (68.7% or 622) were charged the Long-Term Empty Premium, which means they had been empty for more than six months. The proportion of empty properties in the County is slightly above the national average. In 2023 1.6% of the total chargeable dwellings (1,411,082)¹⁰⁰ across Wales were empty, which equates to 22,457 dwellings.¹⁰¹

Since the last LHMA (2019), there has been a gradual increase in the number of empty homes (includes Long Term Empty Premium, Long Term Empty Class C and Standard 50% empty). As reflected in Figure 42 below, the number of empty homes were declining and reached their lowest point in 2021 (781), however, since then have increased, particularly over the last year. Between 2022 and 2023 there has been an increase of 108 empty homes which amounts to a 13.6% increase.¹⁰²

Figure 42: Number of Empty Homes in Ceredigion 2018-2023.



(Source: Ceredigion County Council (2018-2023) – Council Tax Department)

As reflected in Table 16 below, the increase of empty properties between 2022 to 2023 is largely due to an increase in Long-Term Empty Class C (i.e., properties which are vacant

⁹⁹ Welsh Assembly Government (2010) *Empty Homes Good Practice Guidance*. [empty-homes-good-practice-guidance.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

¹⁰⁰ Stats Wales (2023). Council tax dwellings, by local authority (number of dwellings). Available at: [Council tax dwellings, by local authority \(number of dwellings\) \(gov.wales\)](#)

¹⁰¹ Stats Wales (2023). Chargeable empty and second homes, by local authority (number of dwellings). Available at: [Chargeable empty and second homes, by local authority \(number of dwellings\) \(gov.wales\)](#)

¹⁰² Ceredigion County Council (2018-2023). Council Tax Data.

and substantially unfurnished for a period of less than 6 months and is exempt from council tax), which equates to 87% (+94) of the total increase.

Table 16: Change in Number of Empty Homes 2022 and 2023.

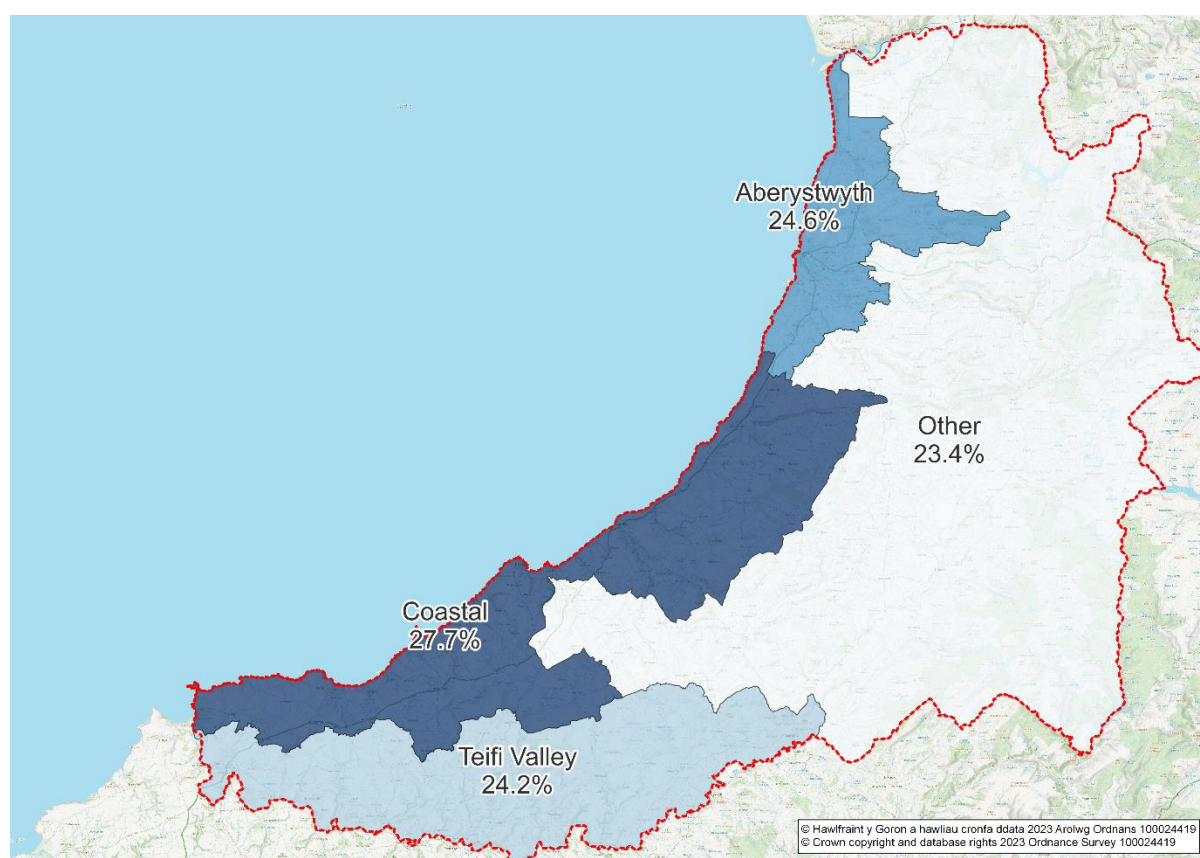
Type	2022	2023	Difference (number)	Proportional increase (%)
Long Term Empty Class C	132	226	+94	87%
Long Term Empty Premium	619	622	+3	3%
Standard 50% Empty	46	57	+11	10%
Total	797	905	+108	100%

(Source: Ceredigion County Council, Council Tax Department (2023))

Residential properties become empty for a wide variety of reasons; however, the most common reasons include unresolved ownership, abandonment, dilapidation, inheritance, property holding, care holding and/or lack of knowledge/options.¹⁰³

The figure below highlights the distribution of empty properties across Ceredigion’s HMAs. Empty properties are fairly evenly dispersed across the counties HMAs; however, they are more commonly located in the Coastal HMA (251 or 27.7%).

Figure 43: Percentage of Empty Properties by HMA (2023).



(Source: Ceredigion County Council (2023) – Council Tax Department)

Empty homes remain a challenging issue in Ceredigion and across Wales. However, There are a number of schemes and initiatives to tackle the problem, such as, financial support (for example, the Welsh Government’s National Empty Grants Scheme, Houses to Homes, Leasing Scheme Wales, and reduced/zero rate VAT) and council tax premiums (when the

¹⁰³ National Assembly for Wales (2019). Empty properties. Available at: [Empty properties \(senedd.wales\)](https://www.senedd.wales)

property has been vacant for 12 months there is a 25% extra charge on top of the normal level of council tax). There is an Empty Property Action Plan in place to deal with priority empty properties.

Similar to local authorities across Wales, the Council is in the process of consulting with the public on the future level of these Council Tax Premiums, including what impacts any change could have on the local communities, the Welsh language, tourism and the economy. This is as a result of a change in legislation¹⁰⁴ to tackle the national issue, which has meant that from April 2023, local authorities can set council tax premiums up to 300% (prior to this it was up to 100%).

1.4. Specific Housing Needs Requirements

The LHMA tool provides an estimate of overall housing need. To understand the specific housing need requirements within the overall estimates, an additional exercise was undertaken outside the tool.

In accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines on the LHMA, a variety of data sources have been used (both primary and secondary data). This exercise has been undertaken through a collaborative approach with key stakeholders and Council staff, with a diverse set of expertise in housing, planning, equalities, social care, economics and statistics.

Primary data was collected by firstly engaging with stakeholders (Strategic Housing Partnership) and Council Services to gather data and information on specific housing needs, and then consulting on the findings to fill data and knowledge gaps. Stakeholders were engaged with throughout the production of the LHMA and their input into this section has been key. In addition, secondary data was utilised, this includes open source local and national secondary data from StatsWales, Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and National Social Care Data Portal for Wales.

The section below provides an overview of the following specific housing requirements:

- Accessible and adapted housing provision
- Multi-generational and/or larger families requiring larger properties
- Non-permanent housing
- Housing, care and support needs
- Locational needs for student accommodation

The locational needs for people with physical or cultural needs is not assessed as there is no data on these topics. However, notably, these needs are taken into consideration as part of a wider decision-making process when housing social rented tenants.

It is acknowledged that datasets may be limited in certain areas, due to incompleteness or because they do not exist. These data gaps will be fed back to colleagues, our key stakeholders and to the Welsh Government for future considerations. There is also the potential for duplication of the future households/units/bed need across the specific housing requirements due to the different models used.

¹⁰⁴ Welsh Government (2023). Council Tax and empty and second homes: Guidance. Available at: [Council Tax on empty and second homes \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

This chapter provides a qualitative and quantitative snapshot of the current and future housing market, identifying the housing needs of residents and an indication of the future requirements to best provide for the population. The outputs are provided at HMA level where possible, however, in areas where there are gaps in data or where it is not reasonable to provide data at this geographical level, the outputs are at local authority level.

For further information on our engagement with external stakeholders (refer to Appendix 2 and Appendix 4), and Appendix 3 for the key issues identified within each of the sections.

1.4.1. Accessible and Adapted Housing

This section will identify properties that meet the needs of people with limited mobility and/or dexterity, need for low level care, and wheelchair users. The accessible and adapted type may include:

- low level appliances
- full wheelchair accessible (fully adapted property)
- part wheelchair (meets some wheelchair standards)
- lifetime homes
- step free
- max three steps.

Planning Policy Wales highlights that:

‘Planning authorities should promote residential mixed tenure communities with ‘barrier free’ housing, for example, built to Lifetime Homes standards to enable people to live independently and safely in their home for longer’.

(Welsh Government, Planning Policy Wales, 2021, p. 56).¹⁰⁵

Objective 1.2 in Ceredigion County Council’s Housing Strategy 2023-2028,¹⁰⁶ aims to: ‘ensure residents are living in good quality, suitable and sustainable accommodation’ (p.15). Some of the actions required to reach this objective includes the Council working with its partners to deliver a range of adaptations to support independent living and hospital discharge and expanding Leasing Scheme Wales to improve provision of affordable rented accommodation.

The Adopted Local Development Plan for Ceredigion (2013) also includes policy LU02 which requires all residential developments to be built to Lifetimes Homes standards as far as is reasonably practical. This is to ensure properties built since 2013 are able to be adapted to the requirements of ageing and disability.

People with disabilities

According to the 2021 Census, 21.9% of Ceredigion residents are classed as disabled under the Equality Act (ranging from everyday activities being limited a little, to limited a lot), this amounts to approximately 15,637 people in the County (refer to Section 1.3.4 for more detail).

¹⁰⁵ Welsh Government (2021). Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11. [Online]. Available at: [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 11 \(gov.wales\)](#).

¹⁰⁶ Ceredigion County Council (2023). Housing For All 2023-2028. [Online]. Available at: [20a9485dcf070e3d73006dcace32d11c_Housing_Strategy_2023-2028.pdf \(amazonaws.com\)](#).

Ceredigion recorded a slightly higher proportion of disabled residents than the Welsh national average (21.6%). It should be acknowledged that not everyone within this group will require accessible or adapted homes. The 6,686 residents (9%) who reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, will likely include the majority of individuals that require accessible and adaptable provision.

Current type and level of needs and provision

People living with different disabilities can have very different housing needs. Many people live in the private and owner-occupier sector; however, information on housing need within these tenures is limited.

The Council's Accessible Housing Register provides information on the number of residents who require accessible properties within the affordable sector. The following information has been obtained from an analysis of the Accessible Housing Register as of July 2023, outlining the level of current need by HMA across this sector:

Table 17: Households requiring accessible properties by HMA and number of bedrooms, according to the Accessible Housing Register.

HMA	Number of bedrooms				
	1	2	3	4	Total
Aberystwyth	127	39	14	7	187
Other	10	3	1	0	14
Coastal	30	17	5	2	54
Teifi Valley	86	29	13	6	134
Total	253	88	33	15	389

(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Accessible Housing Register 2023)

As shown in Table 17, 389 people are in need of accessible homes in the social rented sector, which equates to 2% of the disabled population (according to Census 2021 data). The need is greatest in the Aberystwyth HMA (187 people/ 48%), followed by the Teifi Valley HMA (134 people /34%), Coastal HMA (54 people/14%) and lastly the Other HMA (14 people/ 4%). The greatest need across all four HMA's is for 1 bed accessible/adapted properties, accounting for approximately 65% of the overall need.

Analysing the Accessible Housing Register further highlights the types of need (i.e., accessibility requirements) within the social rented sector by Housing Market Area (HMA).

Figure 44: Aberystwyth HMA - Accessibility Requirements

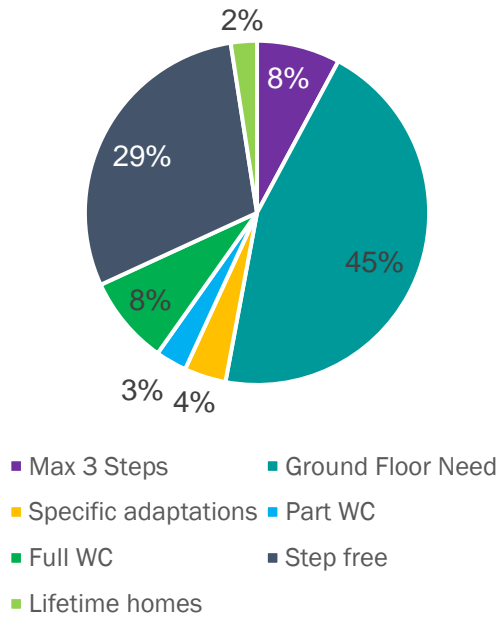


Figure 45: Coastal HMA - Accessibility Requirements

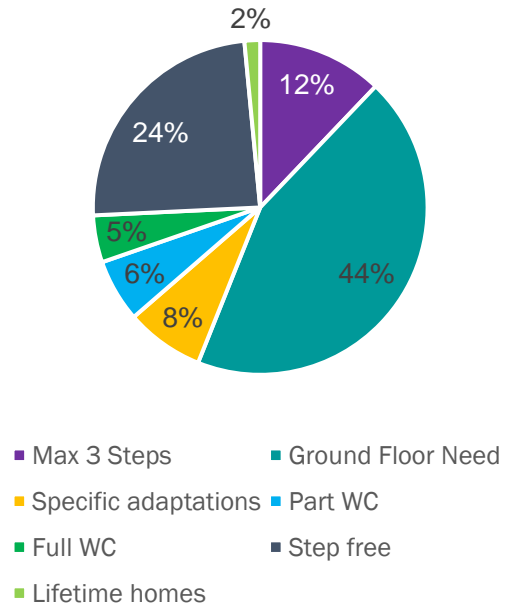


Figure 46: Other HMA - Accessibility Requirements

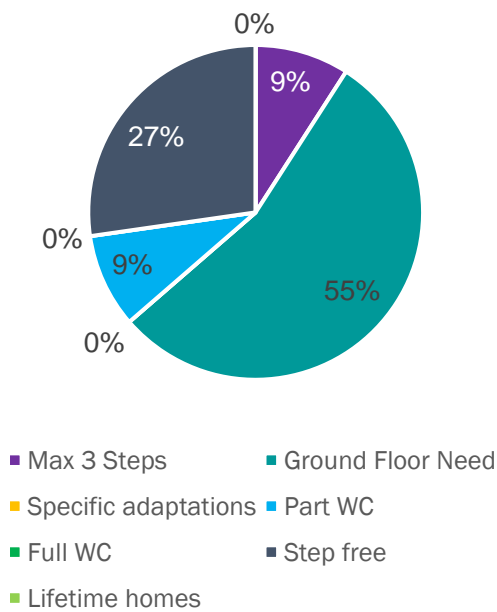
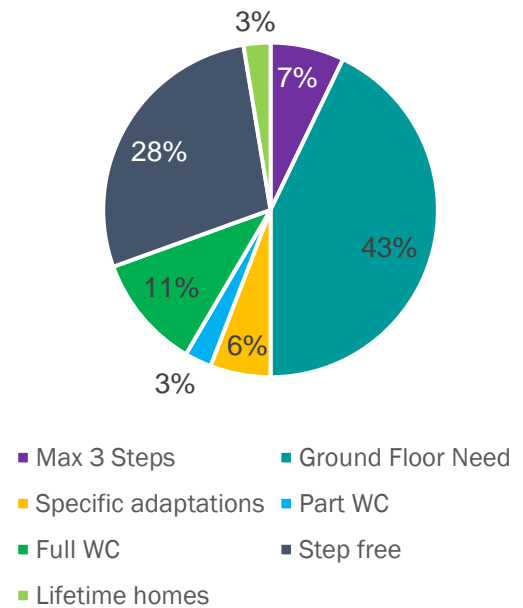


Figure 47: Teifi Valley HMA - Accessibility Requirements



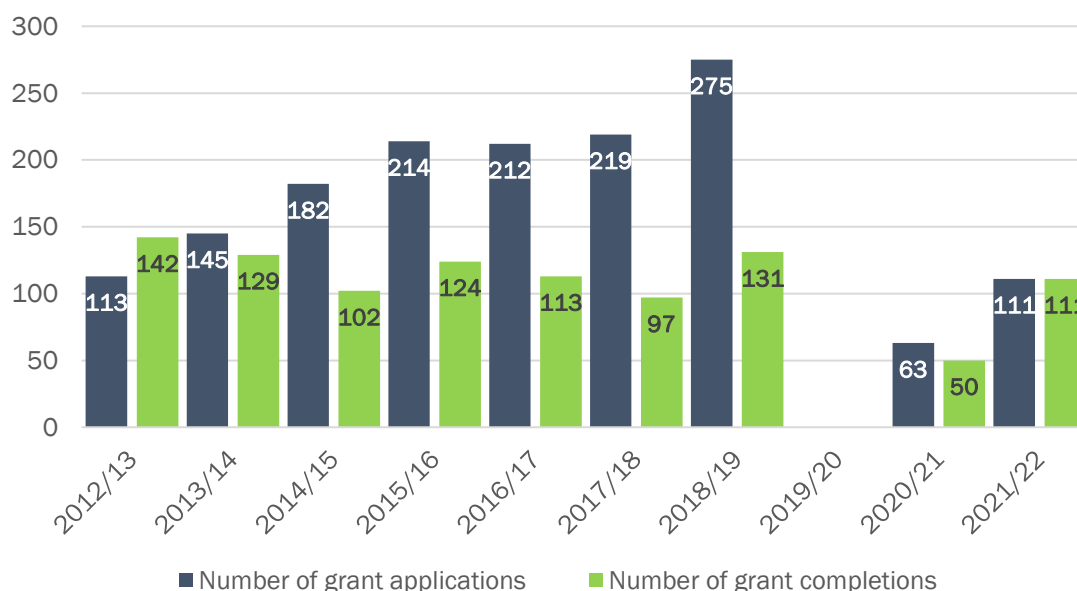
(Source: Ceredigion County Council – Accessible Housing Register 2023)

Across the four HMA's, the type of accessibility need is similar. The greatest need is for ground floor properties (accounting for 46% of the total need), followed by step free properties (27%). Whilst max steps (9%) and lifetime homes (2%) are needed the least. The above highlights that there is a current under-supply of accessible homes (particularly ground floor properties) across Ceredigion's social housing sector.

Physical Adaptation Grants (PAGs) are grants provided by the local authority to housing association tenants with a disability to help with the costs of adapting property. Between 2018 and 2023, 117 adaptations were completed, the majority comprised of bathroom adaptations (44 adaptations/38%), followed by access adaptations (40 adaptations/34%).¹⁰⁷ However, it is important to note that the number of PAGs depends on funding, and therefore wouldn't be a suitable proxy to determine need.

Whilst data from the Accessible Housing Register and Physical Adaptation Grants (PAGs) helps to estimate the current need for accessible and adapted homes across the social housing sector, Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) data indicates the current expressed need for adapted housing across *all* tenures. DFGs are grants for owner-occupiers and tenants (private or social) that are disabled, to help towards the cost of making their home accessible. They tend to range from major building works to minor adaptations to the property. The figure below shows the number of DFG applications that have been received by the Council over the last ten years alongside those that have been completed.

Figure 48: Disabled Facilities Grant applications and completions in Ceredigion (2017/18-2021/22).



**Please note that the data collection did not occur in 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Source: Stats Wales, 2023)¹⁰⁸*

Figure 48 highlights that prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the gap between the number of applications and the level of completion gradually increased. Since then, the gap has reduced, and the number of applications and completions has notably reduced. However, the reduction in the number of completions does not directly translate to a lower need for adaptations. As at September 2023, 360 residents are on the Local Authority's waiting list for adaptations¹⁰⁹. In part, this is the accumulation of adaptation works required during the years prior to 2021/22 when the completion target was not reached.

¹⁰⁷ Data received from Housing Associations (Barcud, Wales and West Housing Association and Caredig), 2023.

¹⁰⁸ Stats Wales (2023). Disabled facilities grants by local authority area and type of grant. [Online]. Available at: [Disabled facilities grants by local authority area and type of grant \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/facilities-grants-by-local-authority-area-and-type-of-grant)

¹⁰⁹ Ceredigion County Council (2023) – Social Care Department.

Although, there may be additional households who have not applied to the DFG but would want or require an adaptation, these figures provide an indication of expressed need. The provision of accessible homes would help to reduce the need for these adaptations and help future proof new homes for successive generations.

Using the Opinion Research Services (ORS) model, the number of current households (in 2022) with a long-term illness or disability that affects their housing needs can be modelled (Table 19). The model uses census prevalence data alongside up to date information from the department of work and pensions.¹¹⁰ The preferred household projection, the 2018-based Higher Variant, is used. It is important to understand the caveats and limitations of this model and recognise that the figures for Ceredigion should be treated as a *guide*. Where relevant comparisons have been drawn between the model's outputs and our internal data to highlight certain differences in figures. Section 2.1 provides further information on the excel model used for this section.

Table 18: Households with a long-term illness or disability that affects their housing needs (2022).

All Households 2022	30,759	-
Households with one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness or disability	11,535	38%
Does not affect their housing need	7,896	26%
Current home suitable for needs	3,048	10%
Current home requires adaptation	306	1%
Need to move to a more suitable home	285	1%
Total households where a limiting long-term illness or disability affects their housing need in 2022:	3,639	12%

**Figures may not sum due to rounding
(Source: ORS Housing Model, Census 2021, DWP).*

Table 18 identifies that there were around 11,535 households living in Ceredigion with one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness or disability. This included around 3,693 households with health problems that affected their housing needs¹¹¹, however, the majority of these households (83.7%/ 3,048) were already living in a suitable home. The model identified that at the start of the period in 2022, there were around 306 households which required adaptations.¹¹² Approximately 285 need to move to a more suitable home due to a disability or another long-term health problem. Thus, this group of households would represent

¹¹⁰ Department for Work and pensions (2023). Available at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml> data sets: Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

¹¹¹ Note: the total number of households where a limiting long-term illness or disability affects their housing need determined by the ORS model is very similar to the number of households in receipt of PIP and AA in Ceredigion (3,583) during 2023.

¹¹² Note: this figure is slightly lower than the number of applicants currently on the Social Care waiting list for adaptations (360).

an *existing need* for Lifetime Homes standard housing, and some would require full wheelchair adapted housing.

In terms of current provision, there is no local assessment of the total housing stock across *all* tenures that are adapted or accessible, or of the accessibility works that have been undertaken as part of the development of new dwellings. However, there is data available which provides an indication of the provision of accessible and adapted social housing stock.¹¹³ (*Please note: It is acknowledged that this is a rough estimation due to the incompleteness of data, and the figures provided are likely an underestimation of the total accessible and adapted stock*).¹¹⁴

As demonstrated in Table 19 below, there are approximately 192 accessible units and 1,137 adapted units within the social rented sector in Ceredigion. Using the latest dwelling stock estimates (2022)¹¹⁵, it is estimated that approximately 5.5% of the social rented stock are adapted dwellings and 32.5% of the social rented stock are adapted (although it is likely that the proportion is higher). The number of void properties is fairly low, which highlights the current demand for this type of accommodation, particularly accessible housing. It is difficult to benchmark these figures as this data is unavailable at a national level.

Table 19: Total number of RSL accessible stock in Ceredigion by property status.

Social rented stock	Occupied	Void	Total
Accessible	191	1	192
Adapted	1,119	18	1,137

(Source: Wales and West Housing Group (WWH) and Barcud 2023)

Future type and level of needs and provision

The above data derived from the ORS model highlights the identified need for around 285 adapted homes at the start of the period (2022), which is based on households' current needs. However, the changing needs of households over time must also be considered. The number of households with one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness or disability will increase as people age.

Table 20 below highlights that an additional 1,543 households can be expected to contain residents that develop health problems affecting their housing need within 10 years. These households would also require adaptations to their current home or to move to a suitable accessible home.

¹¹³ Stock analysis undertaken by WWH and Barcud (2023).

¹¹⁴ Accessible units have been identified as properties without steps to the front door, a ground floor property or has access to a lift. Adapted units includes properties where a repair has been logged in the system as complete or labelled as adapted (e.g., widened doorways).

¹¹⁵ Stats Wales (2023). Dwelling stock estimates by local authority and tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Dwelling stock estimates by local authority and tenure \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/dwelling-stock-estimates-by-local-authority-and-tenure)

Table 20: Households with long-term illness or disability with projections 2022 to 2037.

Total households where a limiting long-term illness or disability affects their housing need in 2022	3,639
Existing households in 2018 likely to develop health problems that affect their housing need within 10 years	1,543
Additional households in 2033 projected to experience problems or likely to develop problems within 10 years	3,351
Total households in 2033 where illness or disability affects their housing need or will develop within 10 years	4,894

**Note figures may not sum due to rounding.
(Source: ORS Housing model, Census 2021, DWP).*

The ORS model suggests that by 2033, there will be an additional 4,894 households either already experiencing health problems or are likely to develop health problems within 10 years. Most of these will be existing households' resident in 2022 containing members whose health has deteriorated over the period to 2037.

Considering the needs of households in 2022 together with the projected household growth and changing demographics (particularly the ageing population), the ORS model anticipates that approximately 4,894 households will require adaptations to their existing homes or to move to an accessible property. This is in addition to the existing 285 households needing to move and the 306 that require adaptations based on their current health in 2022.

Table 21: Households with a long-term illness or disability with projection 2022-2037 and adaptable homes.

	Ceredigion
Existing need in 2022	
Households where an existing illness or disability affects their housing need and need to move in 2022	285
Projected future need 2022-37	
Additional households in 2033 where illness or disability affects their housing need or will develop within 10 years	4,894
Maximum Need for adapted housing 2022-37 (households)	5,179
Less households in dwellings adaptable to wheelchair visitable standard	3,286
Minimum Need for adapted housing 2022-37 (households)	1,893

**Note figures may not sum due to rounding.
(Source: ORS Housing model, Census 2021, DWP).*

Notably, not all households will want to move to new housing, some will adapt their current homes and others will move to another property in the existing stock. Discounting households that are suitable for adaptation (using households that live in homes adaptable to wheelchair visitable standards as a proxy), results in approximately 1,893 households needing to move to another property.

Understandably, there is uncertainty about how many households will be able to meet their housing needs without moving and how many will move to existing homes rather than new homes, therefore, the figures reflected in Table 21 above (1,893 to 5,179) are considered a

range. The accessible and adapted housing need range is slightly less than what was identified in the 2019 LHMA (2,072 to 5,969). This difference can be attributed to the household projections utilised in the previous LHMA (2014-based) which projected a far greater household growth compared to the 2018-based higher variant used here.

Wales and West Housing Group (WWH) are planning to build 72 accessible units over the next three years, which will absorb some, but not all of this need. Engagement with the RSL's highlighted the challenge of housing tenants in their disabled adapted properties, as it is often the case that tenants wish for their current home to be adapted, instead of moving into a new property. This suggests that future provision should focus on adapting existing properties (where possible) in the first instance.

On the other hand, many existing properties are not suitable for adaptations or would require major works. Therefore, focusing solely on adapting existing stock in Ceredigion is unlikely to meet the needs of an ageing population with greater mobility needs. Ensuring new builds are to Lifetime Home standard will therefore be a significant factor in meeting the future housing requirements of people with disability requirements in the County and has been a policy in place since 2013.

1.4.2. Multi-generational Households

The LHMA guidance states that the property needs of multi-generational and/or larger family households needs to be considered, in order to accommodate the cultural needs associated with some multi-generational living.

For the purpose of this assessment, a larger family is defined as a household that includes four or more people (or 4+ bedrooms). In terms of multi-generational households, the ONS definition is utilised:

“where people from across more than two generations of the same family live together. This includes households with grandparents and grandchildren whether or not the intervening generation also lived in the household.”¹¹⁶

It is important to note that ‘concealed families’ are not the same as multi-generational households. Concealed families include households where unrelated families live together, but do not ever count a single person as a family.

Current type and level of needs and provision

In 2021, 15.5% of households in Ceredigion contained 4 or more people, which is lower than the figure for Wales (17.2%). This equates to approximately 4,800 households with four or more people in the County.

According to the 2021 Census, 1.6% of Ceredigion households are multi-generational, which is equivalent to 500 households.¹¹⁷ This is slightly lower than the Welsh average of 2.0%.

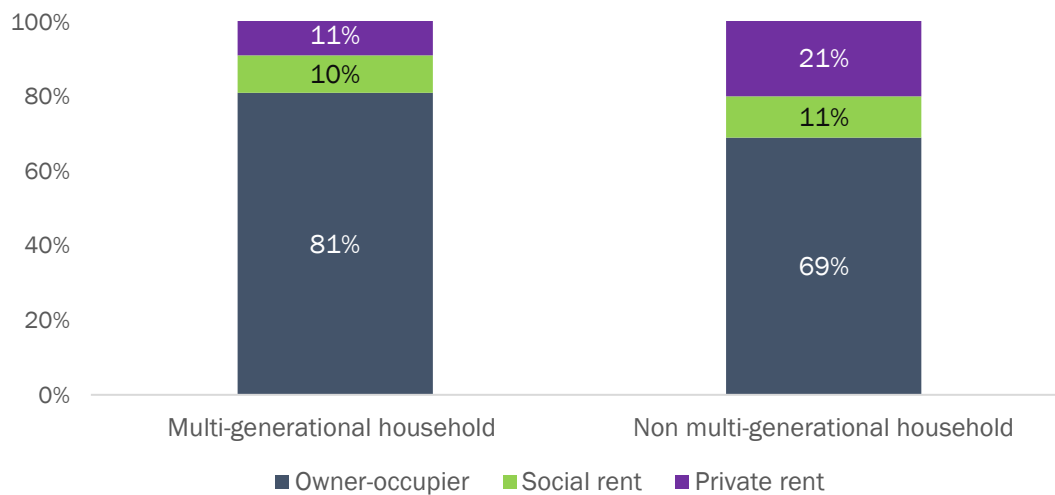
¹¹⁶ Office for National Statistics (2023). Multiple generations in household variable Census 2021. [Online]. Available at: [Multiple generations in household variable: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics](#).

¹¹⁷ ONS (2023). Census 2021: Table RM197 – Number of multi-generational households by household tenure

Figure 49 and 50 below provides an overview of the tenure and occupancy rating of multi-generational households in comparison to non-multigenerational households in Ceredigion.

Figure 49 below highlights a slight difference in the tenure profile between multi-generational households and non-multigenerational (other households). Multi-generational households are more likely to be owner-occupiers (81%), whereas there is a greater proportion of non-multigenerational households who rent their homes (private or social rented) (32%).

Figure 49: Multi-generational households by tenure in Ceredigion (2021).

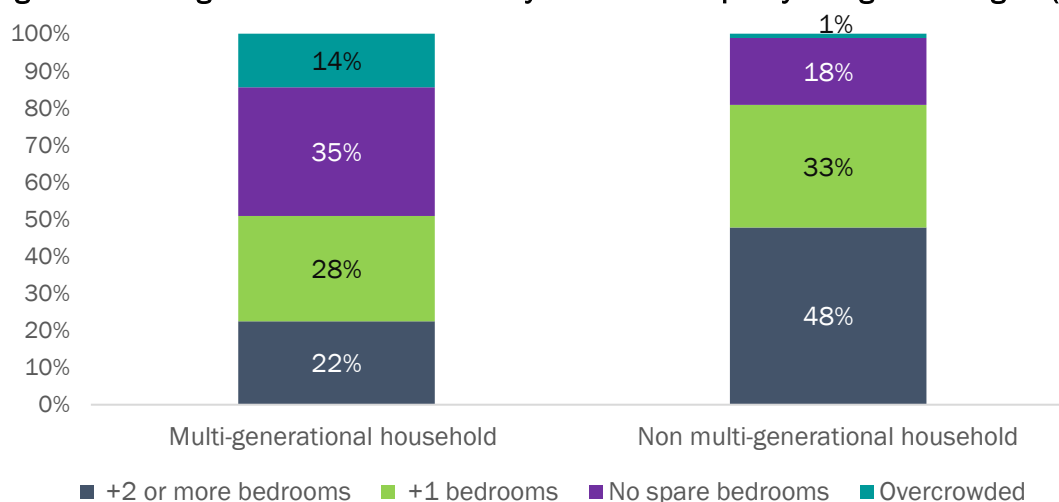


(Source: ONS (2023). RM197 – Number of multi-generational households by tenure.)¹¹⁸

In terms of occupancy rating (refer to Figure 50 overleaf), multi-generational households are more likely to be overcrowded (14% of multi-generational households compared to 1% of other households). This equates to 72 multi-generational households in Ceredigion in 2021 that were overcrowded, which is slightly lower than the national average (19%). Ceredigion has a large proportion of properties with four or more bedrooms (75% of all stock). Furthermore, 40% of multi-generational households in 2021 were underoccupied. Therefore, it is unlikely that the overcrowding is due to a lack of stock to meet the needs of these households, but rather a miss-match between these households and where they are currently living.

¹¹⁸ ONS (2023). RM197 – Number of multi-generational households by tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2021/rm197)

Figure 50: Multi-generational households by bedroom occupancy rating in Ceredigion (2021).



(Source: ONS (2023). RM197 – Number of multi-generational households by tenure)¹¹⁹

Future type and level of needs and provision

The 2021 Census is the first census to capture information on multi-generational households, therefore, projecting future trends is difficult. However, the 2018-based household projection higher variant (which is the preferred projection used within the LHMA tool to estimate future housing need), can be utilised to provide an indication of the future growth of multi-generational households in Ceredigion.

The household projections provide a breakdown by household type. Under the definition of multi-generational households, two household types could be included within this category, these are:

- four person households containing two or more adults and one or more children.
- five-person households containing two or more adults and one or more children.

As there is no previous trend data on multi-generational households, it is assumed that the prevalence rate of multi-generational households is the same within these household types as what was recorded by the 2021 Census (13.7%).^{120 121} Using this assumption, it is possible to project forward the number of these households that will exist in Ceredigion at the end of the LHMA plan period (2037).

According to this approach, the number of multi-generational households in Ceredigion is projected to fall to 462 by 2037 (a reduction of 38 multi-generational households). This reflects the projected reduction in larger households in Ceredigion by 2037 (according to the higher variant 2018-based household projections).¹²² This is different to the national trend, where

¹¹⁹ Office for National Statistics (2023). RM197 – Number of multi-generational households by tenure. [Online]. Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/nomisweb.co.uk)

¹²⁰ StatsWales (2021). Household projections by local authority, household type and year – higher variant. Available at: [Household projections by local authority, household type and year \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

¹²¹ NOMIS (2023). Number of multi-generational household by household tenure. Available at: [RM197 - Number of multi-generational households by household tenure - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

¹²² Stats Wales (2021). 2018-based household projections for Wales by household type and year. [Online]. Available at: [Household projections by household type and year \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales).

there are hints that multi-generational housing is increasing, driven by the greater number of adult children (aged 25 or over) still living at home with their parents.

1.4.3. Non-permanent Housing

The LHMA guidance states that an analysis of temporary and emergency accommodation needs, and provision is required. According to the guidance, this type of accommodation is suitable for asylum seekers, refugees, homeless households (including rough sleepers and sofa surfers), and students. It is acknowledged that permanent housing is the preferred choice, however, temporary/ emergency accommodation is considered where there is currently insufficient permanent housing to meet the needs.

Current type and level of needs and provision

In total there are 50 temporary accommodation properties (shared and self-contained) in Ceredigion, all of which are currently occupied. Of these, 45 are self-contained temporary accommodation properties (72 bedrooms/units) and are located across all four HMA's. Whilst the remaining 5 are shared properties (34 bedrooms/units) and are all located in the Aberystwyth HMA.

The 45 self-contained emergency accommodation properties (72 beds in total) are located across all four HMAs, ranging from 1-bed, 2-bed and 3-bed properties. These are located as followed:

Table 22: Emergency/temporary accommodation (self-contained) by HMA and number of bedrooms in Ceredigion.

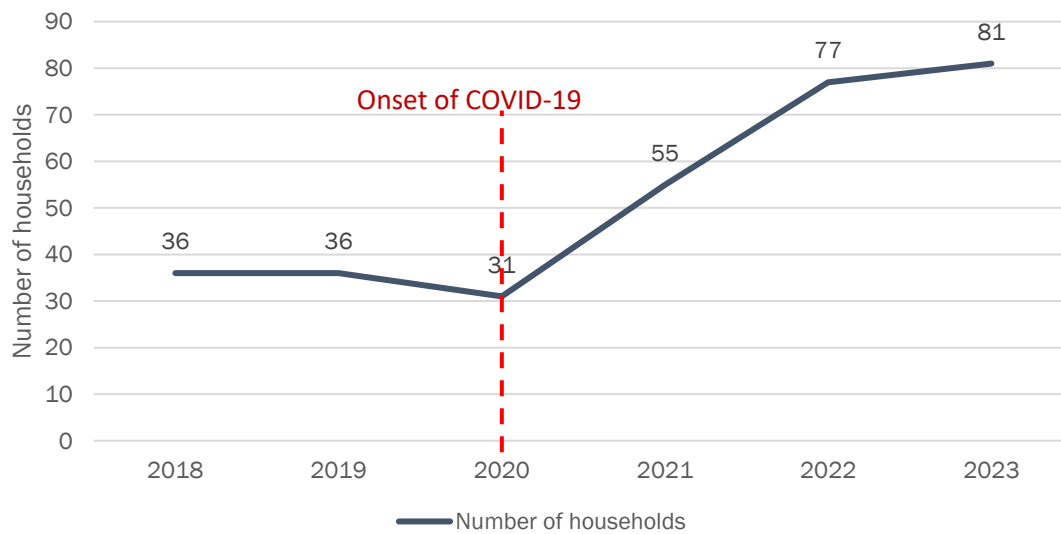
HMA	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	Total
Aberystwyth	19	10	5	33
Coastal	1	0	0	1
Other	0	1	0	1
Teifi Valley	4	4	1	10
Total	24	15	6	45

(Source: Ceredigion County Council, Homelessness Team 2023).

As reflected in the above table, the majority of emergency accommodation is located in the Aberystwyth HMA (33 properties), followed by the Teifi Valley HMA (10 properties), and then Coastal HMA and the Other HMA, with 1 property in each. All 5 shared emergency accommodation properties (34 units) are located in the Aberystwyth HMA. They range from 4-bed to 8-bed properties and are utilised for persons who have presented as homeless for various reasons including persons sleeping rough or sofa surfing.

As outlined in Figure 51 there were 81 households (140 people) in temporary accommodation at the end of May 2023. This was a 5% increase on the number a year previously and is part of an increasing trend of households in temporary accommodation since 2020.

Figure 51: Households in Temporary Accommodation in Ceredigion (2018-2023).



(Source: Homelessness Team, Ceredigion County Council 2023).

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic the number of households in temporary accommodation has increased sharply, with the number in June 2021 77% higher than the previous year. The sharp increase in the number of households is largely due to the introduction of the Welsh Government’s ‘*No one left out approach*’. This meant that local authorities had a duty to provide temporary accommodation to anyone who was homeless, regardless of their priority need status under the homeless legislation. An additional factor is the insufficient housing options for people within the County. Past changes in benefit legislation resulted in an identified need for affordable one bedroom and shared accommodation for those under 35 years old. This is especially true for residents in Temporary Accommodation, highlighting the significant need for smaller properties.

Evidence highlights that there is a significant shortfall in the current provision of temporary/emergency accommodation in Ceredigion:

- the Local Authority Housing Service are placing service users in B&Bs/hotels and refuge placements. B&B placements have been gradually increasing since the start of the pandemic. It’s acknowledged that the use of B&B accommodation is expensive, inadequate and has long-term negative effects on homeless people.
- Other stock is being used as temporary accommodation due to high demands. 10 units under the Local Authority Offenders and Harm Reduction Project (shared accommodation with support) are being used as temporary accommodation, which are not designated for this purpose. Furthermore, a 6-bedroom property in the Aberystwyth HMA is intended to be a step down/ move on accommodation, however, is in use as temporary accommodation.
- The Housing Service have been operating a waiting list for temporary accommodation since the COVID-19 Pandemic as they are unable to accommodate everyone.

Future type and level of needs and provision required

It is difficult to model the future requirements for this type of accommodation. However, it is unlikely that the need will decrease in the future. Currently, there is a significant shortfall in temporary accommodation in Ceredigion which will need to be met. Furthermore, the review of the homeless legislation by the Welsh Government may have an impact on future need as this could mean the removal of priority need/intentionality in the future which would embed the 'No one left approach' in the legislation.

In addition to the above, future need and provision will also be determined by the provision of suitable housing stock and the number of refugees moving to the area. Although most refugee families are housed in the private and social rented sector or are living with host families, they still may require temporary accommodation in the future, particularly if the housing stock is unsuitable/ unaffordable.

At the end of June 2023, 15 refugee families lived in private rental accommodation and 24 families lived with hosts on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.¹²³ Currently, 2 of the families in private rented accommodation are facing homelessness because their landlord is selling the property (both these families require 3-4 bed houses). Furthermore, families living with hosts will need to find alternative accommodation or move elsewhere in the future. As the Local Authority is committed to accepting several refugee families within the LHMA period, this issue could increase in the future.

As part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, Ceredigion works towards the implementation of the 'Rapid Rehousing' approach, the portfolio of temporary accommodation will be kept under review and will be adjusted according to need. Currently options for shared accommodation units for single persons in Cardigan, which is within the Teifi Valley HMA, are being explored.

1.4.4. Housing, Care and Support Needs

The LHMA guidance states that the Assessment should consider care and support needs of residents. This includes Extra Care, Supported Living for people with learning disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Sheltered Housing, Nursing and Residential Care. One of the ambitions set out in the Welsh Government Strategy for Older People in Wales is for "*older people have access to housing and services that supports their needs and promotes their independence*".¹²⁴

Current type and level of needs and provision

Table 23 below shows the current provision of Supported Living, Sheltered, and Extra Care stock across the County in 2023. Currently there are 406 Sheltered Housing units for older people, 18 Supported Living units for residents with learning disabilities and 104 Extra Care units in Ceredigion.

¹²³ Ceredigion County Council, Equalities and Inclusion Team (2023).

¹²⁴ Welsh Government (2013) The Strategy for Older People in Wales. Available at: [the-strategy-for-older-people-in-wales-2013-2023.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/the-strategy-for-older-people-in-wales-2013-2023.pdf)

Table 23: Specialist accommodation for people requiring care and support needs by Ceredigion's Housing Market Areas (2023).

Housing Market Area	Accommodation Type		
	Sheltered housing	Supported living	Extra Care Schemes
Aberystwyth	172	11	48
Other	0	4	0
Coastal	56	0	0
Teifi Valley	178	3	56
Ceredigion	406	18	104

(Source: Ceredigion County Council, Housing Service and Adult Services (2023); Wales and West Housing Association (2023); Caredig (2023))

As reflected in Table 23 above, the majority of the specialist accommodation is located within the Aberystwyth and Teifi Valley HMA. There are 406 sheltered housing properties across the County (303 are 1-bedrooms and 102 are 2+ bedrooms). In addition, there are two Extra Care Schemes with a total of 104 units. This includes, Maes Mwldan in the Teifi Valley HMA (this includes 48 1 and 2-bedroom apartments), and Maes y Môr in the Aberystwyth HMA (this includes 56 1 and 2-bedroom apartments). Whilst 18 properties are used for Supported Living for people with learning disabilities in Ceredigion, which can accommodate up to 47 people.

Currently, there is an unmet need for all three of the specialist accommodation types across Ceredigion (Sheltered Housing, Extra Care and Supported Living). All Sheltered Housing and Extra Care units are occupied, whilst six of the Supported Living units are void. However, engagement with the Social Care Department highlighted that the voids are not a true reflection of lack of need for this type of accommodation. For example, a resident may require Supported Living but might not be compatible with the other people living at the accommodation. Overall, the greatest need is for Sheltered Housing, followed by Extra Care and Supported Living.

As reflected in Table 24 below, in June 2023, 144 people on the Common Housing Register required Sheltered Housing. This data shows that the greatest need for Sheltered Accommodation is in the Aberystwyth HMA, amounting to over half of the total need (57%/82 applicants). In terms of Extra Care, 82 people are on Ceredigion's Common's Housing Register (June 2023) waiting for Extra Care properties in Ceredigion. Again, the large majority of this need is within the Aberystwyth HMA, amounting to just under three-quarters (73%) of the total need.

Table 24: Number of applicants on Common Housing Register waiting for Sheltered Housing and Extra Care accommodation (June 2023).

Housing Market Area	Accommodation Type			
	Sheltered Housing (applicants waiting)		Extra Care (applicants waiting)	
	No.	% *	No.	% *
Aberystwyth	82	57%	60	73%
Other	5	3%	2	2%
Coastal	14	10%	1	1%
Teifi Valley	43	30%	19	23%
Ceredigion	144	100%	82	100%

*Figures may not sum due to rounding

(Source: Ceredigion County Council, Housing Service 2023).

In terms of Supported Living properties for people with learning disabilities, engagement with the Social Care Department highlighted that there is a need for more provision, particularly within the Teifi Valley HMA. This is further supported by the Housing and Accommodation needs assessment for people with learning disabilities in West Wales to 2037.¹²⁵

Housing choices for those aged 18+ with a learning disability is limited in Ceredigion and the majority live with their family or informal carers. The options available for adults aged 18+ with a learning disability are either a residential home or supported living in the form of a room in a shared house. Approximately 129 out of 395 adults aged 18+ with learning disabilities are housed in supported living properties, this is the equivalent of 33%. (Some residents are supported by Ceredigion County Council but live out of County).

Currently, there are no settings for vulnerable persons suffering from a mental health condition in Ceredigion. However, the Council is exploring whether this provision gap can be filled. Furthermore, it was identified that some Supported Living properties require renovations to make them more suitable for residents living there.

Future type and level of needs and provision required

Ceredigion's population is ageing. According to the preferred population projection utilised in the LHMA tool (higher variant), Ceredigion's 65+ population is projected to grow to 22,858 by 2037, and from 19,031 to 22,858 by 2037 for those aged 75+.¹²⁶

One key strategic issue to consider is how the projected number of older people translate into the need for specialist housing/accommodation, such as Extra Care, Sheltered Housing, Residential Care and Nursing Care Homes, and what the implications of any new supply might have on the existing provision.

To understand the future types and level of needs and provision required for specialist accommodation, the Housing Learning and Improvement Network's (Housing LIN) Strategic

¹²⁵ Housing LIN (2018) Housing and accommodation needs assessment for people with learning disabilities in West Wales. Available at: [Need and demand assessment: supported and specialised housing - Our services - Consultancy - Housing LIN](#)

¹²⁶ Stats Wales (2020) Population projections by local authority and year – higher variant. Available at: [Population projections by local authority and year \(gov.wales\)](#)

Housing for older People (SHOP) prevalence model is used. This approach sets out the likely need for specialist products per 1,000 of forecasted future population and is an accepted methodology endorsed by the Welsh Government. This determined local prevalence rates for various types of specialised housing in Ceredigion (included in Table 25 below). These have been updated using the 2021 Mid-Year Estimates and stock profile to reflect the current situation in Ceredigion.

Table 25: Benchmark figures for Specialist Older Person Housing for Ceredigion – Housing LIN/SHOP model. (Prevalence per 1,000).

Specialist Accommodation Type	Current units/beds	Current prevalence rate (per 1,000 people aged 75+)	Welsh prevalence rate	2037 estimated prevalence rate
Housing for older people ¹²⁷	406	48	106	80
Housing with Care ¹²⁸	104	7	10	15
Residential Care ¹²⁹	288	34	38	30
Nursing Care ¹³⁰	207	24	36	40

**The estimated prevalence rates were agreed with Ceredigion County Council by the Housing LIN in 2018.¹³¹
(Source: Housing LIN (2020).¹³², ONS – 2021 Mid-Year-Estimates¹³³, Care Inspectorate Wales (2023)
¹³⁴Ceredigion County Council 2023).*

The estimated prevalence rates (see above) were agreed with Ceredigion County Council by the Housing LIN in 2018, and are therefore slightly outdated.¹³⁵ Using these suggested prevalence rates (refer to Table 25 above), estimates of future demand for specialist housing and accommodation are produced based on likely prevalence for each type of housing/accommodation multiplied by the change in the projected 75+ population to 2037 (using the 2018-based higher variant projections). The demand that is derived is then compared to the current stock to establish the projected requirement (refer to Table 26 overleaf).

¹²⁷ **Housing for Older people:** contemporary sheltered housing and age-designated housing for social rent and retirement housing for sale. This will include schemes with on-site staff support, those with locality based support services and schemes with no associated support services.

¹²⁸ **Housing with Care:** includes extra care housing for social rent and extra care housing for sale (often called assisted living in the private sector), with 24/7 care available on site.

¹²⁹ **Residential care:** residential accommodation together with personal care.

¹³⁰ **Nursing care:** residential accommodation together with nursing care.

¹³¹ Housing LIN (2018). Assessment of Specialist Housing and Accommodation Demand for Older People in West Wales for West Wales Care Partnership.

¹³² Housing LIN (2020). Assessment of the demand for specialist housing and accommodation for older people in Wales. Available at: [Independent report on accommodation for older people \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/independent-report-on-accommodation-for-older-people)

¹³³ Stats Wales (2022). Population estimates by local authority and age. Available at: [Population estimates by local authority and age \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/population-estimates-by-local-authority-and-age).

¹³⁴ Care Inspectorate Wales (2023). Care Home Services. Available at: [Microsoft Power BI](https://microsoftpowerbl.com).

¹³⁵ Housing LIN (2018). Assessment of Specialist Housing and Accommodation Demand for Older People in West Wales for West Wales Care Partnership.

Table 26: Projected requirement for specialist accommodation for older person households in Ceredigion over the LHMA period.

	Base profile (2021)	Projected profile (2037)	Additional units required by 2037
Sheltered/ Housing for older people	406	956	+550
Extra Care	104	179	+75
Residential Care	288	359	+71
Nursing Care	207	478	+271

In summary, this indicates that the estimated net requirements for Ceredigion over the LHMA plan period (2022-2037), are an additional 550 Sheltered units, 75 Extra Care units, 71 Residential Care beds and 271 Nursing Care beds. Some of the additional requirement for Extra Care will be absorbed by the Cylch Caron Integrated Resource and Extra Care Scheme consisting of 34 self-contained flats and 6 linked Health Units, which is currently being planned for.

It is important to note that these are high level estimates of future requirements for specialist housing and accommodation for older people based on assumed prevalence rates and population projections. Therefore, they should only be used as a *guide*. It is possible that the future split between Sheltered Housing and Extra Care will be different to what is reflected above, with a greater need for Extra Care units and less of a need for Sheltered Housing, due to an expected growth in commissioning for Extra Care and recent interest in this accommodation type (as reflected on the Common Housing Register). The requirement for 550 Housing for Older People (Sheltered) is an anomaly and much higher than expected, which will be re-investigated during the LHMA re-write.

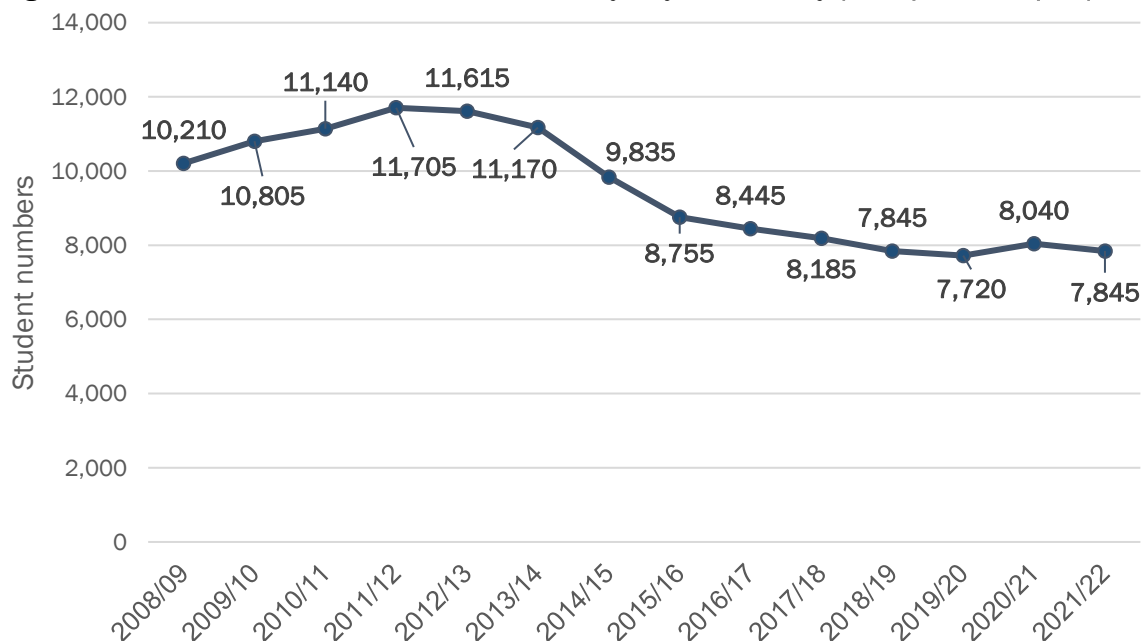
1.4.5. Locational Needs for Student Accommodation

As reflected within the Welsh Government LHMA guidance, the locational needs of residents need to be considered. Such as, locations for student accommodation close to a university. Ceredigion has two universities, Aberystwyth University, located within the Aberystwyth HMA and the University of Wales Trinity St David (Lampeter Campus), situated within the Teifi Valley HMA. To fully understand the locational needs for student accommodation across the County, both universities were engaged with, and valuable information on current and future need and provision was obtained.

Aberystwyth University

According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the number of students enrolled at Aberystwyth University has been gradually decreasing since a peak in 2011/12. Since the 2011/12 academic year, the number of students has decreased by 33%, (3,860 students). However, since the previous LHMA in 2019, the student population has remained relatively stable, with around 7,000-8,000 enrolments annually (see Figure 52 below).

Figure 52: Number of student enrolments in Aberystwyth University (2008/09-2021/22).



(Source: HESA 2023)

HESA also provides data on term-time accommodation for students enrolled at university. Data from Aberystwyth University shows that 2,055 students are housed in provider-maintained properties whilst 1,190 are housed in private sector halls and 1,665 are housed in 'other' rented accommodation. The remaining are housed at home with parents/guardians (145), in their own residence (430), not in attendance at the provider (130), other or not known (330).¹³⁶

Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of students since the academic year of 2017/18 (-340 students), 2021/22 showed the highest number of those housed in provider-maintained properties in the last 5 years, suggesting that the need is increasing for this accommodation type.

Projected growth

It is anticipated that the number of students studying at Aberystwyth University will increase in the future. According to the Student Planning Forecasts (produced by Aberystwyth University), the number of students is expected to increase by approximately 1,000 students over the next five years.¹³⁷ This is likely attributed to the recent increases in student enrolment and additional factors such as, an expansion in the variation of subjects offered by the University (e.g., Vet School and Aber Innovation), and the maintenance of a strong university ranking for student satisfaction (ranked 1st in Wales and England for the last 6 years).¹³⁸

¹³⁶ HESA (2023). Full-time and sandwich HE student enrolments by HE provider and term-time accommodation. Available at: [Where do HE students study? | HESA](#)

¹³⁷ Aberystwyth University – Student Planning Forecasts.

¹³⁸ Aberystwyth University (2023) – Awards and Ranking. Available at: [Awards and Accolades : About Us , Aberystwyth University](#)

This projected growth in student numbers will likely result in an increased need for student accommodation within the Aberystwyth HMA. The University expect half of the projected increase (approximately 500 students) to be housed within the private rented sector (PRS). However, there is a severe shortage of suitable student accommodation in the PRS. According to the University, many private landlords are selling their properties and moving away from renting to students, which is resulting in a shortfall of private accommodation in Ceredigion. This is partly explained by the recent legislative changes brought about by the UK Government,¹³⁹ that are pushing many private landlords to sell up, reducing the supply of homes within the private rented sector.

Considering the above, the projected growth in the number of students may pose accommodation challenges, particularly if it is expected that 500 students will require accommodation within the private rented sector by 2027.

University of Wales Trinity St David – Lampeter Campus

The University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter campus has also experienced a decline in its student population. Whilst HESA data for the Lampeter campus is not directly available, evidence suggests that numbers have reduced from over 2,000 in 2009/10 (prior to the formation of the University of Wales Trinity St David) to just 154 in 2022/23.¹⁴⁰

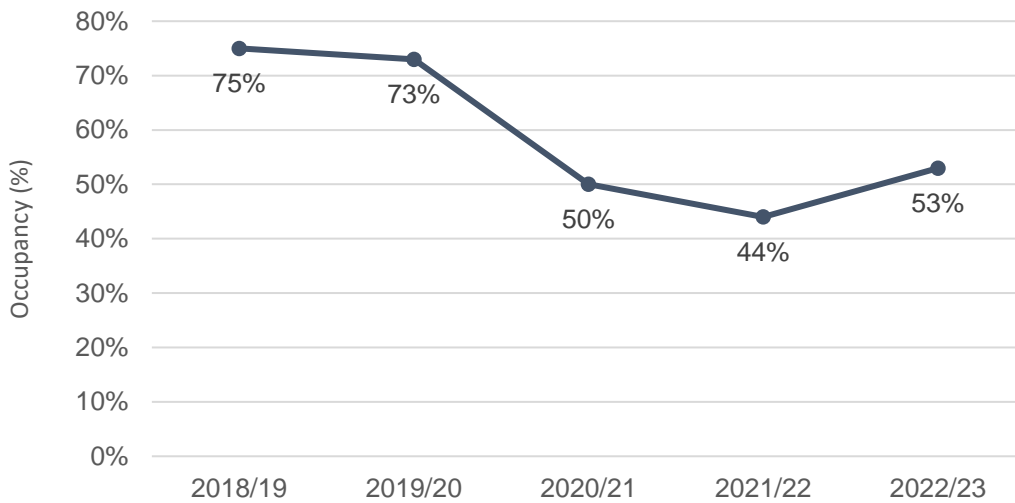
All accommodation for the Lampeter Campus of the University of Wales Trinity St David is provided on campus, and therefore located in the town of Lampeter itself (within the Teifi Valley HMA). In total there are 236 rooms available, which include 156 ensuite rooms and 84 standard rooms with shared facilities. According to the University, there is a higher demand for the ensuite rooms compared to the standard rooms.

Figure 53 below shows the percentage of the on-campus accommodation that was occupied between the academic years 2018/19 and 2022/23. The academic year 2021/22 saw the lowest percentage of occupancy with just 44% of the student accommodation being occupied. This did increase in 2022/23 to 53%, but these figures did not reach the 2018/19 and 2019/20 occupancy levels, which were 75% and 73% respectively.

¹³⁹ UK Gov (2023). Tenancy reform: Renters (Reform) Bill. Available at: [Tenancy reform: Renters \(Reform\) Bill - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

¹⁴⁰ University of Wales, Trinity St David (2023) – Accommodation Office headcount Data.

Figure 53: The percentage of the Lampeter Campus accommodation occupied between academic years (2018/19 to 2022/23).



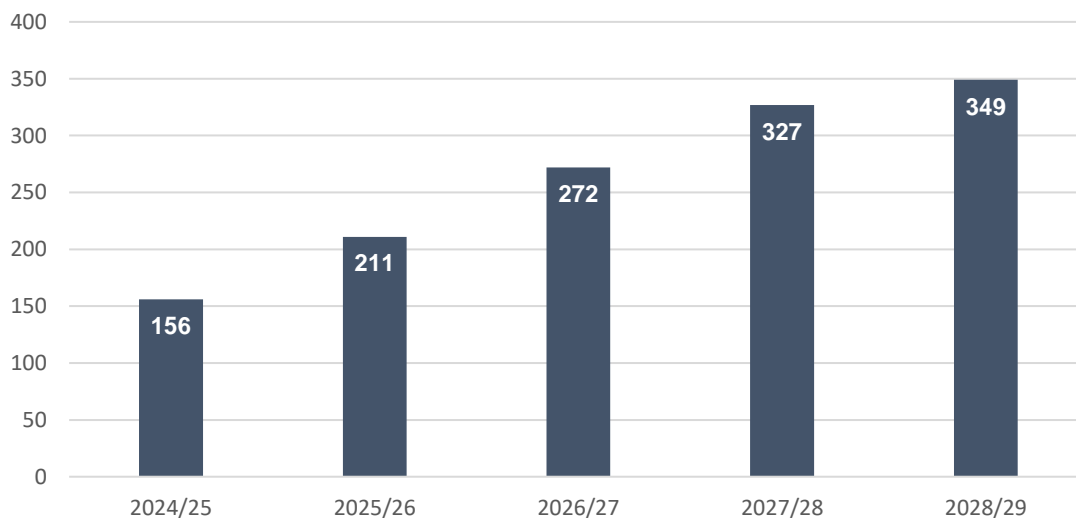
(Source: UWTSO Accommodation Office 2023)

The Accommodation Office noted that there are sufficient rooms to house all students that have applied for the 2023/24 academic year.

Projected growth

According to the Tir Glass Lampeter Student Projections, the number of students studying at the Lampeter Campus is expected to increase over the next five years, before reaching a peak of 349 students in the academic year 2028/29. Figure 54 below demonstrates the projected number of students between 2024/25 and 2028/29. These figures include undergraduate, postgraduate and those studying overseas.

Figure 54: University of Wales Trinity St David – Lampeter Campus student projections (2024/25 to 2028/29).



(Source: University of Wales Trinity St David – Tir Glass Lampeter Student Projections 2023).

Although there is a projected increase in the number of students over the coming academic years, it is assumed that the current accommodation will sufficiently meet the additional need. The University highlighted that the redundant accommodation could be refurbished if required.

It is estimated that there will be an increase in the number of professional people taking up courses. Ultimately, this could mean that there may be an increase in temporary accommodation available, for students to stay in part-time during the week, whilst residing in their own homes for the remainder of the week. The University notes that they have enough spaces to adapt properties to accommodate those who would want to reside on campus part-time.

Initially, forecasters identified a need for family accommodation at the Lampeter Campus. However, it is unlikely that this will be required due to the UK Governments change to visa legislation in 2023, which means that international students cannot bring family members with them on dependant visas.

2. Analysis of Change

This section sets out the housing need outputs from the LHMA tool using our preferred projection variant (higher variant) and compares it with the outputs from the previous 2019 LHMA. As this is the first time the LHMA is being prepared using the new LHMA tool, the comparisons with the previous LHMA additional housing need estimates, data sources and assumptions proved difficult in certain areas. Firstly, the differences between the two methodologies will be highlighted, before moving on to analysing the changes between the two sets of outputs.

2.1 Different methodologies

During the previous LHMA, the 2014-guidance applied,¹⁴¹ since then the latest guidance,¹⁴² methodology and accompanying LHMA tool has been published, which supersedes all previous guidance. This meant that the previous approach to identifying housing need across Ceredigion was different. The 2019 LHMA was undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) and was commissioned as part of a regional collaboration to prepare a consistent evidence base of housing needs for eight local authorities in the Mid and Southwest region of Wales. The ORS model was used to determine housing requirements over the LHMA period (2018-2033).

The ORS model differs from the LHMA tool as it only uses secondary open-source data, whereas the LHMA tool utilised local evidence (e.g., Housing Register applicants and future plans for affordable housing stock from Housing Associations) in addition to secondary data. The data input and assumption options also varied, a summary of what was used in the previous LHMA is included below.

¹⁴¹ Welsh Government (2014). Getting started with your local housing market assessments – A step by step guide. Available at: [Local housing market assessment: guidance for local authorities \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

¹⁴² Welsh Government (2022). Undertaking Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs). Available at: [WG43846 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

The data input and sources utilised within the ORS model are as follows:

- 2014-based household projections (Welsh Government).
- HMAs based on the 2011 ward boundaries.
- the percentage of households in the private rented sector (PRS) in receipt of Housing Benefit by Household size (Department of Work and Pensions).
- Distribution of households in receipt of Housing Benefits in the PRS by bedroom size and household size (Department for Work and Pensions).
- Backlog net change by tenure and sub-area – Concealed and Homeless Households (Stats Wales and 2011 Census) and overcrowding in market housing (2011 Census).

The assumptions used are as followed:

- Vacancy rate – (9.0%)
- Backlog period – (5 years)
- Intermediate rent:
 - Percentage owned by third party – (30%)
 - Rent paid on shared ownership – (1.75%)
 - Deposit – (5%)
 - Mortgage term – (30 years)
 - Mortgage interest rate (4.0%)

One key difference between the ORS model and the LHMA tool, is that the ORS model takes into account that households can climb out of, as well as fall in to, affordable need.¹⁴³ Whereas the LHMA tool presumes that *all* households in the existing unmet need (derived from the housing register) require affordable accommodation. This is one of the reasons why the need for affordable housing in the first five years of the LHMA period is significantly greater in the current LHMA compared to the previous LHMA (2019).

An additional distinction between the two, is that the ORS model provided affordable housing outputs at a gross level, whereas the LHMA tool provided gross and net requirements. This is because the ORS model does not consider the probable relets in the current affordable sector and the committed supply, which the LHMA tool does during the existing stock and planned supply stage.

Furthermore, different household projections were used to calculate newly arising need. The previous LHMA used the 2014-based principal household projections, whereas this Assessment utilised the 2018-based household higher variant. The differences in expected household growth trends of the projections are a significant driver of the differences between the market housing requirements between the two Assessments, as the 2014-based principal projection expected a significantly higher growth than the 2018-based higher variant (as reflected in section 1.3.9.).

¹⁴³ This is done by interrogating DWP data (housing benefit claimants) by age and applying these rates to the population projections.

2.2 Higher Variant Projections

Table 27 below outlines the change between the net requirement of additional housing needs of the previous 2019 LHMA and this current LHMA.

Table 27: Annual additional housing need estimates for the first five years of the LHMA period, net of planned supply and turnover of existing stock.

Tenure Type		Ceredigion	Aberystwyth HMA	Other HMA	Coastal HMA	Teifi Valley HMA
Estimated annual additional total housing need	Current LHMA	167	71	12	33	50
	Previous LHMA	202	39	32	43	87
Estimated annual additional market housing need	Current LHMA	22	6	3	5	7
	Previous LHMA	122	14	21	32	56
Estimated annual additional affordable housing need	Current LHMA	138	65	9	28	43
	Previous LHMA	80	26	12	12	31
Estimated annual additional intermediate housing need	Current LHMA	47	18	2	5	18
	Previous LHMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Estimated annual additional social rent need	Current LHMA	99	44	6	23	26
	Previous LHMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 27 above compares the estimated annual additional housing need estimates for the first five years of the LHMA period of the previous LHMA, and the current LHMA. The methodological differences reflected above need to be taken into consideration when comparing the outputs. Additionally, the affordable housing requirements using the ORS model are at *gross level* and not a *net level*, which is different to what the table specifies.

The total housing requirement for Ceredigion in 2019 was 202, compared to 167 in 2023. At a first glance, this reduction (-35 dwellings) seems plausible as the projected household growth used in the LHMA tool (2018-based higher variant) is significantly lower than the 2014-based principal, used in the previous LHMA. However, the split between the affordable and market housing estimates is significantly different between the two. In 2019, the requirement for market housing over the first five years of the LHMA period was 122, and the requirement for affordable housing was 80, this resulted in a 60/40 split for market and affordable housing. The current LHMA estimates the opposite, with a net requirement for 87% (145) affordable homes and 13% (22) market housing within the first five years. Some of this can be attributed to the differences in the approach to calculating housing need.

In terms of total housing need across the HMAs, there are some differences between the overall total requirements, the distribution of overall need, and the distribution of need by tenure. In all HMAs except Aberystwyth, the total housing need requirements are less in the current LHMA than the previous LHMA. Furthermore, the order of need across the HMA's has changed slightly. The Teifi Valley HMA had the greatest housing need in 2019, compared to the Aberystwyth HMA in the current LHMA.

As expected, the ratio between affordable housing and market housing need is different. Across all HMAs the estimated need for market housing is lower in the current LHMA compared to the previous LHMA, which is unsurprising given that the overall estimated market housing need for Ceredigion is very low (22). The greatest difference is seen in the Teifi Valley HMA where the estimated market housing need is 7, compared to 56 in the previous LHMA (2019).

3. Summary

3.1. Overall additional housing need estimates

The Council will continue to work across all departments to address the overall housing need, in-line with Council plans and strategies, as well as the recently published Housing Strategy (2023-2028).

3.2. Additional market housing need estimates

It is disappointing to note the low level of market housing requirements, particularly in light of our own monitoring and evidence. The Council will consider this in any review of its replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). At present, it is unlikely to impact on any justified individual planning decisions.

3.3. Additional affordable housing need estimates

Considering the affordable housing need estimates we will utilise the increased social housing grant budget and work alongside our Registered Social Landlords (RSL) partners to develop social housing using the data to concentrate on specific areas and housing need. The Council will continue to work across all departments to maximise affordable housing.

4. Quality assurance statement

It can be confirmed that:

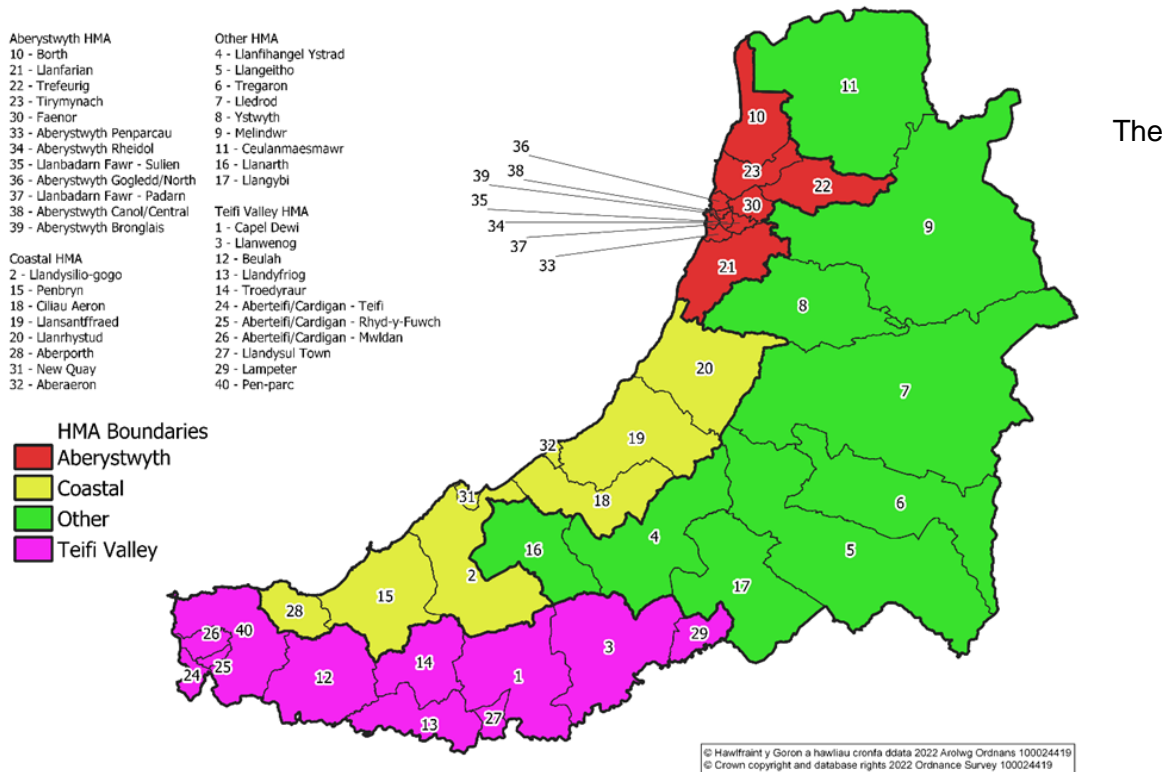
- The figures in the narrative match those in the tables.
- All figures are arithmetically correct.
- Figures have been rounded consistently.
- Data is fully sourced and references with footnotes, and all figures/tables include a source name below, a list of references can be found on pages 95-98.
- All figures/tables have been labelled and a full list of these can be found on pages 92-95.
- All caveats have been noted throughout the document and these include:
 - Where comparisons have been made between the 2019 and 2023 data, different HMA boundaries have been used. There is a full explanation of this in Appendix 1.
 - Where comparisons have been made between the housing need in 2019 and 2023, different methodologies have been used. Refer to Section XX for further detail.
 - When using the Housing LIN model, expected prevalence rate data agreed by Ceredigion County Council has been used, although by now could be viewed as outdated. However, it does not affect the robustness of the methodology.
 - Where the ORS model has been used in Section 1.4.4, full breakdown in Section 2.1. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data used was from 2020, and although this now could be viewed as outdated, does not affect the robustness of the methodology.
 - Where figures may not sum due to rounding, this includes analysis on the LHMA tool outputs.
 - Where there is missing data (e.g., data not collected during COVID-19 pandemic)

1. Appendices

Appendix 1: Housing Market Area (HMA) Boundary Changes

The previous LHMA, produced in 2019, used the 2011 electoral ward boundaries to aggregate HMAs. The HMAs were Aberystwyth, Other, Coastal and Teifi Valley. Ceredigion was made up of 40 wards and the split between HMAs can be seen below:

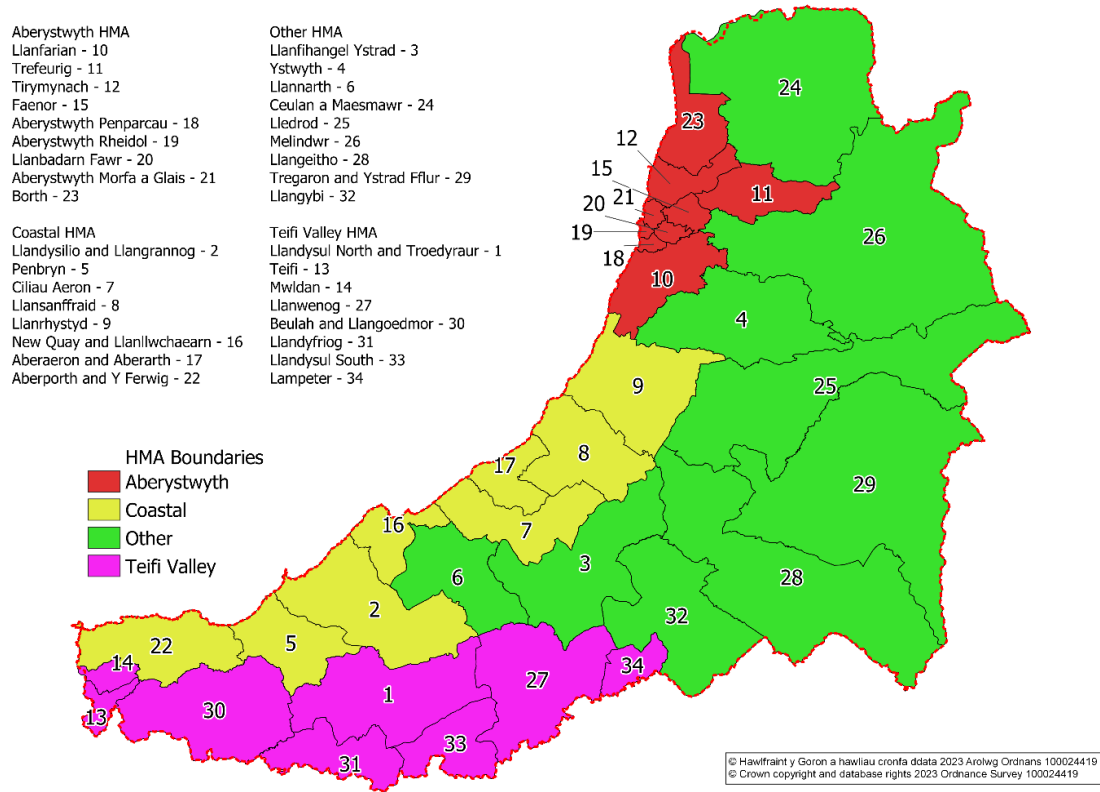
Figure 1: 2019 HMA Boundaries and 40 Electoral Wards.



(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

After the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales issued a number of changes to the electoral ward boundaries, Ceredigion was issued with a new set of 34 electoral wards in 2021. The change to the Electoral Wards meant that the HMAs needed to be amended to reflect the change, as there was one area where the boundaries no longer aligned. Figure 2 below demonstrates the new HMA boundaries along with the 2022 electoral wards. It should be notes that the Aberystwyth and Other HMA have remained the same since the previous LHMA (2019). The Coastal HMA has gained 29 Km² from the Teifi Valley HMA.

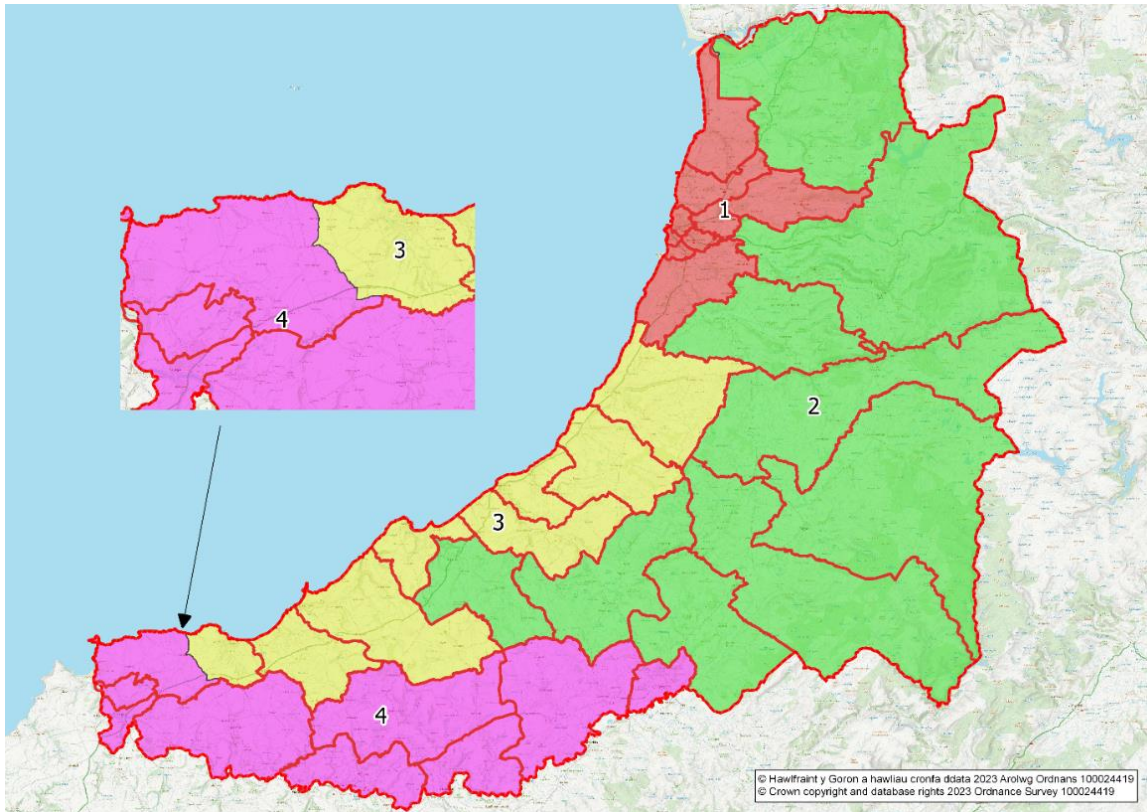
Figure 2: 2023 HMA Boundaries and 34 Electoral Wards.



(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

Figure 3 below demonstrates where part of the Pen-parc ward (previous ward) had combined with the Aberporth ward (previous ward) and created a new ward called Aberporth and Y Ferwig (the old ward boundaries are represented by the black lines and the new boundaries by the red lines). It was decided by Ceredigion County Councils LHMA working group that the new ward of Aberporth and Y Ferwig was best placed within the Coastal HMA. This is because the areas to the southwest have similar characteristics to the Coastal HMA e.g., Aberporth is a popular coastal tourist location, New Quay and Aberaeron (both located within the Coastal HMA) are also popular coastal tourist locations.

Figure 3: Map highlighting the change in the electoral ward boundaries which have altered the Teifi Valley HMA and Costal HMA boundaries.



(Source: Ceredigion County Council 2023)

Appendix 2: Specific Housing Needs – Stakeholder engagement and Consultation

Initial engagement to gather data was undertaken virtually (email, telephone call and video call) with key stakeholders (Strategic Housing Partnership and Registered Social Landlords), and Council services between May and September 2023. A survey was developed and shared with the relevant organisations to capture the data requirements.

The Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) were regularly updated on the data collection and LHMA write-up progress. A presentation was given to the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) on the 2nd of October 2023, which updated stakeholders on our progress and outlined the new LHMA tool and methodology developed by Welsh Government. *A full list of the SHP members and organisations are included below.*

The consultation on the Draft LHMA is scheduled for the 14th of December with the SHP, which includes a presentation on the key findings from the Assessment, and requests feedback for consideration. The following table outlines who were engaged and consulted with for each section relating to specific housing needs.

a) Accessible and adapted housing provision
<p>The following stakeholders were engaged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceredigion County Council, Commissions Team • Ceredigion County Council, Housing Team • Ceredigion County Council, Inclusion and Equalities Team • Ceredigion County Council, Social Care Reporting Team • Ceredigion County Council, Social Care Service • RSLs (Barcud, Wales and West Housing Group, Caredig) • Strategic Housing Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barcud - Care Society - Caredig - Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO) - Ceredigion County Council, Economy and Regeneration (including Planning Team) - Ceredigion County Council, Porth Cymorth Cynnar (including Housing Team) - Elected Members - Hywel Dda University Health Board - Private Developer Representative - Wales and West Housing Group (WWH) - West Wales Domestic Abuse Service (WWDAS) <p>Initial engagement was undertaken via email, telephone call and video call to gather data. Once the data had been collated, we consulted with stakeholders on the draft for feedback and to fill in any gaps.</p>
b) Multi-generational and/or larger families requiring larger properties
<p>The following stakeholders were engaged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSLs (Barcud, Wales and West Housing Group) • Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP)

Initial engagement was undertaken via email, telephone call and video call to gather data. Once the data had been collated, we consulted with stakeholders on the draft for feedback and to fill in any gaps.

c) Non-permanent housing

- Ceredigion County Council, Equalities and Inclusion Team.
- Ceredigion County Council, Housing, Porth Cymorth Cynnar
- RSLs (Barcud, Wales and West Housing Group, Caredig)
- SHP

Initial engagement was undertaken via email, telephone call and video call to gather data. Once the data had been collated, we presented to stakeholders with an update and then consulted on the draft for feedback.

d) Housing, care and support needs

- Ceredigion County Council, Commissioned Contracts
- Ceredigion County Council, Housing Team
- Ceredigion County Council, Porth Ceredigion
- RSLs (Wales and West Housing Group, Caredig)
- SHP

e) Locational needs for student accommodation

- Aberystwyth University
- SHP
- Trinity St David University (Lampeter Campus) – Accommodation Office

Appendix 3: Specific Housing Needs – key issues identified.

The following table outlines the key issues identified within each of the sections relating to specific housing needs.

<p>a) Accessible and adapted housing provision</p>
<p>Available data on accessible and adapted homes in Ceredigion is variable. Although the data held on the accessibility of affordable homes (social rent and intermediate rent) is conclusive, there is a lack of data relating to the accessibility of market housing in Ceredigion (i.e., housing that is owner-occupied or rented housing). The DFGs, PAG and Rapid Response Adaptations Programme provide some indication of the accessibility and adaptation works being undertaken, however, do not provide figures of the current provision of adapted/accessible homes across all tenures.</p> <p>The ORS model utilised enabled an estimation on the current need of accessible and adapted homes, however, it is acknowledged that this should only be used as a guide, as the data on current provision across <i>all tenures</i> is inconclusive.</p> <p>Currently, the local authority is relying on a weak evidence base when assessing the provision of housing in Ceredigion that is available to meet the needs of disabled people. Future LHMA's should consider conducting a detailed housing survey in order to identify the number of accessible and adapted homes in Ceredigion.</p>
<p>b) Multi-generational and/or larger families requiring larger properties</p>
<p>There is a lack of long-term data on multi-generational households, therefore determining future trends and understanding the potential type and level of needs in the future was challenging. The prevalence rate recorded at the most recent census (2021), was used alongside the 2018-based projections to provide an estimation. However, it is acknowledged that this does not take into account the potential for changes to the prevalence rate.</p>
<p>c) Non-permanent housing</p>
<p>Data on temporary accommodation and homelessness changes rapidly, therefore, the figures included within the Assessment may be out of date soon. It was decided that modelling future needs and provisions for this specific accommodation was not appropriate, due to the relatively small numbers and the potential impact of legislative changes, all of which make the figures very volatile.</p>
<p>d) Housing, care and support needs</p>
<p>Data on current provision of specialist accommodation and need is fairly conclusive. Data and information from Council services and RSLs enabled a breakdown for most accommodation types by HMA, except residential and nursing care.</p> <p>Although the Housing LIN methodology is an endorsed model by the Welsh Government, the expected prevalence rates were agreed between Housing LIN and Ceredigion County Council in 2018, and therefore are slightly outdated. These will be reviewed during the full re-write of the LHMA. Furthermore, the model does not take into account future provision of specialist accommodation (such as the Cylch Caron Integrated Resource). This needs to be taken into consideration, and the figures provided should only be used as a guide.</p>

e) Locational needs for student accommodation

No data or methodological issues identified.

Appendix 4: Engagement and Consultation Plan - Local Housing Market Assessment re-fresh 2023

1. Introduction

This Engagement and Consultation Plan aims to provide an approach to conducting engagement and consultation activity for the 2023 Local Housing Market Assessment re-fresh. The 2022 Ceredigion LHMA (refresh) updates Ceredigion's 2019 LHMA, produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS), on behalf of Ceredigion County Council. Production of the LHMA will be undertaken through a collaborative approach with appropriate colleagues and key stakeholders. In particular, careful consideration has been given to include all stakeholders with specific housing needs or those organisations that represent the needs within Ceredigion, to ensure that meaningful information is captured, and any evidence gaps are addressed.

2. Background

Local authorities are required to undertake a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) to help determine the level of housing need and demand in our local housing markets, fulfilling the Council's statutory duties, as set out under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985.

LHMAs are a crucial part of the evidence base for preparing Local Development Plans and local authorities' Local Housing Strategies. Welsh Government has provided an LHMA Tool to assist local authorities with LHMA to reduce costs and ensure consistency.

The LHMA tool calculates additional housing need estimates for market housing (in the owner occupier and private rented sector), and affordable housing by HMA (which includes social rent, intermediate rent, and low-cost home ownership) by Housing Market Area (HMA). The data used within the tool is a combination of open-source data and closed data (sources internally and externally). Stakeholders, such as our Registered Social Landlords will be engaged with to populate certain sections of the tool, such as the existing stock and planned supply section.

Specific housing need provision, which informs the provision and use of accessible and appropriate housing and housing-related services, is not calculated within the tool due to the nature of the data. Estimating specific housing need requirements will be undertaken outside of the tool and will include both a qualitative and quantitative approach, covering three key categories of housing need, with six types of housing-related provisions (for further detail refer to Section 3 overleaf, Table 1).

Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders will be required to best understand the specific housing need provisions for the County and its communities and address any evidence gaps or shortfalls.

A number of errors were identified within the tool and subsequent unexpected revision were made (Version 3 and 3.1). All local authorities were required to re-populate the new versions of the tool. This in addition to the errors identified in Ceredigion's tool delayed the process by 1-2 months. The timescales provided below therefore include the initial planned timescales, but not the final timescales used.

3. Approach to Engagement and Consultation

Engagement and consultation are a key driver during this assessment and will be conducted in two steps:

1. **Initial engagement** – to gather data for the tool (e.g., existing stock and planned supply) and specific housing need provision data.
2. **Consultation** - with key stakeholders on the draft 2023 Ceredigion Local Housing Market Assessment (re-fresh).

Initial engagement work with colleagues and stakeholders will be undertaken between October 2022- June 2023. Gathering the data for the tool will take place during October 2022- April 2023, whilst data for specific housing need provision will occur between May-July 2023. Subsequently, an analysis of the specific housing need findings will be undertaken, with the aim of completing the first draft 2023 Ceredigion LHMA re-fresh by September 2023.

Figure 1 displays the activities and timescales to deliver the engagement and consultation for the LHMA. A more detailed timeline outlining the main deliverables of the Assessment up to the sign-off by Welsh Government in February 2024, is included in Appendix 1.

Figure 1: Timeline for engagement and consultation for Ceredigion’s 2022 LHMA (refresh)

Timescales	Activity
October 2022- April 2023	Engagement with key stakeholders (RSLs) and Council services on the existing unmet need, existing stock and planned supply sections of the LHMA tool.
May-July 2023	Engagement with key stakeholders and internal colleagues to gather data on specific housing need provision.
October 2023	Consultation with key stakeholders on the draft Local Housing Market Assessment.

A significant amount of the Assessment’s engagement will relate to the specific housing need requirements. The table below outlines the 3 categories of housing need and associated types of housing-related provision data required.

Table 1: Specific Housing Need Data Requirements for the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)

Housing Need	Housing related provisions
Property needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible and adapted housing provision - Multi-generational and/or larger family households requiring larger properties - Non-permanent housing, e.g., student accommodation
Housing, care and support needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported accommodation – Extra care, contemporary sheltered housing, supported living for people with a learning disability and/or ADS, temporary supported housing (e.g., young persons housing for people coming out of care, people with a learning disability learning to live independently), refugees etc.

Locational needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locations for student accommodation close to a university - Properties with close proximity to shops, places of worship and services, etc. to meet those with physical or cultural needs
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Source: Welsh Government (2022) – LHMA guidance

Welsh Government have recommended that the following approach is taken to populate the specific housing need template in the LHMA Template Report:

- Step 1 - Understanding of the evidence (statistics, research, national and local policy, and stakeholder consultation) and at what geography they will be required.
- Step 2 - Gather the evidence to populate the standard templates.
- Step 3 - Consultation with key stakeholders or gain bespoke data to address any evidence gaps in the specific housing need.
- Step 4 - Analyse the data and outputs from the consultations to populate the templates.
- Step 5 - Reflect any stakeholder feedback in the templates.

Source: Welsh Government (2022) – LHMA guidance

4. Standards

Undertaking LHMA's to determine housing need contributes to the promotion of sustainable development and the achievement of the seven goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA 2015). The LHMA will need to be carried out in a way which adopts the five ways of working. Furthermore, considerations to the provisions of the Equality Act (2010) and those with protected characteristics within the Act, and the Public Sector Equality Duty, including the need to involve people, collect data, and carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

5. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Some information can be gathered using existing policy available or administrative data, such as the specific needs of older people, or people with mobility issues, since these are large groups in society. However, engagement with colleagues and stakeholders will be required in order to collect more bespoke information, such as existing stock and planned supply data and certain specific needs data (such as, accessible and adapted housing and locational needs of students). In particular, effort will be made to ensure households considered seldom heard (e.g., households in shared accommodation, such as students' halls of residence etc.) and minority groups needs are assessed.

Once the draft LHMA has been produced, key-stakeholders will be consulted with to provide the opportunity for feedback on the LHMA and address any evidence gaps. Subsequently, the Assessment will be revised according to the feedback, which will be reflected in the final LHMA.

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis has been carried out to identify the common set of groups to engage and consult with, including the following:

Organisations/ Teams engaged and consulted with
Aberystwyth University
Armed Forces Veterans Forum
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Barcud
Care Society
Caredig
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO)
Ceredigion County Council, Commissions Team
Ceredigion County Council, Economy and Regeneration (including Planning Team)
Ceredigion County Council, Inclusion and Equalities Team
Ceredigion County Council, Porth Cymorth Cynnar (including Housing Team)
Ceredigion County Council, Social Care Reporting Team
Ceredigion County Council, Social Care Service
Elected Members
Homelessness Forum
Hywel Dda University Health Board
Powys County Council
Private Developer
Strategic Housing Partnership
University of Wales Trinity St David (Lampeter Campus)
West Wales Domestic Abuse Service
West Wales Housing Group (WWH)

6. Relevant policies, documents and consultations

Key sources are available to inform the LHMA, a sample list for Ceredigion is shown below:

- Housing LIN (2022), Housing & accommodation needs assessment for people with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs in West Wales
- Ceredigion County Council (2023), Housing Strategy 2023- 2028 – Housing for All
- Ceredigion County Council (2013), Ceredigion Local Development Plan (LDP 1) 2007-2022
- Ceredigion County Council (2022), Housing Support Programme 2022-2026
- Ceredigion County Council (2021), Ceredigion Local Well-being Assessment
- Ceredigion County Council (2022), Housing Support Programme: Statement of Need
- Ceredigion County Council (2022), Housing Support Grant Needs Assessment
- Ceredigion County Council (2020), Strategic Equality Plan
- West Wales Care Partnership (2022), Population Needs Assessment
- Welsh Government (2019) Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- ONS (2021), Census data
- Disability Wales
- Stats Wales – Students in Wales
- HESA – student enrolment
- Feedback from stakeholders
- Homelessness statistics
- Housing Register (Social Housing Register and Affordable Housing Register)

7. Engagement and Consultation Options

Technique	Description	Considerations	Timescales
Survey (using excel)	<p>Collecting quantitative data (existing stock and planned supply) from RSLs (WWH and Barcud) via a survey created on excel.</p> <p>Follow-up meetings with RSL's to explain survey and data requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time – for each RSL to gather data and populate survey. ▪ Ensure that definitions are included and RSLs understand the data return format. 	<p>i) Preparatory work (survey design & engagement with RSL's) – September 2022</p> <p>ii) Delivery (response time and data input) – October 22 - April 2023</p> <p>iii) Data checking and populating the tool – April 2023.</p>
Meetings/ focus groups with key stakeholders/ colleagues	<p>Collecting qualitative and quantitative on specific housing need provision from key stakeholders. Email with data request table and subsequent meeting to follow to capture information and data sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time – for each stakeholder to gather data and organise meetings. ▪ Ensure that definitions are included, and each stakeholder understands the data return format. 	<p>i) Preparatory work (engagement with stakeholders to set up meeting) – May to June 2023</p> <p>ii) Delivery (response time and undertake meeting to collect data/ address gaps) June-July 2023</p> <p>iii) Data analysis and include tables within Assessment– July-August 2023</p>
Stakeholder Events	<p>Inviting key stakeholders (Strategic Housing Partnership) to face to face presentations - to introduce and consult on the draft LHMA. Utilise presentations, quick polls and key discussion questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target audience • Attendance • Access to those without digital access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead-in time of 4 weeks (publicity, setting agenda) ▪ Consultation to run between October to November 2023

Appendix 5 – Consultation responses

Consultation on Ceredigion’s 2023 Draft Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) began on the 14th of December 2023 with a presentation to the Strategic Housing Partnership, the consultation ran until 19th January 2024 (5 weeks). The relevant extract of the meeting minutes is available on request. The consultation returned several responses following in person discussion in the SHP and subsequently 2 formal written responses.

No direct questions were asked of respondents, simply to feedback and comments on the Assessment itself. The responses are included below with the corresponding LHMA Working Group response. Typing and grammar errors within the written responses have been amended for reader ease, however, the content and context remain as they were submitted.

Response from	Comment	Response from CCC
Strategic Housing Partnership – response to presentation on Draft LHMA	The tool's estimated market housing requirements are “ridiculous” - demands for properties are high, and if there was no need for housing, developers would stop building. Instead, the shortage of local contractors in Ceredigion to build properties and meet the demands for market dwellings was highlighted as the issue.	We share your concerns with the tool's estimated low need for market housing, which is not reflective of the situation in Ceredigion. This is highlighted throughout the LHMA and our concerns with the outputs and the tool has been raised with Welsh Government.
	The tool's estimated high need for 1-bed properties in the social rented sector was queried. It cannot be assumed that everyone with a 1-bed home would never have anyone to stay. 2-bed properties are still very important and needed in Ceredigion. There needs to be a way around moving those who live in larger family homes, that no longer need them, to move into smaller homes.	The evidence for 1 bed properties in the social sector is well documented. The evidence from the housing register, coupled with our homelessness and temporary accommodation usage has informed our Housing Strategy direction, our current Prospectus, and our Rapid Rehousing Plan. Whilst we recognise that the desire for many would be a 2-bed property this is not a consideration when looking at development, which is driven by need and not want. It should also be noted that the benefit system would not support additional bedrooms on that basis. It is recognised that 2 bed properties still have a place within our future

		demand and developments, where appropriate, but solely based on need.
	The decrease in household size and how this would impact the need for houses, regardless of a declining population, was raised.	Comment noted. We recognise that the latest data on average household size is not reflected within the 2018-household projections (which the LHMA tool uses), however, the 2018-based projections are the most recent projections available to use at the time of writing. The limitations of using the 2018-based projections to calculate housing need are reflected within the LHMA.
	Housing affordability driving out-migration was challenged - young people are moving from Ceredigion to areas with worse housing affordability ratios, e.g., Cardiff. Further discussion elaborated that the exodus of young people from Ceredigion is a natural process and something that will always happen. The focus should be on making Ceredigion more attractive and desirable place for people to come back to. It was noted that the LHMA needs to capture those people who do move back to the area to start a family or retire to, however, it was acknowledged that this may be difficult to quantify.	<p>Comments noted. There are a number of reasons why people move out of Ceredigion, the LHMA highlights housing affordability as being potentially one of them, which has been identified as an issue by residents within a number of our public consultations. For example, Ceredigion's Assessment of Local Well-being, which is published on Ceredigion County Council's website.</p> <p>We note the focus you are suggesting, and this is reflected within our Corporate Strategy 2022-2027, with a key priority being investing in Ceredigion through boosting the economy, supporting businesses, and enabling employment.</p> <p>In relation to capturing the residents that return to Ceredigion, unfortunately there is no quantitative data available to evidence people returning to Ceredigion to start a family or retire to, only anecdotal evidence.</p>

	<p>A limitation of the tool was highlighted which is that it does not consider the backlog of market dwellings was mentioned.</p> <p>The figures are inaccurate, and it will be difficult to consult on figures that are not reflective of Ceredigion's situation. The formal feedback from Wales and West Housing Group (WWH) on the Draft 2023 LHMA will reflect this.</p>	<p>We share your concerns with the tool and its estimations. This methodological limitation is reflected within the LHMA, and our overall concerns have been raised with Welsh Government.</p>
	<p>It was queried whether there was any duplication within the specific housing need requirements. It was responded that there is duplication, however, this is difficult to quantify as different methodologies are used.</p>	<p>As highlighted during the presentation, there is potential for duplication within the specific housing need requirement figures due to the different methodologies used. We will explore alternative methodologies during the rewrite to try and resolve the issue and seek support from Welsh Government on this.</p>
	<p>The tool doesn't take into consideration the corporate direction that Ceredigion County Council (CCC) is taking, to boost the economy. There are several investments that are not considered, such as Growing Mid Wales, which will create jobs and by their nature will be better paid. This challenges both the population projections and the affordability element of the tool.</p>	<p>We agree with the point made; the 2018-higher variant projection used by the LHMA tool does not take these factors into consideration. The potential impact of the Corporate Strategy and economic plans on future housing need have now been reflected within the LHMA. The next LHMA rewrite will seek to address this issue by producing different growth scenarios (e.g., job and employment led projections).</p>
<p>Ceredigion based Housing Developer – response to LHMA</p>	<p>1. You have asked for comments on the above draft LHMA. This LHMA is the latest in a long line of LHMA's that I have seen or commented on, the first being the Local Housing Needs Survey 2004 produced by ORS. All of the LHMA's have been totally inaccurate in their predictions and have, in the main, been a waste of time and money. The latest draft LHMA based on the Welsh Government 'tool' for carrying out the LHMA is absurd. This 'tool' should have been left in the box.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read the report so thoroughly and for providing such detailed feedback. Your comments have been noted. Below are Ceredigion County Council's responses to your comments.</p>

	<p>2. The current household size in Ceredigion is 2.3 persons. The current household size in Northeast England is 2.23. In Scotland the household size is 2.13. The population in Ceredigion in 2021 was 71,500. If the population in Ceredigion was static and the household size reduced to 2.13 then there would be a need for 2675 more homes (Note: If the rate of decline of the population aged 1-64 between 2011 and 2021 continues, then the average household size is likely to decline significantly)</p>	<p>We acknowledge your point, and this has been reflected within the Assessment. The average household size for Ceredigion according to the 2011 Census was 2.3. The latest figure calculated using 2021 Census data is 2.2. This is done by dividing the overall number of usual residents in households (67,845) by the overall number of households (30,900).</p> <p>We recognise that the latest data on average household size is not reflected within the 2018-household projections (which the LHMA tool uses), however, the 2018-based projections have been used in the LHMA tool, in-line with best practice and because they are the most up-to-date projections at the time of writing. The limitations of using the 2018-based projections to calculate housing need are reflected within the LHMA.</p>
	<p>3. It is worth noting that that in the ORS, LHMA which informed the current LDP it was predicted that the population of Ceredigion would increase over the period of the LDP, as it had been doing up until the introduction of the LDP. Is it a coincidence that the population has declined since the introduction of the LDP in 2013? (See figure 8, page 19).</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of the LDP, Ceredigion asked a District Valuer, to examine the economic viability of local builders providing affordable housing. He concluded that it was not viable. Despite this the local authority has insisted on 20% provision. In theory this provision can be contested, however the long timescales taken to resolve the viability issue, along with the costs of providing viability assessments has meant that many small builders had to stop building, with an associated loss of jobs in the trade.</p> <p>I pointed out during the LDP consultations that the policies were going to cause a major loss of trades (plus other</p>	<p>Comment noted. We are grateful for all contributions to consultations and the Replacement LDP will consider all available evidence available at the time of writing.</p>

	<p>associated jobs) people and their families and that this would affect the population demographic. Fig 11, Page 22 tends to support my predictions.</p>	
	<p>4. The Affordable (as opposed to affordable) homes should be provided by the RSL's with government funding.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
	<p>5. The tool estimates that annual open market need for Ceredigion is 22 units per annum. This compares with an average annual provision over the last five years of 144 units (see Fig 29, Page 45). Why would there be such a drop in demand? The tool is not fit for purpose.</p> <p>Over 95% of the open market homes our company has sold in recent years have been to locals moving less than ten miles. Thus, by the very definition of the word affordable, these homes have been affordable to locals.</p> <p>I can only assume that the 'tool' is incapable of considering demand for open market homes, so unless local developers and estate agents are consulted, there is no way this demand can be calculated.</p> <p>Finally, I would point out that the moment that open market housing is not required the local developers/builders will stop building unless they want to lose money/go bankrupt/lose their homes etc.</p>	<p>CCC is concerned with the tool's estimated low need for market housing in Ceredigion and is reflected throughout the Assessment. The limitations of the tool are noted in that it does not capture the market housing requirement accurately, particularly as there is no provision for the backlog/ existing unmet need of market homes. This is backed politically, and we have raised our concerns with the Welsh Government ministers.</p>
	<p>6. Employment - The employment data does not take into account the high level of self employment in Ceredigion.</p>	<p>It is not a requirement under the WG LHMA guidance to provide a section on employment, however, we have looked</p>

		at the claimant count due to it being a useful proxy of unemployment trends.
	7. Earnings and income - The high level of self employment distorts these figures	The point is acknowledged, however, there is no quantitative evidence available to support this. CACI Paycheck data provides reliable and comprehensive data on gross household income by small geographical areas, and this has been utilised within the tool. CACI Paycheck data does not provide the breakdown of household income by employment type.
	8. Affordability - Table 5, Page 34 does not agree with the table presented at the SHP meeting of 15 th December 2023. In the meeting the median house price in Wales in 2023 is £237,025.00 whereas in the draft LHMA the figure used is £187,750.00. If the figures used in the presentation are correct, then affordability in Ceredigion is very similar to the Wales figure. The figures being used are of limited use. The Aberystwyth market is totally different to the other markets, particularly the coastal market.	<p>Comments acknowledged. The differences between the house prices within the presentation and the house prices in the LHMA is due to different datasets being used. The presentation uses the Land Registry Price Paid Data (PPD), whereas the LHMA uses the ONS HSPSSA dataset, which is based on the PPD. The differences between the two datasets are due to the different time periods used and a potential registration lag. This is explained fully in ONS' (2019) House price statistics for small areas QMI.</p> <p>As different sources of median house prices were used to calculate housing affordability across the three geographical areas (HMAs, Local Authority and National), we cannot directly compare the affordability of the HMA's with the Ceredigion's and Wales' figures.</p> <p>To avoid any confusion, we have now reflected the difference within the Assessment and noted that using different median house price data results in different affordability ratios.</p>

	<p>9. Number of households - Figure 25, Page 38 shows a huge discrepancy between the WG 2014-based principal projection and the WG 2018-based principal projection. They are only four years apart so how can they be so different? I suspect that they are both wildly inaccurate.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The population and household projections presented for Ceredigion are not produced by the Council, they are from the Welsh Government. The differences between the 2014-based and 2018-based projections are due to demographic trends seen during this time period, but also the change in the methodology between the two sets of projections, as well as the change in the base year of the projection.</p> <p>There have been some underlying demographic changes to note in the intervening four years. In Ceredigion, the birth rate has continued to fall (with the total fertility rate falling from 1.59 in 2014 to 1.48 in 2018), and improvements in life expectancy have stalled, while migration patterns have been fluctuating.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it is difficult to understand the true impact of the demographic trends on the projections due to the methodological changes between the two projections. We recognise that the 2018-based projections are now slightly outdated, however, these are the most recent projections available at the time of writing. We have raised our concerns with the low household growth reflected within the WG 2018-based projections, see section 1.3.9 Number of households.</p>
	<p>10. Second homes - There is no proof that second homes cause locals to be priced out of the housing market. There is only anecdotal evidence. The owners of 2nd homes provide a lot of work for local tradesmen and also contribute to the hospitality industry. The idea that they should be</p>	<p>Comments noted. The impact of second homes is multifaceted. The LHMA notes the benefits that second homes bring to Ceredigion, such as, the tourism industry and the benefits to the local economy, but also the drawbacks, housing affordability being possibly one of them. The LHMA does not state that second homes are</p>

	<p>driven out of the local housing market is based on totally unproven assertions.</p> <p>The policy of charging a substantial council tax premium on 2nd homes will only result in less employment for locals and increase movement of young people to areas where there is employment.</p> <p>The claim that young people are leaving because they cannot afford a house locally does not stand scrutiny. The areas that they move to have even higher house price to earnings ratios. For example, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, London and Southeast England, Bristol, Cheltenham etc. They move to these places because that is where they can get the work that they are qualified to do.</p> <p>The council tax premium will only damage the local economy even further. A better solution would be for the LA to require that a substantial proportion of any new development should only be available to local buyers. There should be a large allocation of land for this purpose so that land prices are kept low for this purpose.</p>	<p>directly pricing locals out of the housing market, however, it suggests a possible correlation between areas with high second home numbers and high household affordability ratios (e.g., the Coastal HMA). The LHMA highlights that second homes tend to be in more picturesque areas which by their nature have higher house values.</p> <p>The comment relating to the council tax premium is not within the remit of the LHMA consultation. CCC consulted with residents and stakeholders on council tax premiums of long-term empty properties and second homes in 2023. Refer to CCC Public Consultation on Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties – Consultation Feedback Report, for more information on this.</p>
	<p>11. Long Term Empty Properties - Many of the long-term empty homes are empty because no one wants to buy them or live in them. There are empty homes all over the UK and Europe. They are empty because they are not close to employment and/or amenities. The owners are presumably paying Council Tax and would like not to be doing so.</p>	<p>Comments noted. There are initiatives to tackle the issue within the Long-Term Empty Property Action Plan. The council tax comment is not within the remit of the LHMA. CCC consulted with residents and stakeholders on what level of council tax premiums should be charged on Long-term Empty Properties and Second Homes in 2023. Refer to CCC's Public Consultation on Second Home and Long-Term Empty Property Council Tax Premiums - Consultation Feedback Report for more information on this.</p>

	<p>12. Non permanent Housing - The LA should consider the purchase and installation of prefab accommodation as an alternative to the current expensive provision of emergency accommodation.</p> <p>The cost of 2nd hand portacabins and caravans is less than the cost of 100 days in hotel/B&B accommodation. The percentage return on capital if this investment was made is huge and the quality of accommodation could be superior.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The Housing Strategy takes into account temporary accommodation and will be reviewed accordingly.</p>
	<p>13. Student Accommodation - The University in Aberystwyth predicts an increase of 1000 students. They expect to accommodate 500 of these students. Presumably the other 500 will be hosted by the private sector? What type of housing does the LHMA presume is going to be needed?</p> <p>If the household size is 2 then 250 two beds are needed. If the household is 4 then 125 four bed units are needed.</p>	<p>We acknowledge discrepancy between the tool's figures and the University projections. Therefore, further understanding of this is required and information will be sought.</p>
	<p>14. Higher variant projections - The higher variant projections are not high enough. See my previous comments.</p>	<p>The population and household projections presented for Ceredigion are not produced by the Council, they are from the Welsh Government. In line with best practice, the 2018-based projection is the most up to date at the time of writing and was used within the current LHMA.</p> <p>We agree with your point that the 2018-based household higher variant projections are not high enough. However, the higher variant is our 'preferred projection', as based on the options (lower, higher and default 2018-based), it provided the most appropriate output for Ceredigion. This is reflected within the LHMA under Section '1.3.9 Number of Households'.</p> <p>The Assessment highlights the increasing uncertainty of the projections the further away from a Census and applied a word of caution over their use. The Council will aim to</p>

		<p>address this issue within the next LHMA process (rewrite), by looking at alternative growth scenarios for Ceredigion.</p>
	<p>15. I share the Council's disappointment with the results of using the LHMA 'tool'. The tool is not fit to be used in the context of a county like Ceredigion. I could comment in more detail, but time constraints mean the above will have to do. When I came back to Aberystwyth in 1985 there was not a construction contract that could not be carried out by a local constructor using local architectural, civil, structural, quantity surveying consultants. Since that time there has been a massive diminution in all these capabilities. This diminution is entirely due to the failure of national and local government to address the issues facing Ceredigion (and many other rural/coastal counties).</p> <p>The procurement and planning systems adopted have destroyed local businesses and therefore employment at a huge rate. This has resulted in a decline in the local working age population and has damaged every part of the economy. It has also damaged the Welsh language.</p> <p>I am not aware of anyone in the private sector, other than myself, that has been consulted on this LHMA. Surely there are other builders, as well as architects, engineers, quantity surveyors and estate agents that should have been consulted.</p> <p>This LHMA assumes that the previous failures of government which led to population decline will continue. This assumption is an acceptance of failure and should be treated with the contempt it deserves.</p>	<p>Your comments are noted, and we will take them on board during the production of the next LHMA. We appreciate the time you have taken to read the report and provide detailed feedback.</p> <p>This comment is not within the remit of the LHMA.</p> <p>The decision was made that it was shared with Strategic Housing Partnership only. The Team always welcome discussion on increasing membership, which we will explore again during the production of the next LHMA.</p>

Wales and West Housing Group (WWH)	It is clear that the use of the WG template has delivered some unexpected outcomes that do not reflect the reality that we experience. On that basis it is therefore difficult to provide any meaningful feedback. If there is an opportunity to review the methodology we would be happy to assist with that.	Thank you for your feedback, your comment has been noted and we will be in touch if there is an opportunity to review the methodology.
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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19.03.2024

Title: Local Housing Market Assessment

Purpose of the report: To provide feedback following the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of March 2024

Background:

The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) is a Statutory requirement of all local authorities, under the Housing Act 1985, placing a duty on Local Authorities to periodically assess the level of housing need in the County.

LHMAs are considered as part of the evidence base for preparing Local Development Plans, Strategic Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies. Local authorities are expected to rewrite LHMAs every five years and refresh that LHMA once during that five-year period (between years two and three). Ceredigion are currently at the refresh stage.

The deadline for submission is 29th March 2024.

Recommendation:

Following discussion, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. approve the LHMA following the end of the consultation period and adopt.

Reasons for decision:

To meet statutory requirement and deadline imposed.

Councillor Caryl Roberts
Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19/03/2024

Title: Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28

Purpose of the report: To present the final Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 for approval

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Cllr Catrin M S. Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Customer Services

Introduction

Ceredigion County Council's draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 was presented to Cabinet on 03/10/2023. Members endorsed the draft Plan and approved that it go out to public consultation over winter 2023.

Current Situation

The public consultation ran from 25/10/23 to 31/12/23. It was promoted widely and was also presented to Ceredigion Youth Council to gather the views of young people. 43 people responded to the online survey, 0 paper copies were returned and 16 members of the Youth Council provided feedback.

Respondents generally felt that our five Equality Objectives were the right Equality Objectives for the Council – an average of 94% said 'yes'. An average of 83% of the people who responded felt that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve our objectives. There is more information in the Consultation report (Appendix 2).

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's monitor report, 'Is Wales Fairer?' was published in November 2023. The report reinforces the need for the actions set out in our draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28. Actions are also included to support Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales action plan. These actions are marked with an asterisk* in the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28.

Our Equalities Working Group is coordinated by Policy, Performance and Public Protection service and chaired by Cllr Catrin MS Davies (Equalities Champion). The group is responsible for the development and monitoring of our Strategic Equality Plan. The group met in January 2024 to review the draft Strategic Equality Plan following the public consultation. The group agreed the following amendments to the Strategic Equality Plan:

- Amend action 3.1 to include 'young people' in the success measure.
- Find out more about Electrical Hypersensitivity (EHS).

- Encourage staff to take an anonymous feedback box to face to face consultations.
- Amend our internal Engagement toolkit to offer more ways for people to tell us what they think when we consult with them.
- Amend specific actions under Objective 4 to include the term 'lived experience'.
- Change our equalities monitoring form so that it asks about a person's 'sex', and in a further question asks about their 'gender identity'.
- Remove the action, "to establish an integrated model of community care and housing in Tregaron". The group felt that a variety of matters contribute to achieving this outcome, most of which are outside of the remit of the Equalities workgroup. The action is included in the Corporate Strategy 2022-27.

The Plan is attached as Appendix 1 and following approval by Cabinet it will be published on our website by 31/03/24.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

Yes.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: This is a four year plan which builds on previous plans. Long-standing equality issues can be carried from one four year plan to the next. This enables us to address longer term needs and plan for the future.

Collaboration: There are many opportunities to collaborate with others in order to deliver the plan. For example, the new graduate scheme will require collaboration with universities; we will work with Victim Support to implement the Hate Crime Trustmark and we will work with the Regional Community Cohesion team on a range of actions.

Involvement: A regional engagement campaign was undertaken to collect initial feedback on the state of equality in the Dyfed Powys area. The draft Plan went out to public consultation in winter 2023. The Equality plan itself includes actions to do more with groups of stakeholders from specified minority groups and to improve the way that we feedback to those who have participated in our Engagement and consultation campaigns.

Prevention: The plan has been developed as a result of our engagement and research into the current state of equality in Ceredigion. The aim of the plan is to coordinate our resources to identify and address the root causes of inequality.

Integration: The Equalities working group includes representatives from a range of Council Services. This helps us to consider interdependencies and possible tensions between services and the four pillars of well-being.

Recommendation(s):

To approve Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28.

Reasons for decision:

This will progress the aim of the Council to address inequality, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not in Ceredigion.

Overview and Scrutiny:

The Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 04/03/2024.

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy 2023-28
Strategic Equality Plan

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

- Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
- Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
- Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages
- Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

None

Legal Implications:

The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 require us to publish Equality Objectives and to review these at least every four years. The Equality Objectives, and the steps we will take to fulfil each objective, must be published no later than 2nd April.

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

There is a risk of reputational damage, complaint and legal challenge if we do not comply with the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duties (Wales).

Statutory Powers:

Equality Act 2010
Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

Background Papers:

Information presented to Cabinet on 03/10/2023- [Report- Draft Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28.pdf](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28

Appendix 2 - Consultation Report Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28

Appendix 3 - Updated Integrated Impact Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Alun Williams, Corporate Lead Officer: Policy, Performance and Public Protection

Reporting Officer:

Cathryn Morgan, Equalities and Inclusion Manager

Date:

26/02/2024

A Fair and Equal Ceredigion

2024-28

Ceredigion County Council Strategic Equality Plan
Draft 5



Author: Partnerships and Performance CM

Approved by Cabinet: XX/XX/XXXX

Publication Date: XX/XX/XXXX

How to contact us:

Comments and suggestions to help us improve and best perform as an equal opportunities' organisation can be submitted at any time to the:

Equalities and Inclusion Team

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Accessible formats

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1. Introduction

This is our fourth Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2024-28. It describes how we will continue towards our aim to meet our commitment to equality and how we will meet our obligations set out in the Equality Act 2010.

During the summer of 2023 we gathered people's views on equality in our local area. We have also drawn on a rich evidence source from previous campaigns carried out by the council and Welsh Government. We drafted our Plan and put it out for public consultation during the winter of 2023.

Our conclusion is that our Equality Objectives are still fit for purpose but, due to the changing nature of society and the work we have undertaken up to now, we need to amend the actions we will take to achieve the objectives. Our Equality Objectives are:

1. To be an Exemplar Equal Opportunities Employer
2. To Foster Good Relations and Tackle Prejudice
3. To ensure Engagement and Participation
4. To ensure Dignity, Respect and Access to Services
5. To provide Fair and Inclusive Education

2. Background

2.1 The General Equality Duty

The aim of the general equality duty is to ensure that we consider the needs of all individuals when carrying out our day-to-day work, in developing policy, in delivering services and in relation to the public and to our workforce. Public bodies must have due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Equality Act protects people from discrimination, victimisation, and harassment if they share one or more of the following 'protected characteristics'.

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Some people share more than one of these characteristics. This is called 'intersectionality'. The impact of intersectionality may vary, and it is difficult to quantify. We need to be aware of this when we develop policy, promote equality and address discrimination, victimisation, and harassment.

2.2 Welsh Language Commitment

The promotion and use of the Welsh Language is covered by the requirements of the Welsh Language Measure 2011 rather than the Equality Act, it. However, in Ceredigion we consider Welsh Language requirements alongside the protected characteristics of the Equality Act to encourage a co-operative approach to the needs of all communities in designing and delivering services.

The Welsh Language Measure 2011 requires us to ensure that Welsh Language services are built into the planning and delivery of services. We must offer Welsh Language services to Welsh speakers without them having to request it. This is called the 'active offer'.

2.3 Socio-economic Duty

The Socio-economic duty came into force in Wales in 2021. It aims to improve decision making and help those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. Socio-economic disadvantage means having low savings or income compared to others in Wales, making it more difficult to access basic services and opportunities. This can lead to inequality of outcome, for instance lower levels of good health, lower paid work, poorer educational attainment and an increased risk of being a victim of crime.

We need to understand how the decisions that we make may increase or reduce opportunities for people who are at socio-economic disadvantage. We do this with our equality impact assessment which is a key element of our Integrated Impact Assessment Tool.

2.4 The Specific Public Sector Equality Duties (Wales)

In addition to meeting the general duty, public bodies like the council must meet the following specific duties:

- Setting Equality Objectives and publishing a Strategic Equality Plan.
- Engaging with people in relation to the protected characteristics.
- Collecting and publishing information relevant to compliance with the General Duty.
- Annual publishing of employment monitoring information.
- Ensuring that our workforce know and understand our duty under the Equality Act.
- Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments of relevant policies and practices
- Addressing unfair pay differences.
- Establishing relevant conditions to meet the general duty in procurement processes.
- Reviewing progress on the Strategic Equality Plan and our Equality Objectives.

3. Ceredigion profile

3.1 Ceredigion citizens

Ceredigion has a population of 71,475. If we could shrink our population to a village of approximately 100 people, there would be:

- 51 females and 49 males.
- 14 children aged 15 years, or younger and 6 young people aged 16 to 19 years.
- 54 people aged between 20 and 64.
- 22 people aged between 65 and 84 and 3 people aged 85 or older.
- 12 university students (this is an estimate based on [Where do HE students study? | HESA](#))
- 1 person whose gender is now different to what it was when they were born. 8 people would prefer not to tell you their gender identity.
- 5 people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual or queer. 10 people would prefer not to tell you their sexual orientation.
- 4 people who are from a variety of non-White ethnic backgrounds.
- 46 people who are Christian, 2 people who have another religion, 43 people who have no religion. 8 people would prefer not to tell you about their beliefs or non-beliefs.



- 45 people who are able to speak Welsh. 7 of these would be 65 years or older.
- 22 people who are classed as disabled under the Equality Act. 9 of these people have a lot of difficulties with their day-to-day activities.
- 11 people who provide unpaid care to a member of their family or a friend.

Source: ONS [2021 Census Profile for areas in England and Wales - Nomis \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

When we consider this image of the people of Ceredigion living together, it's easy to appreciate the diversity of our population and the need for us to acknowledge and understand everyone's preferences and needs. It is important that marginalised and seldom heard groups of people are involved in decisions and are able to access services.

3.2 Ceredigion County Council

Ceredigion County Council is responsible for ensuring that we carry out our work in accordance with the law, and that public money is properly accounted for, and used efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of the people who live in, work in, study in and visit Ceredigion. This commitment is set out in our Corporate Strategy 2012-2027 which describes how the council will meet the challenges ahead and make the most of opportunities. Our Corporate Well-being Objectives for this period are:

1. Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
2. Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
3. Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages
4. Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the council should carry out its activities. They represent the public interest as well as the interests of individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected. There are 38 Councillors that represent the 34 electoral wards in Ceredigion.

The council is responsible for a wide range of services, such as refuse collection, street cleaning, planning, education, social care, road maintenance, public health, protecting vulnerable children, individuals and families, housing, leisure, museums and libraries. The council employs 2,037 people to deliver our services.

All our services need to work together to make sure that we achieve our equality objectives. Our Equalities Workgroup helps us to do this. The workgroup includes a representative from a range of relevant services and meets regularly to monitor the progress of our work on equality and to share good practice across services.

Below are our Equality Objectives for 2024-28 and the actions that we will take to address inequality, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not in Ceredigion. A number of actions are designed to support Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales action plan. these actions are marked with an asterisk*.

4. Our Equality Objectives

4.1 To be an Exemplar Equal Opportunities Employer

As the largest employer in the county the Council recognises and welcomes its responsibility of promoting equality and valuing diversity across our workforce and recruitment practices.

We support Welsh Government's ambitions to employ a workforce that represents our population, and that employment inequalities for black, Asian and minority ethnic people are reduced.

The top four groups that respondents to our regional survey rated as having a worse, or much worse experience of work than the population as a whole were disabled people, people from an ethnic minority, older people (aged 65+) and people who are pregnant or have recently given birth.

We are confident that men and women are paid equally for doing equivalent jobs across the Council. However, currently there are fewer women in senior roles than men and a higher proportion of women relative to men in lower scales.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's monitor report, 'Is Wales Fairer?' (November 2023) notes that the gender pay gap persists, that disabled adults are less likely to be employed than non-disabled adults – although employment gaps are improving, earnings gaps are worsening. Also that ethnic minority workers are more likely to be in insecure employment and to work in a low paid occupation. Trans people are afraid of facing discrimination in the workplace.

It is well-known and an often-discussed issue that many young people leave the county to pursue opportunities elsewhere in Wales or further afield across the UK. We anticipate that our graduate scheme and apprenticeship schemes will help to address this.

We must make sure that our workforce, particularly staff that deal directly with the public and key decision makers, understand the diverse needs of all our citizens and are sufficiently informed to be able to respond to these needs.

“Work opportunities for disabled people is tokenistic and public bodies do not do enough to promote and recruit disabled people in employment beyond lower paid positions. In public services, there are additional barriers, such as the requirement to speak Welsh which indirectly discriminates against deaf people since there are no Welsh accessible courses for deaf people in the whole of Wales.”

“For all public services to have more anti racist training, employ staff from diverse backgrounds, and know that black people can also be Welsh and belong”.

“People of colour not even given a chance.”

(Regional Equality survey, 2023)

Actions to achieve this Equality Objective

4.1.1 We will publish an annual gender pay gap report and take action to encourage a more even mix of men and women in lower grade and higher-grade jobs.

How we will measure success:

The percentage of people applying for jobs, and being appointed, reflects Ceredigion population demographic (Census 2021)

4.1.2 *We will publish an annual workforce equality report and take action to encourage proportionate representation in our workforce, particularly in the social care workforce and in senior management.

How we will measure success:

The percentage of people applying for jobs, and being appointed, reflects Ceredigion population demographic (Census 2021)

4.1.3 We will review HR policies and recruitment literature so that they reflect the needs and the diverse identities of the community in which we live.

How we will measure success:

HR policies and recruitment literature are reviewed and updated where appropriate.

4.1.4 *We will continue to develop and deliver a range of cultural awareness and equalities training.

How we will measure success:

Increased number of staff, managers and elected members completing cultural awareness and equalities training.

4.1.5 We will promote our graduate scheme and develop a coordinated approach to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.

How we will measure success:

Number of work experience opportunities offered, number of apprentices recruited, and number of graduates recruited under the graduate scheme.

4.1.6 We will build on our employee engagement activities and continue to ensure all our workforce's voices inform decision making.

How we will measure success:

Percentage of employees feel that the Council cares about their health and wellbeing.

4.2 To Foster Good Relations and Tackle Prejudice

Victim Support has seen a stark increase in demand for its hate crime support services. This rise was driven largely because of racial and homophobic related incidences.

The three main themes of the 'hopes and wishes' expressed at Aberystwyth Pride event in April 2023 were 'inclusion, acceptance and safety'.

The top four groups that respondents to our regional survey rated as having a worse, or much worse experience of getting on together in the community than the population as a whole were disabled people, people from an ethnic minority, people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual and transgender people.

We support Welsh Government's commitment to celebrate and improve the representation of LGBTQ+ people and black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the heritage and culture of Wales.

Ageism underpins many of the issues currently faced by older people, resulting in older people being treated unfairly, feeling socially excluded and their rights not being respected. Age-friendly communities challenge ageism by bringing people of different ages together and fostering positive images of ageing.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's monitor report, 'Is Wales Fairer?' (November 2023) notes a rise in racially and religiously aggravated offences. The report also notes that ethnic minority groups in Wales are more likely to report experiences of discrimination and bullying in the workplace. Lesbian, gay and bisexual people are more at risk of hate crimes due to their sexual orientation.

Our Integrated Impact Assessment tool enables decision makers to consider the impact of our decisions on people who share one or more of the characteristics that are protected by the Equality Act (2010). It also helps us to identify actions we can take to improve relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who don't.

"Racism and disability hate issues are rife. Sexism is rife and it's hard to feel safe".

(Regional Equality survey, 2023)

"Stop propagating transphobic jokes, criticism, discrimination, violence etc and come to see the normality of trans individuals."

I wish..."For people to not feel ashamed or scared to live as their authentic self."

(Aberystwyth Pride, 2023)

Actions to achieve this Equality Objective

4.2.1 *We will monitor the use of, and provide advice on, Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA)

How we will measure success:

Number of IIA to the required standard submitted with Cabinet papers / the total number of IIA required = % success

4.2.2 *We will implement our commitment to Victim Support's Hate Crime Charter and use the Hate Crime Charter Trustmark where appropriate.

How we will measure success:

We are listed as an active partner on the Victim Support website and use the Hate Crime Trustmark on our website, recruitment campaigns and other appropriate places.

4.2.3 *We will ensure that relevant collections, particularly those used as part of the delivery of the curriculum, celebrate diversity and encourage ant-racist engagement.

How we will measure success:

Percentage of people that agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (*National Survey of Wales/Annual Stakeholder Survey*)

4.2.4 We will support the Regional Community Cohesion team to monitor community tensions.

How we will measure success:

Multi-agency tension monitoring meetings are held weekly, and concerns are addressed appropriately.

4.2.5 We will support the Regional Community Cohesion team to deliver an annual media campaign to promote awareness, celebrate diversity, and commemorate relevant historical events.

How we will measure success:

Number of media campaigns promoted each year.

4.2.6 We will join the Age Friendly network and implement an action plan that reflects the needs of our ageing population.

How we will measure success:

We are a member of the Age Friendly network and are achieving the outcomes of our action plan.

4.3 To ensure Engagement and Participation

We value the contribution that Ceredigion residents make to help us develop and evaluate our services. We want to make it easier for everybody in Ceredigion to have a voice, particularly people who are underrepresented.

We support Welsh Government's commitment to see more underrepresented people participating in democracy, including standing for elected positions. We also support the ambition of the Women's Equality Network to see an equal balance of men and women in politics.

People who answered our equality survey felt that the top three groups of people who have the worse experience of influencing decisions are people from ethnic minorities, disabled people and young people. They felt that men, older people, and Welsh speakers have the best experience of influencing decision, however it was pointed out that older people who don't use the internet are often left out as well.

We have more work to do inform stakeholders so that they have a better understanding of what the Council does and to enable them to be engaged in discussions about changing services. We need to do this in a variety of formats to make sure that everyone has opportunities to feedback and help shape services for the future.

"Things are increasingly online and there can be a digital divide which, arguably adversely affects older people".

"Consultation meetings, etc are nearly always inaccessible to deaf people. Thus, if you can't attend, you don't get to influence".

"Most decision-making systems are run by older people and participated in by older people, so it can be quite an exclusive environment".

"In my experience women are often ignored when they have an opinion".

(Regional Equality survey, 2023)

Actions to achieve this Equality Objective

4.3.1 *We will support programmes and plans to increase representation in local politics and decision making, particularly by young people, women, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

How we will measure success:

The percentage of young people, women, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds that take part in local politics and decision making reflects Ceredigion population demographic (Census 2021)

4.3.2 We will develop the membership of Ceredigion Disability Forum so that we can better understand examples of good practice and the lived experience of people living with a disability.

How we will measure success:

Attendance at Forum meetings increases year by year and members feel engaged in local decision making (2023 average attendance = 6 people).

4.3.3 *We will work with partners to establish a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic stakeholder forum so that we can better understand examples of good practice and the lived experience of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

How we will measure success:

A Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic stakeholder group is established, and members feel engaged in local decision making.

4.3.4 We will work with partners to establish a LGBTQ+ stakeholder forum so that we can better understand examples of good practice and the lived experience of people from the LGBTQ+ community.

How we will measure success:

A LGBTQ+ stakeholder group is established, and members feel engaged in local decision making.

4.3.5 We will develop and improve our use of online engagement platforms and our use of non-digital engagement methods.

How we will measure success:

Our engagement toolkit is developed and promoted. The Engagement Annual Report reflects improved engagement methods and is approved by Cabinet.

4.3.6 We will improve the way that we feedback to those who have participated in our engagement and consultation campaigns.

How we will measure success:

Our engagement toolkit is developed and promoted. The Engagement Annual Report reflects improved feedback and is approved by Cabinet.

4.4 To ensure Dignity, Respect and Access to Services

We support Welsh Government's commitment to ensure that our services are inclusive of the specific needs of LGBTQ+ people and people with different ethnic backgrounds, whether they speak Welsh, English or other languages.

Our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (June 2022) recognised that childcare for disabled children in Ceredigion is very limited and that childcare settings where staff are well trained and have experience of working with disabled children are hard to find.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's monitor report, 'Is Wales Fairer?' (November 2023) notes that the education attainment gap between disabled and non-disabled people continues to widen in early years. Between 2020 and 2022 the number of families in temporary accommodation nearly doubled.

Our Play Sufficiency Assessment (June 2022) recognised the need for Welsh language play opportunities and for single gender activities for children who are aged 10 years+ and their religion/culture requires them not to mix.

Our Assessment of Local Well-being (March 2022) recognised that greater provision of housing for older people, housing with care and nursing care is required in order to meet the needs of older people's preferences to stay independent and live in their home.

The main topic of discussion at Ceredigion Disability Forum meetings during 2022-23 was traffic and parking arrangements in Ceredigion towns. People who answered our equality survey felt that disabled people have a far worse experience of accessing transport and accessing the coast and countryside than the rest of the population.

People who answered our equality survey felt that disabled people have a worse, or much worse experience of accessing services than the rest of the population. The 2nd most disadvantaged cohorts were people from an ethnic minority and older people.

We want to increase the use of Welsh in all aspects of public life in Ceredigion, where people can live, learn, belong and succeed through the medium of Welsh.

"No Childcare available for disabled children and teenagers either during term time or school holidays in Ceredigion".

(Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, 2022)

"Balance the need to keep the Welsh language alive with the needs of people who do not speak Welsh".

"Accessibility isn't always built into online systems, and this can pose challenges for various disabilities".

"I know people who don't have the internet at all, and I find they are quite excluded from a lot of information".

"As a white woman in a relationship with a black woman I have experienced harassment on public transport in the past and this makes me wary to use public transport now if I can avoid it."

"I would love to access the countryside but most of that isn't disabled friendly either".

(Equality survey, 2023)

Actions to achieve this Equality Objective

4.4.1 We will continue to actively promote our work Welsh development opportunities to meet service delivery needs and support our bilingual culture.

How we will measure success:

Number of employees who have improved their Welsh language skills (continuum)

4.4.2 We will continue to offer inclusive and specialised play and physical activity opportunities for disabled children and young people.

How we will measure success:

Number of inclusive and specialised opportunities offered or funded by the Council and number of disabled children and young people who attended.

4.4.3 We will continue to support registered childcare providers to meet the needs of children and young people who are disabled or have additional learning needs.

How we will measure success:

Number of children and young people that are disabled or have additional learning needs that receive support so that they can attend registered childcare.

4.4.4 We will consider the needs of disabled people when maintaining or improving footways and carriageways (for example dropped kerbs and disabled parking).

How we will measure success:

All maintenance and improvements to footways and carriageways follow Department for Transport Inclusive Mobility guidance.

4.4.5 We will work towards achieving a rating of AAA for our website.

How we will measure success:

Pdf documents are no longer used as the primary method of updating information on our website.

4.4.6 We will continue to develop the methods we use to communicate with the public.

How we will measure success:

Our Engagement toolkit is updated, accessed regularly and training is delivered on its use.

4.4.7 We will provide housing that meets the needs of our communities

How we will measure success:

Evidence of housing need and number of clients from specific groups rehoused in suitable accommodation.

4.4.8 We will review our Toilet Strategy so that it reflects the needs of our changing population where reasonably and practicably possible.

How we will measure success:

The revised Toilet Strategy reflects the needs of people with disabilities and people with various gender identities.

4.4.9 We will work with partners to develop sustainable and affordable travel solutions.

How we will measure success:

An action plan is developed and implemented that enables appropriate access to our services.

4.4.10 We will ensure that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards underpin the way the Council deliver its services to the public, so that service users are able to access services naturally in the Welsh language, should they choose to do so.

How we will measure success:

Our Welsh Language Compliance Report is deemed satisfactory by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

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4.5 To provide Fair and Inclusive Education

We must make sure that children, young people, and adults in Ceredigion have fair and equal access to education. Everyone has the right to be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in education settings, including in lifelong learning and further education.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's monitor report, 'Is Wales Fairer?' (November 2023) notes that the education attainment gap at foundation phase level between disabled and non-disabled children has widened. Lesbian, gay and bisexual students are at risk of experiencing a range of discriminatory behaviours in education. Digital exclusion remains persistent for older people and disabled people.

Our last Strategic Equality Plan included an action to implement Welsh Government's Anti-Bullying Guidance 2020. The guidance has been updated to reflect the ambitions of the Anti-racist Wales action plan. Schools should be aware of this and align their anti-bullying policies with the updated guidance.

We support Welsh Government's commitment to support LGBTQ+ young people and tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and to implement a whole school approach that is fully LGBTQ+ inclusive.

The top three groups that respondents to our regional survey rated as having a worse, or much worse experience of education than the population as a whole were disabled people, people from an ethnic minority and people who are pregnant or have recently given birth.

Actions to achieve this Equality Objective

4.5.1 We will adopt and implement Welsh Government's national trans guidance for schools.

How we will measure success:

Adoption of the national trans guidance is approved by Cabinet and implemented by schools in Ceredigion.

"make school a better place and stop bullies"

Children and Young People Festival, 2023

"Require schools to allow Pride clubs/other identity clubs. Not require them to have them, just to allow them".

Aberystwyth Pride, 2023

"Although it is a Welsh medium School, the children speak English with their friends – it's heart-breaking to take our children to a Welsh School and for them to speak English".

"With limited funding, seeking support for pupils with disability in education can be a challenge".

Equality survey, 2023

4.5.2 *We will work towards ensuring that School Governing bodies represent the range of diversity of the pupils within the education setting.

How we will measure success:

Percentage of school governing bodies whose members reflect the diversity of the pupils within their settings.

4.5.3 *We will ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance, 'Rights, Respect, Equality.'

How we will measure success:

Adoption of Welsh Government's update anti-bullying policy is approved by Cabinet and implemented by schools in Ceredigion.

4.5.4 We will implement our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32

How we will measure success:

Implementation of the plan is progressing as planned and monitoring reports are approved by Cabinet.

4.5.5 We will improve educational provision and outcomes for children with additional learning needs (ALN) and reduce the attainment gap between children without ALN and those with ALN.

How we will measure success:

All pupils with ALN make appropriate progress and this is evidenced by data on the achievement of ALN pupils at all key stages.

4.5.6 We will continue to support older people and disabled people to take advantage of digital technologies, and to recognise the benefits of being online.

How we will measure success:

Number of people over 50 and the number of people with a disability or additional learning need who enrol with Dysgu Bro for a digital literacy class/workshop.

5. Monitoring

All our services need to work together to make sure that we achieve our equality objectives.

Our Equalities Working Group is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of this Strategic Equality Plan. The purpose of the Group is to consider how the Council can contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in day-to-day activities.

The group meets three times a year and provides annual progress reports to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and to Cabinet.

Annual progress reports will be available to the public via the Council's website. Paper copies can be requested if needed.

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Consultation Report
Ceredigion County Council Draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28
Winter 2023



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1. Introduction

This is a report on our recent public consultation exercise on the Council's fourth Strategic Equality Plan. The plan describes what we will do to achieve a fairer and more equal Ceredigion.

The public consultation on the draft Plan ran from 25 October 2023 to 31 December 2023.

People were invited to respond online or on paper. Paper copies could be collected from our libraries and leisure centres or requested by post via Clic. Large Print and Easy Read versions were also available. We promoted the campaign with posters, social media posts and a [press release](#). We also sent targeted emails to the stakeholders listed below.

- Ceredigion County Councillors
- Ceredigion Town and Community Council clerks
- Ceredigion Public Services Group
- PSB Poverty sub-group
- CAVO
- National Library of Wales
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Hywel Dda Health Board Community Outreach team
- Hywel Dda Maternity Voices
- Aberystwyth University
- University of Trinity Saint David, Lampeter
- Coleg Ceredigion
- Ceredigion Council Equalities Workgroup
- Armed Forces Veteran's Forum
- Ceredigion Carers and Community support team
- Children and Young People Service Provider Forum
- Ceredigion Family Centre Network
- Early Years, Childcare and Play providers group
- Mudiad Meithrin
- DASH (Disabilities and Self Help)
- RAY Ceredigion
- Ceredigion Council staff (via Microsoft Teams site)
- Ceredigion Disability Forum
- Ceredigion Food Poverty Network
- Young Farmers Clubs
- Ceredigion Youth Council
- Local Access Forum
- Housing Associations (Barcud and Wales & West Housing Association)
- 3rd sector Housing Support providers
- Age Cymru Dyfed
- Citizens Advice
- Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service

2. Responses – comparison with Ceredigion demographics

43 respondents completed the online survey. No paper copies were returned. We knew that we'd receive a low, or no response from younger people. Therefore, we consulted with Ceredigion County Council Youth Council (16 young people) in October 2023. We have included their feedback in the comments at Section 3.

The tables below help us check if a broad range of people that match the population of Ceredigion have told us what they think. They also help us to see where we need to improve the way we engage with the different groups.

We have a good level of response from veterans, from people who have a disability and from gay, lesbian and queer people. We need to improve engagement with men, with people who are black or Asian, with people aged 25 years or under and people aged 65+.

A high number of people ticked 'prefer not to say'. This makes it more difficult to get a true picture of the range of people that answered the survey.

Age	Online survey responses	2021 Census
Under 16	0%	14%
16-24	0%	15%
25- 44	33%	19%
45-64	52%	26%
65+	10%	26%
Prefer not to say	5%	0%
Sex		
Female	65%	51%
Male	28%	49%
Prefer not to say	7%	0%
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual/straight	78%	84%
Gay, Lesbian or Queer	8%	2%
Bisexual	2%	3%
Another sexual orientation	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	12%	10%
National Identity		
British	51%	31%
Cornish	2%	0%
English	3%	14%
Northern Irish	0%	0%
Scottish	0%	1%
Welsh	39%	47%
Another National Identity	0%	7%
Prefer not to say	5%	0%

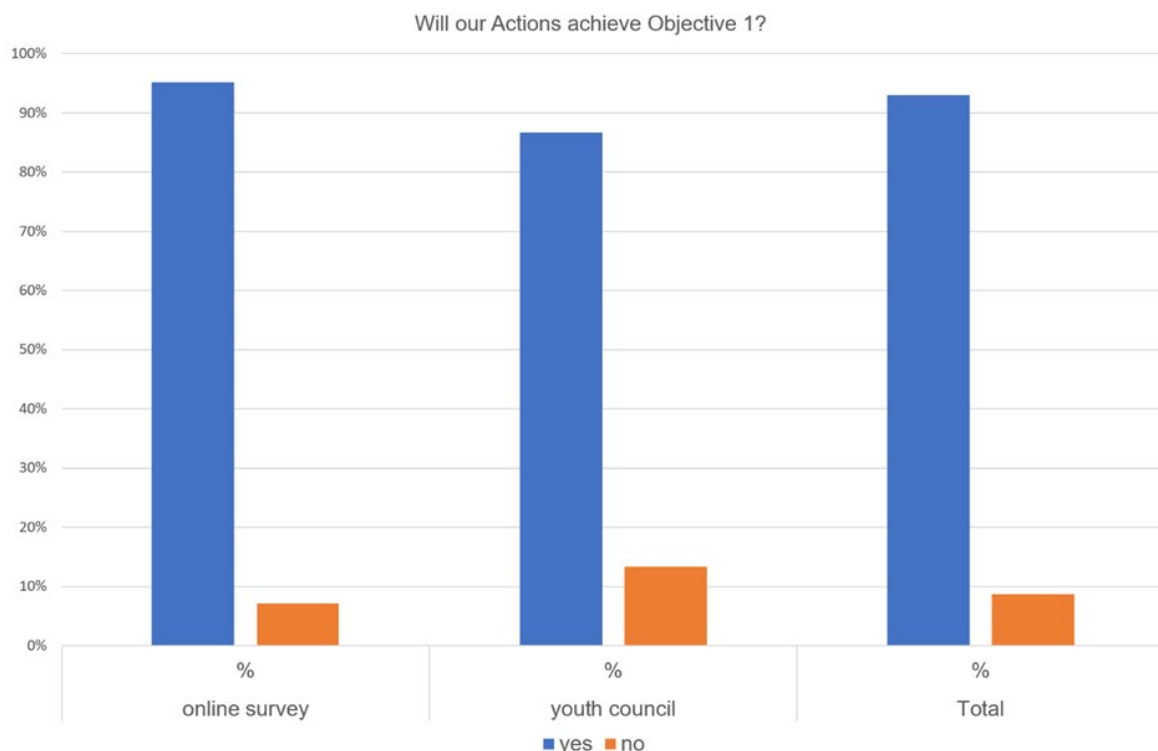
Ethnic Group	Online survey responses	2021 Census
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	0%	1%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0%	1%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic	5%	1%
White	85%	96%
Another ethnic Group	0%	1%
Prefer not to say	10%	0%
Religion or Belief		
Christian	35%	47%
Buddhist	0%	1%
Hindu	0%	0%
Jewish	0%	0%
Muslim	0%	1%
Sikh	0%	0%
No religion	53%	43%
Other religion or belief	5%	1%
Prefer not to say	7%	7%
Veterans (previously served)		
Regular Armed Forces	10%	3%
Reserve Armed Forces	0%	1%
No	85%	96%
Prefer not to say	5%	0%
Disability		
Yes, my day-to-day activities are limited a lot	8%	9%
Yes, my day-to-day activities are limited a little	20%	13%
No	67%	78%
Prefer not to say	5%	0%
Language		
Understand spoken Welsh (only)	64%	8%
Speak Welsh	54%	45%
Read Welsh	54%	42%
Write Welsh	37%	38%
None of the above	17%	43%
Prefer not to say	12%	0%

Note: Welsh skills figures add up to more than the total due to the various combinations of skills

3. Will our Equality Plan be effective?

Objective 1: To be an Exemplar Equal Opportunities Employer

95% of people who answered the online survey, and 80% of the Youth Council agreed that this should be an Equality Objective for Ceredigion Council. A high number of people agreed that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve this objective. See graph below.



We asked the public, “Do you think that we could do more, or do things differently, to better achieve this objective?” Their answers, with our responses, are below.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
1	No, the main focus should be on delivering the actions in the Strategic Equality Plan.	Noted.
2	This survey is a Microsoft Form - yet the facilities this offers have not been used - a Welsh language option for example.	We provided a separate link to a Welsh version of the survey.
3	Yes, form a paid advisory group made up of representatives of the communities you are hoping to	We are very grateful to everyone in the community who give up their time to take part in our consultations. This includes, but

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
	engage/support to advise on policy and delivery. These should not be existing staff.	is not limited to, existing staff. Unfortunately we are not able to pay people to do this. Please see our Engagement and Participation policy for more information.
4	Don't do proportional representation in the workforce, its counter productive and negates the best candidate for the job, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation or racial background	We believe that the Council workforce should represent the local population that it serves at all levels of the organisation.
5	It's OK publishing fine words but actually doing what you say would be a start.	We will start working on our reviewed Strategic Equality Plan on 1st April 2024. We will publish a progress report on our website every year so that people can check our progress.
6	I'm sorry, but I have little faith in the actual will of the councillors to make this happen. There are too many old men on the committees who are rather backward rather than forward thinking.	Please see response 5 above. We have a range of Member Champions. These are councillors who champion a particular issue or group. Cllr Catrin MS Davies is our Equalities Champion. Cllr Paul Hinge is our Armed Forces Champion. Cllr Alun Williams is our Age Friendly Champion and Cllr Wyn Thomas is our Learning Disabilities Champion.
7	The above sounds very bureaucratic, it doesn't do a lot to actually encourage equality in the workplace or change outdated practices or behaviours. -Governmental policy on wellbeing and equality only offers very little to employees in many circumstances, we shouldn't use this as a benchmark, but should aim to be more progressive & set a higher standard than the bare minimum required.	Noted. We aim to be progressive and to work to a high standard.
8	Yes. It is vital to consider the needs of those people who have electrosensitivity (ES) and electrical hypersensitivity (EHS) because they are unable to tolerate wi-fi and other	We understand that the scientific and medical communities are still investigating these conditions.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
	wireless technology and therefore have an inability to access many areas because their health is adversely affected. It is essential to provide areas free of wireless technology so that these people have equal opportunities.	We are a Disability Confident employer. This means that we try to attract and recruit disabled people and to keep and develop disabled employees. We highlight our Disability Confident commitment and what this means in terms of recruitment as part of our training programme for managers.
9	People with electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) in Ceredigion (3-5% of the population) are currently excluded from working for the Council, unless they are able to work from home, owing to the presence of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMFs) from Wi-Fi in most workplaces. This particularly applies to teachers and librarians, who cannot work from home. The Council should be making a special effort to accommodate current and future (possible) employees with this disability.	Please see response 8 above
10	You mention gender and culture but there seems to be very little awareness of disability.	<p>Equalities training is mandatory for all council staff and includes disability awareness.</p> <p>We are a Disability Confident employer. This means that we try to attract and recruit disabled people and to keep and develop disabled employees. We highlight our Disability Confident commitment and what this means in terms of recruitment as part of our training programme for managers.</p>
11	Yes. Stop giving preference to Welsh speakers.	<p>The Welsh Language Standards put a legal duty on us to treat the Welsh language and the English language equally. We must support the use of the Welsh language and make it easier for people to use the Welsh language in their daily lives.</p> <p>However, we will now adopt a continuum approach to the attainment of language skills. We will expect successful candidates</p>

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
		to show a steady improvement in their language skills.
12	Consider the impact of our recruitment practices re Welsh Lang standards in encouraging applicants from those with protected characteristics and whether more support could be offered to obtain the necessary standards in Welsh following appointment rather than as a pre-requisite.	Please see response 11 above.
13	Ceredigion has an ageing population - perhaps employ more people aged over 55?	Noted. On 31 st March 2023, 30.4% of our workforce were aged over 55. The ONS 2021 Census figures show that 40.3% of people in Ceredigion are over 55.
14	Just make sure that the BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB is appointed and paid equally with any other person who could/would be paid if they were to do that job. Don't overpay the higher management.	All appointments to paid employment with Ceredigion County Council are made on merit. Our selection criteria is based on the ability of the person to do the job as defined by the job description and person specification. We use a recognised Job Evaluation scheme to establish a fair and equal pay structure. This makes sure that the rates of pay for all jobs are evaluated in the same way.
15	Ensure the best person is appointed irrespective of age, gender etc	Please see response 14 above.
16	Yes you need to play to people's strengths.	Noted.
17	The practicality needs to be focused on, availability of public toilets for young families' toddlers and, for the older generation to feel confident knowing that they have the facilities close to them. Have confidence that pavements are safe to take mobility scooters, the focus has been on electric cars but how practical is this to the older generation. Ceredigion are very proactive to review any	A review of the Council's Toilet Strategy is included in our draft Equality Plan (action 4.9). The Highway Code states that powered wheelchairs and scooters should use pavements when they can. But they must not travel faster than 4mph and pedestrians must have priority.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
	issues, I feel they try to incorporate everyone with attempts to educate individuals in the process. The cost of childcare limits individuals' potential to progress return to work. The cut back on a provision on care will only impact the NHS in the longer term, investing in older people's care will only save money to keep them at home safe.	Our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has shown us that the cost of childcare is a barrier to employment. Our Childcare Sufficiency action plan tries to address this. We are reviewing our day care, respite services and dementia services. We want to deliver care services at the right time and in the right place for the people who need them.
18	Publishing a pay gap and equality report is great, how will you respond to them if below expectations?	The reports that we publish are our way of monitoring the situation. The Gender Pay Report 2023 describes what we will do to address the pay gap and to increase the diversity of our workforce.

We asked Ceredigion Youth Council members what we could do to make the Council a fair place to work. Their comments, and our responses, are below.

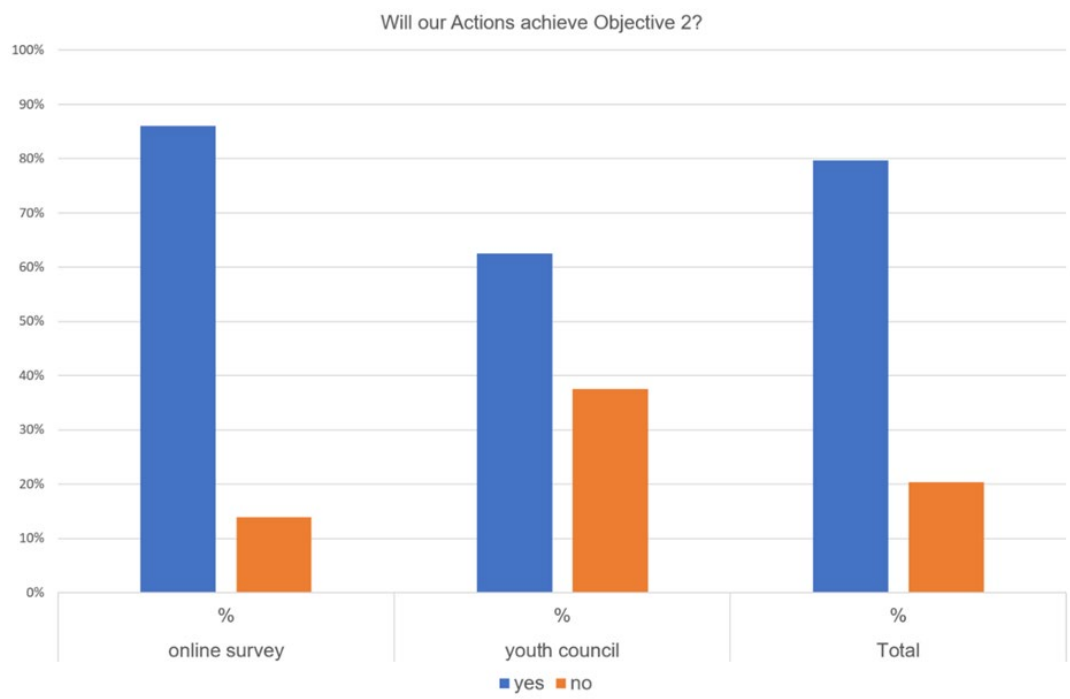
	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
19	Have equality with everyone whether that's gender or your background. Everyone equal pay	We agree that everyone should be paid equally. We use a recognised Job Evaluation scheme to establish a fair and equal pay structure. This makes sure that the rates of pay for all jobs are evaluated in the same way.
20	Equal pay	Please see response 19 above.
21	Prevent discriminatory speech between Welsh speaking and on Welsh speakers and have equal right, pay, voice and to ensure different people from different backgrounds get a say within the community.	We are committed to the Welsh Language Standards. All staff have to attend Welsh language awareness training. We aim to prevent discrimination against speakers of any language. We will continue to work with Ceredigion Disability forum and Ceredigion Youth Council. We hope that LGBTQ+ people and people from diverse ethnic communities will work with us too. We want people from different backgrounds to have a say in the work of the Council.
22	Ensure diversity, sicrhau bod dim (<i>ensure there is no</i>) pay gap.	Please see responses 19 and 21 above.
23	Equal pay and equal voices	Please see responses 19 and 21 above.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
24	Equal pay for both men and women, ensure diversity, all voices should be heard.	Please see responses 19 and 21 above.
25	Give minorities more of a voice and ensure fair treatment.	Please see response 21 above.
26	Report any bullying or racism or homophobia. Give everyone who wishes to join the council a fair chance. Ensure that there isn't a pay gap.	Agreed.
27	Zero tolerance for discrimination.	Agreed.
28	Consider the needs of everyone.	It is important that we consider everyone's needs. But we cannot meet everyone's needs, the needs of some people are in direct conflict with the needs of others.
29	All needs are met.	Please see response above.
30	Gwneud yn siŵr bod pobl o gwahanol cefndiroedd yn y gweithle. (<i>Making sure people from different backgrounds in the workplace</i>)	Agreed. This is included in the current draft form of our Equality Plan.
31	Ensure that jobs do not have bilingual as a need and more of a preference, as it's commonly seen as a need.	We are a bilingual organisation; some jobs have to be done by a Welsh speaker. However, we will now adopt a continuum approach to the attainment of language skills. We will expect successful candidates to show a steady improvement in their language skills.
32	Gwneud yn siŵr fod addysg yn hanfodol i addysg gweithwyr sut i drin pobl lleiafrifol yn hafal a theg. (<i>Making sure that education is essential to workers' education how to treat minority people equally and fairly.</i>)	All Council staff must complete Equality and Diversity training every 3 years.
33	Ensure that it's a comfortable environment, that also makes sure everyone gets treated with respect.	Agreed. Our Dignity at Work policy aims to achieve this.
34	Employ people with a minimum background check e.g. there is no requirements for a cleaner job. So	Ceredigion County Council only requests a DBS check when it is relevant to the job and when the law says that we have to. We also have to check that everybody we

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
	everyone is able to be a part of the workforce.	employ is legally entitled to work in the UK and we ask for evidence of this.

Objective 2: To Foster Good Relations and Tackle Prejudice

95% of people who answered the online survey and 93% of the Youth Council agreed that this should be an Equality Objective for Ceredigion Council. 86% of people who answered the online survey agreed that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve this objective. But only 63% of Youth Council members agreed. See graph below.



We asked the public, “Do you think that we could do more, or do things differently, to better achieve this objective?” Their answers, with our responses, are below.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
1	Disability Inclusion: There's no mention of actions to support individuals with disabilities. Accessibility and inclusivity for all should be part of any plan to foster good relations and tackle prejudice. LGBTQ+ Inclusion: Specific measures to support and protect the	We are a Disability Inclusive employer. This means that all disabled people who meet the essential criteria of the job are guaranteed an interview. We are working to the social model of disability so that society becomes more inclusive. Our plan includes many actions to achieve this. For example, involving

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
	LGBTQ+ community could be beneficial.	more disabled people and LGBTQ+ people in local politics and decision making.
2	You have forgotten the disabled again.	Please see response 1 above.
3	Spending limited financial resources on media campaigns to promote awareness on diversity and relevant? historical events demonstrates a total lack of understanding on what most people think is relevant in society	A very small percentage of the Council's budget is spent on these campaigns. They usually take the form of social media posts and bulletins to staff. We have covered topics like Armed Forces Day, Hate Crime awareness week, Transgender day of visibility and LGBT History month. Making people more aware of an issue can be the first step towards creating an environment where change is possible.
4	Keep six forms where they are - although difficult financially it will lead to the hollowing out of the county - families who can afford it will live within easy reach of Aberaeron. Sold more rural houses will sell to rich older incomers. This will create an even more unbalanced County.	This is outside the scope of this consultation. The topic was discussed by Scrutiny Committee on 28/09/23 and by Ceredigion Cabinet on 07/11/23. Please contact us for more information or visit the Council website: Ceredigion County Council Committee details - Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5	Avoid intrusive surveillance and censorship which inhibits free speech and the ability of people to engage with each other and share views for mutual understanding.	Unsure how this could contribute to this equality objective.
6	Talk to your customers. Listen to your customers. Stop the charades you call consultations. Stop dictating.	Noted.
7	Commit to end Ceredigion involvement in the arms industry	This is outside the scope of this consultation.
8	Time to tackle the prejudice against the Welsh language maybe? Recently have heard more arguments that state the council should not spend money on bilingual services as 'is a waste' but that attitude and prejudice needs to be worked on so it doesn't exist!	The Welsh Language Standards put a legal duty on us not to treat the Welsh language less favourably than English. We want to increase the use of Welsh in all aspects of public life in Ceredigion so that people can live, learn, belong and succeed through the medium of Welsh.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Response
9	Again, appoint the BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB.	<p>We believe that the Council workforce should represent the local population that it serves at all levels of the organisation.</p> <p>All appointments to paid employment with Ceredigion County Council are made on merit. Our selection criteria is based on the ability of the person to do the job as defined by the job description and person specification.</p>
10	You need to get more people with lived experience in the decision making positions	Agreed. We aim to achieve this by taking action to encourage proportionate representation in our workforce (action 1.2). Action 3.1 commits us to programmes and plans to increase representation in local politics and decision making (action 3.1)
11	It is so important that people are treated equally.	Agreed.
12	No - great efforts are continuously there to evolve with the times.	Noted.
13	Ensure that EDI training goes beyond the law and wins hearts and minds.	Agreed. We offer a range of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training. We are working on a new format which aims to put the learner in the shoes of people with lived experience.
14	The Council should be more transparent, open and honest in its reporting, including where things haven't worked.	<p>Scrutiny plays an essential role in making sure that our decision process is accountable and effective.</p> <p>Our Overview and Scrutiny process gives Councillors the chance to examine the various functions of the council. Scrutiny committee members ask questions on how decisions are made. They consider whether services could be improved, and they make recommendations. The meetings are open to the public and minutes are published on our website.</p>

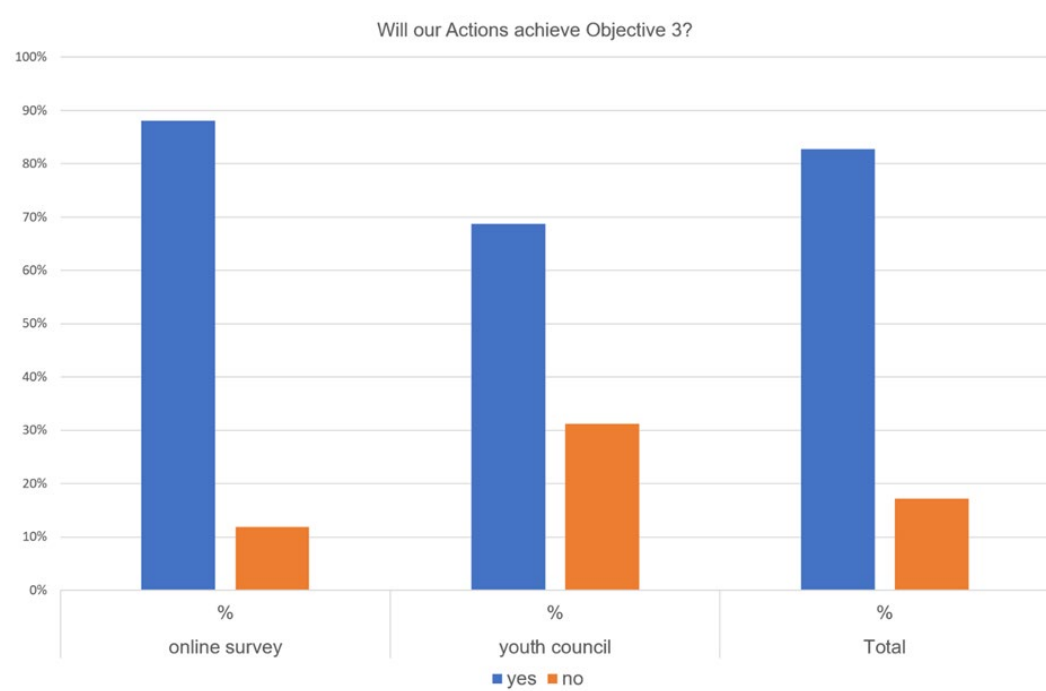
We asked Ceredigion Youth Council members what we could do to make Ceredigion a more respectful and friendly place. Their comments and our responses are below.

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Responses
15	Good work environment, make sure any disturbances are dealt with	Agreed. We will continue to listen to our workforce to inform decision making (action 1.6). We will measure success by asking employees if they feel that the Council cares about their health and wellbeing.
16	Reinforce and educate about the importance of tolerance and equality.	Agreed. We offer a range of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training. We are working on a new format which aims to put the learner in the shoes of people with lived experience.
17	To advocate and educate about acceptance of appearance, race, gender, sexuality and disability.	Please see response 16 above.
18	Agor ardaloedd saff er mwyn trafod unrhyw annhegwch mae person wedi'i wynebu. A gwneud yn siŵr fod pethau yn cael eu wneud i'r troseddwy. <i>(Open safe spaces to discuss any unfairness that people have faced. And make sure that something is done to the offenders.)</i>	Our Manager's Toolkit provides a step by step approach to supporting staff wellbeing. Our Dignity at Work policy sets out the procedure following a dignity at work complaint.
19	Place posters supporting LGBTQ rights as well as teaching in schools that bullying is wrong and to not discriminate against our peers.	We tend to use workforce policies (as above) and training rather than posters. All Council staff must complete Equality and Diversity training every 3 years.
20	Trust and equality.	Noted and agreed.
21	Less discrimination against English population within the workplace and schools. Especially with teachers being rude and discriminatory towards English students.	Discrimination against any nationality is against the law and will be treated as such in line with our Dignity at Work policy, Dignity at Work for Schools policy and individual schools' anti-bullying policies.
22	Everyone treated equally	Agreed. We hope that our Equality Plan will help to achieve this.
23	Ensure that people are taught from a young age that discrimination is wrong.	Agreed. We hope that updating anti-bullying policies in schools (action 5.3), our commitment to Victim Support's Hate Crime Charter (action 2.2) and media campaigns to promote awareness and

	Comment	Ceredigion County Council Responses
		celebrate diversity (action 2.5) will help to achieve this.
24	More education on equality from a young age.	Please see response 23 above.
25	Addysgu mwy am beidio discriminatio (<i>more education about being non-discriminatory</i>)	Please see response 23 above.
26	Addysgu pobl, cosbi pobl am anghydraddoldeb (<i>Educating people, punishing people for inequality</i>)	Please see response 23 above.
27	Respect.	Please see response 23 above.
28	Equality, no judgment.	Please see response 23 above.
29	More multi-cultural schools.	Our schools tend to reflect the culture of the staff, pupils and governors of the school. Some schools are more multi-cultural than others.

Objective 3: To Ensure Engagement and Participation

95% of responses to the online survey and 93% of the Youth Council agreed that this should be an Equality Objective for Ceredigion Council. 88% of people who answered the online survey agreed that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve this objective. But only 69% of youth council members agreed. See graph below.



We asked the public, “Do you think that we could do more, or do things differently, to better achieve this objective?” Their answers and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council responses
1	There clearly is a need to feedback on the consultations that you undertake more promptly and clearly so people know what the outcome is and what was decided. Having seen the Council's Engagement and Participation Strategy, there is the intention of doing this, so I would encourage you deliver on that, it will help everyone. Some Councils do more on "you said we did", the Council could consider following suit and doing something similar, nothing big just a one-side in the reports that you produce stating clearly what you did as a result of the feedback.	<p>Agree. We hope you will agree that this document is an example of the “you said, we did” approach.</p> <p>We will use our new Engagement toolkit to continue to build on this approach (action 3.6). The importance of prompt and clear feedback is included in this toolkit.</p> <p>We also need members of the public to be aware of the length of time it takes for the Council to follow the democratic process properly.</p>
2	You must ensure that you have plurality of voices in relation to 'LGBT' issues. It is vital that you listen to organisations other than Stonewall - eg LGB Alliance, as a 'one size fits all' approach is not relevant to all.	Agreed. We use a range of resources to learn about LGBT issues and will continue to support local Pride events.
3	Too much time and effort demonstrating exactly how "Me too" fixated the UK institutions have become	Please read our equality survey engagement report 2023 . Appendix 3 shows the comments and examples of lived experience from people who live or work in Ceredigion.
4	Solve problems that actually exist rather than inventing new ones.	Please see response above.
5	Yes. Include the many people who are functionally disabled by electrosensitivity (ES) and are thereby excluded from many parts of society because of the threat to their health and wellbeing. They are a minority group whose urgent need for work, accommodation and a safe space are being ignored.	This is something that we need to understand better.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council responses
6	<p>EHS is a disability, a functional impairment due to an inaccessible environment. The views of people with EHS in Ceredigion need to be taken into consideration by the Council when it makes decisions on the provision of wireless technologies in council premises and public spaces, such as the recent installation of Wi-Fi in Lampeter and other towns in the county, something which has greatly affected people with EHS in the county, increasing their sickness, pain, and suffering and making their lives – which are already challenging enough – more difficult. You need to work with suitable partners to establish an EHS stakeholder forum so that you can better understand and implement examples of good practice. This will be not just to the benefit of the most acutely affected, but also those more moderately (and often not consciously) affected, i.e. those demonstrating some level of electrosensitivity – as manifest in chronic sleep, fatigue, mental and/or physical health problems.</p>	<p>Please see response 6 above</p>
7	<p>Hurray! <i>We (disabled people)</i> exist. Next, the homeless. However, I am too familiar with "We consulted the (e.g.) Disability Forum [and then proceeded to ignore all their recommendations" to be entirely convinced.</p> <p>I suggest that in addition you host social events, invitations to citizens selected randomly but adjusted to ensure diversity. Provide food, to introduce people to a wide range of cuisines. But the main thing would</p>	<p>We want to develop the Disability Forum (action 3.2) and are grateful to the members who give up their time to work with us to help improve our services.</p> <p>We want to establish further stakeholder forums (actions 3.3 and 3.4). We will consider the suggested approach of meeting, chatting and making short films.</p>

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council responses
	be to facilitate meeting and chatting with Enable groups to make short films about their life in Ceredigion. Or perhaps why they came here if they are from elsewhere.	
8	You do too much online and too little face to face.	<p>We are aware of the need for face to face services. Our Hybrid working policy identifies work categories that range from 'in the workplace' 'partly at home/partly at the workplace' and 'roaming'.</p> <p>Our customer contact team offers a face to face service from our four major libraries, Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Lampeter and Cardigan.</p> <p>Our aim is to be flexible in terms of where and when work is carried out and also to provide good services.</p>
9	Advertise opportunities to engage more widely.	<p>We promote opportunities on social media, on posters at our libraries and leisure centres, on our website and through targeted emails to specific groups.</p> <p>We have launched 'My Account.' This allows people to tell us if they want to know about engagement and consultation opportunities. We can then contact them direct.</p>
10	Elected members do not represent the diversity within Ceredigion - there is a lack of people who have moved into the county.	<p>We want to encourage more young people, women, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and people from diverse ethnic backgrounds into local politics and decision making (action 3.1).</p> <p>The citizens of Ceredigion elect councillors. We promote diversity in line with the protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010.</p>
11	Just 'developing the membership' of the disability forum is not enough - accessibility around Ceredigion for	Providing public transport that is affordable for the passenger as well as the transport provider is a huge challenge.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council responses
	public transport is poor - in Llandysul there is 1 bus a day and that refused my wheelchair recently as the driver didn't know how to operate the wheelchair lift. Participation is non-existent if there is no transport!	<p>Please see action 4.10: We will work with partners to develop sustainable and affordable travel solutions.</p> <p>Although not inspirational, we feel that this action is realistic in the current economic climate.</p>
12	Foster greater knowledge and understanding about neurodiversity - both within our existing staff and for customers / future staff.	Council staff can book onto our training course 'Neurodiversity in the Workplace for Managers and HR Staff.' There are also 2 x 'Understanding Autism' e-learning modules.
13	It shouldn't matter what colour/age/sex/.... a person is if they are appropriate to do the job. Just get the BEST PERSON in post. It pointless to have 1 male/1 female/1 black/1 white.... person on the workforce if they cannot/will not do the job properly.	<p>We believe that the public sector workforce should represent the population that it serves at all levels of the organisation.</p> <p>All appointments to paid employment with Ceredigion County Council are made on merit. Our selection criteria is based on the ability of the person to do the job as defined by the job description and person specification.</p>
14	You need to do more with people, rather than for people. We need to be led by people who experience all these things rather than people who have no real understanding of the issues.	<p>Agreed. Our Through Age and Wellbeing services are delivered in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. This is a law that gives people more of a say in the care and support they received. It's about people making decisions about their care in partnership with professionals.</p> <p>In addition to this, all interview panels for jobs in social care includes someone with lived experience.</p>
15	If people do not participate how do we know what they want.	Agreed.
16	we need to educate individuals in education that it is worth going to work and not staying home to be on benefits the drive to be part of a community it lost meaning it has a massive impact on mental well	Agreed. This is not a specific action in our Equality Plan, but we do track the number of people who claim benefits because they are unemployed. We offer a range of services to help people into education, work or training.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council responses
	being. Feeling lost & lonely - intergeneration should be made easier to coordinate	Some people cannot work because they have caring responsibilities or health issues. Our Carers and Community team help people in their communities to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.
17	ask for volunteers from members of protected characteristic groups to share their experiences and expectations	Agreed. We will do this with the current Disability Forum and a BAME forum and LGBTQ+ forum that we want to develop (actions 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4)
18	There needs to be a Womens stakeholder forum - women face inequality within minority groupings.	Comment noted.

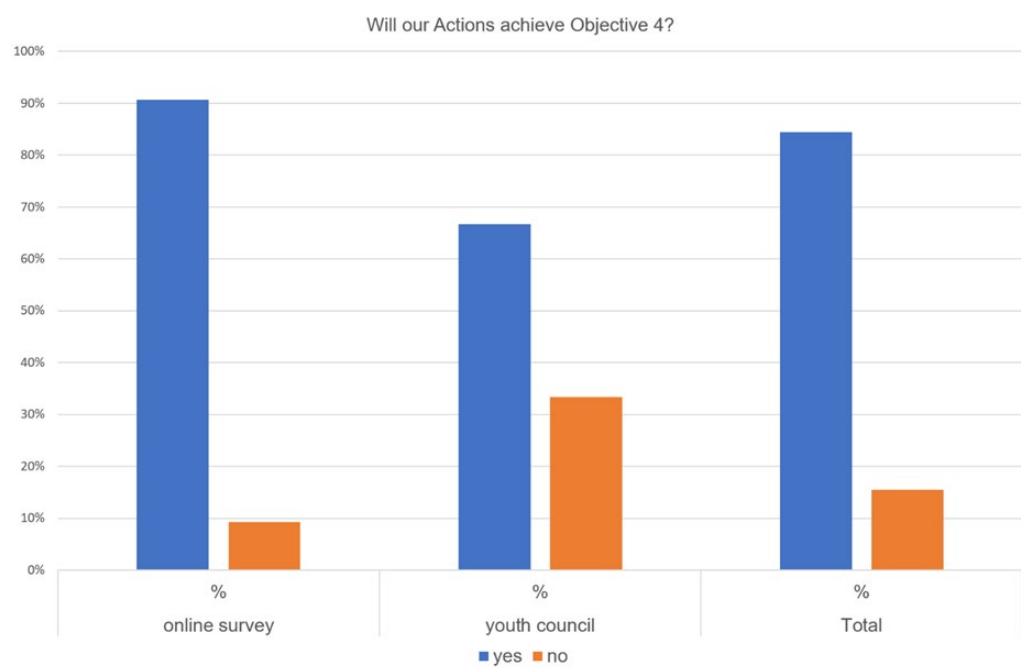
We asked Ceredigion Youth Council members how we could make it easier for people from different backgrounds to take part in decisions. Their comments and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
19	Anonymous surveys	Noted, most of the council's surveys are anonymous.
20	More accessibility	Noted. We hope that the actions in our Equality Plan will help us to achieve this.
21	Sicrhau llefydd i bobl allu rhoi eu barn (<i>Ensure there are more places for people to give their opinion</i>)	<p>We are always looking for more ways to promote opportunities to engage with us and ask for people's opinion.</p> <p>We promote opportunities on social media, on posters at our libraries and leisure centres, on our website and through targeted emails to specific groups.</p> <p>We have launched 'My Account.' This allows people to tell us if they want to know about engagement and consultation opportunities. We can then contact them direct.</p>
22	Advertise it more, make more people aware.	Please see response 22 above.
23	Get people more chances to offer their opinions.	Please see response 22 above.
24	Ask for people opinions	Please see response 22 above.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
25	Reach out to different groups and organisations, advertise it.	Please see response 22 above.
26	Easy to report discrimination or hate crime	We will continue to work with Victim Support and our Regional Community Cohesion Team to raise awareness of Hate Crime and make sure it is easy to report incidents of Hate Crime (action 2.2).
27	Gwneud yn siŵr fod lleisiau yn cael ei clywed. A ddim wedi'i anwybyddu. <i>(Making sure voices are heard. And are not ignored)</i>	Responses to engagement and consultation campaigns are usually included in reports to Ceredigion County Councillors. They make the final decision on changes to services and new policies. The minutes of all Youth Council meetings are presented to Ceredigion Cabinet.
28	Sicrhau bod lleisiau yn cael ei clywed. <i>(Ensure voices are heard)</i>	Please see response 28 above.
29	Make sure everyone's voice is taken into account, more chances to speak out.	Please see response 28 above. We are always looking for more ways to promote opportunities to engage with us and ask for people's opinion.
30	No judgment, make sure that things are accessible and safe.	Agreed. We hope that our Equality Plan will help to achieve this.
31	Anonymous speaking, to create a safe environment.	Most of the council's surveys are anonymous.
32	Anonymous surveys	Please see response 33 above. We will encourage council staff who carry out face to face consultations to take an anonymous box with them.
33	Have an anonymous box.	Please see response above.
34	Allow people to say their opinions in a way they're confident in, whether that's through an email, essay, speaking, motions (non-aggressive) etc.	We will include your suggestion in our new Engagement toolkit for staff.

Objective 4: To ensure Dignity, Respect and Access to Services

100% of responses to the online survey and 88% of the Youth Council agreed that this should be an Equality Objective for Ceredigion Council. 91% of respondents to the online survey agreed that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve this objective. But only 67% of youth council members agreed. See graph below.



We asked the public, “Do you think that we could do more, or do things differently, to better achieve this objective?” Their answers and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
1	No, but I would emphasize the importance of making the Council's website more accessible.	Agreed. This is included in the plan (action 4.6).
2	Your 'Toilets for All' strategy MUST include the retention of single sex toilet facilities in all cases. You can add a third 'unisex' option for those that require them, but single sex toilets are a requirement by law - in schools for children over the age of 8 toilets must be segregated by sex by law. For public toilets, for safety, single sex must be provided unless	We will take this into account as part of the review of our Toilet Strategy (action 4.9)

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
	the toilet is single occupancy with enclosed washing facilities.	
3	Additional funds. There is limited infrastructure, it's difficult to access some services without cars. Also try not to be too prescriptive - the longer-term existing communities want to be left alone and enjoy living in isolation - urban incomers seem to want to be in communities and to monetise small holdings etc. For those who want to be left alone dignity and respect is realising they like and want to live more isolated lives.	Agreed. It is difficult to develop the infrastructure in the current financial climate. Council staff are based in each council run library, leisure centre and wellbeing centre but these are located in the towns. We do our best to bring services out to people who need them and to provide on-line services, where this is appropriate. We acknowledge the fact that not everyone can use on-line services.
4	Please make sure you also include environmental impact and conservation when building. You will say "of course" but take it seriously and don't allow finance to be the deciding factor. Put effort into identifying unused space that already exists in the towns. But also appoint a conservation officer and team to protect our built heritage. Don't allow that to be spoilt for all time because of current urgent need. Provide funds so that owners of historic buildings can carry out repairs sympathetically (no more uPVC) - build with an eye towards the future and to the past	<p>Most planning applications need some form of ecological survey and assessment, depending on the site and the proposal. All planning applications must include site specific biodiversity enhancements (as well as compensation and mitigation).</p> <p>We follow the principles of Planning Policy Wales which state that we should consider previously developed land and/or underutilised sites located within existing settlements first and sites on the edge of settlements at the next stage.</p> <p>Our Specialist Development Management officer (Built Heritage) is drafting a guidance note on windows in conservation areas and listed buildings. We don't have control over use of uPVC in dwellings in many conservation areas. This may change if Article 4(2) Direction is applied to more conservation areas.</p>
5	Stop online meetings and meet your customers face to face.	We recognise some of the shortcomings of meeting online. We are updating our technology so that we can improve the online experience.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
		<p>We offer hybrid meetings so that people can attend in person or virtually.</p> <p>We are aware of the need for face to face services.</p> <p>Our Hybrid working policy identifies work categories that range from 'in the workplace' 'partly at home/partly at the workplace' and 'roaming.'</p> <p>Our customer contact team offers a face to face service from our four major libraries, Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Lampeter and Cardigan. Our Carers and Community support team are out meeting customers face to face on a regular basis.</p>
6	Yes, urgently address the need for safe housing for people functionally disabled and currently rendered homeless and jobless by electrical hypersensitivity (EHS).	Electrical hypersensitivity is something that we need to understand better.
7	There is currently no housing provision for people with EHS in Ceredigion. Again, you need to work urgently with suitable partners to establish an EHS stakeholder forum so that you can better understand examples of good practice and swiftly implement appropriate, lasting solutions to the seriously unhealthy and inhumane housing situation faced by many of those with EHS today. The Council could, and should, be playing a leading role in adequately recognising this cohort and their fundamental rights and needs in this domain, helping to address the EHS housing emergency within the housing/homelessness crisis currently gripping the nation. Public transport is inaccessible to people	Please see response 6 above.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
	with EHS owing to the presence of Wi-Fi and smartphones on both buses and trains. They are, by and large, forced to curtail their movements/rely more so on others than they would like to (consider: isolation, reliance on others, lack of independence) and/or use their own transport, with all the costs, risks, and complexity that these things entail.	
8	The council has talked about doing these things for the last 20 years+ and there has been more procrastination and research than actually doing anything. The system of electing councillors reinforces the status quo. There is hardly any meaningful drive for change needed.	<p>Annual monitoring reports on our current Strategic Equality Plan show steady progress. These can be viewed on our website Strategic Equality Plan & Objectives - Ceredigion County Council. Paper copies can be provided on request.</p> <p>Our Equalities and Inclusion manager can meet with anyone who would like to go through these in more detail.</p> <p>Ceredigion citizens elect our Councillors in line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.</p>
9	Good words but your past record suggests nothing will change.	Please see response above.
10	Stop charging for toilets. There's no dignity in that situation.	<p>Our last consultation on public toilets (2019) showed that 66% of respondents were willing to pay to use Public Conveniences. With the prospect of future budget cuts it is important to raise revenue in order to maintain these facilities.</p> <p>A review of our Toilet Strategy is included in our Equality Plan (action 4.9)</p>
11	Developing affordable travel solutions is key for the disabled community for access to services. I usually drive (in an adapted car, I'm a wheelchair user) and can access services but recently broke my ankle	<p>Providing public transport that is affordable for the passenger as well as the transport provider is a huge challenge.</p> <p>Please see action 4.10: We will work with partners to develop sustainable and affordable travel solutions.</p>

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
	and so am unable to drive. As such I can access absolutely nothing and am stuck in the house as there is a steep hill to the village, the leisure centre, the library and the bus stop. At the Bwca bws would collect me at the end of the road, but that service is no longer available.	Although not inspirational, we feel that this action is realistic in the current economic climate.
12	I believe that anyone who wishes to speak/write Welsh should be able to do so if possible, however, if appointing a Welsh speaking person above a better qualified non-Welsh speaker means that the job is done to a lower standard, then that is nonsensical. I also believe that it is wrong to force the speaking of Welsh on to people who do not wish to speak it. I do understand that by living in Wales, I will see/hear Welsh on a regular basis, but that should not mean that I am made to feel obligated to learn Welsh.	<p>We are a bilingual organisation; some jobs have to be done by a Welsh speaker. However, we will now adopt a continuum approach to the attainment of language skills. We will expect successful candidates to show a steady improvement in their language skills.</p> <p>Our policy is to ask people what their preferred language is and to continue in that language. If you have told us that your preferred language is English, this should be recorded, and we would continue to provide you with a service through the medium of English.</p>
13	Be open	We aim to be transparent and open with all Council business.
14	Be open and transparent about what you are doing, especially on housing and transport.	Please see response above.
15	Making cuts in care services will not allow for this, if you invest in providing care it keeps people safe in their home. Extra Care can enable people to live at home safely with provisions put in place to open up the communication between district nurses GP's etc making a saving for the NHS and the council in the long run. Delta well being service make a massive difference in the ageing populations lives, technology can be utilised further to keep people safe.	<p>The 2023-24 budget for our Through Age Wellbeing and Care service is £53m. We forecast an overspend of approximately £3.5m.</p> <p>The financial position is extremely challenging. Our Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024-25 indicates a budget gap of £8.5m and a savings requirement of £6.4m. However, we do recognise the benefits of an 'invest to save' approach.</p> <p>The Delta Connect service is funded by Welsh Government's Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund 2022-2027</p>

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Responses
		through the West Wales Regional Partnership Board.
16	Please add 'young people' to the success measure for Action 3.1.	Action 3.1 amended.

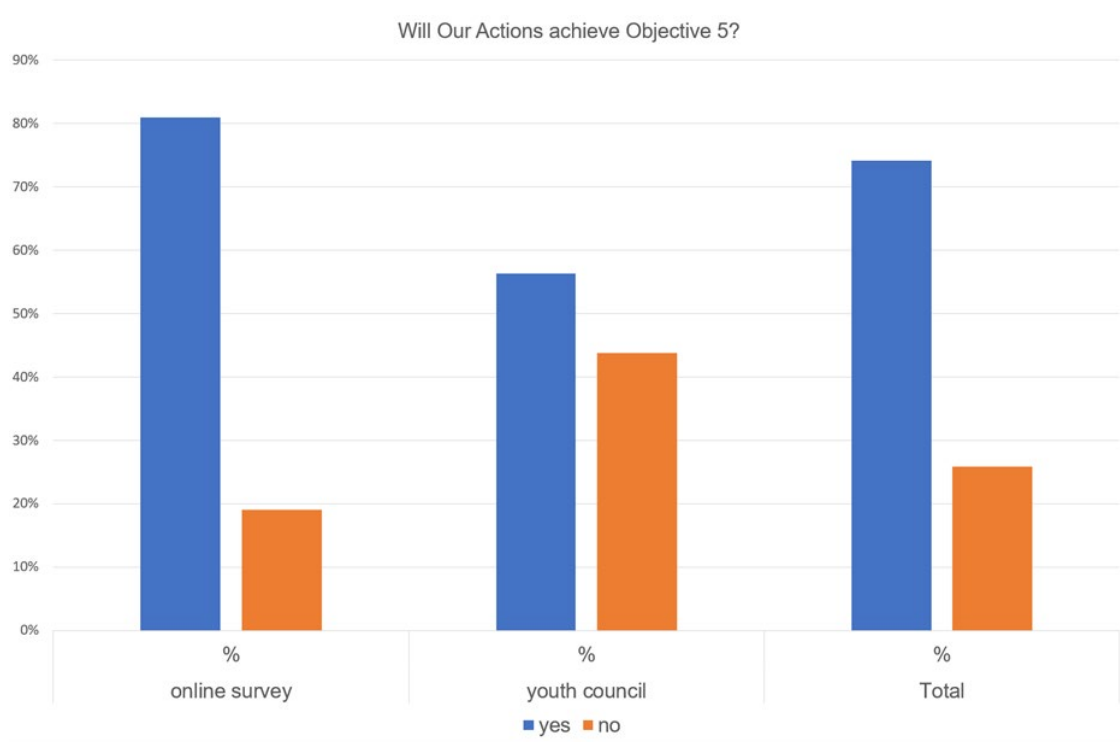
We asked Ceredigion Youth Council members how we could make it easier for people to access Council services. Their comments and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
17	Websites	Our website Cyngor Sir Ceredigion County Council is continually updated. We are always working to improve it and make it easier to use.
18	Ar lein neu rhif ffon gall ffonio am manylion <i>(Online or a phone number you can call for details)</i>	Please see response above. People can also ring the Council during our normal working hours.
19	Easy to read website which accommodates for people with disabilities.	Over 90% of our website has achieved the AAA standard of accessibility. The remaining 10% is due to the use of pdf documents which are almost impossible to make accessible. We will continue to improve the accessibility of our website under our new Equality Plan (action 4.6).
20	Bod ar cyfryngau cymdeithasol (Be on Social Media)	Our Welsh Facebook page – Cyngor Sir Ceredigion – has 2,00 followers. Our English Facebook page – Ceredigion County Council – has 16,800 followers. In addition to our main Council Facebook page, there are 15 Facebook pages run by individual Council services. Ceredigion schools also have their own Facebook pages. We have 2,600 followers of our Welsh X (formerly Twitter) account and 8,700 followers of our English X account. In addition to our main Council X account, there are 9 X accounts run by individual Council services.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
		Our Instagram account – caruceredigion has 1,600 followers. <i>(Figures were correct at 05/01/24)</i>
21	Social media, and accessibility for disabled people.	Please see response 20 above. We hope that our Equality Plan will further improve accessibility for disabled people.
22	More awareness of services available on social media bilingually	All Ceredigion County Council services and social media posts are bilingual.
23	More information in the languages. Polish, Romanie etc.	We can provide information in other languages on request.
24	Ensure there are ramps present for wheelchair users	All council buildings open to the general public are fully accessible. Accessibility is a prime consideration in the design of any new development.
25	Speak both English and Welsh	All Ceredigion County Council services are bilingual.
26	Talk about it in school flyers, adverts.	Noted.
27	Angen sicrhau fod accessibility yn dda. A ddim wedi neud yn wili nili. <i>(Need to ensure that accessibility is good. And not done willy nilly)</i>	Agreed. We hope that our Equality Plan will help us to achieve this.
28	Allow the option to have a home visit for people with mental health problems or disabilities.	Our social care team, part of our Through Age and Wellbeing service offer home visits.
29	Create online posts or news articles offering people opportunities.	We promote our services on our social media pages and in news articles released to the local press.
30	To create a forum or website where people could access these services online and anonymously. To advertise it to all ages, race etc. To make sure it's known to be equal and diverse.	Many of our services can now be accessed online. Unfortunately we cannot provide services to people who remain anonymous. Confidentiality is very important to us and we have strict data protection processes.
31	Ask disabled people what would best benefit them.	Ceredigion Disability Forum meets every 3 months. We do need to attract more people to join. This is included in our Equality Plan (action 3.2).

Objective 5: To provide Fair and Inclusive Education

95% of responses to the online survey and 88% of the Youth Council agreed that this should be an Equality Objective for Ceredigion Council. However, only 81% of respondents to the online survey agreed that the actions in the plan would help us to achieve this objective. Only 56% of youth council members agreed. See graph below.



We asked the public, “Do you think that we could do more, or do things differently, to better achieve this objective?” Their answers and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
1	The WG has not yet issued a 'trans guidance for schools' so it would be foolhardy to say you will implement it without seeing it's contents. The current trans toolkit in Ceredigion was withdrawn in 2020 when similar toolkits in the UK were subject to court challenge due to erroneous guidance which contradicted equality law. It is possible to treat young people with gender identity incongruence with respect but it must not be at the expense of the majority.	Agree, it is difficult to fully answer without trans guidance from Welsh Government. Pupil voice is key. We will follow Welsh Government guidance on provision of school toilets and changing facilities.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
	Toilet and changing facilities must remain single sex for the safety and dignity of ALL pupils.	
2	Points a & b are difficult to attain. The public, parents etc have not been made aware of the WG's trans guidance for schools. If a school has 1 child that identifies as a different sex than that of its birth then this must be reflected on the schools governing body?	<p>See response 1 above regarding trans guidance for schools.</p> <p>School governing bodies should represent the population for which the school caters. Each governing body follows Welsh Government Guidelines when recruiting governors. Applications are judged on merit and skills set.</p>
3	Too much emphasis on Welsh in education. This creates barriers to learning and does not make people feel equal. This means the policy is not inclusive and fair.	<p>We aim to educate pupils so that they are thoroughly bilingual by the time they leave the primary school. This means that pupils will be able to participate fully in the bilingual community of which they are a part.</p> <p>This is in line with the Welsh Government Curriculum for Wales and supports the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p>
4	I don't understand how making English speaking children learn subjects in Welsh can be as productive in terms of achievement as learning in their first language. How can they understand what is to them an alien subject matter when they are perhaps struggling to understand the basic words in Welsh - never mind the technical words of the subject.	<p>There are disadvantages to being bilingual, but these are far outweighed by the advantages.</p> <p>International research confirms that bilingual children can think more creatively and tend to score higher in IQ tests than children who speak only one language.</p> <p>Around 40% of job descriptions in Wales need the ability to speak English and Welsh.</p> <p>On average, bilingual people earn between 8% and 10% more salary because of their ability to work in two languages (Dr Colin Baker, Bangor University).</p>

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
5	Spend more time on majorities not minorities.	Minority groups tend to experience more disadvantage than majority groups. This creates inequality. The aim of our Equality Plan is to reduce inequality.
6	Too much time is spent dealing with minorities. It is out of all proportion.	See response 5 above.
7	ALN provisions in schools are poor. Trandep etc do not work! Parents having to pay for private tutors as provisions in schools aren't good enough. Education system isn't made for any children that aren't 'average'	ALN provision in Ceredigion schools has been monitored by the Local Authority and Estyn and found to be effective. Staff receive ongoing training for the delivery of effective and proven additional learning provision and inclusive strategies.
8	I discovered at that age of 59 that I, like my son, have ADHD. I have been waiting 2½ years for a diagnosis and the centre in Carmarthen don't even reply to emails. Do something to assist the health board to pick up speed. Engage an instructor to help people with their IT difficulties. Courses are good, but something less structured to answer occasional queries	Diagnosis of ADHD is a matter for Hywel Dda Health Board. Our team of Community Connectors offer regular drop in sessions across the county. They signpost people to the range of IT courses available and can also help with occasional enquiries at the time. Our Adult Learning team - Dysgu Bro, also offer drop in IT advice sessions. Please contact the Council to ask for the next drop in session in your area.
9	Schools should have internet capability hard-wired instead of wi-fi so that electrosensitive children and students are not excluded from education and other children are protected from any harms to their health. See bioinitiative.org for evidence of harms from wireless technology, including wi-fi, phones, masts and smartmeters.	Electrical hypersensitivity is something that we need to understand better.
10	Again, children with EHS in the county are excluded from school due to the presence of Wi-Fi, along with other wireless devices/systems. In August 2022 a UK Upper Tribunal recognised a child's EHS as an impairment that met the tests in the Equality Act and awarded an	Please see response above.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
	<p>Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). This ruling set a precedent and means that public bodies must take into account the discrimination resulting from their deployment of Wi-Fi and other wireless technologies. An excerpt from the hearing notes: “The child’s problem with electromagnetic radiation affects her life generally and limits her day-to-day activities—the Equality Act test. It applies at school, at home, and when she is out in the world. When at school, her problems with communication and making use of the computers are a direct result of the use of Wi-Fi in schools. [...] [The child’s] symptoms were not unique to a school environment. But when they occurred in that environment, they arose from the school’s choice of the medium for providing education. In those circumstances, some provision is required in order to render the education effective.” (Excerpts from Redacted Outcome Statement Nov. 2021, UK Tribunal Court.)</p>	
11	<p>It is difficult to answer this question as I feel more detailed information is needed on the educational opportunities available to children and young adults with ALN.</p>	<p>Noted. It is difficult for people that do not have lived experience to answer this question</p> <p>Please see information on our website Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - Ceredigion County Council</p>
12	<p>The education system is too inward looking. And not focused on climate breakdown and the need to educate our youth truthfully so they can be ready for the catastrophe that their lives will witness</p>	<p>As part of the new curriculum for Wales, there are 4 purposes. The focus of one of the these is to develop ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world.</p>
13	<p>Everyone should have access to education.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
14	<p>Angen cyfeirio at ddisgyblion difreintiedig fan hyn (PYD / RADY*) hefyd er mwyn sicrhau eu bod nhw yn gallu llwyddo yn yr un modd â phlant sydd ddim mewn sefyllfa difreintiedig (<i>You also need to refer to disadvantaged pupils here (FSM / RADY*) to ensure that they can succeed in the same way as children who are not in a disadvantaged position</i>)</p> <p>*RADY - Raising Attainment for Disadvantaged Youngsters</p>	<p>Our Deprivation and Equity Strategy is a new strategy for schools to support young people experiencing deprivation. It was approved by Cabinet on 14/02/2023. A report on its progress will be presented to the Schools and to the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee each year.</p>
15	<p>You don't mention about supporting children from low-income families or from care homes.</p> <p>I have seen nothing about supporting older people to take advantage of digital technology so I don't know what "continuing to support" means.</p>	<p>Please see response 14 above.</p> <p>Our Through Age and Wellbeing teams support people in their homes to use i-pads to revisit childhood memories, play interactive games, check their waste collection dates, apply for pension credit, etc</p> <p>Our Adult Learning team - Dysgu Bro, also offer drop in IT advice sessions and digital literacy classes. These are widely advertised but your response shows us that we need work on promotion. Please contact the Council for more information.</p>
16	<p>How about 'creating a safe environment for those in education to be able to be themselves without fear of ridicule'?</p>	<p>Agreed. Everyone has the right to be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in education settings.</p>
17	<p>Engage parents in educating their children and themselves to create a more inclusive and supportive community within the educational establishments - encourage children to be champions / challenge hateful behaviour</p>	<p>We collaborate with parents in meetings regarding challenging behaviour and are investing in Paul Dix's training, "When the Parent Change".</p> <p>Our Learning and Skills mentors work with students that need support with building positive relationships.</p>

We asked Ceredigion Youth Council members how we could make sure that education is fair and safe for everyone. Their comments and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
18	Safe spaces	All Secondary schools now have 'Hafan', a homely room at school that pupils can access for emotional and practical support.
19	Try to limit stigma to avoid bullying, safer space to report discrimination	The Governing Body approves the school's individual Anti-Bullying Policy which is available from the school on request. The Headteacher provides a termly report to the Governing Body on any bullying cases.
20	Have places to report hate crimes	We will continue to work with Victim Support to ensure that reporting hate crime in educational settings is a priority (action 4.2)
21	Third party services to help with hate crime and bullying.	Please see response above.
22	Don't allow teacher to bully students or harass them.	Agreed. Everyone has the right to be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in education settings.
23	Ensure the safety and security of minority students and educate both students and teachers on important matters.	The values of respect, tolerance and kindness should form part of our school communities and cultures. Headteachers report on bullying cases each term. The reports are forwarded to the Council's Child Protection Officer. Welsh Government plan to strengthen the guidance on prejudice-related bullying. They will focus particularly on racist, Islamophobic and antisemitic incidents. Action 5.3 in our plan commits us to ensuring that local guidance reflects this.
24	Creating an accepting environment, to educate about diversity and hate crime in a safe environment.	Please see response 23 above.
25	Addysgu plant am ymddygiad derbyniol	Behaviour policies are in place in all schools, these are shared with parents and pupils. Schools participate in national

	<i>(Educate children about appropriate behaviour)</i>	<p>days, for example, Anti Bullying week. School police officers help to reinforce messages of acceptable behaviour.</p> <p>The well-being curriculum also reinforces these messages, teaching pupils about healthy relationships and making informed decisions.</p>
26	Hyfforddi athrawon <i>(train teachers)</i>	<p>Trainee teachers use Mike Gershon's resources to help them support disadvantaged learners. They meet with our Rural and Pupil Deprivation officer to learn more about supporting pupils that are experiencing deprivation. They also have a session with NHS staff to discuss the mental health needs of pupils in schools.</p>
27	Cosbi y rhai sy'n bwlio a hyfforddi athrawon <i>(Punish those who bully and train teachers)</i>	<p>Please see responses 23 and 26 above.</p> <p>We adopt a restorative approach to address inappropriate behaviour and give pupils the opportunity to discuss their actions and the consequences of their actions.</p>
28	Teach students that have no knowledge about this topic	<p>As part of the new curriculum for Wales, there are 4 purposes. The focus of one of the these is to develop ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world.</p>
29	Educate children on societal issues from a young age.	<p>Please see response 28 above.</p>
30	Educate people at a young age	<p>Please see response 28 above.</p>
31	Cael toiledau unisex er mwyn fod ddim rhaid i pobl trawsrywiol ddefnyddio toiledau athrawon neu anabl. <i>(Have unisex toilets so that transgender people don't have to use teacher's toilets or disabled toilets)</i>	<p>Until Welsh Government trans guidance is released we will safeguard and respect all pupils. It can be difficult to provide unisex toilets, especially in older buildings. Each case is discussed on an individual basis, pupil voice is essential.</p>
32	Restructure the way lessons are taught to be more inclusive of all students.	<p>Developing learners through the new curriculum is considering the stage of the pupil and not their age. This means that provision is provided at an appropriate level for all learners, ensuring that work is</p>

		differentiated effectively. This is regardless of the subject or topic.
33	Less priority placed on academic intelligence	Please see 32 response above.

4. Effect on the Welsh language

We asked the public if they felt that our draft Plan 2024-28 will have an impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on the status of the Welsh language in the community. Their answers and our responses are below.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
1	Overall, I think the impact will be positive, it will create more opportunities and encourage people who speak Welsh to use it, and probably encourage those who don't to consider learning.	Noted.
2	As per my original comment - to demonstrate this. Please use alternative language support.	We provided a separate link to a Welsh version of the survey.
3	We should be encouraging the use of Welsh language not enforcing it.	The Welsh Language Standards put a legal duty on us to not treat the Welsh language less favourably than English. We must support the use of the Welsh language and make it easier for people to use their Welsh in their daily lives.
4	People will speak Welsh if they want to not because you want them to.	It is important that our Welsh speaking residents feel confident to use Welsh as part of their daily life. They have a right to do so in all manner of formal and informal situations. So, as a Council our Welsh language services must be accessible, of a high standard and easy to use.
5	Sometimes too much emphasis is given to the Welsh language. As a non Welsh speaking person in the county I sometimes feel in a minority and feel unincluded with lots of people speaking Welsh around me. Wales is a bilingual country; I am Welsh but don't speak the language. I sometimes feel discriminated	Our policy is to work bilingually, to ask people what their preferred language is and to continue in that language. If you have told us that your preferred language is English, this should be recorded, and we would continue to provide you with a service through the medium of English.

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
	against because of the Welsh Language Policy.	
6	Too much emphasis given to welsh language	Please see responses above.
7	I am happy for anyone who wants to speak Welsh to do so. I am not happy for other people to be made to feel wrong that they do not speak Welsh.	Noted. This is not something that the Council condones.
8	it will ensure access to members in their language of choice	Agreed.
9	Mae hwn yn her parhaus a bydd angen sicrhau fod popeth sy'n cael ei wneud yn ddwyieithog a bod y Gymraeg yn ymddangos yn gyntaf ar unrhyw dull cyfathrebu <i>(This is an ongoing challenge, and you will need to ensure that everything is done bilingually and that the Welsh Language is shown first on any method of communication)</i>	Agreed. This is set out in our Welsh Language Policy Statement.
10	We need to make Welsh an opportunity not a barrier - as a Welsh speaker myself we are frequently most critical of our own level of Welsh and fear being judged by others however this inhibits genuine efforts to improve or to even engage in the first place.	Agreed.
11	This response is not related to this question. Equal opportunities monitoring form You are requesting information on 'gender' - the protected characteristic is 'sex' - the information you will glean from this question will be meaningless. You can ask a person's sex and in a further question, ask if they consider themselves to be 'transgender'. In the draft plan you say that in your mythical village of 100 : "1 person	Section 7 of the Equality Act 2010 says that you must not be discriminated against because of gender reassignment. Gender reassignment means proposing to undergo, undergoing or having undergone a process to reassign your sex. The Equality Act 2010 defines 'sex' as being either male or female. Under the Act, a person's legal sex is the sex

	Comments	Ceredigion County Council Response
	<p>whose gender is now different to what it was when they were born. 8 people would prefer not to tell you their gender identity." Nobody is born with a 'gender'. They are born a sex - male or female. Not everyone has a 'gender identity' - I do not have one: my sex is female. Many do not understand the notion of GI as it is a very recent phenomenon and many do not believe in it. The right not to believe is as valid as the right to believe in GI. It is possible that those 8 people who declined to tell you their gender identity do not subscribe to the notion of gender identity either, so rather than assume that they are too shy to reveal their GI and basing elements of your Plan on the assumption that there are more transgender individuals in the county than declared officially, work on the assumption that many people do not believe in the concept.</p>	<p>recorded on their birth certificate or their Gender Recognition Certificate.</p> <p>We agree that the right not to believe in gender identity is as valid as the right to believe in it, as long as this does not result in discrimination, harassment or victimisation.</p> <p>We will change our equalities monitoring form so that it asks about a person's 'sex', and in a further question asks about their 'gender identity'.</p>

5. Conclusion

We are very grateful to everyone who responded to our public consultation. As a result of the feedback we will:

- Amend action 3.1 to include 'young people' in the success measure.
- Find out more about Electrical Hypersensitivity (EHS).
- Encourage staff to take an anonymous feedback box to face to face consultations.
- Change our internal Engagement toolkit to offer more ways for people to tell us what they think when we consult with them.
- Amend specific actions under Objective 4 to include the term 'lived experience'.
- Change our equalities monitoring form so that it asks about a person's 'sex', and in a further question asks about their 'gender identity.'



INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

Proposal Details

Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative	
Draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028	
Service Area	Officer completing IIA
Policy, Performance and Public Protection	Cathryn Morgan
Corporate Lead Officer	Strategic Director
Alun Williams	Barry Rees
Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal	
<p>The Specific Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales require us to set out our Equality Objectives and then review every four years. This is our fourth Strategic Equality Plan. The revised objectives for 2024-28 and accompanying action plan must be published by 31st of March 2024.</p> <p>We have reviewed our Equality Objectives in light of engagement and research into the current state of equality in Ceredigion. Our conclusion is that our objectives are still fit for purpose but, due to the changing nature of society and the work we have undertaken up to now, we need to amend the actions we will take to achieve the objectives. Our revised Equality Objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be an Exemplar Equal Opportunities Employer 2. To Foster Good Relations and Tackle Prejudice 3. To ensure Engagement and Participation 4. To ensure Dignity, Respect and Access to Services 5. To provide Fair and Inclusive Education 	
Who will be directly affected by this proposal? HINT	
People who live in, work in, study in and visit Ceredigion, including the Council workforce. There is a particular focus on people who share one or more of the characteristics that are protected by the Equality Act 2010.	
Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?	
Yes. Public engagement campaign, Summer 2023. Public consultation campaign, Winter 2023. The campaigns were publicised widely, and additional promotion was	

targeted at groups of people that share characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

Ceredigion Equalities Workgroup reviewed the findings of the campaigns and agreed the final draft of Ceredigion Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 in January 2024.

Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

Version Number	Author	Decision making stage <u>HINT</u>	Date Considered	Description of any amendments made <u>HINT</u>
1	Cathryn Morgan	Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Cabinet (to approve draft plan prior to the public consultation)	21/08/2023	
2	Cathryn Morgan	Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Cabinet, following public consultation on draft plan.	12/02/2023	This assessment has been undertaken on a new template. This has resulted on some minor changes to the assessment. The level of impact has not changed.

Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.	The plan will create new job opportunities for skilled young people, promote equal opportunities in employment and further develop apprenticeships in the County.
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Creating caring and healthy communities	The plan will promote the Welsh language in Ceredigion, encourage and enable disabled children and young people to get physically active, further develop participation opportunities so that communities have a voice and develop the number of focussed and universal extra-curricular and holiday activity programmes.
Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages	The plan includes actions to deliver the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, to develop leadership skills within our children and young people and to improve educational provision and outcomes for children with additional learning needs.
Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities	The plan reflects the need for more affordable and appropriate housing and for sustainable and affordable travel solutions.

National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

<p>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click here for information)</p>
<p>Successful delivery of this plan will contribute positively to this goal. No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p>
<p>Equality Objective 1 is to be an exemplar equal opportunities employer. Equality Objective 5 is to provide fair and inclusive education.</p> <p>Equality Objectives 3 and 4 describe the steps we will take to engage with, and learn from people, and to ensure that people can access the services that they need.</p> <p>If Objectives 3 and 4 are done well, the result will be a skilled and well-educated population that is able to contribute to a prosperous Wales.</p>
<p>What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?</p>
<p>We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.</p>

National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Our Strategic Equality Plan does not contribute directly to a resilient Wales. There are no intended negative or positive impacts.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The plan contains no specific actions to support a resilient Wales. However, it does reflect the need for housing that meets the needs of our communities and for sustainable and affordable travel solution (Equality Objective 4).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Successful delivery of this plan will contribute positively to better physical and mental health of Ceredigion residents, particularly residents that share characteristics protected by the Equality Act. No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

We will engage with our workforce; the success measure being the percentage of our workforce that feel the Council cares about their health and wellbeing (Equality Objective 1)

We will join the Age Friendly network and meet the needs of our ageing population (Equality Objective 2).

We will offer play and physical activity opportunities for disabled children and young people and provide housing that meets the needs of our communities (Equality Objective 4).

We will support schools to update their anti-bullying policies (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click [here](#) for information)

Children and Young People up to 18	Positive
People 18-50	Positive
Older people 50+	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

The plan aims to address inequality of opportunity for younger people and older people. Some of the actions will have a positive impact on parents and on working aged people (who tend to fall into the 18-50 age bracket). No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will promote our graduate scheme and develop work experience and apprenticeship opportunities (Equality Objective 1).

We will join the Age Friendly network and support the needs of our ageing population (Equality Objective 2).

We will increase representation of young people in local politics and decision making (Equality Objective 3).

We will continue to support older people to take advantage of digital technologies (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)

Hearing Impairment	Positive
Physical Impairment	Positive
Visual Impairment	Positive
Learning Disability	Positive
Long Standing Illness	Positive
Mental Health	Positive
Other	Choose an item.

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

The plan aims to address inequality of opportunity and access to services for people who are disabled. It will also address bullying and hate crime against disabled people. No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will increase diversity in the workplace (Equality Objective 1)

We will support Victim Support's Hate Crime Charter and monitor community tensions (Equality Objective 2)

We will increase representation of disabled people in local politics and decision making (Equality Objective 3).

We will provide inclusive and specialised play, physical activity and childcare opportunities for disabled children and young people. We will consider the needs of disabled people when maintaining footways and carriageways and when we review our Toilet Strategy. We will improve the methods we use to communicate with the

public, including the provision of large print, Easy Read and plain text versions of documents. We will improve the accessibility of our website (Equality Objective 4).

We will improve educational provision and outcomes for children with additional learning needs and ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG’s updated version of the anti-bullying guidance. We will ensure that School Governing bodies represent the range of diversity of the pupils within the education setting. We will also continue to support disabled people to take advantage of digital technologies (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)

Trans Women	Positive
Trans Men	Positive
Non-binary people	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The plan responds to Welsh Government’s LGBTQ+ action plan and the needs expressed by our local trans community. We will raise awareness of issues facing people who are transgender and address bullying and Hate Crime. No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will review HR policies and recruitment literature so that they reflect the diverse identities of the community in which we live. We will continue to develop and deliver a range of equalities training (Equality Objective 1).

We will support Victim Support’s Hate Crime Charter and monitor community tensions (Equality Objective 2)

We will increase representation of LGBTQ+ people in local politics and decision making and we will establish a LGBTQ+ stakeholder forum (Equality Objective 3).

We will review our Toilet Strategy so that it reflects the needs of our changing population (Equality Objective 4).

We will adopt and implement Welsh Government's national trans guidance and ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click [here](#) for information)

Bisexual	Positive
Gay Men	Positive
Gay Women/Lesbian	Positive
Heterosexual/Straight	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The plan responds to Welsh Government's LGBTQ+ action plan and the needs expressed by local LGBTQ+ people. We will raise awareness of issues facing people with different sexual orientation and address bullying and Hate Crime. No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will publish an annual workforce equality report and take action to encourage proportionate representation in our workforce. We will continue to develop and deliver a range of equalities training (Equality Objective 1).

We will support Victim Support's Hate Crime Charter and monitor community tensions (Equality Objective 2)

We will increase representation of LGBTQ+ people in local politics and decision making and we will establish a LGBTQ+ stakeholder forum (Equality Objective 3).

We will work towards ensuring that School Governing bodies represent the range of diversity of the pupils within the education setting and ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click [here](#) for information)

People who are married	None / Negligible
People in a civil partnership	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The plan will not result in a significant impact on this cohort.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There are no actions in the plan that will have a significant negative or positive impact on this group of people.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click [here](#) for information)

Pregnancy	None / Negligible
Maternity	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The plan will not result in a significant impact on this cohort.

What evidence do you have to support this?

There are no actions in the plan that will have a significant negative or positive impact on this group of people.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click [here](#) for information)

Asian / Asian British	Positive
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Positive
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	Positive
White	Positive
Other Ethnic Groups	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The plan responds to Welsh Government’s Anti-racist Wales action plan and the needs expressed by local people who have various ethnic backgrounds. We aim to raise cultural awareness, increase diversity in the workplace and address bullying and Hate Crime.

No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will take action to encourage proportionate representation in our workforce. We will continue to develop and deliver a range of cultural awareness and equalities training (Equality Objective 1)

We will implement our commitment to Victim Support’s Hate Crime Charter. We will ensure that relevant collections celebrate diversity and encourage ant-racist engagement. We will monitor community tensions. We will deliver an annual media campaign to promote awareness and celebrate diversity (Equality Objective 2)

We will increase representation of people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in local politics and decision making and we will establish a BAME stakeholder forum (Equality Objective 3).

We will ensure that School Governing bodies represent the range of diversity of the pupils within the education setting. We will ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance, 'Rights, Respect, Equality.' (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)

Buddhist	Positive
Christian	Positive
Hindu	Positive
Humanist	Positive
Jewish	Positive
Muslim	Positive
Sikh	Positive
Non-belief	None / Negligible
Other	Choose an item.

Describe the positive or negative impacts

There can be strong links between ethnicity and religion The plan aims to address inequalities, hate crime and bullying faced by people from different ethnic groups. This is likely to have an unintended positive impact on some people with different religions.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The number of police recorded hate crimes reported to have been motivated by religion increased by 51% between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women? (Click [here](#) for information)

Men	Negative
Women	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

There are currently more women in lower paid jobs and more men in higher paid jobs in our workforce. We want to achieve a more even mix of men and women in lower and higher grade jobs. This will have a negative effect on men and a positive one on women.

We want to increase representation of women in local politics, this will also have a negative impact on men.

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will take action to encourage a more even mix of men and women in lower grade and higher-grade jobs (Equality Objective 1).

We will increase representation of women in local politics and decision making (Equality Objective 3).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?

The negative impact on men must be accepted if we want to achieve gender equality.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community? (Click [here](#) for information)

Members of the Armed Forces	None / Negligible
------------------------------------	-------------------

Veterans	None / Negligible
Spouses	None / Negligible
Children	None / Negligible
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
The plan does not contain any specific actions that will impact positively or negatively on this cohort. However, respondents to our public consultation contained a larger percentage of people from the armed forces community than are contained in the general population. People who answered the consultation were generally happy with the content of the plan and felt that the actions will help us to achieve our Equality Objectives.	
What evidence do you have to support this?	
Veterans who responded to the consultation on the plan = 10% Veterans living in Ceredigion (Census 2021) = 3%	
People who agreed that our Equality Objectives are the right ones = 94% People who felt that the actions would achieve the Equality Objectives = 83%	
What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?	
We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.	

Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?	Positive
Describe the positive or negative impacts	
The plan aims to address poverty and inequalities of outcome for people who share certain protected characteristics, including women, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, some ethnic minority groups and children. The Equality and Human Rights Monitor: Is Wales Fairer? (2023)	

What evidence do you have to support this?

We will take action to encourage a more even mix of men and women in lower grade and higher-grade jobs and to encourage proportionate representation in our workforce. We will promote our graduate scheme and develop a coordinated approach to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities (Equality Objective 1)

We will increase representation in local politics and decision making, particularly by young people, women, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. We will provide housing that meets the needs of our communities (Equality Objective 4)

We will ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance, 'Rights, Respect, Equality. We will improve educational provision and outcomes for children with additional learning needs (ALN) and reduce the attainment gap between children without ALN and those with ALN (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)

Successful delivery of this plan will contribute positively to this goal. Anticipated outcomes are that people from different backgrounds treat each other with respect and consideration, that people find it easier to access services and more people feel that they can influence local decisions. The plan aims to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation and increase digital inclusion. We will also address homelessness.

No negative impacts have been identified.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

We will continue to develop and deliver a range of cultural awareness and equalities training (Equality Outcome 1).

We will implement our commitment to Victim Support's Hate Crime Charter. We will monitor community tensions. We will deliver an annual media campaign to promote awareness, celebrate diversity, and commemorate relevant historical events (Equality Outcome 2).

We will work to increase representation in local politics and decision making. We will develop stakeholder forums to better understand the lived experience of people experiencing inequalities. We will improve the way that we feedback to those who have participated in our engagement and consultation campaigns (Equality Outcome 3).

We will work towards achieving a rating of AAA for our website. We will continue to develop the methods we use to communicate with the public. We will provide housing that meets the needs of our communities. We will work with partners to develop sustainable and affordable travel solutions. (Equality Outcome 4).

We will ensure that anti-bullying policies in schools and education settings reflect WG's updated version of the anti-bullying guidance, 'Rights, Respect, Equality. We will continue to support older people and disabled people to take advantage of digital technologies (Equality Outcome 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Successful delivery of this plan will contribute positively to this goal. Anticipated outcomes are that more children and young people will take part in physical activity, that our local culture and heritage will be enhanced by ensuring that relevant collections celebrate diversity and that more people will feel encouraged to learn and use Welsh.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

We will ensure that relevant collections celebrate diversity (Equality Objective 2).

We will continue to actively promote our work Welsh development opportunities to support our bilingual culture. We will continue to offer inclusive and specialised play and physical activity opportunities for disabled children and young people. We will ensure that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards underpin the way the Council deliver its services to the public, so that service users are able to access services naturally in the Welsh language, should they choose to do so (Equality Objective 4).

We will implement our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 (Equality Objective 5).

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?

Click [here](#) for information

Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language

Positive

Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language

Positive

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The plan includes actions to promote our work Welsh development opportunities, to ensure that service users are able to access services in the Welsh language and to implement our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32.

The plan and annual reports will be published in Welsh and in English. Council services are delivered bilingually. Simultaneous translation is offered at meetings on request.

What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. HINT

The Strategic Equality Plan does not directly contribute to a globally responsible Wales.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The plan does not include any specific actions. However, by fostering good relations and building community cohesion, communities will have greater connectivity and potentially greater understanding of global citizenship.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.

Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

What will you do?	When?	Who is responsible?	Progress
We will deliver the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28 and monitor progress of the success measures.	2024-28	Ceredigion Equalities Workgroup	
If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)			
Our aim to see more women in higher grade jobs and increased representation of women in local politics. This will have a negative effect on men. This must be accepted if we want to achieve gender equality.			
How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?			

Our Equalities Working Group is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of this Strategic Equality Plan. The purpose of the Group is to consider how the Council can contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in day-to-day activities.

The group meets three times a year and provides annual progress reports to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and to Cabinet.

Annual progress reports will be available to the public via the Council's website. Paper copies can be requested if needed.

Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<p>Long term Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>This is a four year plan which builds on previous plans. Long-standing equality issues can be carried from one four year plan to the next. This enables us to address longer term needs and plan for the future.</p>
<p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>There are many opportunities to collaborate with others in order to deliver the plan. For example, the new graduate scheme will require collaboration with universities; we will work with Victim Support to implement the Hate Crime Trustmark and we will work with the Regional Community Cohesion team on a range of actions.</p>
<p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>A regional engagement campaign was undertaken to collect initial feedback on the state of equality in the Dyfed Powys area. The draft Plan went out to public consultation in winter 2023.</p> <p>The Equality plan itself includes actions to do more with groups of stakeholders from specified minority groups and to improve the way that we feedback to those who have participated in our Engagement and consultation campaigns.</p>
<p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The plan has been developed as a result of our engagement and research into the current state of equality in Ceredigion. The aim of the plan is to coordinate our resources to identify and address the root causes of inequality.</p>

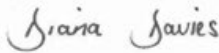


<p>Integration Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The Equalities working group includes representatives from a range of Council Services. This helps us to consider interdependencies and possible tensions between services and the four pillars of well-being.</p>
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Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
Risk Description	Impact		Probability	Score (Impact x Likelihood)	
Failure to comply with the Equality Act	5		1	5	

Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager	Diana Davies		13/02/2024
Corporate Lead Officer	Alun Williams		13/02/2024
Corporate Director	Barry Rees		13/02/2024
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Catrin MS Davies	Catrin Davies	13/02/2024

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¹ Last updated 20/10/2023

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Revised Coroner Pay Arrangements for 2024/2025

Purpose of the report: Approve Coroner and Assistant Coroner Pay Arrangements

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection

Background:

On 4/7/23 following issue of JNC Circular 68, Cabinet agreed the following payrates:
[Ceredigion County Council Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 4th July, 2023, 10.00 am](#)

Decision
Minute 39

That Cabinet approves the following Senior Coroner and Assistant Coroner pay rates for 2023/24 in accordance with JNC Circular 68:

1) Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £22,200 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- ii) Using the agreed daily rate of £489 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,225 (@25 days pa including training days from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.)
Total: £34,425 per annum (plus on-costs).

2) Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £417;
- half day: £209.

Current position:

- Senior part-time Coroner daily rates £489 - £555
- Assistant Coroner daily rates £417-503

Proposals:

It is now necessary to approve the pay rates for the Senior Part- time Coroner and Assistant coroner for 2024/2025.

The proposed pay rates are identical to those agreed by Cabinet on 4/7/23:

1) 2024/2025 (1/4/24-31/3/25):

Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £22,200 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- ii) Using the daily rate of £489 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,225 (@25 days pa including training days)

Total annual sum £34,425 per annum (plus on-costs).

Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £417
- half day: £209.

The JNC is currently consulting on revised pay scales.

Should the JNC release revised information/Circular regarding pay rates for the Coroner and Assistant Coroner for the period from the 1st of April 2024 to the 31st of March 2025, this will be taken into account and a further report will be presented to Cabinet.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

No, this report does not represent a change in policy or strategy.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

1) That Cabinet approves the pay rate for 2024-2025 (1/4/24-31/3/25) as follows:

Senior part-time Coroner:

- i) Retention Salary of £22,200 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- ii) Using the daily rate of £489 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,225 (@25 days pa including training days).

Total annual sum £34,425 per annum (plus on-costs).

iii) Office expenses/business support allowance – £5,000 p/a.

2) That Cabinet approves the pay rate for 2024-2025 for the Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £417
- half day: £209

Reasons for decision:

Compliance with relevant legislation and JNC Circulars, mitigation of challenge and safeguarding public funds.

Overview and Scrutiny:

None

Policy Framework:

N/A

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Boosting the economy, supporting businesses and enabling employment (providing an efficient coroner service)

Finance and Procurement implications:

Continuation of current arrangements, potential for increased salary costs and budget implications relating to pay of Coroner and Assistant Coroner.

Legal Implications:

Compliance with relevant legislation

Staffing implications:

None - Coroner and Assistant Coroner are not classed as Council employees.

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

Risk of legal challenge by the Coroner & Assistant Coroner if recommendations not followed.

Statutory Powers:

Coroners & Justice Act 2009: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/>

The Coroners Allowances, Fees and Expenses Regulations 2013:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/>

Background Papers:

JNC Circular 68 - [JNC 68 - 5.6.23](#)

Appendices:

None

Corporate Lead Officer:

Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)

Reporting Officer:

Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer)

Date:

13 February 2024

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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2024-25

Purpose of the report: To approve the adoption of the Welsh Government's Non-Domestic Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2024-25 as Discretionary Non-Domestic Rates Relief under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Introduction

The Welsh Government (WG) has announced the continuation of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief (RLHRR) scheme on a temporary basis for 2024-25.

The 2024-25 RLHRR scheme aims to provide support by offering a discount of 40% on non-domestic rates bills to eligible businesses occupying premises and operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, such as shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels.

The 2024-25 RLHRR scheme will be subject to a cap in the amount each business can claim across Wales. The total amount of relief available is £110,000 across all properties occupied by the same business. All businesses are required to make a declaration that the amount of relief they are seeking across Wales does not exceed this cap, when applying to individual local authorities.

More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are outlined in the attached guidance document from WG.

As this is a temporary measure and the provision of the funding is discretionary funding under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, a decision to adopt the scheme in Ceredigion is required.

The scheme which is fully funded by WG will support approximately 600 businesses in Ceredigion with an estimated total value of £2.3m.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No IIA completed. This is a temporary WG scheme being offered to all Welsh Councils to help reduce the burden of Non-Domestic Rates on qualifying businesses in Wales.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

To adopt the Welsh Government's Non-Domestic Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2024-25 as a Discretionary Non-Domestic Rates Relief under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1988.

Reasons for decision:

To support local businesses using available grant funding.

Overview and Scrutiny:

The Scheme has not been referred to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it is a temporary WG Scheme.

Policy Framework:

N/A

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Boosting the economy, supporting businesses and enabling employment.

Finance and Procurement implications:

The scheme is grant funded by the WG and Ceredigion will be reimbursed for any relief that is awarded in line with the guidance/grant offer.

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

Failure to adopt the scheme will mean Ceredigion ratepayers being financially disadvantaged and WG withdrawing their funding.

Statutory Powers:

Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Background Papers:

WG Guidance on the scheme.

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Welsh Government Non-Domestic Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Relief Scheme 2024-25

Corporate Lead Officer:

Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

Reporting Officer:

Ann Ireland, Corporate Manager- Revenues and Financial Assessments

Date:

12th February 2024

Non-Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief 2024-25

Guidance

About this guidance

This guidance is intended to support county and county borough councils (local authorities) in administering the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme (the relief). On 19 December 2023, the Minister for Finance and Local Government announced the continuation of the relief on a temporary basis for 2024-25. This guidance applies to Wales only.

This guidance sets out the criteria which the Welsh Government will use to determine the funding for local authorities for relief provided to retail, leisure and hospitality properties. The guidance does not replace any existing non-domestic rates legislation or any other relief.

Enquiries about the scheme should be sent to: localtaxationpolicy@gov.wales

The relief is being offered from 1 April 2024 and will be available until 31 March 2025.

Introduction

This relief is aimed at businesses and other ratepayers in Wales in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, for example shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels. The aim of the relief is to support these sectors to improve their chances of recovery from the economic challenges which have affected them in recent years.

The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to all 22 local authorities in Wales to deliver the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to eligible businesses for 2024-25. The scheme aims to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 40% on non-domestic rates bills for such properties. The scheme will apply to all eligible businesses, however the relief will be subject to a cap in the amount each business can claim across Wales. The total amount of relief available is £110,000 across all properties occupied by the same business. All businesses are required to make a declaration when applying to individual local authorities, confirming that the amount of relief they are seeking across Wales does not exceed this cap. An example declaration form is at Annex 1 for local authorities to utilise when developing their own forms to publish and issue to businesses.

This document provides guidance on the operation and delivery of the scheme.

Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief

How will the relief be provided?

As this is a temporary measure, we are providing the relief by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual local authorities to adopt a scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under section 47. The Welsh Government will reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided in line with this guidance via a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and section 58A of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

How will the scheme be administered?

It will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the scheme to maximise take-up and minimise the administrative burden for ratepayers and for local authority staff.

Local authorities are responsible for providing businesses with clear and accessible information on the details and administration of the scheme.

Which properties will benefit from relief?

Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties – such as shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels across Wales. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out below.

Relief should be granted to each eligible business as a reduction to its rates bill based on occupation between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, retail properties such as ‘shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments’ will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance).

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Charity shops
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double-glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations

- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs or key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices (e.g. for theatre)
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD or video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Estate and letting agents

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public

- Restaurants
- Drive-through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Bars or Wine Bars

We consider assembly and leisure to mean the following.

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities) and for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Sports grounds and clubs
- Sport and leisure facilities
- Gyms
- Tourist attractions
- Museums and art galleries
- Stately homes and historic houses
- Theatres
- Live Music Venues
- Cinemas
- Nightclubs

Hereditaments that are being used for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Public halls
- Clubhouses, clubs and institutions

We consider hotels, guest and boarding premises, and self-catering accommodation to mean the following.

Hereditaments where the non-domestic part is being used for the provision of living accommodation as a business

- Hotels, Guest and Boarding Houses
- Holiday homes
- Caravan parks and sites

Retrospective relief

New awards of relief may not be made retrospectively for previous years under the terms of the scheme. Whilst the broad powers of local authorities enable discretionary relief to be retrospectively awarded up to six-months following the end of the relevant financial year, funding for any such awards is not covered by the terms of the funding agreement for the current year. Retrospective adjustments may only be made where relief has already been awarded under the terms of the scheme in the relevant year and the ratepayer's liability is subsequently revised as a consequence of a change in circumstances.

Other considerations

To qualify for the relief, the hereditament should be wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purposes. In a similar way to other reliefs, this is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments that are occupied, but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose, will not qualify for the relief. For the avoidance of doubt, hereditaments which closed temporarily due to the government's advice on Covid-19 should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief.

The above list is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied retail, leisure and hospitality uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be eligible for relief. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief.

The grant of the relief is discretionary. Should local authorities decide to exercise their discretion not to apply the relief to eligible businesses, they may wish to consider taking their own legal advice upon any potential consequential legal issues which might arise from such a decision and on a case by case basis.

Businesses may view that they have not faced substantial impacts from the recent economic pressures and as such may be inclined to not apply for the relief.

Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief

The following list sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be retail, leisure or hospitality use for the purpose of this relief and which would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However, it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Financial services (eg banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawnbrokers)
- Medical services (eg vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (eg solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
- Post Office sorting offices
- Day nurseries
- Kennels and catteries
- Casinos and gambling clubs
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public

If a hereditament is not usually reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme, even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions listed under *Which properties will benefit from relief?*

Hereditaments that are not occupied

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2024 should be excluded from this relief. However, under the mandatory Empty Property Rates Relief scheme, empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in rates for the first three months (and in certain cases, six months) of being empty.

Hereditaments that are owned, rented or managed by a local authority

Hereditaments owned, rented or managed by a local authority, such as visitor centres, tourist information shops and council-run coffee shops or gift shops attached to historic buildings, are exempt from this scheme.

How much relief will be available?

The total amount of government funded relief available for each property under this scheme for 2024-25 is 40% of the relevant bill. This is subject to a cap of £110,000 per business across all their properties in Wales.

The relief should be applied to the net bill remaining after mandatory reliefs (including discretionary elements that are fully or partly local authority funded) and other discretionary reliefs funded by section 31 grants have been applied (excluding those where local authorities have used their wider discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011, which are not funded by section 31 grants). The reliefs to be applied before Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief include categories of discretionary relief available prior to the Localism Act 2011 (eg rates relief for charities, community amateur sports clubs, non-profit organisations, hardship, empty properties). Local authorities may use their wider discretionary powers to offer further discounts outside this scheme or additional relief to hereditaments within the scheme. Where a local authority applies a locally funded relief under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, this should be applied after the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief.

The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a particular hereditament in the financial year.

Amount of relief to be granted = $V \times 0.4$, where

V is the daily charge for the hereditament for the chargeable day after the application of any mandatory relief and any other discretionary reliefs (excluding those where local authorities have used their discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011, which are not funded by section 31 grants).

This should be calculated ignoring any prior-year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.

Businesses that occupy more than one property will be entitled to Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief for each of their eligible properties, within the cap of £110,000 per business across Wales.

A business with a single property with a remaining liability (after reliefs) greater than £275,000 can use the entire allocation of relief. No other properties owned by that business will be eligible for the scheme.

Retail, leisure and hospitality properties which are excluded from Small Business Rates Relief due to the multiple occupation rule are eligible for this relief scheme, subject to the cap being applied.

Changes to existing hereditaments, including change in occupier

Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2024 will qualify for this relief from the time of occupation.

If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will qualify for the relief

if they operate in the retail, leisure or hospitality sectors, on a pro-rata basis. This will be calculated based on the remaining days of occupation using the formula used in the section titled *How much relief will be available?*

The discount should be applied on a day-to-day basis using the formula set out above. A new hereditament created as a result of a split or merger during the financial year, or where there is a change of use, should be considered afresh for the discount on that day.

The cash cap and subsidy control

No ratepayer can, in any circumstances, exceed the £110,000 cash cap across all of their hereditaments in Wales. Where a ratepayer has a qualifying connection with another ratepayer, those ratepayers should be considered as one ratepayer for the purposes of the cash caps. A ratepayer shall be treated as having a qualifying connection with another where:

- both ratepayers are companies and one is a subsidiary of the other, or both are subsidiaries of the same company; or
- only one ratepayer is a company and the other ratepayer has such an interest in that company as would, if the other ratepayer were a company, result in its being the holding company of the other.

As of 4 January 2023, the new UK subsidy control regime commenced with the coming into force of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. The Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme is likely to be a subsidy under the new regime. Any relief provided by local authorities under this scheme will need to comply with the UK's domestic and international subsidy control obligations.

To the extent that a local authority is seeking to provide relief that falls below the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) thresholds, the Subsidy Control Act 2022 allows an economic actor (eg a holding company and its subsidiaries) to receive up to £315,000 in a 3-year period (consisting of the 2024-25 year and the two previous financial years). Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief schemes in Wales prior to 2023-24 were not provided as a subsidy. Local authorities should ask the ratepayers, on a self-assessment basis, to declare as part of their application for RLHRR that they are not in breach of the cash cap or MFA limit.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to comply with all relevant subsidy control provisions, including MFA procedure and transparency requirements. More information is available in the UK statutory subsidy control [guidance](#) from the UK Government.

For further advice, the Subsidy Control Unit at the Welsh Government can be contacted at:

Subsidy Control Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Email: SubsidyControlUnit@gov.wales

Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2024-25

RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF - PURPOSE OF THE RELIEF

The Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme is available to qualifying businesses who operate in the retail, leisure, and hospitality sectors. The aim of the relief is to support these sectors to improve their chances of recovery from the economic challenges which have affected them in recent years. Eligible business will receive a 40% reduction to their non-domestic rates net liability in 2024-25. The maximum cash value of the rates relief allowed, across all properties in Wales occupied by the same business, should not exceed £110,000.

The relief will be provided as a subsidy by way of Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA). The same business must not claim more than £315,000 in total of MFA over three years (including 2024-25). RLHRR schemes in Wales prior to 2023-24 were not provided as a subsidy and should not be counted towards the MFA limit. The gross value of relief claimed by the same business must, therefore, not exceed £110,000 in Wales for 2024-25 (to comply with the terms of this scheme) or £315,000 from 2022-23 to 2024-25 inclusive (to comply with subsidy control requirements). Businesses claiming the relief must declare that the amount being claimed does not exceed those limits, before the relief can be awarded.

Businesses are required to declare that they meet the eligibility criteria set out in this guidance document and state which properties they seek to claim relief on. Where 40% of liability across a business's properties exceeds £110,000 or the MFA limit, businesses are required to specify which properties they would like the relief to apply to. Businesses may choose which properties they seek relief for. Where the total relief allowed for other properties is close to the maximum amount of £110,000 or the MFA limit, an amount of relief of less than 40% may be allowed for a further eligible property.

An application form must be submitted to each local authority from which a business is seeking to claim relief for a property in that authority's area. Each form must include details of all properties for which relief is being sought throughout Wales. If an application is not made, then relief cannot be awarded.

Any attempt by a business to deliberately claim in excess of £110,000 relief will risk the withdrawal of relief granted under the scheme to that business by any local authority in Wales. Information on relief claimed under the scheme will be shared with other local authorities and the Welsh Government, enabling any aggregate claims in excess of £110,000 to be identified and if necessary, acted upon.

The Welsh Government and **[name of local authority]** will not tolerate any business falsifying their records or providing false evidence to gain this discount, including claiming support above the £110,000 cap or the exemption threshold. A business that falsely applies for any relief, or provides false information or makes false representation in order to gain relief may be guilty of fraud under the Fraud Act 2006 and subject to legal action, in addition to having all Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief removed from all of their properties for the 2024-25 scheme.

[Local authorities to insert privacy statement into their forms as data controllers – allowing data to be shared with the Welsh Government and other local authorities]

All applicants will need to provide the following information

Are you making an application for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief in more than one local authority area?

If yes, please complete Parts 1 and 2

If no, please complete Part 1 only

Part 1: Applicable to all applicants in relation to properties for which Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief is being claimed from [name of local authority]

Business name and address:

Company registration number (if applicable):

Applicant's name:

Applicant's role in the business (eg owner / director / company secretary / accountant):

Applicant's email:

Applicant's telephone number:

If you are applying for relief in relation to more than one business premises, please list them in order of preference to which the relief should be applied, noting that the maximum relief that can be allowed to a business in Wales is £110,000. Relief will be granted in the order in which you list the premises.

The required details can be found on the non-domestic rates bill issued to you in relation to each property you wish to claim relief for.

Address of Property	NDR (Business Rates) Account Number	Rateable Value*
[Property address]		£ [LAs may be able to auto-populate]

<p>Total amount of Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief sought in [name of local authority] (not to exceed £110,000 across Wales)</p> <p>You may leave this field blank if Part 2 of this application is not relevant to your business, or if the maximum relief entitlement for your business across Wales will be lower than £110,000. If you are required to claim a specific amount of relief from [name of local authority], to avoid your business exceeding the £110,000 cap across Wales, you must enter it here.</p>	<p>£ [LAs may be able to auto-calculate a maximum, but the applicant must be able to request a lower amount, to avoid exceeding £110,000 across Wales]</p>
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*To find out your rateable value, you can enter details at the Valuation Office Agency's [online checker](#).

Part 2: Applicable only to businesses applying for relief from multiple local authorities in Wales. In such cases, a separate application should be made to each local authority.

Properties in other local authorities in Wales, for which Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief is being claimed for this business.

Address	Local authority
[Property address]	[Pick list could be used]

Declaration:

I understand that the total value of the relief claimed under the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme sought by [INSERT BUSINESS NAME] across the whole of Wales cannot exceed £110,000 and that deliberate attempts to claim relief over £110,000 risks all relief granted under the scheme being withdrawn. I accept responsibility for notifying my local authority of any change in circumstances, following my application for relief, which could result in the relief awarded to my business being incorrect or exceeding £110,000 across Wales (e.g. a change rateable value).

I understand that, should relief in excess of £110,000 be granted for any reason, a proportion of it will be reclaimed, in respect of one or more properties, to reduce the value of the relief awarded to £110,000 or below as appropriate. I also understand that, if relief in excess of £110,000 is granted as a result of a deliberate attempt to claim more than the maximum amount allowed, all the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief allowed for [INSERT BUSINESS NAME] across Wales may be removed, and the full amount of rates liability will become payable.

I understand that the relief will be provided as a subsidy by way of Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA). I confirm that, in claiming this relief, I shall not receive more than £315,000 in total of MFA over three years (financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25 inclusive).

I acknowledge that my local authority, any other local authority in Wales and/or the Welsh Government will undertake any appropriate checks considered necessary to assess this application for rates relief, including cross checks of any information already held by the authority, any other local authority in Wales or Welsh Government. I understand the data I have provided will be shared with Welsh Government and if necessary any other local authority in Wales, for this purpose and to prevent fraud and error.

I declare that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my information, knowledge and belief, and I understand that making a false response to any of the questions in this application could be an act of fraud.

Signed [xxx]

Name [xxx]

Date [xx/xx/xxxx]

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy

Purpose of the report: To agree amendments to Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

BACKGROUND

Cabinet approved the corporate bonds policy on 5 July 2022. The policy was introduced to allow officers to have a consistent approach to approving bonds with third parties.

The policy allows a contractor or developer to pay a premium to a 'bondsman' to underwrite the cost of providing a performance bond. The 'bondsman' then assumes the responsibility for paying the Council money if the contractor or developer defaults or is unable to make payments subject to the contractual agreement with the Council.

The current policy states 'bondsman' must have a minimum credit rating with one of the three credit rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to add AM Best as a fourth credit rating agency to the policy. AM Best are a global credit rating agency that specialises in the insurance industry. It is proposed that a minimum acceptable long-term rating of A- (Excellent) with AM Best will provide additional flexibility to contractors/developers seeking a 'bondsman' provider whilst not exposing the Council to any additional risk.

If agreed, the policy will therefore state that any proposed 'bondsman' must have a minimum credit rating with one of the four credit rating agencies below.

Credit Rating Agency	Minimum Long Term Credit Rating
Moody's	A3
Standard & Poor's	A-
Fitch	A-
AM Best	A-

The proposed amended policy is attached as Appendix 1.

It is also proposed that powers be delegated to the Section 151 Officer (Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement) to;

- make minor amendments to the Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy and,
- accept a proposed 'bondsman' where one is unable to be procured with a suitable credit rating with one of the four credit rating agencies. Financial information available to the Council will be used to inform this decision on a case-by-case basis.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No – amendment to existing policy.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- a) The addition of AM Best as credit rating agency to the policy
- b) Delegate powers to the Section 151 Officer to;
 - i. make minor amendments to the Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy
 - ii. accept a proposed 'bondsman' where one is unable to be procured with a suitable credit rating with one of the four credit rating agencies.

Reasons for decision:

To provide additional flexibility to contractors/developers seeking a 'bondsman' provider whilst not exposing the Council to any additional risk.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Original policy considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 June 2022

Policy Framework:

Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Boosting the Economy

Finance and Procurement implications:

Maintains security of financial resources.

Enables a smoother procurement process by allowing more flexibility to contractors in procuring bondsmen.

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

Maintains security of financial resources.

Statutory Powers:

Local Government Finance Act 1972

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Updated Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy

Corporate Lead Officer:

Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

Reporting Officer:

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

Date:

4th March 2024



Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council
Cyllid a Chaffael a Priffyrdd a
Gwasanaethau Amgylcheddol | Finance
and Procurement and Highways and
Environmental Services

Policy and Procedures

Bonds and Sureties

March 2024

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Comment
1.1	March 2024	Finance	Addition of AM Best as an acceptable Credit Rating agency for non-cash backed bonds.
1.0	June 2022	Finance	Legal & Governance Services and Highways and Environmental Services input

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Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In order to ensure that there is a clear approach taken for the approval of a bondsman Ceredigion County Council intend this policy to be applied by officers to minimise the risk for the Council and ensure that a fair and consistent approach is taken in all cases.

2. Purpose of this Policy

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Council follows the correct procedure when the Council requires a Performance Bond (sometimes known as a Construction Guarantee Bond) from a contractor with regard to contracts awarded by the Council in accordance with its Contract Procedure Rules. The bond provides protection to the Council against any losses and damages sustained as a result of the contracting party failing to perform its contractual obligations.

2.2 The policy will apply to any bond required by the Council including, but not limited to, contract bonds as referred to above, bonds relating to s.38/278 Agreements and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Agreements as detailed below.

2.3 The Council enters into Section 38/278 Agreements (Highways Act 1980) with a developer when that developer wants to construct a new estate road for industrial, residential or general traffic and wishes to offer that road to the Council for adoption as a public highway. A surety/bondsman enters into the S.38/278 Agreement alongside the developer so that if the developer fails to meet their contractual requirements then the Council can utilise the bond to ensure that work is undertaken to complete estate roads to the appropriate standard.

2.4 The Council enters into SuDS Agreements (Schedule 3 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and subsequent legislation made thereunder) with a developer when that developer must construct sustainable drainage systems as part of their development that are adoptable by the Council as the SuDS Approving Bondy (SAB). Similar to S.38/278 Agreements, a surety/bondsman enters into the SuDS Agreement alongside the developer so that if the developer fails to meet

their contractual requirements under the agreement, the Council can call in the bond and utilise it to undertake the works up to adoptable standard.

2.5 The Council will be responsible for specifying the value of the Bond required (and any yearly inflationary or other set increase as considered appropriate by the Council) and also specifying the value and timing of any part release throughout the duration of the contract/agreement which relates to the bond.

Procedure

3. Introduction

Prior to the Council entering into any contract/agreement which has a bond provided by a 3rd party except for cash backed bonds), the officer(s) dealing with the contract/agreement shall refer the details of the proposed surety/bondsman and the bond amount to Finance and Procurement Services for a due diligence check. Following the due diligence check the Finance and Procurement Service shall confirm to the relevant officer(s) whether the surety/bondsman is approved under the provisions of this policy. The types of bonds and surety/bondsman acceptable to the Council are detailed below.

3.1 **Cash Backed Bonds**

The Council's preference is to accept a bond paid in 'cash'. Any cash bond would be paid to the Council in accordance with the terms of the contract/agreement the bond relates to. When the contractual requirements are met the bond will be repaid, with interest added, to the contractor or developer – this might happen in staged payments depending on the agreement in place. If the contractor or developer does not meet the contractual requirements then the Council can use the bond together with the interest to ensure the requirements are fulfilled. The cash based bond is the easiest and most secure way for the Council to ensure funds are readily available which will result in works being completed.

3.2 **Non Cash Backed Bonds**

If a cash backed bond is not available the Council will accept a bond secured by a third party – these are commonly referred to as surety bonds and are entered into at the same time as the contract/agreement with the Council. The contractor or developer pays a premium to a 'bondsman' to underwrite the cost of providing a bond. The 'bondsman' assumes the responsibility of paying the Council money if the contractor or developer defaults or is unable to make payments subject to the contractual agreement with the Council.

To be considered as an acceptable 'bondsman' they must have a minimum long term credit rating with at least one of the four credit rating agencies as shown in the table below,

Credit Rating Agency	Minimum Long Term Credit Rating
Moody's	A3
Standard & Poor's	A-
Fitch	A-
AM Best	A-

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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19/03/24

Title: 23/24 Controllable Revenue Budget - Financial Performance – Quarter 3

Purpose of the report: To report on the 23/24 Revenue Budget - actual position to the end of December 2023 and forecasted year-end position

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

1. **SUMMARY**

This report updates Cabinet on the financial performance for all Services in relation to the 23/24 Controllable Revenue Budget. The Budgets for each Service are actively monitored and reviewed on a regularly basis, in order to assess the timing of income and expenditure, as well as the forecasted year-end position and ensuring corrective action is taken wherever possible and as appropriate.

At the quarter 3 point in the year, the financial position still remains extremely challenging, but the position has improved since quarter 2. A projected year-end position is now being forecast of a £1.5m overspend (being 0.8% of the 23/24 Revenue budget of £180.1m) after taking account of various mitigating actions. This is a considerable improvement over the Q2 position, which forecast a £2.7m overspend, and is largely due to the actions taken by Leadership Group and all Budget-holders to mitigate the in year position - including maximising external funding and proactively managing vacant positions.

The headline challenges remain unchanged, which include:

- National Payawards being elevated and unaffordable.
- Significant increase in Home to School Learner Transport costs.
- Significant increase in the volume of Out of County Children's placements.
- Significant costs regarding agency staff in our Local Authority Residential Homes, the Enablement service and statutory Social Worker roles.
- Significant increase in the volume of Older Persons Social Care placements.

The Council has a financially resilient balance sheet, with £48.8m of earmarked reserves and £6.7m in General Balances as at 31/03/23. Therefore, there is adequate scope to be able to mitigate this in year position, however many of the in-year cost pressures have featured in the 24/25 Budget Setting process as ongoing base budget challenges.

In recognition of the financial position, Leadership Group implemented a very proactive financial management approach in August, having received input and advice from the Section 151 officer. This included measures ranging from using certain earmarked reserves, asking various services to make in year savings and putting financial controls in place on expenditure and recruitment (recognising though that core statutory, contractual and existing obligations need to be met). These actions have resulted in an improved Q3 position and work continues with the aim of improving the position further by year-end, where-ever possible.

2. BUDGET PERFORMANCE – MAIN CHALLENGES

The following section expands further on the 5 main areas of significant cost pressures:

- i) The 23/24 Pay offer for general staff was finally accepted (£1,925 up to SCP43 and 3.88% above that level) by the Unions in the Autumn and was implemented in November 2023. The gross estimated impact was an additional £894k gross cost, which after factoring in the £360k Pay contingency, leaves £534k to be mitigated in year through reserves. The ongoing base budget effect has been recognised in the 24/25 Budget Process.
- ii) The cost of statutory Home to School Learner transport provision has increased by 43% in relation to new contracts competitively tendered for services from September 2023 onwards. This has created a part year effect cost pressure of £543k (and a full year effect for the 24/25 budget process of £839k). This will be mitigated from an earmarked reserve this year and has then been recognised in the 24/25 Budget Process.
- iii) Out of County Children's placements – As at Q3 there has been an increase of 13 residential placements compared to when the 23/24 Budget was set. This is leading to a forecasted net overspend of c£1.9m and a total spend of c£6.8m (an increase of £134k over Q2).
- iv) The use of agency staff in Residential Homes has increased significantly compared to 22/23 due to continued recruitment challenges for Care & Support Worker roles, not helped further by COVID outbreaks still occurring. This is the overriding factor within a net overspend of £256k in Direct Services under Porth Gofal. Further agency staff costs for statutory Social Worker roles are also leading to additional costs elsewhere across Porth Gofal and Porth Cynnal.
- v) Older Persons placements – An overspend of £1.3m is being projected due to a higher than normal increase in placement volumes, particularly between Q4 22/23 and Q1 23/24.

At present there are underspends in the Finance & Procurement service - where a £2.4m underspend is projected (mainly due to Treasury management activity being on target to deliver a £1.95m benefit) and the Schools & Lifelong Learning Service - where a £767k underspend is forecast (mainly due to the benefit and maximisation of grant funding opportunities).

The financial assumptions already built into the £1.5m projected overspend position include:

Assumption	£'000
Use of the Cost & Inflationary Pressures Reserve	1,178
Use of the Contingency & Budget Management Reserve	1,260
Use of the Creating Caring & Healthy Communities Reserve (including £550k of the £1m earmarked for transitional support in relation to Hafan y Waun)	1,075
Full use of the Contingency set aside for Pay / Energy	360
TOTAL	3,863

This demonstrates how challenging the underlying in year financial position remains. Without these mitigation measures being employed the Projected overspend position would be significantly higher.

All Services (with the exception of Delegated School Budgets, which are the responsibility of individual Governing Bodies) are fully aware of the financial framework and controls put in place in August. The approach is intended to slow down, pause or temporary curtail non-essential / non-critical expenditure, whilst recognising that core statutory, contractual and existing obligations will continue to need to be met.

3. BUDGET PERFORMANCE – SERVICE POSITIONS

The 23/24 Latest Budgets reflect what was included and approved in the 24/25 Budget Setting papers to Full Council on 29/02/24. There have been no further Budget movements and the 23/24 General staff Payaward is now fully reflected.

Notwithstanding the more significant areas of concern that have already been highlighted, there are a number of services that are also facing other challenges, albeit smaller in scale. These include the cost of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, Planning Fees income, Trade Waste income, Waste Collection frontline operational costs, Car Parking income, Property related income, Supported Living tender prices and Learning / Physical Disability placement volumes.

The main areas of change leading to the c£1.2m improvement from Q2 are:

- Finance & Procurement - Projected underspend has increased by a further £380k to £2.4m (combination of Treasury Management and core Service underspend).
- Schools & Lifelong Learning - Projected underspend has increased by a further £394k to £767k (largely being the benefit and maximising of external funding opportunities).
- Pwrth Through Age Services - Projected overspend has decreased by £363k to £3.1m (largely being the benefit and maximising of external funding opportunities, combined with early signs of decreasing agency costs in most of our Residential Care Homes and a reduction in costs associated with a very complex Domiciliary Care package).

The 23/24 Budget included £3m of savings under the Doing Things Differently: A Corporate Approach programme. The current BRAG status of the workstreams is as follows:

		<u>£'000</u>	
Blue	Complete	1,500	49%
Green	On Track	821	27%
Amber	Partially on track but with some issues	461	15%
Red	Not on track and/or major issues	253	8%
		<u>3,035</u>	

In summary £2.3m (76%) are either Fully Complete or On Track. The Workstreams that are Amber or Red are not causing an in year overspend to occur as other compensatory mitigations are in place either in the respective services or corporately (e.g. the one-off backdated grant reported in Q2 of which £0.5m will be treated corporately under the Leadership Group budget). The workstream seeing the most challenge is the Review of Learner Transport, although there have been some natural savings in ALN related routes which have delivered 37% (£147k) of the £400k savings targeted in this area. There are challenges in other workstreams, but generally these relate to delivery timescales taking long than anticipated and the original financial delivery profile being too optimistic.

A breakdown of the 23/24 Controllable Budget position by Service is shown overleaf, with further explanation and detail then shown in Appendices A to N:

Service	Latest Budget £'000	Budget to December 2023 £'000	Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Variance to December 2023 £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Comment
Customer Contact & ICT	6,490	4,659	4,483	175		-	It is expected by the service to breakeven during the 2023/24 financial year.
Democratic Services	5,023	3,760	3,616	144		50	At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified.
Economy & Regeneration	3,966	2,599	2,819	(220)		-	Income targets for Planning fees and Office rentals are currently not being fully achieved. However this is currently being offset by temporary savings in the Growth & Enterprise service whilst a new staffing structure is being put in place. The Service is therefore aiming to breakeven overall, with some assistance from reserves to cover the projected Planning Fee shortfall.
Finance & Procurement	18,982	16,406	14,045	2,361		2,400	The service expects to underspend for the year, mostly stemming from Treasury management savings due to the benefit of rising interest rates on Investment Income and no external borrowing has been undertaken in the year to date.
Highways & Environmental Services	19,414	13,421	13,024	397		-	The Service continues to face various cost/income pressures up to this quarter 3 stage of this financial year, but with corporate support for the higher costs of School Transport, and a reconsideration of the spending strategy for the full financial year, it is expected that the service's budget will break even by the end of 2023/24.
Legal & Governance Services	1,659	1,235	1,231	4		-	At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified.
People & Organisation	2,341	1,237	1,270	(33)		(35)	Pension costs are projecting a year-end overspend.
Policy, Performance & Public Protection	2,495	1,858	1,661	197		110	At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified and an underspend is now projected due to a combination of additional grant funding and vacancy drag.

Continued.....

Service	Latest Budget £'000	Budget to December 2023 £'000	Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Variance to December 2023 £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Comment
Pyrth Through Age Services							
Porth Cymorth Cynnar	4,111	3,672	3,529	143	241		At this stage in the year, the service is now expecting an increased underspend due mainly to additional grant funding in the Early Intervention and Support & Intervention Services and an improved financial position for the Wellbeing Centres which includes the benefit of the opening of the new Wellbeing Centre in Lampeter.
Porth Cynnal	33,731	27,404	29,888	(2,484)	(2,909)		The service mainly deals with the higher end complex cases and placements. Cost pressures resulting from higher costs and/or higher volumes are being seen in the areas of Older Persons Placements, Supported Living, Learning Disability & Physical Disability placements and Agency staff costs. This in total is leading to a projected overspend of £2.9m for the year.
Porth Gofal	15,501	11,033	11,338	(305)	(458)		Social care continues to face recruitment challenges, despite the Council's terms and conditions being relatively attractive. This is resulting in significant use of agency staff in LA Residential Homes, the Enablement Service and critical frontline Social Worker roles. There is a significant underspend in Domiciliary Care, due to the new contractual arrangements that took effect from late July, however a complex Enablement case is offsetting a large part of this. Overall there is currently a projected overspend of £458k.
Pyrth Through Age Services	53,343	42,109	44,755	(2,646)		(3,126)	

Continued.....

Service	Latest Budget £'000	Budget to December 2023 £'000	Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Variance to December 2023 £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Year End Forecast under/ (over) spend £'000	Comment
Schools & Lifelong Learning	56,788	56,294	55,645	649		767	The Service is projecting an underspend mainly due to the benefit of grant funding within the Lifelong Learning part of the service.
Leadership Group	4,652	2,471	3,078	(607)		(1,670)	Whilst there are some in year Savings workstreams that are not yet fully delivering the original targets set, this is now offset by a one-off gain on a backdated grant. The more fundamental challenge is an exponential rise in the number and total cost of Out of County Children's placements which is currently projected to reach a total gross spend for 23/24 of £6.8m (which results in a projected overspend of £1.9m).
Levies, C/Tax Premium & Reserves	4,948	3,652	3,652	-		-	There is an overall shortfall of £534k on the 23/24 General Staff Payaward (after allowing for the £360k Contingency), which is to be funded from monies set aside in reserves for this purpose.
Total Controllable Budget	180,101	149,701	149,279	421		(1,504)	

4. CONCLUSION

Staff pay awards and inflation on contract prices (both revenue and capital) remain elevated. The level of complexity and volume of challenging placements / cases within both Social Care and also Education have shown an upward trend during the year, however there are early signs of this starting to abate on out of county Childrens' residential placements. The recruitment challenge is still particularly noticeable in frontline Social Care (being statutory Social Worker roles and the critical Care & Support Worker roles in our Care Homes) with the use and cost of agency staff in these areas still being significant.

Services and their Budget-holders have risen to the in-year challenge required of them by the Section 151 officer and Leadership Group and the c£1.2m improvement between Q2 and Q3 is a considerable achievement. Leadership Group have also requested that CLOs and their Managers continue to look for further opportunities to improve the position during Q4, in order to target a further improved position by year-end to reduce the £1.5m projected overspend where-ever possible.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

No

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: Not applicable

Collaboration: Not applicable

Involvement: Not applicable

Prevention: Not applicable

Integration: Not applicable

Recommendation(s):

To note the overall Revenue position outlined in the report.

Reasons for decision:

To recognise the financial position and to ensure the right measures are put in place to ensure the Council achieves a balanced financial position for the 2023/24 financial year.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Considered during the Budget setting process

Policy Framework:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

The Budget supports the Strategic Objectives of the Council

Finance and Procurement implications:

Noted within the report

Legal Implications:

Part of the Section 151 officer's role and responsibility for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs under Local Government Finance Act 1972. Similarly to Q1 and Q2, this report contains key advice provided by the Section 151 officer due to the challenging in-year financial position being faced.

Staffing implications:

Continued elevated levels of Payawards contain to pose a risk of needing to review Council and Service priorities.

Property / asset implications:

n/a

Risk(s):

Risk of insufficient funding if there are significant overspends.

The 23/24 in year position has been incredibly challenging and many of the financial issues flow through straight into the 24/25 Budget process. The financial risk score has been formally increased to the maximum possible score of 25 in the Corporate Risk Register.

Background Papers:

Revenue Budget 2023/24

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Customer Contact & ICT
- Appendix B: Democratic Services
- Appendix C: Economy & Regeneration
- Appendix D: Finance & Procurement
- Appendix E: Highways & Environmental Services
- Appendix F: Legal & Governance Service
- Appendix G: People & Organisation
- Appendix H: Policy, Performance & Public Protection
- Appendix I: Porth Cymorth Cynnar
- Appendix J: Porth Cynnal
- Appendix K: Porth Gofal
- Appendix L: Schools & Lifelong Learning
- Appendix M: Leadership Group
- Appendix N: Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves

Corporate Lead Officer:

Duncan Hall - CLO: Finance & Procurement

Reporting Officer(s):

Duncan Hall, Justin Davies and Kirsty Dawson

Date:

26/02/24

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Cyswllt Cwsmeriaid a TGCh / Customer Contact & ICT

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Alan Morris

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Disgwylir gan y gwasanaeth bydd y gyllideb yn mantoli yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol 2023/24.

It is expected by the service to breakeven during the 2023/24 financial year.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
TGCh / ICT	3,773	2,635	2,580	55	(45)	Mae disgwyl i'r adran yma gorwario oherwydd cynnydd mewn gwariant nwyddau ac gwasanaethau erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol. This area is expected to overspend due an increase in supplies and services expenditure expected at year end.	I / L
Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid / Customer Services	1,536	1,143	1,076	67	19	Mae disgwyl i'r adran yma tanwario oherwydd swyddi gwag at dechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol. This area is expected to underspend due to staff vacancies at start of financial year.	I / L
Gwasanaethau Cymunedol / Community Services	1,075	801	753	48	26	Mae disgwyl i'r adran yma tanwario oherwydd llai o gosatu staff, ac incwm uwch o fewn Cofrestryddion. This area is expected due to lower staff costs and higher Registrar income.	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	106	80	74	5	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	6,490	4,659	4,483	175	-		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Gwasanaethau Democritaidd / Democratic Services

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Lowri Edwards

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, nid oes problemau wedi'u nodi.

At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (I, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaethau Democritaidd / Democratic Services	2,066	1,545	1,430	115	40	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Cymorth Corfforaethol i Wasanaethau / Corporate Service Support	2,516	1,885	1,828	57	50	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	441	330	358	(28)	(40)	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	5,023	3,760	3,616	144	50		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Economi ac Adfywio / Economy and Regeneration

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Russell Hughes-Pickering

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Nid yw'r targedau incwm ar gyfer ffioedd Cynllunio a rhentu swyddfeidd yn cael eu gwredu'n llawn. Fodd bynnag caiff hyn ei osod yn erbyn yr arbedion dros dro yn y gwasanaeth Twf & Menter gan fod strwythur staffio newydd yn cael ei sefydlu ar hyn o bryd. Felly nod y Gwasanaeth yw adennill y costau yn gyffredinol gyda rhywfaint o gymorth o'r cronfeydd wrth gefn er mwyn unioni'r diffyg a ragwelir yn y ffioedd cynllunio.

Income targets for Planning fees and Office rentals are currently not being fully achieved. However this is currently being offset by temporary savings in the Growth & Enterprise service whilst a new staffing structure is being put in place. The Service is therefore aiming to breakeven overall, with some assistance from reserves to cover the projected Planning Fee shortfall.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaethau Eiddo / Property Services	3,058	1,846	2,008	(162)	(230)	Rhagwelir y bydd diffyg yn nharged incwm y gwasanaeth ar hyn o bryd. Er bod ffynonellau incwm newydd ar gyfer adeiladau swyddfa yn dechrau dod i mewn byddwn ond yn medru gweld effaith rhannol y flwyddyn yn 23/24. The service's income target is currently projected to fall short. Whilst new income streams for Office buildings are starting to come on stream, a part year affect will only be seen in 23/24.	U / H
Buddsoddiadau Economaidd Strategol / Strategic Economic Investments	226	200	133	67	75	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Twf a Menter / Growth & Enterprise	339	363	282	81	155	Disgwylir gweithredu'r strwythur newydd ar gyfer Twf a Menter fydd yn arwain at rywfaint o arbedion dros dro hyd nes bydd y strwythur yn llawn. The implementation of the new G&E structure is expected leading to some temporary savings until the structure is fully populated.	C / M
Gwasanaethau Cynllunio / Planning Services	206	190	396	(206)	-	Rhagwelir yn y flwyddyn y bydd diffyg tebygol yn yr incwm ffioedd cynllunio o £175k, ond gellir unioni hyn gan y cronfeydd wrth gefn a rheoli cyllidebau os bydd angen. Planning Application Fee Income is projected to fall short by £175k at this stage in the year, but this will be covered by the Contingency & Budget Management reserve if/as required.	U / H
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	137	-	-	-	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	3,966	2,599	2,819	(220)	-		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023**Cyllid a Chaffael / Finance and Procurement****Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Duncan Hall****1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY****Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:**

Disgwylir gan y gwasanaeth y byddant wedi tanwario ar gyfer y flwyddyn, yn bennaf o'r arbedion rheoli Trysorlys o ganlyniad i fanteision cynnydd mewn cyfraddau llog o ran Incwm Buddsoddi ac ni ymgwymerwyd â benthyciadau allanol yn y flwyddyn hyd yma.

The service expects to underspend for the year, mostly stemming from Treasury management savings due to the benefit of rising interest rates on Investment Income and no external borrowing has been undertaken in the year to date.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaeth Cyllid a Chaffael / Finance & Procurement Service	3,752	2,695	2,427	268	200	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Budd-daliadau Tai a Chynllun Cymorth Treth y Cyngor / Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support Scheme	6,747	6,647	6,423	224	200	Mae'r tanwariant a ragwelir yn ymwneud â Chynllun Cymorth Treth y Cyngor. The forecast underspend relates to the Council Tax Support Scheme	I / L
Yswiriant, Terfynu a Chostau Corfforaethol Eraill / Insurance, Termination & Other Corporate Costs	1,746	1,535	1,450	85	50	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Cyfrif Cyfalaf Corfforaethol / Corporate Capital Account	6,737	5,529	3,745	1,784	1,950	Rydym yn derbyn llog ychwanegol o'r buddsoddiadau oherwydd y cynnydd mewn cyfraddau llog. Hefyd, rydym yn talu llai ar fenthyciadau na'r hyn a gyllidebwyd ar ei gyfer. There is further additional interest being generated on investments due to the increase in interest rates. In addition there are lower payments on loans than budgeted.	C / M
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	18,982	16,406	14,045	2,361	2,400		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Prifffyrdd a Gwasanaethau Amgylcheddol / Highways and Environmental Services

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Rhodri Llwyd

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae'r Gwasanaeth yn parhau i wynebu pwysau costau/incwm amrywiol hyd at y cam chwarter 3 o'r flwyddyn ariannol yma, ond efo cefnogaeth Corfforaehol am costau uwch Trafnidiaeth Ysgolion, ac ailystyrieth y startegaeth gwariant am y flwyddyn ariannol llawn, disgwyli'r bydd gyllideb y wasanaeth yn mantoli erbyn diwedd 2023/24 .

The Service continues to face various cost/income pressures up to this quarter 3 stage of this financial year, but with corporate support for the higher costs of School Transport, and a reconsideration of the spending strategy for the full financial year, it is expected that the service's budget will break even by the end of 2023/24.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Casglu a Gwaredu Gwastraff / Waste Collection & Disposal	5,533	3,948	4,142	(194)	(383)	Pwysau incwm masnach is, ac effaith costau rheoli'r amhariadau casgluadaw gwastraff. Pressure from lower trade income, and the impact of managing the waste collection interruptions.	C/M
Parciau a gerddi, Glanhau Prifffyrdd, Gwasanaethau Parcio, Harbwr / Parks & Gardens, Highways Cleaning, Parking Services, Harbours	(363)	(363)	(94)	(269)	(287)	Pwysau incwm is o'r Gwasanaethau Parcio ac Harbyrau, yn ogystal a chostau uwch o fewn gyllideb yr Harbyrau. Pressure from lower Parking Services and Harbour income, as well as higher costs within the Harbours budget.	C/M
Cludiant Teithwyr Corfforaethol, Uned Cynnal a Chadw Trafnidiaeth / Corporate Passenger Transport, Transport Maintenance Unit	7,712	5,678	5,336	342	562	Tanwariant ar trafndiaeth cymdeithasol (am 3/4 flwyddyn), ac hefyd effaith y cyllid y disgwyli'r o LIC i gefnogi costau uwch gwasanaethau bysiau Cyhoeddus. Underspend on social transport (3/4 year), plus impact of the higher funding expected from WG to support increased Public bus services costs.	C/M
Cynnal a Chadw Prifffyrdd, Caffael a Strategaeth, Peirianeg Arfordirol a Gwaith Draenio Tir / Highways Maintenance, Coastal Engineering & Land Drainage Procurement & Strategy	5,146	3,138	2,808	330	80	Tanwariant bychan o fewn costau staff ac Peririaneg Arfordirol a Gwaith Draenio Tir. A slight underspend with staff costs and Coastal engineering & Land Drainage.	I/L
Gwasanaethau Prifffyrdd, Diogelwch y Ffordd, Rheoli Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol / Highways Services, Road Safety, Regional Transport Management	781	556	417	139	28	Disgwyli'r tanwariant bychan o fewn Gwasanaethau Prifffyrdd (Goleuadau). A slight underspend is expected within Highways Services (Lighting).	I/L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	605	464	415	49	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I/L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	19,414	13,421	13,024	397	-		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Llywodraethu / Legal & Governance Services

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Elin Prysor

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, nid oes problemau wedi'u nodi.
At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol / Legal Services	718	526	496	30	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Gwasanaethau Archwilio / Audit Services	662	500	507	(7)	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau (gan gynnwys Crwneriaid) / Service Management and Strategy (including Coroners)	279	209	228	(19)	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	1,659	1,235	1,231	4	-		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Pobl a Threfniadaeth / People & Organisation

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Geraint Edwards

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae costau pensiwn yn rhagamcanu gorwariant diwedd blwyddyn.

Pension costs are projecting a year-end overspend.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir variant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (I, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Adnoddau Dynol / Human Resources	1,178	832	878	(46)	(60)	Mae costau pensiwn yn rhagamcanu gorwariant diwedd blwyddyn o £35k. Pension costs are projecting a year-end overspend of £35k.	C/M
Profiad Gweuthiwr / Employee Experience	522	391	369	22	25	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	C/M
Dysgu a Datblygu / Learning and Development	557	(49)	(40)	(9)		Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	C/M
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	84	63	63	-	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	2,341	1,237	1,270	(33)	(35)		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Polisi, Pherfformiad a Amddiffyn y Cyhoed / Policy, Performance & Public Protection

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Alun Williams

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, nid oes problemau wedi'u nodi. Rhagwelir tanwariant bellach oherwydd cyfuniad o gyllid grant ychwanegol a thanwariant ar gyllidebau cyflogai.

At this stage in the year there are no problem areas identified. An underspend is now projected due to a combination of additional grant funding and an underspend on Employee budgets.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Partneriaethau a Pherfformiad / Partnerships & Performance	1,004	741	717	24	25	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud yn bennaf ag arian grant ychwanegol. There are no problem areas identified at present. The underspend mainly relates to additional grant funding.	I / L
Diogelu'r Cyhoedd / Public Protection	1,375	1,030	865	165	85	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud â llusgo swyddi gwag ar y Gyllideb Cyflogai. There are no problem areas identified at present. The underspend relates to vacancy drag on the Employees Budget.	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	116	87	79	8	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	2,495	1,858	1,661	197	110		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Porth Cymorth Cynnar

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Greg Jones

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Ar adeg hon y flwyddyn, mae'r Gwasanaeth yn disgwyl cynnydd yn y tanwariant, yn bennaf oherwydd grantiau ychwanegol yn y maes Cymorth Cynnar a Cymorth ac Ymyrraeth ac mae sefyllfa y canolfannau llesiant wedi gwella sy'n cynnwys agoriad y Ganolfan Newydd yn Llanbebr.

At this stage in the year, the service is now expecting an increased underspend due mainly to additional grant funding in the Early Intervention and Support & Intervention Services and an improved financial position for the Wellbeing Centres which includes the benefit of the opening of the new Wellbeing Centre in Lampeter.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaethau Cymorth Cynnar / Early Intervention Services	903	1,314	1,203	111	136	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd, mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud â chyllidebau gweithwyr. There are no problem areas identified at present, the underspend relates to Employee budgets	I / L
Gwasanaethau Tai / Housing Services	896	717	714	3	48	Mae'r tanwariant a ragwelir yn ymwneud yn bennaf ag incwm uwch o ran Budd-dal Tai na'r hyn a ddisgwyliwyd ar gyfer llety dros dro. The projected underspend mainly relates to higher than expected Housing Benefit income for temporary accommodation.	I / L
Canolfannau Lles / Wellbeing Centres	1,570	1,052	1,053	(1)	19	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. Mae incwm yn dechrau dangos arwyddion positif yn y Canolfannau Llesiant ac y mae bellach yn cyflawni lefelau cyn COVID. There are no problem areas identified at present. Income is starting to show encouraging signs in the Wellbeing Centres and is now hitting pre COVID levels.	C / M
Gwasanaethau Cymorth ac Ymyrraeth / Support and Intervention Services	637	512	484	28	38	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	105	77	75	2	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	4,111	3,672	3,529	143	241		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Porth Cynnal

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Audrey Somerton Edwards

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae'r gwasanaeth yn ymdrin yn bennaf ag achosion a lleoliadau cymhleth haen uwch. Rydym yn gweld pwysau costau o ganlyniad i gostau uwch a/ neu niferoedd uwch ym meysydd Lleoliadau Pobl Hŷn, Cefnogi Byw, Lleoliadau Anableddau Dysgu ac Anableddau Corfforol a chostau staff Asiantaeth. Mae cyfanswm hyn yn arwain at ragweld gorwariant o £2.9m ar gyfer y flwyddyn.

The service mainly deals with the higher end complex cases and placements. Cost pressures resulting from higher costs and/or higher volumes are being seen in the areas of Older Persons Placements, Supported Living, Learning Disability & Physical Disability placements and Agency staff costs. This in total is leading to a projected overspend of £2.9m for the year.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir variant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) variant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gofal wedi'i Gynllunio / Planned Care	14,786	11,951	14,012	(2,061)	(2,207)	<p>Mae'r cynnydd yn y gorwariant o chwarter 2 yn ymwneud â 2 leoliad Mam ai Phlentyn. Mae'r gorwariant yn gyffredinol yn ymwneud a chyfuniad o ragweld costau uwch ar gyfer lleoliadau Pobl Hŷn (£1.1m) yn sgil nifer uwch na'r arfer o leoliadau yn Chwarter 4 2022/23 (+9) a Chwarter 1 2023/24 (+12) gyda chynnydd bach yn Chwarter 2 2023/24. Roedd hefyd cynnydd mewn defnydd gweithwyr asiantaeth yn y tîm Asesu Plant & Teuluoedd (£197k). Hefyd, mae cost anghymesur ar y Cyngor o ran costau Plant ar eu Pen eu hunain yn Ceisio Lloches (£319k). Lleoliadau plant eraill (£245k). Taliadau Uniongyrchol Pobl Hŷn (£86k) a gorwariant ar Gwasanaethau cadw cwmni'n (£109k)</p> <p>The overspend increased from Qtr 2 mainly due to 2 Parent and baby placements. The overall overspend is due to a combination of a higher projected cost for Older Persons placements (£1.1m) due to a higher than normal level of placements in Q4 2022/23 (+9) and Q1 2023/24 (+12) with a further small increase in Q2 2023/24. In addition there is an increase in the use of agency workers in the Childrens & Family Assessment Team +£197k. Also, a disproportionate cost is having to be borne by the Council in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children costs (£319k), Other LAC placements (£245k), Older People Direct Payment overspend (£86k), Sitting service (£109k overspend).</p>	U / H
Cymorth Estynedig / Extended Support	13,797	11,428	11,651	(223)	(466)	<p>Mae'r sefyllfa wedi gwella ers chwarter 2 (gorwariant o £954k). Mae hyn yn bennaf oherwydd 2 taliadau uniongyrchol gwerth uchel yn dod i ben a gostyngiadau mewn costau gwely i rai lleoliadau Anabledd Dysgu. Er hyn, mae'r rhagamcaniad i ddiwedd y flwyddyn dal am orwariant sylweddol oherwydd chynnydd yn nifer lleoliadau Anableddau Dysgu ac Anableddau Corfforol ar y cyd â chynnydd mewn costau sy'n deillio o weithredu contractau Cefnogi Byw newydd.</p> <p>The position has improved since Q2 (projected overspend of £954k). This is mainly due to two high value direct payments ending and reduced fees for some Learning Disability. However, the year end projection remains as a significant overspend due to an increased number of Learning Disability and Physical Disability placements combined with an increased cost stemming from letting new Supported Living contracts.</p>	U / H

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION							
Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (I, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Lles Meddyliol / Mental Wellbeing	3,857	3,022	2,909	113	140	Mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud yn bennaf â gostyngiad yn nifer y lleoliadau lechyd Meddwl na'r hyn a nodwyd yn y gyllideb. The underspend mainly relates to a lower number of Mental Health placements than budgeted	C / M
Diogelu / Safeguarding	899	661	849	(188)	(334)	Mae'r gorwariant yn ymwneud yn bennaf â chostau staffio ac asiantaeth ychwanegol yn y tîm Diogelu. The overspend mainly relates to additional agency and staffing costs in the Safeguarding team	C / M
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	392	342	467	(125)	(42)	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	33,731	27,404	29,888	(2,484)	(2,909)		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Porth Gofal

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Donna Pritchard

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae gofal cymdeithasol yn parhau i wynebu heriau recriwtio, er bod amodau a thelerau'r Cyngor yn gymharol deniadol. O ganlyniad mae defnydd o sylweddol staff asiantaeth yng Nghartrefi Gofal yr Awdurdod Lleol, y Gwasanaeth Galluogi a rolau Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol critigol ar y rheng flaen. Mae cryn tanwariant mewn Gofal Cartref yn sgil trefniadau contract newydd yn weithredol o ddiwedd mis Gorffennaf. Fodd bynnag mae cost achos Galluogi cymhleth wedi ei osod yn erbyn rhan fwyaf o hyn. Yn gyffredinol ar hyn o bryd rhagwelir gorwariant cychwynnol o £458k.

Social care continues to face recruitment challenges, despite the Council's terms and conditions being relatively attractive. This is resulting in significant use of agency staff in LA Residential Homes, the Enablement Service and critical frontline Social Worker roles. There is a significant underspend in Domiciliary Care, due to the new contractual arrangements that took effect from late July, however a complex Enablement case is offsetting a large part of this. Overall there is currently a projected overspend of £458k.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Gwasanaethau Uniongyrchol / Direct Services	6,218	4,366	4,597	(231)	(256)	Mae lefel sylweddol o wariant yn parhau ar staff Asiantaeth mewn Cartrefi Preswyl yr Awdurdod Lleol (ar hyn o bryd rhagwelir y bydd yn cost oddeutu c£1.0m yn fwy na'r gyllideb staffio sydd ar gael) a gellir ond gosod arbedion a ragwelir yn y Gwasanaeth Dydd (£501k) ac incwm grant ychwanegol a ddisgwylir yn y Gwasanaeth Maethu (£95k) yn rhannol yn ei erbyn. There remains a significant level of spend on Agency staff in LA Residential Homes (currently projected to cost c£1.0m more than the available staffing budget), which is being only partially offset by projected savings in Day Services (£501k) and additional grant income expected in the Fostering service (c£95k).	U / H
Gwasanaethau Tymor Byr ac wedi'u Targedu / Targeted and Short Term Services	6,901	4,899	4,478	421	566	Mae swyddi gwag yn y Gwasanaeth Galluogi, ac mae'r cyfraddau uwch ar gyfer Gofal Cartref wedi dod i rym yn hwyr ym mis Gorffennaf 2023 o dan drefniadau contract newydd sydd wedi cael ei gyllidebu o 1af Ebrill, gyda'i gilydd yn cyflawni arbedion o ychydig dros £0.9m yn ystod y flwyddyn, fodd bynnag mae cost achos Galluogi cymhleth (£0.36m) yn erbyn rhan sylweddol o'r arbediad yma. Enablement Service is currently carrying vacancies and the new uplifted Domiciliary Care rates came into force in late July 2023 under new contractual arrangements which had been budgeted from 1st April, together delivering in year savings of just over £0.9m, however the cost of a complex Domiciliary Care case is offsetting a large part of this saving (£0.36m)	C / M
Gwasanaethau Asesu a Brysbennu Integredig / Integrated Triage and Assessment Services	1,907	1,444	1,943	(499)	(737)	Mae'r gorwariant yn ymwneud yn bennaf â chost ychwanegol staff Asiantaeth. The overspend relates mainly to the additional cost of Agency staff covering vacant posts in this area.	C / M

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION							
Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	475	324	320	4	(31)	Mae'r gwasanaeth yn edrych ymhellach ar fesurau o fewn y flwyddyn i sicrhau arbedion gan gynnwys lleihau cost staff asiantaeth yng nghartrefi'r Awdurdod Lleol. The Service is looking at further in year measures to produce savings including reducing the cost of agency staff within LA homes.	U / H
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	15,501	11,033	11,338	(305)	(458)		

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Ysgolion a Dysgu Gydol Oes / Schools & Lifelong Learning

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Elen James & Clive Williams

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae'r Gwasanaeth yn amcan tanwariant yn bennaf oherwydd grantiau ychwanegol o fewn Gwasanaeth Dysgu Gydol Oes.

The Service is projecting an underspend mainly due to the benefit of grant funding within the Lifelong Learning part of the service.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Ysgolion Cynradd / Primary Schools	19,730	19,730	19,730	-	-	Mae'r cyllid i gyd yn cael ei ddirprwyo i Gyrrff Llywodraethol Ysgolion o 1 Ebrill. Mae'r cynnydd yng nghostau cyflogau ac ynni yn gorfodi ysgolion i ddefnyddio eu cronfeydd wrth gefn.	I / L
Ysgolion Uwchradd / Secondary Schools	15,707	15,707	15,707	-	-	All funding is delegated to School Governing Bodies wef 1 April. The increase in salary and energy costs is requiring schools to utilise their reserves.	I / L
Ysgolion Pob Oed / All-through Schools	12,099	12,099	12,099	-	-	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r gorwariant yn ymwneud â chostau salwch	I / L
Gwella Ysgolion / School Improvement	1,890	3,095	3,238	(143)	(79)	There are no problem areas identified at present. Overspend is due to sickness costs	I / L
Adnoddau Dysgu / Learning Resources	346	290	243	47	35	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol / Additional Learning Needs	2,259	1,735	1,512	223	73	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. Mae lleihad wedi bod mewn costau a llwybrau trafndiaeth ADY	I / L
Gwasanaethau Diwylliannol / Cultural Services	1,143	566	517	49	54	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd, mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud â chyllidebau gweithwyr.	I / L
Dysgu Gydol Oes / Lifelong Learning	549	890	633	257	403	There are no problem areas identified at present, the underspend relates to Employee budgets	I / L
Ymgysylltu a Chyrhaeddiad / Engagement and Attainment	1,673	1,238	1,115	123	150	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd, mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud â chyllidebau gweithwyr, a grantiau SPF	I / L
						There are no problem areas identified at present, the underspend relates to Employee budgets, and SPF Grants	I / L

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION							
Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esoniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Uned Arlwygo Gorfforaethol / Corporate Catering Unit	1,164	661	414	247	164	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd, mae'r tanwariant yn ymwneud â Grant UPFSM a'r cynnydd o £2.90 i £3.20 There are no problem areas identified at present, the underspend relates to the UPFSM grant and the increase from £2.90 to £3.20	I / L
Rheoli'r Gwasanaethau a Strategaeth y Gwasanaethau / Service Management and Strategy	228	283	437	(154)	(33)	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	56,788	56,294	55,645	649	767		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Arweiniol / Leadership	Brif Weithredwr / Chief Executive : Eifion Evans
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1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY
<p style="text-align: center;">Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:</p> <p>Er bod rhai arbedion o ran ffrydiau gwaith o fewn y flwyddyn nad ydynt hyd yma'n cyflawni'n llawn y targedau a osodwyd yn wreiddiol, mae hyn bellach yn cael ei wrthwysu gan ennill unwaith ac am byth ar grant ôl-ddyddiedig. Yr her fwyaf yw cynnydd cyflymach yn nifer a chyfanswm cost lleoliadau Plant y tu allan i'r Sir gan y rhagwelir y bydd yn cyrraedd cyfanswm gwariant gros ar gyfer 23/24 o £6.8m (sy'n golygu gorwariant o ragwelir o £1.9m).</p> <p>Whilst there are some in year Savings workstreams that are not yet fully delivering the original targets set, this is now offset by a one off gain on a backdated grant. The more fundamental challenge is an exponential rise in the number and total cost of Out of County Children's placements which is currently projected to reach a total gross spend for 23/24 of £6.8m (which results in a projected overspend of £1.9m).</p>

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December 2023 £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December 2023 £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Grŵp Arweiniol / Leadership Group	507	380	345	35	45	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Arbedion Corfforaethol / Corporate Savings	(394)	-	-	-	106	Roedd y targed gwreiddiol yn £875k, ac fe'i gostyngwyd i £394k yn dilyn symudiadau i'r gwasanaethau perthnasol o ran ffioedd a thaliadau a rhan o darged y Cludiant i Ddysgwyr. Mae'r gweddill yn ymwneud yn bennaf ag Arbedion Ynni (£125k) a Chludiant Dysgwyr (£253k). Mae budd-dal untro o £500k o hawliad grant ôl-ddyddiedig sydd wedi crisialu yn Ch2 bellach wedi'i gynnwys yma. The original target was £875k, reduced to £394k following virements to respective services for Fees & Charges and part of the Learner Transport target. The balance left mainly relates to Energy Savings (£125k) and Learner Transport (£253k). A £500k one-off benefit from a backdated grant claim that has crystallised in Q2 has now been included here - this will be reflected at year end.	C / M
Cyllid wrth gefn / Contingencies	289	216	(7)	223	125	Ni nodwyd unrhyw faes a oedd yn achosi problem ar hyn o bryd. There are no problem areas identified at present.	I / L
Lleoliadau y tu allan i'r Sir / Out of County Placements	4,250	1,875	2,740	(865)	(1,946)	Bu cynnydd lleoliad newydd ers gosod Cyllideb 23/24. Mae hyn yn arwain at bwysau costau sylweddol o fewn y cyfanswm costau a ragwelwyd sef £6.8m ar gyfer 23/24 (sy'n cymharu â £1.8m yn 2020/21). Disgwylir y bydd y cyfleusterau newydd yn y Sir ar waith o Ebrill 2024 ymlaen, felly defnyddir yr arbediad dros dro yn Porth Gofal yn rhannol yn erbyn hyn (0.6m). There has been an increase in new placements since 23/24 Budget setting. This is leading to a substantial cost pressure with costs projected to be £6.8m for 23/24 (which compares with £1.8m in 2020/21). The new in county facilities are expected to start coming on stream from April 2024 onwards, so the temporary saving in Porth Gofal will be used as a partial offset (£0.6m).	U / H
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	4,652	2,471	3,078	(607)	(1,670)		

Adroddiad ar yr hyn a Ragwelir o ran y Gyllideb Rhagfyr 2023 / Budget Forecast Report December 2023

Ardollau, Premiwm Treth y Cyngor a Chronfeydd / Levies, Council Tax Premium and Reserves

Swyddog Arweiniol / Corporate Lead Officer : Duncan Hall

1. CRYNODEB / SUMMARY

Diwedd y Flwyddyn / Year End Forecast:

Mae diffyg cyffredinol o £534k ar y Dyfarniad Cyflog Staff Cyffredinol 23/24 (ar ôl caniatáu ar gyfer y Gronfa Wrth Gefn o £360k). Mae hyn i'w ariannu o arian a roddir o'r neilltu mewn cronfeydd wrth gefn at y diben hwn.
There is an overall shortfall of £534k on the 23/24 General Staff Payaward (after allowing for the £360k Contingency), which is to be funded from monies set aside in reserves for this purpose.

2. GWYBODAETH ARIANNOL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Gwasanaeth Service	Y Gyllideb Ddiweddaraf Latest Budget £'000	Cyllideb hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Budget to December £'000	Gwir wariant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Actuals to December £'000	Amrywiant hyd at Rhagfyr 2023 Variance to December 2023 £'000	Rhagolygon Diwedd y Flwyddyn tan/(gor) wariant Year End Forecast under/(over) spend £'000	Esboniad o'r gorwariant/tanwariant a ragwelir a lefel y risg Explanation of forecast over/under spend & the level of risk	Lefel y risg (L, C neu U) Level of risk (L, M or H)
Ardollau / Levies	4,867	3,652	3,652	-	-	Mae risg gorwariant yn fach iawn am y caiff yr ardollau eu gosod yn flynyddol ac ni chânt eu hadolygu yn ystod y flwyddyn. The risk of overspends is minimal as the levies are set annually and are not revised in year.	I / L
Premiwm Treth y Cyngor / Council Tax Premium	615	-	-	-	-	Mae'r swm sydd ar gael i'w wario yn dibynnu ar y premiwm a gesglir yn ystod y flwyddyn ar ôl caniatáu ar gyfer unrhyw ad-daliadau. Cynllun Tai Cymunedol Newydd a gymeradwywyd gan y Cabinet ar 06/06/23. The amount available to be spent will be dependent on the premium collected during the year after allowing for any refunds. New Community Housing scheme approved by Cabinet on 06/06/23.	I / L
Balansau a Chronfeydd wrth gefn / Balances & Reserves	(534)	-	-	-	-	Bydd unrhyw drosglwyddiad i / o'r Gronfa Gyffredinol yn cael ei ystyried ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn pan fydd sefyllfa gyffredinol y Cyngor yn hysbys. Mae'r £534k yn ymwneud â'r diffyg net yn y dyfarniad Cyflog Staff Cyffredinol 23/24, ar ôl caniatáu defnyddio'r Gronfa Wrth Gefn o £360k. Any transfer to / from the General Fund will be considered at year end when the overall position for the Council is known. The £534k relates to the net shortfall in the 23/24 General Staff Payaward, after allowing for the use of the £360k Contingency.	C / M
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	4,948	3,652	3,652	-	-		

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Quarter 3 Capital Programme Monitoring Report

Purpose of the report: To report on the Capital Expenditure to date

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

1. Overall Position

Details of the latest Capital Programme expenditure to the end of December are attached as Appendix A.

Total expenditure is £17.2m. The Capital Programme Working budget is £48.3m (excluding Contingencies) for the year.

2. New Schemes – Variances, Budget Changes

The Latest budget now reflects the updated 2023/24 programme approved by Cabinet on 23rd January 2024. The programme has been reduced in line with expectations on achievable spend by the end of the financial year 2023/24. The budgets, where there is known slippage and the scheme allows, have been re-profiled into 2024/25 and future years.

3. Capital Receipts

£453k of Capital Receipts have been achieved to the end of December 2024 with £76k being ring fenced for Transport Related schemes and £350k for the investment in Council-run Residential Homes.

The Capital Programme is monitored on a bi-monthly basis by the Capital Monitoring Group and issues such as project progress, virements, slippage and the implications arising thereon are considered by the Group and reported through to the Development Group.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

No: This report does not refer to a policy or service change.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A

Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):
To note the report.

Reasons for decision:
None required.

Overview and Scrutiny:
Considered during the budget setting process.

Policy Framework:
Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Corporate Well-being Objectives:
All Corporate Priorities are underpinned by the Capital Programme.

Finance and Procurement implications:
Compliant

Legal Implications:
None

Staffing implications:
None

Property / asset implications:
None directly

Risk(s):
Risk of insufficient funding if there are significant overspends

Statutory Powers:
Local Government Finance Act 1992

Background Papers:
Multi-Year Capital Programme

Appendices:
Appendix A - Capital Programme Monitoring Report

Corporate Lead Officer:
Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement

Reporting Officer:
Liz Jones, Assistant Accountant

Date:
23/01/2024

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	Notes for Cabinet
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Schools and Lifelong Learning

21st Century Schools programme (Band B)	NJ	3,386	6,178	9,564	4,693	4,871	Updated profile to reflect the funding profile of Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron
Ysgol Henry Richards	NJ	37	-	37	1	36	No issues to report
Childcare Provision	NJ	-	1,380	1,380	175	1,205	No issues to report
Free School Meals	NJ	798	-	798	103	695	No issues to report
Welsh Medium Immersion Centre and New classroom block	NJ	-	50	50	36	14	No issues to report
Additional Learning needs Adaptations to School buildings	NJ	-	458	458	-	458	No issues to report
E-sgol project	NJ	-	73	73	56	17	No issues to report
School - additional Capital works	NJ	2,285	-	2,285	1,178	1,107	There has been some delays - WG are being contacted to get approval for any underspend to be carried forward into 2024/25.
Underfloor Heating System - Schools	NJ	60	-	60	5	55	£385k has been reprofiled into 2024/25 due to most of the spend for Ysgol y Dderi being in 2024/25.
Urgent Works Schools	NJ	150	-	150	38	112	No issues to report
Total - Schools and Lifelong Learning		6,716	8,139	14,855	6,285	8,570	

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	
Porth Cymorth Cynnar						
Wellbeing Centre - Lampeter	CY	123	122	245	245	(0)
Wellbeing Centres - Urgent Works	CY	225	-	225	52	173
Sports Wales Wellbeing Centres Facilities upgrades	CY	-	537	537	230	307
Artificial Sports Pitches	CY	107	4	111	112	(1)
Grants to Aberaeron and Calon Tysul Swimming Pools	CY	-	89	89	78	11
Disabled Facilities Grants	LH	1,400	-	1,400	854	546
Home Improvement & Houses into Homes Loan Schemes	LH	61	-	61	10	51
Community Housing Scheme		100		100	-	100
Enable Grant for Independent Living	LH	-	146	146	64	82
Intermediate Care Fund- Property Purchases & Renovations	LH	10	42	52	40	12
Land and Buildings Development Fund	LH	400	-	400	69	331
HCF - Housing with Care Fund	LH	-	120	120	28	92
National Empty Homes Grant Scheme	LH	82	-	82	-	82
Total - Porth Cymorth Cynnar		2,508	1,060	3,568	1,782	1,786

Notes for Cabinet

This scheme has completed.

£150k Re-profiled into 2024/25 due to Plascrug LC Pool works not commencing until July 24
£262k has been Re-profiled into 2024/25 - to match fund the SPF approved grant funding of £108k for Plascrug All weather Pitch
This scheme has completed.

This scheme has completed.

No issues to report
No issues to report

New Scheme Launched in November, 23 funded from second homes Council Tax Premium.

No issues to report

Grant Funding of £42k has been approved by the region - Approval has been given to re-profile £161k into 2024/25 for Hafan y Waun Scheme

WG have approved an extension to the end date of the scheme of Sept 24 - therefore, £1.288m has been re-profiled into 2024/25.

Some of the schemes sit under Porth Gofal, therefore the budget has been split accordingly. The schemes under Porth Cymorth Cynnar include, Housing Adaptations. There has also been an additional £80k approved for Disabled facilities adaptation.

No issues to report

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	Notes for Cabinet
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Economic and Regeneration

Sewage Treatment Works	AG	200	-	200	130	70
Urgent Works Other	AG	100	-	100	14	86
Buildings - Invest to Save	AG	175	-	175	49	126
Energy Scheme Investments	AB	5	-	5	1	4
Asset Development Programme	AD	-	180	180	5	175
Market Hall Cardigan	AD	369	28	397	293	104
Footbridge Replacement Programme	AD	50	-	50	47	3
Access Improvement Grant	AD	-	103	103	100	3
Green Recovery Delivery Partnership PriorityThemes	AD	-	32	32	11	21
Local Places for nature Capital	AD	-	366	366	20	346
Levelling up Projects	AD	-	1,794	1,794	385	1,409
Nature Network Fund - Afon Teifi SAC Catchment	AD	-	445	445	443	2
New Quay South John Street - Amenity Access Enhancement	AD	9	36	45	-	45
Total - Economic and Regeneration		908	2,984	3,892	1,499	2,393

£456k has been re-profiled into 2024/25 due to slippage in the progress of the schemes
Vired £22k to New Quay South John Street Scheme

No issues to report

£745k has been re-profiled into 2024/25 due to slippage in the progress of the schemes - It is anticipated the programme of works will commence around August, 24 Programme of Works is being worked on - it is anticipated there will be no spend in 2023/24 - WG are being approached to approve that grant funding can be carried forward into 2024/25
Scheme is drawing to an end.

No issues to report

No issues to report

No issues to report

Some issues with the scheme - it is anticipated the funding will not be spent in 23/24 - WG is being approached to approve funding be carried forward into 24/25.

£3.214m has been re-profiled into 2024/25 due to slippage in the progress of the schemes

Scheme has completed.

Increase in budget due to the tender being more than anticipated - £22k has been vired from Urgent works.

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	Notes for Cabinet
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Highways and Environmental Services

Highways Infrastructure Renewal / Improvements
Environmental Services

PJ	2,200	-	2,200	1,253	947
GJ	66	-	66	35	31

Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation

PJ	-	298	298	44	254
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EV Charging Infrastructure Grant (WLGA)

PJ	8	8	16	(1)	17
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ATF Core Funding 2023/24

PJ	-	500	500	204	296
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ATF Waunfawr to IBERS Link Phase 1

PJ	-	1,490	1,490	444	1,046
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LTF Regional Bus Core Allocation

PJ	-	250	250	-	250
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LTF TrawsCymru Bus Corridor Infrastructure Improvements

PJ	-	950	950	96	854
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20mph Core Allocation

PJ	-	739	739	595	144
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SRIC Llanrhystud

PJ	-	50	50	38	12
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Cae'r Henwas (Site Completion)

PJ	9	-	9	5	4
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Flood Alleviation Schemes Llandre/Borth Leat - Development Stage

PJ	-	61	61	8	53
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No issues to report
No issues to report
Programme Manager started in January, 24.

Need to confirm with WLGA that we may not spend this in 2023/24, and will utilise it in 2024/25

An overspend of c£20k has been identified - in talks with TFW.

Anticipated overspend of £120k to cover achievement of Phase 1 and accelerated Phase 3 works. In negotiation with TFW. Construction ongoing. Completion March 2024.

Waiting for outcome of reports before Progressing to detailed design.

No issues to report

Vandalism works ongoing, and vandalism continues. Overspend expected and estimated at £15k. WG aware and have indicated that this will be funded.

No issues to report

No issues to report

Borth Leat Project, approved Extension to the end date of the scheme 16/03/24 - it is anticipated the scheme will go into 2024/25, WG are being approached for approval

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000
Coastal Protection Aberaeron - Development Stage	-	107	107	116	(9)
Coastal Protection Aberystwyth - Development Stage	-	232	232	94	138
Borth & Ynyslas Coastal Protection - Development Stage	-	40	40	1	39
Flood, Coastal and Risk Management, Capel Bangor and Tal-y-bont - Development Stage.	-	121	121	56	65
Llangrannog Coastal Protection - Development Stage	-	24	24	1	23
Coastal Protection Aberaeron	13,000	-	13,000	1,890	11,110
Fleet Replacement	848	-	848	177	671
Total - Highways and Environmental Services	16,131	4,870	21,001	5,056	15,945

Notes for Cabinet

Approved Extension to the end date of project 16/03/24 a request for additional funding of £50k has also been submitted to WG.
 It is anticipated the scheme will continue into 2024/25 - WG are being approached for approval to carry forward funding into 24/25.
 On hold pending NRW Leri modelling results
 Approved Extension to the end date of project 16/03/24 - No Issues
 Approved Extension to the end date of project 16/03/24 - No Issues
 Contractors started on site in December, 23 - £3m reprofiled into 23/24 following the contractors spend profile.
 No issues to report

Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	Notes for Cabinet	
Porth Gofal							
Urgent Works - Residential Homes	NL	100	-	100	9	91	No issues to report
Intermediate Care Fund - Hafan Deg Dementia Project	NL	-	379	379	127	252	Grant Funding of £379k has been approved from Programmed Managed Funds
Housing with Care Funding - Safe Accommodation for Children	NL	-	1,182	1,182	322	860	HCF - Approved Grant offer letters have been received for Sycharth £753k - Min y Mor Bungalow £278k also 66 Heol Tyn y Fron £278k being received in principle - profiled over two financial years.
HCF - Housing with Care Fund	NL/HW	-	121	121	34	87	As some of the approved HCF schemes sit under Porth Gofal, the HCF budget has been split accordingly. The schemes include, Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) Equipment and Efficiency Improvements, Assessment and sensors and a Dementia Friendly Lounge
Residential Homes upgrade	NL	280	-	280	126	154	Conversion at Hafan Deg. £220k has been re-profiled into 2024/25 due to slippage in the progress of the schemes
Hafan y Waun Residential Home Capital Investment	NL	200	-	200	-	200	No issues to report
Total - Porth Gofal		580	1,682	2,262	618	1,644	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund							
Uk Shared Prosperity Fund (Powys and Ceredigion)	CJE	-	2,040	2,040	1,420	620	£267k of additional funding in 23/24 as per the latest funding profile.
Total - UK Shared Prosperity Fund		-	2,040	2,040	1,420	620	
Customer Contact							
ICT Kit and Infrastructure investment	AM	390	-	390	322	68	No issues to report
Total - Customer Contact		390	-	390	322	68	

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Quarter 3 - Capital Monitoring Report

Corporate/ Service Managers	General Funding £'000	Grant Funding £'000	Total £'000	Total Expenditure to date £'000	Budget Remaining £'000	Notes for Cabinet
Finance & Procurement						
Community Grant Scheme	150	-	150	109	41	The budget has been reduced by £50k to the anticipated 2023/24 spend level.
Total - Finance & Procurement	150	-	150	109	41	
Policy Performance and Public Protection						
Inphase Contract	30	-	30	30	0	Scheme has been completed
Total Policy Performance and Public Protection	30	-	30	30	0	
Service Reform						
Capitalisation Direction - Service Reform	100	-	100	77	23	Funding from Capital Receipt to make use of the Capitalisation Direction
	27,513	20,775	48,288	17,198	31,090	
Brought Forward Commitments						
Brought forward Commitments (Old schemes)	-	-	-	0	(0)	22/23 accruals will fund brought forward expenditure in 23/24
Total B/f Commitments	-	-	-	0	(0)	
TOTAL WORKING PROGRAMME	27,513	20,775	48,288	17,198	31,090	
Contingencies	350	-	350	-	350	
New Approved Grants/Match funding for grant schemes	182	1,569	1,751	-	1,751	
Total - Contingencies	532	1,569	2,101	-	2,101	
TOTAL OVERALL PROGRAMME	28,045	22,344	50,389	17,198	33,191	

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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19th March 2024

Title: Quarterly Treasury Management Performance Report 2023/24

Purpose of the report: To report on 2023/24 Quarter 3 Treasury Management Performance

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is presented in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021 (the Code). It is recommended by the code that from 2023/24 treasury management activities are reported at least quarterly.

Treasury management is defined by CIPFA as:

“The management of the authority’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of the optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

2. PORTFOLIO POSITION

The Council’s summarised debt and investment position is shown below, with further details analysed in Appendix A (Investments) and Appendix B (Debt).

	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/2023</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>As at</u> <u>31/12/2023</u> <u>£m</u>
<u>External Borrowing</u>		
PWLB loans	101.1	100.6
Market loan	5.8	5.8
WG Repayable loan funding	0.9	0.8
Total Debt	107.8	107.2
<u>Investments held</u>		
In-house	38.7	43.5
Total Investments	38.7	43.5
Net Debt	69.1	63.7

3. ECONOMIC UPDATE

The third quarter of 2023/24 saw:

- a) Month on month GDP in October declined by 0.3%, potentially partly due to unseasonably wet weather, but also due to the ongoing drag from higher interest rates. Growth for the second quarter, ending 30th September, was revised downwards to minus 0.1% and growth on an annual basis was also revised downwards, to 0.3%.
- b) Wage growth saw a sharp fall, with the headline 3 month year on year rate declining from 8.0% in September to 7.2% in October, although the ONS rate of unemployment has remained low at 4.2%.
- c) CPI inflation continues its downward trajectory, from 8.7% in April to 3.9% in November.
- d) Core CPI inflation decreasing from May's 31 year high of 7.1% to 5.1% in November, the lowest rate since January 2022. Similar to the CPI, core inflation measures the price of a selection of goods and services but strips out volatile prices such as food and energy.
- e) The Bank of England held the base interest rate at 5.25% in November and December.
- f) 10-year gilt yields fell steadily as investors revised their interest rate expectations lower.

4. INTEREST RATE FORECASTS

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 basis points).

The latest forecast, made on 8th January 2024, sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated in the short term but will start to fall during the second half of the 2024 calendar year.

Link Treasury Services Interest Rate Forecast – as at 8th January 2024

	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sept-25	Dec-25
Bank Rate Forecast	5.25%	5.25%	4.75%	4.25%	3.75%	3.25%	3.00%	3.00%
<u>PWLB Borrowing Rate</u>								
5 yr PWLB	4.50%	4.40%	4.30%	4.20%	4.10%	4.00%	3.80%	3.70%
10 yr PWLB	4.70%	4.50%	4.40%	4.30%	4.20%	4.10%	4.00%	3.90%
25 yr PWLB	5.20%	5.10%	4.90%	4.80%	4.60%	4.40%	4.30%	4.20%
50 yr PWLB	5.00%	4.90%	4.70%	4.60%	4.40%	4.20%	4.10%	4.00%

5. STRATEGY FOR 2023/24

The Council's Treasury Management strategy for the current year was approved by Full Council in March 2023. The Investment Strategy outlined the investment priorities as being security of capital and liquidity, with the aim of achieving the

optimum return on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. Generally, it was anticipated that investments for core cashflow requirements would be for periods of up to 3 months, but with scope to invest for longer periods (up to 1 year) if surplus investment balances are available. All Investments in the year to date have been in line with the strategy.

On the borrowing side, the Council has a fairly significant cash balance and is maintaining an internal borrowing position which is helping to deliver revenue savings.

6. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

A full list of investments held as at 31/12/2023 is shown in Appendix A. The majority of investments are short term, ensuring that the key dates relating to salaries, housing benefit and creditor payment runs are covered within a month. Where funds allow, these investments are supplemented with longer dated maturities to take advantage of increased returns.

Investments during the nine-month period covering 1st April 2023 to the 31st December 2023 has led to interest income of £2.0m against a budget of £1.0m resulting in a favourable variance of £1.0m. This is due to higher interest rates than anticipated when the 2023/24 budget was set.

The full year budget for investment income is £1.3m and it is forecast that income of £2.4m will be achieved which will result in a £1.1m favourable variance for the year.

7. BORROWING PORTFOLIO

During 2023/24, no new PWLB loans have been taken out to date, although significant borrowing is expected in the near term. The Aberaeron Coastal Protection Scheme requires circa £27m of prudential borrowing during the next two years which will be fully funded by Welsh Government. Considerations around the lender, timing and profile of this borrowing requirement is currently being finalised.

There are no PWLB loan maturities due during the year.

A full list of loans held as at 31/12/2023 is shown in Appendix B.

8. DEBT RESCHEDULING

As the economy continues adjust to a higher interest rate environment debt rescheduling opportunities may become available, which hasn't been the case for over a decade. The Council will monitor this situation and evaluate opportunities that become available if balances allow.

No premature repayment of debt, or debt rescheduling, has taken place to date in this financial year.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH TREASURY LIMITS

During the financial year to date the Council has operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. The 2023/24 Prudential indicators are shown in Appendix C.

10. TREASURY ADVISORS

The Council employs Link Treasury Solutions Ltd as the Council's external Treasury advisor on a contract that runs until 30/08/2026. Link support by providing an analysis of investment counterparty creditworthiness, provide forecasts of movements in PWLB rates, undertake Balance Sheet reviews, they provide regular updates on economic and political changes together with advice on any changes to legislation or accounting standards.

11. BANKING CONTRACT

The banking contract with Barclays expired on 29th February 2024. The Council carried out a full tender exercise during the Autumn of 2023 inviting banking service providers to tender for the Council's corporate banking services contract. After a robust evaluation exercise Barclays were awarded the contract for a period of seven years with the option to extend for an additional two years.

Barclays are a UK based bank, with a long-term credit rating of A1 (Moody's) and continues to provide the Council with an excellent service. Barclays has operated local government sector specialism for over 15 years, currently providing transactional banking services to just under 25% of all local authorities and holding treasury relationships with close to 70% in the UK.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No: Report for information only

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A – Information only

Collaboration: N/A – Information only

Involvement: N/A – Information only

Prevention: N/A – Information only

Integration: N/A – Information only

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report.

Reasons for decision:

No decision required.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Considered during the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy approval process.

Policy Framework:

2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Treasury Management underpins all Corporate Priorities

Finance and Procurement implications:

Reporting information regarding Treasury Management activities and in year investment income and external interest paid.

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

Reporting performance of investment balances held by the Council.

Risk(s):

None

Statutory Powers:

Local Government Act 2003

Background Papers:

2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy report to Full Council (March 2023)

Appendices:

Appendix A - Investment Portfolio

Appendix B - Debt Portfolio

Appendix C - Prudential Indicators

Corporate Lead Officer:

Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Office: Finance & Procurement

Reporting Officer:

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

Date:

10th February 2024

Appendix A

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT 31/12/2023:

Details	Value	Interest Rate	Investment	
	£	%	From	To
Fixed Term Investments				
Standard Chartered Sustainable Deposit	£2,000,000	5.76%	05/09/2023	05/03/2024
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets	£2,000,000	5.66%	05/10/2023	05/04/2024
Bank of Scotland	£500,000	5.38%	06/11/2023	10/01/2024
Goldman Sachs International	£2,000,000	5.37%	08/11/2023	08/02/2024
Goldman Sachs International	£2,000,000	5.37%	09/11/2023	09/02/2024
NatWest Markets	£5,000,000	5.27%	14/11/2023	14/02/2024
Santander UK	£2,000,000	5.33%	15/11/2023	16/02/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.18%	20/11/2023	05/01/2024
DMADF	£1,000,000	5.18%	22/11/2023	22/01/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.19%	27/11/2023	05/01/2024
DMADF	£1,000,000	5.19%	28/11/2023	29/01/2024
DMADF	£1,000,000	5.19%	28/11/2023	30/01/2024
DMADF	£1,000,000	5.18%	30/11/2023	05/01/2024
DMADF	£1,000,000	5.18%	30/11/2023	09/01/2024
DMADF	£2,000,000	5.18%	01/12/2023	12/01/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.20%	05/12/2023	22/01/2024
DMADF	£5,000,000	5.20%	05/12/2023	31/01/2024
DMADF	£2,000,000	5.20%	06/12/2023	31/01/2024
DMADF	£2,000,000	5.20%	07/12/2023	02/02/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.20%	08/12/2023	19/01/2024
DMADF	£1,500,000	5.20%	11/12/2023	19/01/2024
DMADF	£700,000	5.20%	14/12/2023	13/02/2024
Leeds Building Society	£1,000,000	5.22%	19/12/2023	19/03/2024
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets	£1,000,000	5.38%	19/12/2023	19/06/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.19%	20/12/2023	16/01/2024
DMADF	£500,000	5.20%	21/12/2023	22/02/2024
Leeds Building Society	£1,000,000	5.22%	21/12/2023	21/03/2024
	£39,700,000			
Deposits in Barclays Reserve a/c				
Barclays Bank	£3,841,069	4.90%	-	-

Total Investments as at 30/06/23

£43,541,069

DEBT PORTFOLIO AS AT 31/12/2023:**Appendix B**

Loan Ref	Repayment Method	Start Date	Maturity Date	Original Interest rate	Balance as at 31/12/23
<u>PWLB Loans</u>					
417195	A	24-Dec-71	02-Dec-31	8.000%	16,461
419325	A	21-Mar-72	02-Dec-31	7.750%	11,513
427730	A	12-Jun-73	02-Jun-33	9.875%	18,046
478179	M	26-Sep-96	31-Mar-56	8.125%	5,000,000
478585	M	10-Dec-96	30-Sep-56	7.500%	3,000,000
480055	M	13-Oct-97	30-Sep-57	6.375%	6,000,000
480689	M	27-Mar-98	30-Sep-52	5.875%	2,000,000
481159	M	20-Jul-98	31-Mar-53	5.500%	3,500,000
490819	M	24-Nov-05	31-Mar-31	4.250%	2,000,000
490981	M	11-Jan-06	31-Mar-51	3.900%	2,000,000
491703	M	07-Jun-06	30-Sep-41	4.350%	2,700,000
491819	M	07-Jul-06	30-Sep-31	4.500%	5,300,000
491837	M	12-Jul-06	02-Jun-39	4.450%	2,000,000
492936	M	20-Feb-07	06-Aug-32	4.550%	6,000,000
493733	M	10-Aug-07	30-Sep-37	4.750%	9,551,120
501411	A	10-Jul-12	31-Mar-32	2.860%	1,138,317
501928	A	01-Mar-13	31-Mar-29	2.630%	1,146,639
502054	A	28-Mar-13	06-Feb-33	2.860%	1,255,058
502477	A	13-Aug-13	30-Sep-28	3.110%	1,128,292
502596	M	10-Oct-13	09-Oct-36	4.210%	5,000,000
502827	M	06-Feb-14	10-Jan-25	3.660%	3,000,000
502828	M	06-Feb-14	10-Jan-27	3.840%	2,000,000
502981	A	09-Apr-14	31-Mar-34	3.680%	1,413,119
502982	A	09-Apr-14	30-Sep-28	3.230%	1,593,406
503489	M	25-Nov-14	31-Mar-45	3.670%	5,000,000
503490	A	25-Nov-14	31-Mar-44	3.400%	1,116,593
503728	M	09-Feb-15	31-Mar-60	2.750%	4,000,000
503729	M	09-Feb-15	31-Mar-61	2.750%	4,000,000
504645	A	04-Feb-16	30-Sep-45	2.760%	2,114,052
506318	M	06-Sep-17	01-Sep-28	1.970%	2,000,000
506319	M	06-Sep-17	01-Sep-46	2.560%	6,000,000
507963	M	30-Oct-18	31-Mar-34	2.500%	2,000,000
507964	M	30-Oct-18	30-Sep-48	2.460%	1,800,000
508214	M	13-Dec-18	30-Sep-39	2.520%	2,000,000
509622	M	08-Aug-19	30-Sep-58	1.970%	2,000,000
509623	M	08-Aug-19	30-Sep-34	1.730%	1,800,000
					100,602,616
<u>Market Loan</u>					
Barclays	M	20-Jun-16	13-Sep-66	3.660%	5,750,000
<u>WG Repayable Loan funding</u>					
Housing Improvement & Empty Property Loan 1	M	06-Mar-15	31-Mar-30	0.000%	556,075
Housing Improvement & Empty Property Loan 2	M	27-Mar-20	31-Mar-35	0.000%	250,000
					806,075
TOTAL					107,158,691

Key: A = Annuity M = Maturity

Treasury Management related Prudential Indicators

Gross debt and the Capital Finance Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that gross external debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

The Section 151 officer reports that the authority did not have any difficulty in meeting this requirement in 2022/23, nor are there any difficulties envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the 3 year capital programme.

Authorised Limit for External Debt

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	155	163	168
Other long term liabilities	7	12	12
Total	162	175	180

Operational Boundary for External Debt

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	149	157	162
Other long term liabilities	6	11	11
Total	155	168	173

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months & within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months & within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years & within 10 years	75%	0%
10 years & above	95%	25%
<u>Sub-category within 10 years and above</u> 50 years & above	20%	0%

Upper limit for total principal sums invested for more than 1 year

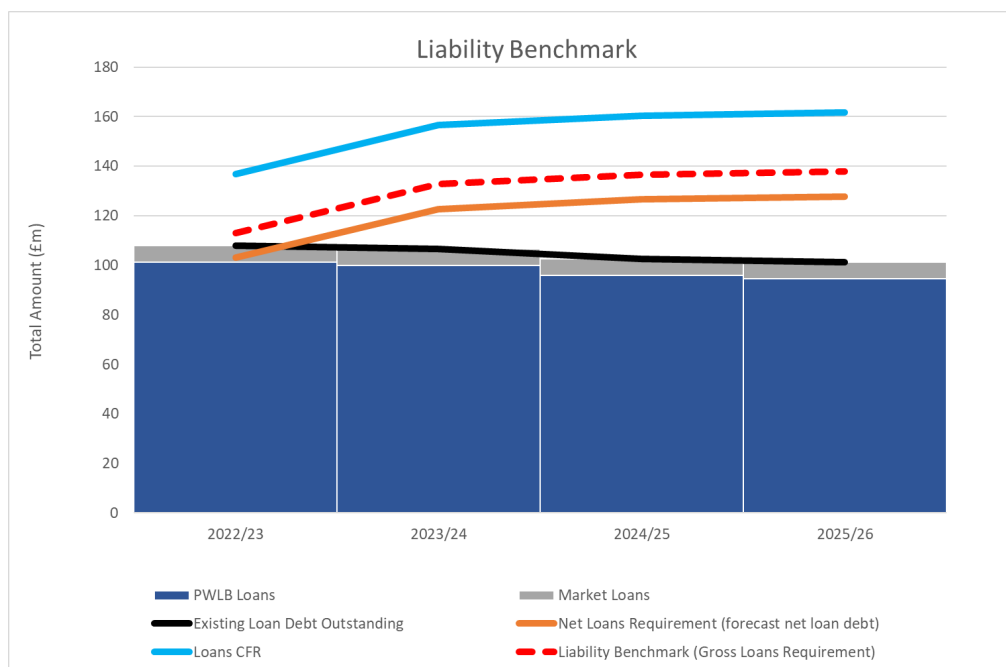
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£2.5m	£2.5m	£2.5m

Liability Benchmark

A new prudential indicator for 2023/24 is the Liability Benchmark. The Liability Benchmark is effectively the Net Borrowing Requirement of a local authority plus a liquidity allowance. In its simplest form, it is calculated by deducting the amount of investable resources available on the balance sheet (reserves, cash flow balances) from the amount of outstanding external debt and then adding the minimum level of investments required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

There are four components to the Liability Benchmark: -

- Existing loan debt outstanding: the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
- Loans CFR: this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
- Net loans requirement: this will show the Authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
- Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.



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CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19/03/24

Title: Ceredigion Carers Unit Annual Report 2022-2023

Purpose of the report: To report on the achievements of the Ceredigion Carers and Community Support Team and progress against their agreed targets and objectives during the year 2022-2023.

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Introduction

The Carers and Community Support Team bring together our Carers Development Officers, Community Connectors and Ageing Well Officer to work in a single team focussing on providing information advice and assistance to unpaid carers and supporting community members in Ceredigion.

A Carer is defined as 'Anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support'.

Carers have a right to a life beyond their caring role and to do so, need both effective services to support the people they care for and for them as Carers in their own right.

Welsh Government refers to a "Carer Friendly Wales", noting that unpaid Carers of all ages are a valued and valuable part of society. The 2021 census revealed that there were approximately 310,000 unpaid carers in Wales which equates to 10.5% of the over 5 population of the country. The census also showed that there were 7,246 people in Ceredigion providing unpaid care. Of this number 3,664 were providing more than 20 hours of unpaid care a week. A report written jointly by Carers UK and the University of Sheffield shows that unpaid carers in England and Wales contributes £162 billion per year to the economy. Furthermore, Carers make a positive difference by holding families together, enabling loved ones to get the most out of life whilst making an enormous contribution to society.

Welsh Government have set out their expectation under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales 2014) that health, local authorities and the third sector will work in partnership to support Carers under the Act. In 2021, The Welsh Government under their Strategy for Unpaid Carers, set out 4 priorities:

- Identifying and valuing Carers
- Providing information, advice and assistance
- Supporting life alongside caring

- Supporting Unpaid Carers in Education and the Workplace.

Provision of information via the DEWIS and Family Information Service platforms continues to be a priority for the Carers and Community Support Team.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

Not required as the report does not involve the implementation of a new policy.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

In support of the Ceredigion County Council Carers and Community Support Team, to note and accept the 2022-2023 Annual Report.

Reasons for decision:

2022-2023 Ceredigion County Council Carers and Community Support Team Annual Report is brought before Cabinet for information.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee- 11.03.2024

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy 22-27: Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
Ceredigion Through Age and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2027

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating Caring and Healthy Communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

None

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

None

Statutory Powers:

Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Carers and Community Support Team Annual Report 2022-2023

Corporate Lead Officer:

Greg Jones, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar

Reporting Officer:

Iwan Davies, Corporate Manager: Early Intervention

Date:

30/01/24



CARERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM

Annual Report

2022 - 2023



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Cysylltu Ceredigion
Gofalwyr a Chymorth Cymunedol
Connecting Ceredigion
Carers and Community Support

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Provide information advice and assistance	5
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Business objectives - 2023/24	19



MEET THE TEAM



TEAM MANAGER - Sara Humphreys



CARERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATOR (North Ceredigion) - Mel Walters



CARERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATOR (South Ceredigion) - Bethan James



CARERS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Susan Kidd



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Enfys James



AGEING WELL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - Paul Lewis



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Carys Owens



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Sarah Kendall



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Sian Salcombe



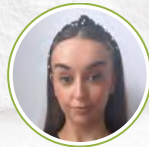
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Sam Henly



DIGITAL CONNECTOR - Lucy Steere



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR - Diane Williams



APPRENTICE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR - Sophie Richards



DIGITAL CONNECTOR - Fraya Grattan

INTRODUCTION



A MESSAGE FROM CORPORATE MANAGER - EARLY INTERVENTION, IWAN DAVIES

I am delighted to present the Carers and Community Support annual report. The report reflects the breadth of the work undertaken by the Carers and Community Support Team and it's commissioned partner Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers along with the positive impact on those receiving services.

At the centre of the team's work is the provision of high-quality information to users of the service and it is encouraging to see that the numbers of unpaid carers registered on the Carers Information Service and Young Carers Information Service has increased, meaning that more of the county's unpaid carers have access to information such as the Carers Magazine.

The team has also been pro-active in engaging with Ceredigion communities organising events, drop ins with our Community Connectors and have supported the Warm Spaces initiatives, again providing up to date information to those attending.

I would therefore very much like to thank the team and partner organisations for their continued hard work and commitment over the past year and we very much look forward to developing and introducing new areas of work in 2023-2024.

Iwan Davies



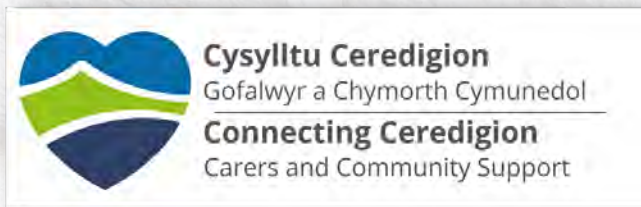
BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

EMBED THROUGH AGE WELLBEING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN AND HYBRID WORKING INTO THE TEAM

What did we do?

Rebranding the team

Created a new team logo and contact details, updated our leaflets:



Team work

As a team we have got back into the swing of being out and about engaging with a range of groups and individuals.

Age Friendly Communities

- Ageing Well Officer appointed.
- Engagements at local supermarkets to coincide with International Older Persons Day.
- Work began on contacting and visiting local groups to gather feedback on **8 domains**:

- 1 Outdoor spaces and buildings
- 2 Transport
- 3 Housing
- 4 Social participation
- 5 Respect and social inclusion
- 6 Civic participation and employment
- 7 Communication and information
- 8 Community support and health services

The feedback will form the foundation of the Age Friendly Communities Self-assessment, which the council will submitted to the World Health Organisation in early 2024. The aim is for Ceredigion to become a recognised Age-Friendly Community.

PROVIDE INFORMATION ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

What did we do?



Increased Carers Information Service membership by

14%



Increased Young Carers Information Service membership by

144%

Printed and distributed

4250

Carers Magazines across Ceredigion.



Charter for Unpaid Carers



Welsh Government's Charter for Unpaid Carers distributed to

100%

of the Carers Information Service.

3000

Information for Young Carers booklets distributed to schools across the county.



Worked with Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers to support

158

young carers to have a life outside their caring role.




607
referrals received by Community Connectors


78
unpaid carers contacted the Community Connectors for support

13
unpaid carers were referred on to Porth Gofal for a carers needs assessment

The top 3 reasons people contacted the Community Connectors were:

 Loneliness and isolation

 Blue Badge applications

 Cost of living

Of the **137** clients who requested support due to loneliness and isolation **117** did not have any family members or friends who they could rely on for support.

North Ceredigion - 177 referrals

 **47**  **21**  **17**

Mid Ceredigion - 207 referrals

 **64**  **35**  **19**

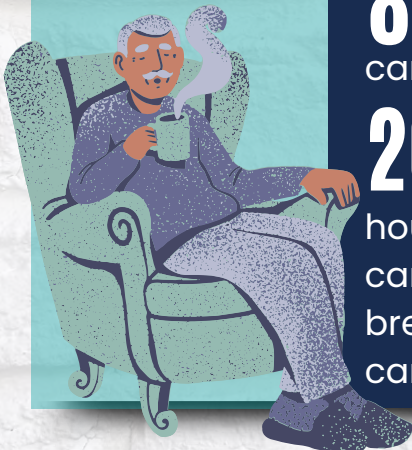
South Ceredigion - 210 referrals

 **49**  **37**  **30**

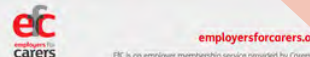


Supported Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers to deliver information and advice to

805
carers, and provide
2016
hours of replacement care to give them a break from their caring role.



Supporting carers in your workforce
A manager's handbook



39
members of staff, including managers, supported through carer training and information events.

Public engagement across the county

2022-23 has been the first year, since the Covid pandemic, that the team have been able to arrange and attend public events. In total we have held and attended **96** events across Ceredigion.

243 people attended community drop-in events

49 community drop-in events

24 partner events attended

16 themed events organised by the team

Participated in **7** tackling hardship groups



Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers Young Carer Service commissioned and rolled out.

In April 2022 we were pleased to announce that Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers (GCC) successfully won the tender to deliver the Young Carers Support Service in Ceredigion. Throughout the year, **357** carers have engaged with the service since it commenced. GCC have supported young carers and their families through the provision of 1:1 support and a range of activities.



Young carers get soaked at pantomime!

At the end of January, Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers (GCC) invited young carers from all over Ceredigion to see Mother Goose at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

The show was enjoyed by young carers of all ages, alongside a full-capacity crowd at Theatr Y Werin. The hilarious performance was full of festive fun, complete with catchy songs, slapstick comedy and the lots of booing and hissing!!

At one point the cast, equipped with water guns, ran from the stage, up the steps and right through the seats soaking the audience. It was the perfect opportunity for the young carers to let loose and enjoy, which they did. Their cheers were the loudest of all!!

The trip was organised by Jamie, GCC's Young Carer and Family Outreach Worker. In the last 12 months Jamie has organised lots of fun trips and activities for young carers, including laser tag and paddleboarding.

Excerpt from Carers Magazine (March 2023)

"I was worried I'd be the oldest here and wasn't sure whether to come to be honest. I've actually had a really nice time, I wasn't sure what to expect but I definitely want to come back next year."

"That was awesome! My favourite part was when they ran up into the seats with the water guns. I got soaked and it was so cool."

NEW

Resilience and wellbeing:
a self help course for unpaid carers

Available in English and Welsh

It's easy to forget to look after your own wellbeing when you are looking after a family member or friend, who needs your support.

This new online course reminds unpaid carers that **you are important too.**

During the course you will also learn about ways you can:

- lower your stress levels
- balance your wellbeing
- build emotional resilience

The course is completely free, you can do it in your own time and at your own pace.

www.ceredigion.gov.uk/carercourse

SCAN ME

Logo: Ceredigion County Council, Cynllun Ceredigion (College of Third Sector Organisations) Connecting Ceredigion, Ceredigion Carers and Community Support, wwcw (West Wales Care Partnership) Supporting Change Together

Carers resilience and wellbeing training

The team developed an online resource for unpaid carers which aims to support unpaid carers to:

- Lower stress levels
- Balance wellbeing
- Build emotional resilience

The online toolkit can be accessed, for free, by anyone on Ceredigion County Council's website.

Dewis Cymru

All Community Connectors are trained Dewis editors. They can now support businesses and groups in getting their information published on Dewis. Administration staff can also provide support at renewal and with content.



Service inductions

We delivered service induction presentations to **91** members of council staff, 3rd sector staff and health professionals. This includes:

- Social Workers and Social Work Assistants
- Agency Social Workers
- Bronglais Hospital's Occupational Therapists
- Hywel Dda Community Outreach Team
- Hywel Dda Social Prescribers
- DDAS
- CAMHS
- CMHT
- Older People's Care Forum



DEVELOP WORK WITH GROUPS, BUSINESSES AND 3RD SECTOR TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

What did we do?

Employers for Carers

Ceredigion County Council continues to honour and participate as a regional member of Carers Wales 'Employers for Carers' scheme. As part of the council's commitment to support unpaid carers within our own workforce, the Carers and Community Support Team have provided two tiers of advice and support through a programme of sessions for managers and staff.

12 staff carer newsletters distributed through monthly staff Newyddion

11 carer drop-in sessions

4 'Carers know your rights' sessions delivered

4 'Managers - supporting the care conversation' information sessions



Harm reduction

- All staff trained as Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends and two team members became Dementia Ambassadors. Dementia Ambassadors can deliver the friends training.
- Alcohol and older person training
- Women and gambling
- Benefits training



Identifying gaps – befriending and transport

As in previous years, **the top two gaps we have identified are in the provision of transport and befriending services.** The following case study is an example of how we identify gaps like these and how we approach addressing them.



Community Connector, Sarah Kendall, noticed a growing need for befriending services and transport support to facilitate social activities and daily tasks in Aberystwyth. After researching available services, she discovered Hafan Y Waun Day Centre's plan to start a new social club open to the community, offering various activities. Sarah supported a carer and her spouse with dementia to attend the club, which they found enjoyable and fulfilling. Impressed by the positive impact, Sarah recommended the club to others but identified transportation challenges. Upon discussing this with the Day Centre Manager, Sarah learned that they had received a grant for an electric minibus, enabling them to offer transport for attendees. The Day Centre expanded its services by initiating a fortnightly shopping service. Sarah maintained close communication with the Day Centre, assisting them in accessing Warm Hub Grants, resulting in the club becoming a Warm Hub during winter and introducing a popular lunch club at various locations in Aberystwyth.



OUTCOMES:

- Referred clients now have a social network and regularly attend activities
- Hafan Y Waun successfully applied for funding to become a Warm Hub and is now a safe space for people in the community
- Identified a shopping service and transport for clients who are socially isolated to attend activities



It has been a real pleasure for me to see my client enjoying going to Tuesday Club and seeing my client making new friends.

I have also enjoyed working closely with the Manager and keeping her informed of any potential grants that may support the projects further.

I now regularly inform clients about the Tuesday Club, Lunch Club and the fortnightly shopping trips.

**Sarah Kendall -
Community Connector**



Addressing the cost of living crisis

To address the cost of living crisis, the team collaborated with various partners and teams within the local authority to deliver events and disseminate information leaflets. These efforts were focused on delivering crucial information and support, aiming to educate and assist the community in managing the financial challenges of the crisis. Our collaborative approach significantly enhanced the reach and impact of these initiatives.

Special carers' newsletter -
'Cost of Living' edition
January 2023



DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE BREAKS FOR CARERS

What did we do?

Ceredigion Carer Card

Issued

189

new adult carer cards, an increase of **136%** from the previous year

A total of

394

unpaid carers in Ceredigion are using a Ceredigion Carer Card to access free leisure facilities in the county.

Issued

55

new young carer cards, a **500%** increase

Have you applied for
your **FREE**
Ceredigion Carer Card?



Apply here
today, for...

FREE unlimited
access to leisure
centre facilities



For more information
and to apply for the
card visit:
www.ceredigion.gov.uk/carercard



TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

£500 UNPAID CARER SUPPORT PAYMENT

The team worked with Finance and Procurement to process and pay applications for the Welsh Government's £500 support payment which was available for unpaid carers to apply for between May and September 2022. The team was instrumental in advising unpaid carers of their entitlement. Which we disseminated through social media and by post. Thanks to our efforts, Ceredigion achieved one of the highest proportions of claims, in Wales, received from carers who were eligible for the payment.



"Please accept my thanks for all your support and hard work on this scheme. Take up is currently 77.5% which is an excellent outcome and I know the Deputy Minister for Social Services is very pleased with this figure and would wish to join me in conveying her thanks to everyone involved. To date, nearly 44,000 unpaid carers have benefitted from this payment."

Message of thanks from Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer, Finance & Procurement

703

eligible applicants received £500

A total of

£351,000

paid

Register with us for the **unpaid carers £500** payment, **before 15 July 2022.**



If you were receiving **Carer's Allowance** on 31 March 2022, you may be entitled to an extra **£500** from the Welsh Government.

Registration open now.



CEREDIGION CARERS FUND

Carers applied for up to £150 to improve their health and wellbeing.

WHAT DID CARERS SPEND THE MONEY ON?

Top 5 requests

- Short breaks (179)
- Therapies and treatments (84)
- Sports, fitness and outdoor activities (67)
- Clothing (56)
- Technology (52)

CARERS SAID...

"Thank you so much, this has made a huge difference to my mental state of mind. It's a great cause."

"Thank you so so much. I was so pleased it made me cry... this is going to make so much difference to me."

"Thank you so much for this, my daughter is extremely excited, she's been wanting a new Harry Potter game.... Thank you again she's over the moon."

"I just wanted to thank you so very much for this, I am so excited to book a holiday very soon. I'm so grateful to you all."

"I have now used the fund to great effect and purchased the music keyboard I've had my eye on for a long time - thanks to you I no longer have to window shop."



Ceredigion Carers Fund

Do you look after someone?
You can apply for the Ceredigion Carers Fund if you or the person you look after lives in Ceredigion

You can apply for up to

£150

to spend on something to improve your health and wellbeing



www.ceredigion.gov.uk/carersfund

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

Cyffwrdd Ceredigion Ceredigion Community Council Connecting Ceredigion Carers and Community Support

£116,197
awarded

591
individual and family applications processed

776
carers benefitted


WARM WELCOME SPACES

Throughout winter 2022/23, Ceredigion's team of Community Connectors worked with CAVO and community groups across the county to set up Warm Welcome Spaces.

Warm Welcome Spaces are safe warm places that are free and welcoming to all ages, some of them also provide hot drinks, snacks and activities.

Cafes, churches, community centres, village halls, libraries and book shops across the county opened their doors and welcomed people of all ages.

The Warm Welcome Spaces provided a social meeting place for people to come together, and build friendships.



Community Connector case study

During a team meeting, we discussed the Warm Welcome Spaces project and agreed that involving Community Connectors would be instrumental in disseminating information about the available funding across Ceredigion. It was unanimously decided to proactively reach out to all communities in the region.

In my role, I received valuable input from my Team Manager, who promptly shared details on how to apply for the funding. Without hesitation, I distributed this information to various community hubs, including Borth Community Hub, Local Churches, Cletwr Community Café, Hafan Y Waun, and Community Halls.

Moreover, I made a personal visit to the recently established Coffee Morning at Rhydypennau Hall to tell them about the new funding opportunity. The response from the Rhydypennau Hall Committee was overwhelmingly positive, and they promptly applied for the grant on the same day. I was delighted that they successfully obtained the grant, which supported their Warm Welcome Coffee Morning initiative.

I was equally pleased that due to our proactive outreach efforts, several other community spaces, namely Borth Community Hub, Cletwr Café, Hafan Y Waun, Llanbadarn Fawr Church, The Iron Rooms in Eglwysfach, Talybont Hall, and Rhydypennau Hall in Bow Street Hall, accessed Warm Spaces funding for their activities.





The response from these community groups has been highly positive, and they expressed their gratitude for the prompt and effective delivery of information concerning the funding available for the Warm Welcome Spaces project.

Due to the strong, positive relationships the team have been able to foster with organisations while developing the Warm Welcome Spaces, we will continue to build on this work in 2022-23.



There were **42** Warm Welcome Spaces across Ceredigion

The Community Connectors handed out:

150	radiator reflectors	
300	draught excluders	
50	blankets	
60	lightbulbs	

WORKING WITH HEALTH - SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Borth Multi Agency Team (MAT)*

The Carers and Community Support Team have established good contacts and created strong working relationships amongst the MAT members who have been extremely approachable when further support has been required. We have got to know the surgery team well and from a learning perspective we now understand the roles of professionals such as Admiral Nurses, District Nurses, and other Allied Health Professionals. We also have a clearer idea of their involvement in a person's care, where that person is in their journey both physically and mentally and it informs us in our work to ensure the best positive outcomes. Any pre-existing barriers between our team and health colleagues have now been removed through participating in this project.

150

patients seen by
Borth and
Tregaron MAT



19

patients directly
referred to the Carers
and Community
Support Team

Expanding social prescribing in Ceredigion

In January 2023, following the widespread recognition of the Borth MAT accomplishments, the GP surgery in Tregaron was invited to join. We hold a positive outlook regarding the potential advantages it will offer to the patients and the community of Tregaron throughout 2023 - 2024.

**Please note: MAT (Multi Agency Team) was previously referred to as MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) up to February 2023*



Watch the video to
view information
about Borth MAT



bit.ly/BorthMAT

Patient outcomes

- 11 supported to join social groups in local area
- 4 referred to commissioned carer support service for in depth support
- 3 supported to access mental health services
- 2 were supported to access practical support at home from Red Cross and Age Cymru
- 2 supported to access Citizens Advice Bureau surgeries
- 1 supported to access Country Cars for help with transport

A YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY DROP IN SESSION

Let's talk about keeping warm

Join Community Connector, Sarah Kendall for information and advice

Tuesday, 6 December
3pm - 5pm

White Lion Pub, Talybont

Community Connectors are experts on what is going on in your area!

This includes community groups and working with both groups and individuals to find and deliver information to keep you connected with your community.



"I wasn't sure about coming as I have so much going on. My husband encouraged me to come today and I'm so glad I did as I really enjoyed."

TEA AND CAKE FOR UNPAID CARERS

Join your local Community Connector for a chat and a relaxing cuppa.



Venue:
Talbot Tregaron
Date:
27/09/2022
Time:
3pm

Limited Places - Booking Is Essential



Pop-up and drop-in

Pre-loved school uniform shop

Discount with Carers Card

Information and advice for unpaid carers

Everyone welcome



Eco Hub Aber

Bath St, Aberystwyth, SY23 2NN

Friday 8 July, 4 - 6pm

&
Saturday 9 July 11am - 1pm

For more information, contact Mandy @ Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers, 07975 906975 or mandy@creducymru



FREE EVENT

Carers Rights Day 2022

Do you help care for a family member or friend? If you do, join us for advice and support.

Change of Venue

Gorsgoch Village Hall 10 November 10am - 3pm	Aberystwyth University 17 November 12pm - 4pm	Y Man a'r Llae 24 November 10am - 3pm
Neuadd yr Hafod Gorsgoch Llanybydder Ceredigion SA40 9TE	Medrus Room Aberystwyth University Aberystwyth Ceredigion SY23 3BY	Y Man a'r Llae (Coleg Ceredigion Campus) Park Place Cardigan SA43 1AB

Learn more about your rights as a carer and get the support that you are entitled to!

- Finance advice
- Employment and benefit advice
- Energy saving tips
- Plus, lots more
- Free soup, bread, tea & coffee



If you would like to come but are not sure how you can make that happen, please give us a call and we will try to help find the right support.

Carers and Community Support Team:
Phone: 01545 574200
Email: connecting@ceredigion.gov.uk



CYSYLLTWYR CYMUNEDOL

Sesiynau Galw Heibio - Cadw'n Gynnes

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

Drop-in Sessions - Keeping Warm



"It was absolutely fabulous to put faces to people that I've spoken to on the phone. Everyone was friendly and informative. Looking forward to the next event!"



Carers have the right to...
Find out more about your rights as an unpaid carer

Wednesday 23 November
10am - 11am

Join Carers Wales, the Carers and Community Support team and HR to ask any questions you have about your caring role and work.

FIND OUT ABOUT:

- THE COUNCIL'S CARER'S POLICY
- THE CARER'S PASSPORT
- SUPPORT IN WORK
- SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

This session is open to all staff.

Book now through Ceri self-service 'Carers Rights'

"It was really helpful, everyone was so friendly, we have plenty to read up on. A very productive day out, thank you."



Carers drop-in

The last Thursday of every month, next meeting:

Thursday, 23 February
2pm - 3pm
on Teams: bit.ly/3dlbxnD

Drop-in to ask the Carers and Community Support Team and HR for advice on your caring role and chat with other carers at any time between 2pm and 3pm.

"I Enjoyed the chance to speak with other carers."

"This was a great opportunity to reach vulnerable customers facing energy and cost of living crisis. But equally useful for reaching partners and dispatching marketing to frontline workers. Thank you/Diolch!"



VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR FOR UNPAID CARERS

- Tuesday, 7 March - Aberystwyth
- Wednesday, 8 March - Aberaeron

Places limited book now

DEMENTIA BUS

Woodland Craft Activities with Tir Coed

OCTOBER 19

10AM TO 3PM

Where? Coed Tyllywd, Llanfarian, SY23 4QE

For carers (and the people they support)

- Experience and explore a wonderful Welsh woodland.
- Be inspired by the nature that surrounds you.
- Lose yourself in the moment and unleash your creativity.
- and find your adventure!

Spaces limited! Please book your place by the 7th October 2022 by filling in the form attached to this email and email it back to: carers@tircoed.org.uk

GOOD START TO THE NEW YEAR!

Want to get a good start to the new year? Head over to Aberystwyth Bandstand for information, advice, assistance and workshops to help you kick start your new year off to a healthy start.

Wednesday 11 and Thursday 19 January
Time: 9:30am - 5:00pm
Place: Aberystwyth Bandstand, Marine Terrace, SY23 2BY

Open to people of all ages!

For more information on the event and how to get there contact us on connecting@ceredigion.gov.uk or 01545 574200



"I was advised of different groups to attend but getting there is difficult due to lack of transport."



Digital Taster Session for Carers

FREE UNPAID CARERS EVENT
Tuesday, 28 March 2023
10:30am - 2:30pm
Aeron Room, Penmorfa Council Offices, Aberaeron, SA47 0PA

Need help with something digital?

- Sending emails
- Connecting to Wi-Fi
- Video calls

Free fee to bring your tech and ask our digital experts for help!

Want to try out some tech?

- Laptops
- iPads/tablets
- Smart home tech - e.g. speakers/bulbs/plugs

Places limited - book now by 21 March! If you would like to come but are not sure how you can make that happen, please give us a call and we will try to help find the right support.

Carers and Community Support Team:
Phone: 01545 574 200
Email: connecting@ceredigion.gov.uk

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO NEXT?

BUSINESS OBJECTIVES - 2023/24

- 1 Proactively provide quality information advice and assistance to a range of groups across Ceredigion
- 2 Develop work to build community resilience across Ceredigion
- 3 Develop a range of sustainable short breaks for carers

Carers and Community Support Team
Porth Cymorth Cynnar
Ceredigion County Council

 **01545 574200**

 **connecting@ceredigion.gov.uk**



Cysylltu Ceredigion
Gofalwyr a Chymorth Cymunedol
Connecting Ceredigion
Carers and Community Support



CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

<u>Report to:</u>	Cabinet
<u>Date of meeting:</u>	19.03.2024
<u>Title:</u>	Ceredigion Carers Unit Annual Report 2022-2023
<u>Purpose of the report:</u>	To provide feedback following the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of March 2024

Background:

The Carers and Community Support Team bring together our Carers Development Officers, Community Connectors and Ageing Well Officer to work in a single team focussing on providing information advice and assistance to unpaid carers and supporting community members in Ceredigion.

Recommendation:

Following discussion, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. Approve the Carers and Community Support Team Annual Report.

Councillor Alun Williams, Cabinet Member, apologised for the lateness of the report and confirmed that the team are now at full capacity. The Chair congratulated the Team for their hard work and commitment.

Councillor Caryl Roberts
Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: Porth Cynnal Specialist Services
Independent Reviewing Service Performance
Management Report Quarter 2 2023 - 2024

Purpose of the report: To monitor the progress of Looked After Children through Independent Reviewing Officers scrutiny of their plans and placements during the second quarter of 2023/2024

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Background

This report represents the monitoring and quality assurance of Looked After Children who were reviewed during the second quarter of 2023/24.

This information contributes to Members fulfilling their roles as Corporate Parents.

The information is based on the monitoring forms completed by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) following each Looked After Children Statutory Review (LAC Review) and is informed by other performance information held by Children Services.

The report includes National and Local standards and targets used to measure outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) at the time of their statutory review and includes Welsh Government Performance Indicators (PI's) and Local Performance Targets.

On the basis of the information available and the views expressed during the review meeting, the IRO makes a professional judgement about the effectiveness of a child/young person's care plan in meeting their needs and may recommend changes to the care plan.

During the review meeting the IRO considers whether the child/young person requires assistance to identify relevant other people to obtain legal advice/take proceedings on their behalf. This action was deemed necessary for 2 young people by the IRO in the period.

In addition, the IRO has regard as to whether the child/young person's human rights are being breached in any way and, if so, might make a referral to CAFCASS Cymru. This action was not required at any of the review meetings in the period.

Summary of Key Points:

- At the end of quarter 2, there were 130 children/young people being looked after compared to 125 as at the end of Q1.
- 88 children were reviewed in this quarter compared to 95 in the previous quarter. 95.5% of reviews were undertaken within the Statutory Timescale.
- 7 of the children reviewed in this quarter left care, compared to 20 in Quarter 1. The reasons why there were a high number in Quarter 1 was that there were a high number of revocations of care orders. However, in this quarter, in quarter 2, 2 children were adopted, 3 returned home to family and 2 young people moved on to supported lodgings or independent living provision or into a shared lives placement.
- The placement provision for the children reviewed during this Quarter were that 20 are in Local Authority foster care in county, 1 out of county, 15 in kinship carer placements in county and 5 out of county, 2 were in Independent Foster Agency placements in county and 5 out of county, 7 children were placed with parents, and 21 were placed in residential care provision outside of the county. 2 were in a Mother and Baby Residential setting and 1 was in supported lodgings/independent living. 2 were placed in other settings.
- Of the reviews that took place in this quarter and where there were permanency plans in place, the plan for 30 children were that they would be cared for in Long Term Foster Care, 18 were to remain with Kinship carers/family members, 5 children were in placement with parents, 10 children were subject to twin tracking, 4 children are to be adopted, 6 children are to be cared for in residential care and 1 child was being supported to be rehabilitated with parents, 1 was to be in a Special Guardianship arrangement and 2 were to be supported with independent living.
- 41 of the children were being cared for under the legal status of a Full Care Order, 26 were under an Interim Care Order, 2 under a placement order and 19 under a Section 76.
- Of the children reviewed in this quarter, 95.5% of children received a statutory visit. This was compared to 100% in Quarter 1.
- 27.3% of the care and support plans were recorded as being in place at the first review in this quarter, compared to the 54.5% that were in place in Quarter 1. The very low percentage again this quarter, was due to staffing difficulties within the Planned Care Team which prevented the plans being completed on time. The staffing issues are in the process of being addressed.
- 88 reviews identified that the child/young person's cultural needs were being met.
- 55 Young people who were placed with Local Foster Carers had been placed with carers who were able to speak their first language.
- 6 Reviews noted that the young person was an unaccompanied child and placed in a care setting which did not meet their first language needs. There was a translator in the review to enable the young person to participate accordingly.
- It was recognised at 49 reviews that the young person's religious needs were met; for a further 37 reviews it was unknown as to whether the needs had been met.
- Delegated Authority was confirmed to be in place for 59 children who were reviewed with 9 reviews noting that this was yet to be undertaken. It was unknown at 6 reviews with a further 14 reviews recording that it wasn't applicable for the young person.
- The percentage of children/young people who had permanency plans in place by the 2nd review, if a returned home was not planned, was 63.6%.

- The percentage of children (of sufficient understanding) who understand their reason for being looked after was 90.3%.
- The percentage of children of sufficient understanding who were involved in or consulted about their review, was 97.1%.
- The percentage of children who were made aware of their right for an advocacy service, was 83.3%.
- The percentage of parents consulted by the social worker prior to the review or who attended the review was 98.7%.
- The percentage of placement plans (including Education and Health Provision) that were assessed as meeting the needs of the children/young people were 97.7%.
- The percentage of Looked After Children of school age who had a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school during this quarter is 98.1%.
- The percentage of Looked After Children who received Health Assessments in accordance with statutory requirements was 95.4%.
- 23 Pathway Plans were held in this quarter. 91.3% Pathway Plan Reviews were held within timescales.
- The percentage of Young Persons with allocated a Personal Advisor / Social Worker was 100% during this Quarter.
- The Percentage of Young People Consulted for their Review Meeting during this Quarter was 91.3% but only 39.1% recorded that the young person attended their review.
- 95.7% of Pathway Plan Reviews confirmed that the Pathway Plan was meeting the young person's needs.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

No. This report is provided on an ongoing basis and demonstrate the continuing work that is undertaken with Looked after Children in Ceredigion.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report and the levels of activity within the Local Authority.

Reasons for decision:

So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies for Looked After Children are monitored.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating caring and healthy communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

Within core budget

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

The report reflects a risk of harm to children and how they are safeguarded

Statutory Powers:

Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004 & Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Background Papers:

Internal documents only that are held by Specialist Services

Appendices:

Appendix A- Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report
Quarter 2 2023/24

Corporate Lead Officer:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

Reporting Officer:

Elizabeth Upcott, Corporate Manager: Safeguarding

Date:

8 January 2024

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council
Safeguarding Service

Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report

Quarter 2: 1st July 2023 – 30th September 2023



...yn gofalu i wneud gwahaniaeth
...taking care to make a difference

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

This report provides information collated by the Quality Assurance and Independent Reviewing Service in order to monitor performance and quality assure services to looked after children, care leavers, children in residential placements and those children who receive respite care and short breaks. The information is based on the monitoring forms completed by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) following each review meeting within this quarter along with other performance information held by the Children and Families Service.

BENCHMARKING

This report includes national and local measures and targets used to measure outcomes for looked after children and care leavers at the time of their review meeting.

On the basis of the information available and the views expressed during the review meeting, the IRO makes a professional judgement about the effectiveness of a child/young person's care plan in meeting their needs and the IRO will highlight to managers any poor practice.

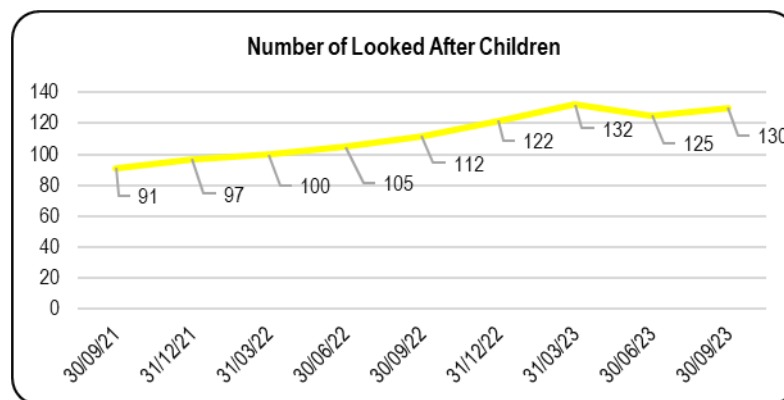
During the review meeting the IRO considers whether the child/young person requires assistance to identify relevant other people to obtain legal advice/take proceedings on their behalf. This action was deemed necessary for 2 children/young persons in the period.

In addition, the IRO has regard as to whether the child/young person's human rights are being breached in any way and, if so, might make a referral to CAF/CASS Cymru. This action was not required at any of the review meetings in the period.

SECTION TWO CARE PLANNING

1. **Headline Figures for Q2:**

The following table and chart provide the total number of Looked After Children data at the end of each quarter commencing with the most recent quarter.	
30 September 2023	130
30 June 2023	125
31 March 2023	132
31 December 2022	122
30 September 2022	112
30 June 2022	105
31 March 2022	100
31 December 2021	97
30 September 2021	91



2. **Number and percentage of Looked After Children Reviews undertaken within the statutory time requirement.**

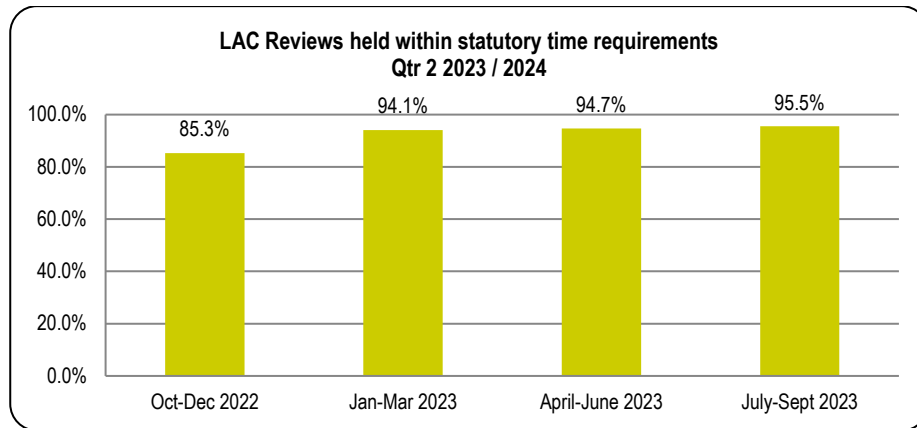
Target Set 100% - Target achieved 95.5%

88 Children were reviewed within the Quarter.

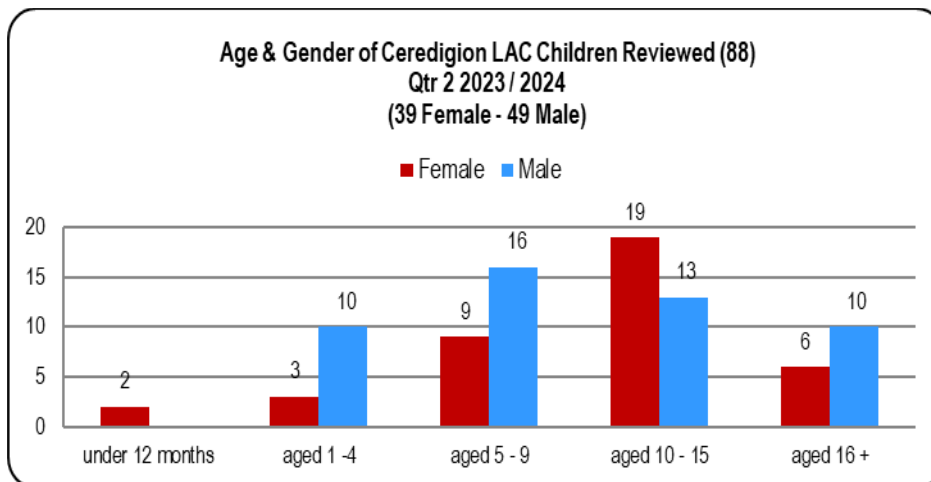
- 84 (95.5%) LAC Review Meetings were undertaken within the statutory requirements.
- 4 (4.5%) LAC Review Meetings were held out of statutory requirements; the reasons recorded were as follows: -
 - A Review for 1 child was delayed due to a change of ISRO.
 - For 1 further child it was due to school holidays / availability of professionals in addition to the need to undertake a Joint Visit to the parent.

- The death of a close relative was the reason for the delay for 1 other child with the review for 1 additional child being out of timescales due to a delay in agencies being informed of a change in the child’s legal status.

	July-Sept 2023	April-June 2023	Jan-Mar 2023	Oct-Dec 2022	July-Sept 2022
Number of children reviewed in the quarter	88	95	101	116	63
Number of reviews held in timescale	84	90	95	99	56
Number of reviews held out of timescales	4	5	6	17	7



3. Age and Gender of the Children Reviewed in the Quarter:



4. Cultural, Religious and Language Needs

88 (100.0%) Reviews identified that the young person's cultural views were met. It was recognised at 49 reviews that the young person's religious needs were met; for a further 37 reviews it was unknown as to whether the needs had been met. An interpreter was needed and provided for all 6 reviews, for 1 other review an interpreter had been requested but was declined by the young person, as s/he was able to speak excellent English.

5 Citizenship

81 Reviews recorded that the child / young person was a UK Citizen, with 7 reviews noting that the child / young person was not a UK Citizen.

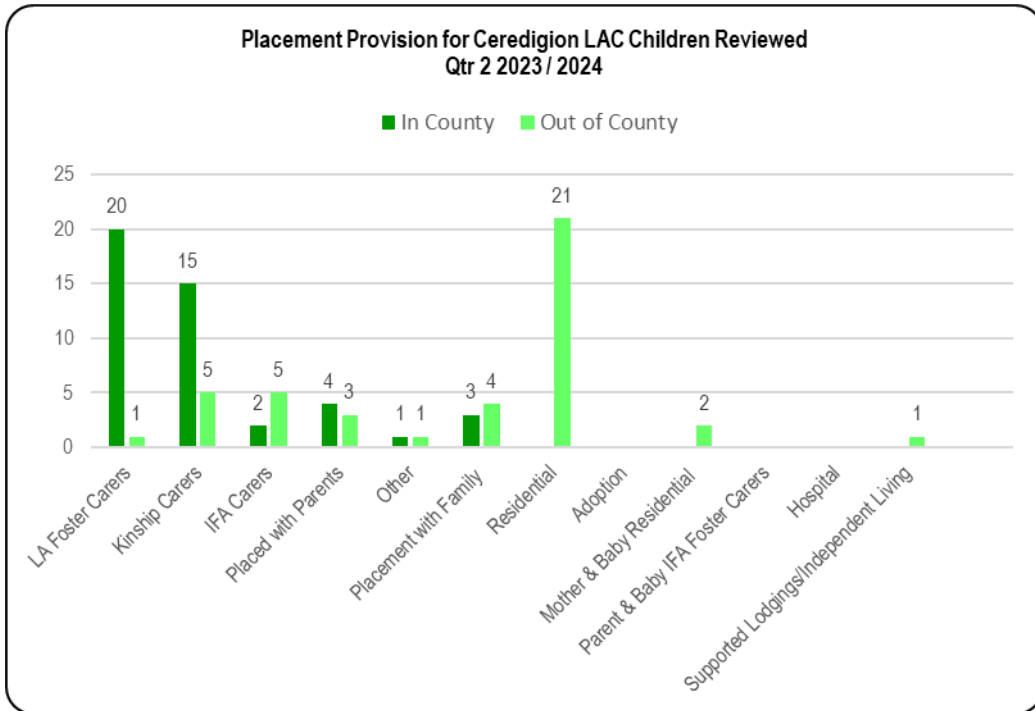
6 Children / Young people were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, none of these children / young people had an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in place.

1 Other child / young person who was not a UK Citizens had an EUSS in place.

All 6 reviews recorded that an application had not been made for an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS); 3 of these reviews recorded that the young person was being supported in this respect.

6 Nature of the Placement Provision of Children Reviewed in the Quarter:

Type of Placement	In County	Out of County	Total
LA Foster Carers	20	1	21
Kinship Carers	15	5	20
IFA Carers	2	5	7
Placed with Parents	4	3	7
Other	1	1	2
Placement with Family	3	4	7
Residential		21	21
Adoption			
Mother & Baby Residential		2	2
Parent & Baby IFA Foster Carers			
Hospital			
Supported Lodgings/Independent Living		1	1
	45	43	88

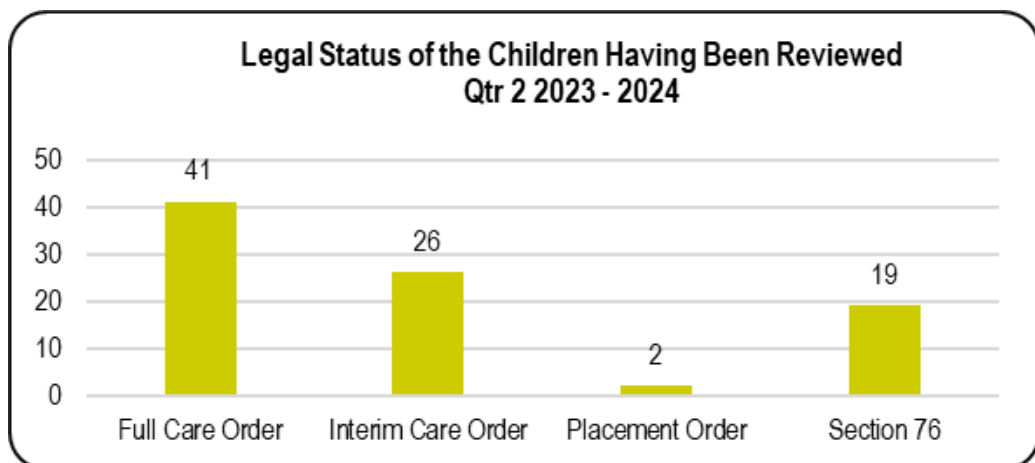


55 Young people who were placed with Local Foster Carers had been placed with carers who were able to speak their first language.

6 Reviews noted that the young person was an unaccompanied child and placed in a care setting which did not meet their first language needs. There was a translator in the review to enable the young person to participate accordingly.

7. Legal Status of Children Reviewed in the Quarter:

Legal Status of the Children Having Been Reviewed	
Full Care Order	41
Interim Care Order	26
Placement Order	2
Section 76	19
Total	88

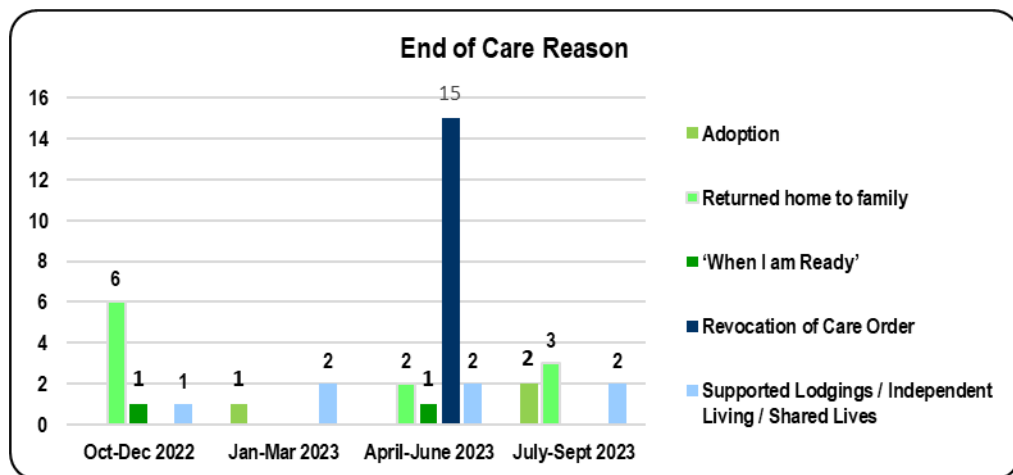


Delegated Authority

Delegated Authority was confirmed to be in place for 59 children who were reviewed with 9 reviews noting that this was yet to be undertaken. It was unknown at 6 reviews with a further 14 reviews recording that it wasn't applicable for the case.

8. Reasons for End of Care of the Children Reviewed

Period	Number left care	End of Care Reason				
		Adoption	Returned home to family	'When I am Ready'	Revocation of Care Order	Supported Lodgings / Independent Living/Shared Lives
July-Sept 2023	7	2	3	0	0	2
April - June 2023	20	0	2	1	15	2
Jan - Mar 2023	3	1	0	0	0	2
Oct - Dec 2022	8	0	6	1	0	1
Total	38	3	11	2	15	7



9. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have an allocated Social Worker.

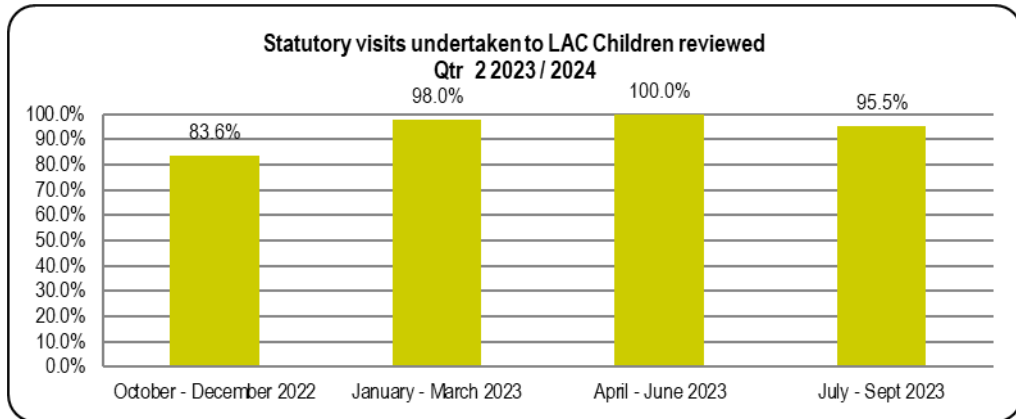
Target Set 100% - Target achieved 98.9%

- 87 (98.9%) LAC Reviews recorded that a qualified Social Worker was allocated and actively involved with the child.
- 1 (1.1%) LAC Review recorded that the child was allocated to the team with no named social worker.

10. Number and percentage of statutory visits undertaken to Looked After Children reviewed within the required timescales.

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 95.5%

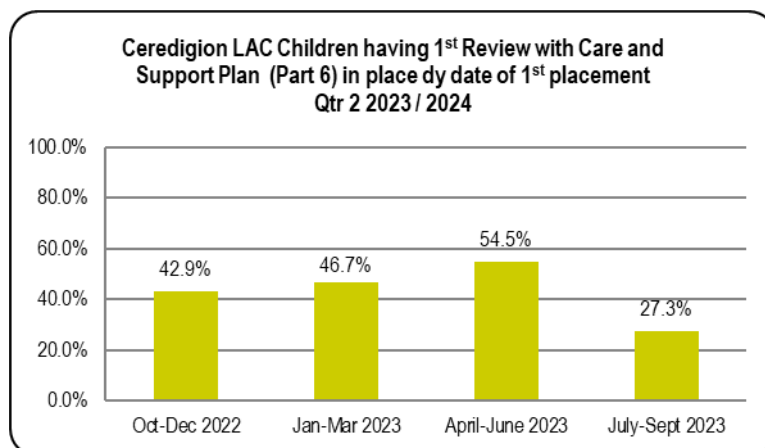
- 84 (95.5%) Looked After Children received Social Worker visits in accordance with the statutory requirements.



11. Number and Percentage of Care and Support Plans (Part 6) in place at the date of the first placement and of up-to-date plans available for the Review.

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 27.3%

- There were 11 Children that became Looked After during this quarter; 3 (27.3%) Review meetings recorded that the child / young person had a Care and Support Plan (Part 6) in place by the date of his/her placement. The Care and Support Plan (Part 6) wasn't in place by date of placement for the other 8 children / young persons.



- 63 (71.6%) Reviews recorded that the Care and Support Plan(Part 6) was up to date.

- The IRO identified that updates were required to the Care and Support Plan records (Part 6) of 25 children. It was identified that the updating of the Care and Support Plan was still outstanding for 14 children/young persons.

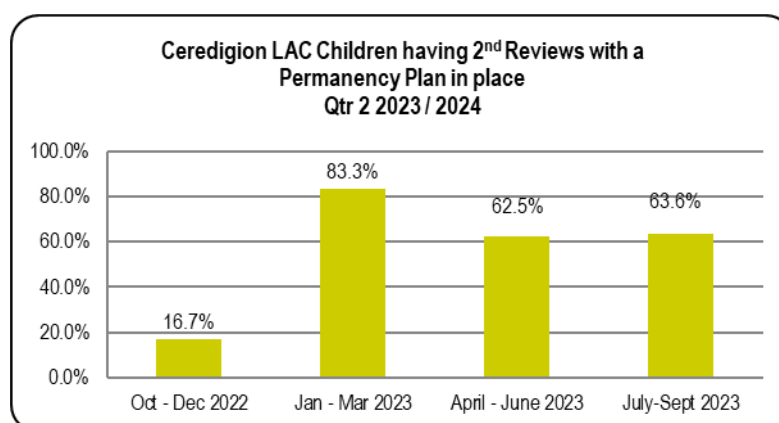
12. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have a Permanency Plan by the second review if a return home has not been planned.

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 63.6%

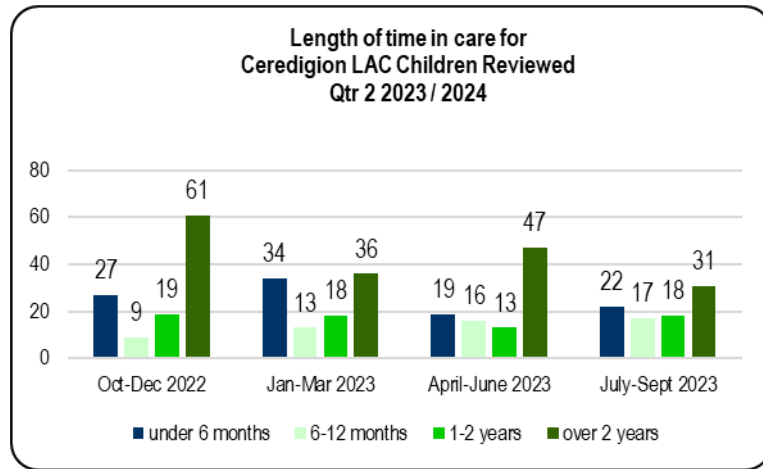
- There were 11 second reviews during this quarter, 7 reviews (63.6%) recorded that a Permanency Plan had been agreed. This compares to 62.5% in the previous quarter.
- There were concerns recorded by the IRO in 4 (4.5%) reviews in this period regarding the progress of the Placement / Care and Support Plan / Permanency Plan.

The nature of the concerns was as follows: -

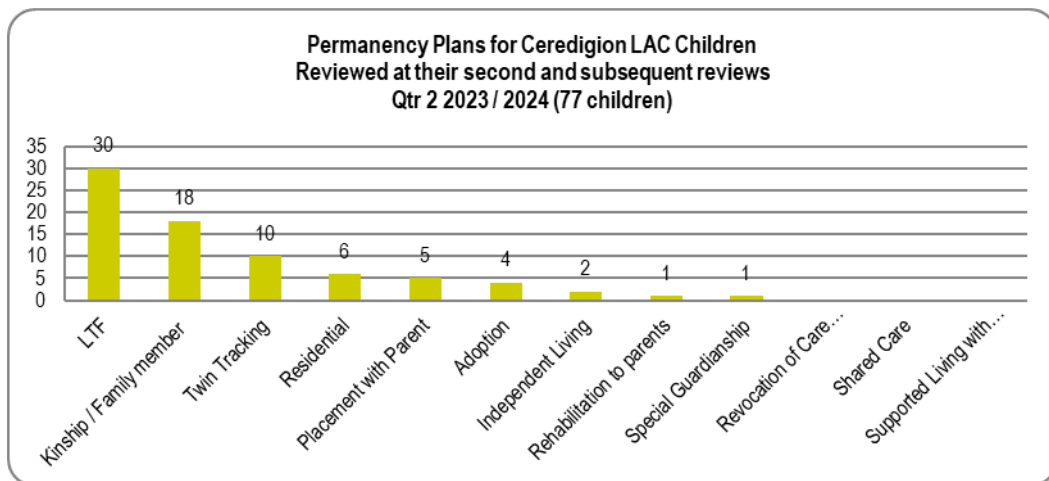
- No Care Plan on wccis despite case being in Court Proceedings.
- There is no clear plan for YP, SW reported to be 'looking for placement', YP currently staying with relative, no assessment made of situation.
- SW not completed SGO paperwork due to time constraints and workload, not kept IRO informed.
- Young person was placed with short term foster carers with a plan to be moved onto new long term foster carers. This has been flagged at the previous reviews but has still yet to be resolved. The placement identified in February which young person was told about, then fell through has unsettled young person and undermined the relationship with the allocated social worker.



13. Length of Time in Care:



14: Nature of Permanency Plans:



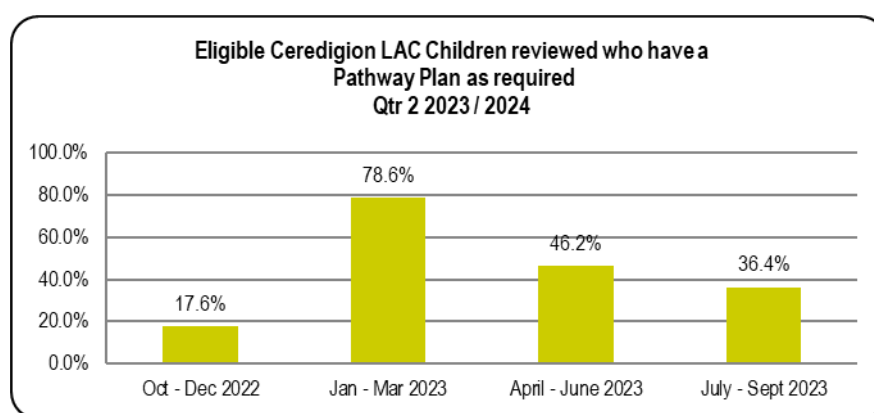
15. Number and percentage of Looked After Children receiving Short Break Care away from Main Carers

- 1 (1.1%) LAC Review noted that the child / young person was receiving short break care away from their main carer; this LAC Review reported that the respite placement was meeting the young person’s needs.

16. Number and percentage of eligible young people who have a Pathway Plan as required.

Target set: 100% Target Achieved 36.4%

- 4 (36.4%) Young People's reviews recorded that there was a Pathway Plan in place and were allocated a Personal Advisor.
- 7 (63.6%) Reviews recorded that the young person did not have a Pathway Plan in place.
- 8 of the above reviews noted that the young persons were allocated a Personal Advisor however 3 reviews recorded that a Personal Advisor was yet to be allocated.



17. Number and percentage of Looked After Children (of appropriate age and level of understanding) who understand the reasons for them being looked after

Target Set 100% -Target achieved 90.3%

- The data for this performance indicator relates to 72 children / young persons as 16 children / young persons were not considered to be of an appropriate age and level of understanding to comprehend the reasons for being looked after.
- 65 (90.3%) Of this group showed some level of understanding about why they were cared for away from their families, which compares to 93.2% in the previous quarter.
- 7 (9.7%) Reviews reported that Life Journey work needed to be undertaken with the child / young person to support in understanding the reasons for being looked after.

18. Number and percentage of Looked After Children (of appropriate age and level of understanding) understand their Care and Support Plan.

The data for this performance indicator relates to 69 children / young persons as 19 children / young persons were not considered to be of an appropriate age and level of understanding and were therefore not included in the figures.

- 57 (82.6%) of this group showed a level of understanding as to the nature of their Care and Support Plan (part 6).
- 12 (17.4%) Reviews recorded that this needed to be shared with the children / young persons.

19. National Measure 33: Number and percentage of moves for Looked after Children.

- 10 (11.4%) LAC Reviews reported that there was a change in a child's/young person's placement during this quarter; this compares to (17.9%) in the previous quarter.

The reasons for the changes in Placement were as follows:

- 1 Young person had a planned move to a placement nearer to Ceredigion.
- 2 Siblings placed with different carers both had their placements ended due to both sets of carers giving notice, they both had an unplanned move to separate carers for a brief period of time whilst different family members were being assessed; both subsequently had successful planned moves to different individuals within their family.
- Carers gave notice on their placement for another young person and a planned move was made to a residential placement.
- 1 Young person had a planned move to a step down placement as a part of his/her assessment.
- A suitable placement was still being identified for 1 young person who had left a previous placement.
- 1 Other young person had an unplanned move to current carers for which a confirmation was needed as to whether they were willing to provide a 'When I am Ready' placement, following previous carers deciding to end their placement.
- 1 Further young person had a planned move to a placement with another parent.
- 1 Young person had a planned move to a residential placement within the same company, which was identified as being a more appropriate location to meet the young person's needs.
- 1 Additional young person moved from a residential placement in England to a further residential placement nearer to family and Ceredigion.

4 Children had unplanned moves, none of the reviews recorded that a Stability Meeting had been held within 6 weeks of moving placement.

20 Number and percentage of placement plans (including education and health provision) that are assessed as meeting the needs of Looked after Children.

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 97.7%

- 86 (97.7%) Placement/care and support plans were recorded as meeting the needs of the children / young people, which compares to 95.8% in the previous quarter.
- 2 (2.3%) Reviews recorded that Placement/care and support plan wasn't meeting the needs of the child / young person. The reasons recorded were: -
 - 1 Young person was identified as being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and therefore concern as there was no permanent suitable placement.
 - For another young person, it was due to the fact that a previous placement had broken down and there needed to be a confirmation that the current placement could offer a 'When I am Ready' placement.

21. Number and percentage of Safeguarding Concerns identified for Looked After Children during this quarter

- 6 (6.8%) LAC Reviews identified safeguarding concerns for the young person; it was confirmed that the concerns were being addressed.

22. Number of Looked After Children's names on the Child Protection Register.

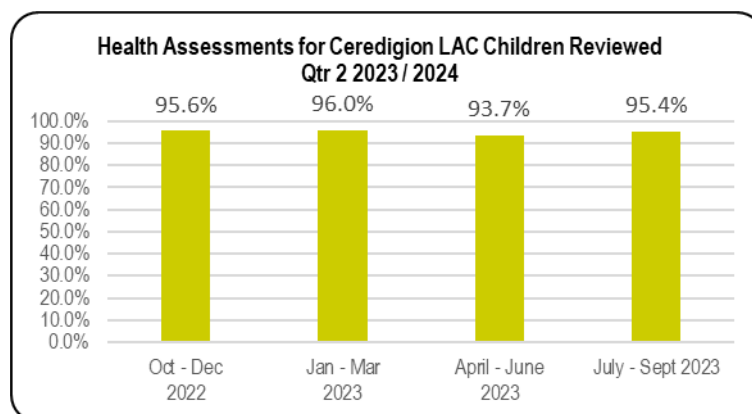
- 8 (9.1%) LAC Reviews during the quarter confirmed that the young person's name was included on the Child Protection Register.

23. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who received Health Assessments in accordance with statutory requirements

Target Set 100%- Target achieved 95.4%

- 83 (95.4%) Children/Young People Looked After had an up-to-date health assessment reported at their review, which compares to 96.0% in the previous quarter.
 - 7 (63.6% First Reviews recorded that the Health Assessment had been completed within 4 weeks of the child becoming LAC.

- At 4 (36.4%) first reviews it was documented that the Health Assessment had not been undertaken within 4 weeks of the child becoming LAC. However 2 of these reviews recorded that a Health Assessment was subsequently completed, with 1 other child / young person leaving care within a short space of time. One other Health Assessments remained outstanding.
- 76 (100.0%) Further reviews recorded that Health Assessments were undertaken every 6 months for children aged under 5 and every 12 months for children over the age of 5.
- 1 (1.1%) Child/Young Person Looked After refused to have a health assessment completed and was therefore taken out of the equation.



Comment: Delays often occur due to lack of notification of new children into placement / placement moves and end of placements by Local Authority.

24. The percentage of children registered with a dentist within 20 working days of becoming looked after

Target set: 100% Target Achieved 72.7%

Registered with a dentist

The data for registering a child / young person with a dentist within 20 days of becoming looked after relates to 11 children / young persons.

- 8 (72.7%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person was registered with a dental practitioner within 20 working days of the start of placement.
- 3 (27.3%) Review noted that the child / young person was yet to be registered with a dental practitioner.

Registered with a dentist

The data for this performance indicator relates to 77 Children / Young persons as 11 Children / Young persons having a first LAC Review were taken out of the above equation to coincide with National Measure requirements.

- 69 (89.6%) Children and young people were registered with a dentist. This compares to 83.3% in the previous quarter.
- 8 (10.4%) Children and young people needed to be registered with a dentist.

Comment: All Children have subsequently been referred / registered with a local dentist.

25. National Measure 30: Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have had their teeth checked by a dentist within 3 months of becoming Looked After.

Seen by a dentist

The data for being seen by a dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after relates to 10 children.

- 6 (60.0%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person had been seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming LAC.
- 4 (40.0%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person had not been seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming LAC. However, 1 child was seen 2 months before becoming Looked After.

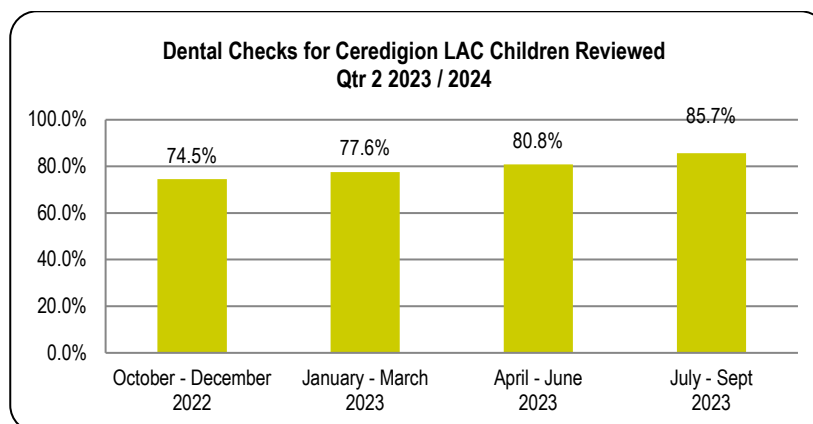
Seen by a dentist

Target Set 90% - Target achieved 85.7%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 71 Children / young persons as 17 Children / Young persons were under 2 years of age and / or having their first LAC Reviews and were taken out of the above equation to coincide with National Measures requirements.

- 60 (85.7%) Children and young people were recorded as having a dental check during the preceding 12 months, which compares to 80.8% in the previous quarter.
- 10 (14.3%) Children and young people were recorded as not having had dental checks.

- 1 (1.4%) Review recorded that the young person had dental phobia and was therefore taken out of the equation.



26. National Measure 31: Percentage of children looked after who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement

- 19 (95.0%) Reviews recorded that the child was registered with a provider of general medical services within 10 working days of the start of placement.
- 1 (5.0%) Review reported that this action remained outstanding at the time of the review; it was noted that this young person was registered with a GP local to his/her previous placement but had not relocated to a local GP.

27. Number and percentage of children looked after who were registered with a GP

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 100.0%

- 88 (100.0%) Children and young people were registered with a GP, which is consistent with the previous quarter.
- 77 (91.7%) Children had their immunisations up to date.
- 7 (8.3%) Children were late in receiving their immunisations. 4 Of these young people are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and are offered an accelerated programme as there is incomplete previous immunisation history.

4 Reviews were taken out of the equation as the parent / young person was refusing immunisation.

Comment: Updating of immunisation is an ongoing process to be compliant with immunisation schedules.

- 80 (90.9%) LAC Reviews recorded that children/young people's mental/emotional health had been considered during the Health Assessment and/or during discussions in the meeting.
- 8 (9.1%) Reviews recorded that the mental health issues had not been considered.

- 12 (13.6%) LAC Reviews identified that the young person had a current mental health problem.
- Behavioural issues were identified for 13 (14.8%) children / young people during this period.

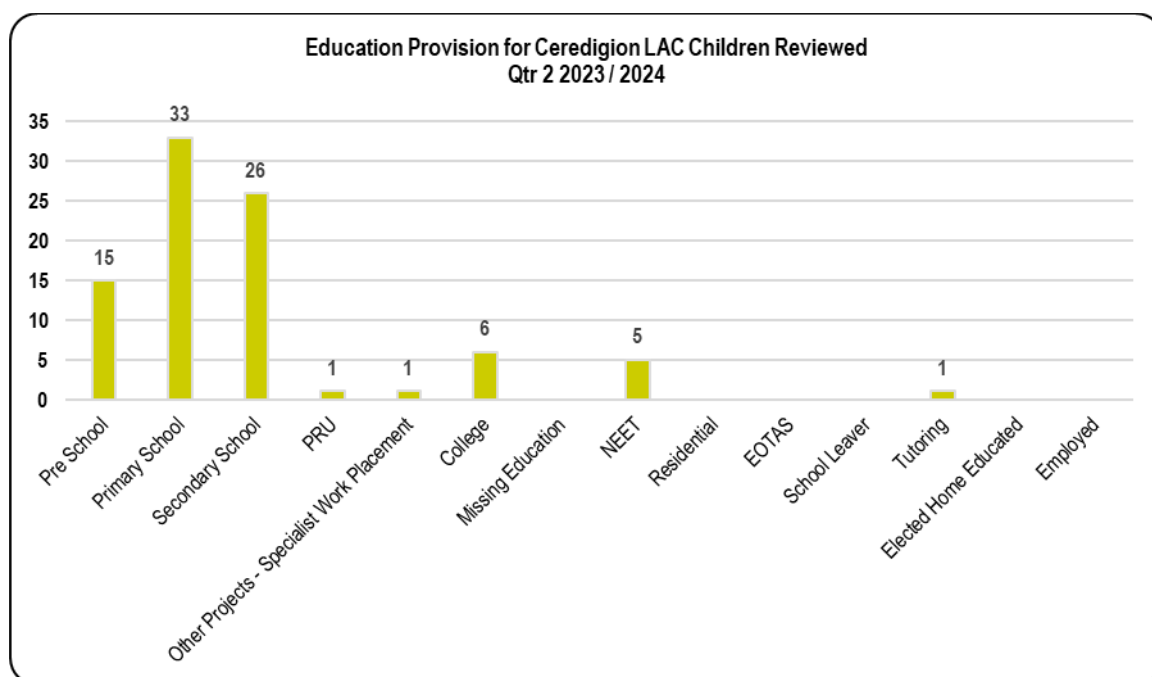
28. Number and percentage of Looked After Children assessed as requiring CAMHS services that are referred and receive an assessment /service.

- 2 (2.3%) LAC Reviews recorded that a child/young person had been referred to CAMHS, it was confirmed at 1 review that referral had been accepted, and for the other review it was noted that young person was already open to the service.

29. Nature of Education Provision:

During this quarter, the children and young people reviewed were in the following educational provision.

Education Provision	
Pre-school children	15
Primary school pupils	33
Secondary school pupil	26
PRU	1
Other Projects-Specialist Work Placement	1
College	6
Missing Education	
NEET	5
EOTAS	
Residential	
School Leaver	
Tutoring	1
Elected Home Educated	
Employed	
Total	88



30. Number and percentage of Looked After Children of school age who had a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school.

Target Set 70% - Target achieved 98.1%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 58 children / young persons who were of compulsory school age and therefore eligible for a Personal Education Plan.

- 52 (98.1%) Children and young people of statutory school age had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan.
 - 6 (85.7%) Reviews recorded that the PEP had been completed within 20 school days of becoming Looked After or 20 school days of a change in school as required.
 - 46 (100.0%) Reviews recorded that the young person had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan.
- 1 (1.9%) Review recorded that the PEP had not been completed within timescales; the child / young person subsequently left care within 6 weeks of becoming LAC.
- 5 Further children / young persons did not have a PEP in place at the point of their first review and were taken out of the equation due to the fact that they became LAC at the end of summer school term and reviewed during the school holidays. PEPs were subsequently put in place once school returned in September.

- 14 (23.7%) Children and young people attending school/college were identified as having a recognised highest additional learning need.

- 21 (36.2%) Reviews deemed that the children / young persons attending school/college needed additional support educationally. All reviews recorded that the young people were receiving support.

- 8 (61.5%) Reviews identified that the educational provision had been put in place at the start of the placement.
- 5 (38.5%) Reviews recorded that the educational provision was not in place at start of placement.

- 2 (3.4%) Reviews identified that there had been a period whereby the child / young person had been out of education awaiting a school placement

31. National Measure 32: Percentage of Looked After Children who have changed schools and outside of transitional arrangements

Target Set 0% - Target achieved 3.5%

- 2 (3.5%) Reviews recorded a change of school which were not transitional, which compares to 0.0%) in the previous quarter.

32. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who were excluded from school

Target Set 12% fixed term exclusion –Target achieved 3.4%

Target Set 1% permanent exclusion – Target achieved 0.0%

- 2 (3.4%) Reviews reported that the young person had been excluded on a fixed term basis during the review period. This compares to 3.1% in the previous quarter.
- 0 (0.0%) Reviews reported that the young person had been excluded from school permanently, which is consistent with the previous quarter.

There were exclusions during this quarter: -
1 session, total of 0.5 days

SECTION THREE

CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Looked After Children of age and understanding consulted by the Social Worker or attended their review.

Target Set 100% – Target achieved 97.1%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 70 reviews as 18 reviews recorded that the children / young persons were not of an age and level of understanding to be included in the consultation process although 2 of these children / young people were present at their review.

- 68 (97.1%) Reviews recorded that consultation had taken place.
- 2 (2.9%) Reviews recorded that consultation had not taken place

Breakdown of consultation

29 Children / young people attended their review via Hybrid / Teams.

39 Children / young people completed consultation papers spoke with IRO or/and had their views represented by professionals, parents, carers or advocates.

- The IRO had direct contact with 20 children / young persons during the review period outside of the review meeting.

2. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Children who were aware of their right for an Advocacy Service / Independent Visitor Scheme

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 83.3%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 72 reviews as 16 reviews recorded that the children / young people reviewed were not of an age and understanding to be informed about their right for Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme and were therefore taken out of the equation.

- 60 (83.3%) Children / young persons were informed of their right for an Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme.
- 12 (16.7%) Children / young persons were not informed of their right for an Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme

3 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Children informed about the Complaints Procedure

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 90.8%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 65 reviews as 23 reviews recorded that the children / young people were not of the age / level of understanding and were therefore taken out of this equation.

- 59 (90.8%) Children / young people knew about the complaints process, which compares to 95.1% in the previous quarter.
- 6 (9.2%) Reviews recorded that the child/ young person didn't know / IRO was unclear if the child / young person knew about the complaints process.

4 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Parents consulted by the Social Worker before the review or who attended the review.

Target Set 80% - Target achieved 98.7%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 79 reviews as 9 reviews recorded that the parents were not involved in the statutory review process and these were therefore taken out of the above equation.

- 78 (98.7%) Parents completed consultation papers or met with / spoke with the IRO prior and / or after the review or / and attended the review themselves or / and had their views represented by a professional.
- 1 (1.3%) Review identified that no consultation had taken place, this was due to family circumstances at the time.

Breakdown of consultation

Consultation Papers were sent to 78 reviews.

40 Reviews confirmed that the parents were present; or spoke to the IRO by phone prior and/or after the review.

5 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Foster Carers consulted by the social worker or attends the Child's Review

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 98.8%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 82 reviews as 6 reviews recorded that the child was placed with a parent or living independently, these reviews were therefore taken out of the equation.

- 81 (98.8%) Foster Carers completed consultation papers or / and attended the reviews during this period.

- 1 (1.2%) Review identified that there was no carers' consultation; this was due to young person's situation at the time of the review.

6 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Health Representative attending the Review or Sending a Report

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 88.6%

- 78 (88.6%) Reviews confirmed that information regarding health was available for the meeting.
- 10 (11.4%) Reviews reported that there was no health information at the meeting.

Comment: When young people live out of county, it is more difficult to have the health professionals to attend

7. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of a School Representatives attending a Review or Sending a Report

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 86.4%

- 57 (86.4%) LAC Reviews had a school representative attend or provided a written report, which compares to 81.4% in the previous quarter.
- 9 (13.6%) LAC Review recorded that there was no school representative or written report.

8. Local performance Indicator: Number and percentage of LAC Review Documents completed by the Social Worker prior to the review

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 44.3%

- 39 (44.3%) LAC Reviews confirmed that the LAC Review document had been completed by the Social Worker prior to the review, this compares to 49.5% in the previous quarter.
- 49 (55.7%) LAC Reviews confirmed that the LAC Review document had not been completed by the Social Worker prior to the review.

SECTION FOUR: ISSUE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

The Issue Resolution Protocol was initiated for one young person by the ISRO during this period.

4 Mid-Point reviews took place during this period and where needed IRO were bringing reviews forward when there were concerns.

SECTION FIVE

EVALUATION

This information was unavailable for this quarter.

SECTION SIX

PATHWAY PLANNING

For over 16 years old and not LAC / over 18 year old care leavers

23 Pathway Plan Reviews were held during the quarter.

- 1 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan Review held within timescales.**

 - 21 (91.3%) Pathway Plan Reviews were held within timescales, which compares to 82.4% in the previous quarter.
 - 2 (8.7%) Pathway Plan Reviews were held out of timescales. The reasons recorded were as follows: -
 - Both reviews were rearranged due to IRO / PA's availability.

- 2 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Young Persons with allocated Personal Advisor / Social Worker**

 - It was identified at all 23 (100%) reviews that all the young persons had an allocated Social Worker or/and Personal Advisor.

- 3 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan Review Record Completed for the Meeting**

 - The Review Record had been completed for 18 (78.3%) Pathway Plan Reviews, which compares to 94.1% in the previous quarter.
 - 5 (21.7%) Review reported that the Review Record had not been completed at the time of the review.

- 4 Performance indicator: Percentage of Young People Consulted for the Review Meeting**

 - 21 (91.3%) Reviews confirmed that the young person had his / her views represented at the review or / and attended the review.
 - It was identified at 2 (8.7%) review that the young person had not had his / her views represented at the review or / and attended the review.

5 Performance indicator: Percentage of Young People attending their Review Meeting

- 9 (39.1%) Reviews recorded that the young person attended their review.
- 14 (60.9%) Reviews recorded that the young persons had not attended their review.

6 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan meeting young person's needs

- 22 (95.7%) Reviews confirmed that the Pathway Plan was meeting the young person's needs.
- 1 (4.3%) Review noted that there was no Pathway Plan in place.

7 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plans updated prior to Leaving Care/18th Birthday.

- 3 (0.0%) Reviews recorded that the Pathway Plan had not been updated prior to the young person leaving care / 18th Birthday.

8 Evaluation This information was unavailable for this quarter.

SECTION SEVEN

REGULAR SHORT BREAK CARE

There were no Regular Short Break Care Reviews held during the quarter.

SECTION EIGHT

SHORT BREAK CARE

No Short Break Care Reviews were held during the quarter.

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19.03.2024

Title: Recommendation from the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to its meeting held on the 11th March 2024 to consider the Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report quarter 2, 2023-2024

Purpose of the report: To provide feedback following the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of March 2024

Background:

At its 11th March 2024 Committee meeting, the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the quarter 2, 2023-2024 Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report.

Quarterly reports are received by the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of an ongoing examination of the topic to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its duties as the Corporate Parent.

This report includes national and local standards and targets used to measure outcomes for looked after children and care leavers at the time of their review meeting and includes Welsh Government Performance Indicators.

Recommendation:

Following discussion, Committee Members recommend that Cabinet:

- note the contents of the report and the levels of activity within the Local Authority.

Reason for decision:

So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies for Looked After Children are monitored.

Councillor Caryl Roberts
Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 March 2024

Title: CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report- Quarter 2 2023/24

Purpose of the report: To monitor activity on a multi-agency basis of the actions taken to safeguard children and adults within Ceredigion.

For: Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Background

Please see attached CYSUR-CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report for Qtr 2, 2023/24.

These are multi-agency management reports in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion during the period 1st July to 30th September 2023. They provide management information on action taken under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

The Reports include information provided by other agencies in relation to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults in Ceredigion.

The management information is discussed by members of the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined (Ceredigion) Local Operations Group in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguarding of children and adults arrangements in Ceredigion and the outcomes achieved.

These multi agency meetings provide an opportunity to identify and act upon any performance and other issues within this area of work.

Performance information is also provided to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board which is also an opportunity to analyse performance, trends and issues across the Region.

Summary of Key Points:

- In Quarter 2, there was an increase in the number of contacts/reports received regarding children/young people compared to Quarter 1-with there being 928 contacts/reports received in Q2 compared to 888 contacts/reports received in Q1.
- However, although there was an increase in the number of contacts/reports received in Quarter 2, there was a decrease in the overall number of contacts/reports which proceeded to actions needing to be taken under Child Protection Procedures, from 172 in Q1 to 132 in Quarter 2. This is reflective of the fact that more contacts/reports are being referred to Early Intervention/Prevention

Services or referred for an assessment for care and support and hence is not being escalated to the need for Safeguarding interventions. This is as a consequence of the continued development of the Through Age Well-Being model and in particular, the development of Porth Gofal Triage for Children.

- The percentage of referrals that proceeded to a Strategy Discussion was 14.2% in Quarter 2 compared to 19.4% in Q1. In Q2 5.9% of the reports proceeded to a Section 47 Enquiry, compared to 8.8% in Q1 and then in relation to those that proceeded to an Initial Child Protection Conference, 0.9% proceeded to that stage in Q2, compared to 0.7% in Q1.
- The total number of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference in this quarter has decreased further to 16, compared to 23 in quarter 1, and 35 in Q4.
- The total number of children placed on the Child Protection Register in this quarter following the Initial Child Protection Conference was 10 compared to 20 in Q1.
- The total number of children removed after Review Child Protection Conferences in this quarter were 22.
- There has been a decrease in the number of reports that have been received from the Police in this quarter and Social Services and Education seem to be the main sources of reporting in this quarter.
- The total number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken has decreased in this quarter also, with 55 undertaken in this quarter compared to 78 in Quarter 1; 41 of those enquiries were undertaken jointly with the Police in this quarter and 14 were undertaken as a Social Services Single Agency.
- The main category of abuse which led to a Section 47 enquiry being undertaken in quarter 2 was Physical Abuse and sexual abuse/exploitation as was the case in Quarter 1.
- There were 40 children on the Child Protection Register as at the end of this quarter, compared to 52 as at the end of Quarter 1. This quarter, 21 children were registered under the category of neglect, 14 under the category of emotional/psychological abuse, 4 under the category of emotional/psychological abuse and neglect and then 1 under the category of sexual abuse and emotional/psychological abuse.
- The main area of concern in relation to this quarter was the significant decrease in the percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences that were held within the statutory timescale of 15 working days after it had been agreed that an ICPC was needed. The percentage in Quarter 2 fell to 43.7% compared to Quarter 1 which was at 80%. The decrease was due to staffing issues. However, the Review Conferences and Core Groups were held mainly in timescales, with 91.7% of Review Conferences being held in timescale and 90% of core groups held within the statutory timescale.
- In terms of **Adult Safeguarding**, there has been a decrease in the number of adults suspected of being at risk of abuse and/or neglect reported, with there being 176 adults at risk reported in this quarter compared to 221 adults at risk reported in quarter 1.
- Staff in the Local Authority were the main source of the referrals in this quarter.
- The most reported category of abuse this quarter was emotional/psychological abuse (87), neglect (84) reports of adults at risk where this was the main category of abuse; 47 related to physical abuse, 49 was in relation to financial abuse and 9 relating to sexual abuse. Emotional/psychological abuse and neglect were the highest categories of abuse reported in the previous quarter also but neglect was more prevalent in that quarter.

- From the reports received, in relation to all categories of abuse, men were reported to be the highest victims than women in relation to the category of neglect and financial abuse and the females were more the victims in relation to physical, sexual and emotional/psychological abuse.
- In Quarter 2, the majority of the abuse/neglect was reported to have happened in people's own homes, with a relative/friend being the person most responsible for the reported abuse/neglect. The second highest was with in a care home setting, with a paid employee being responsible for the alleged abuse/neglect.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

No. This report is provided on an ongoing basis and demonstrates the continuing work that is undertaken in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
 Collaboration: N/A
 Involvement: N/A
 Prevention: N/A
 Integration: N/A

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report and the levels of activity with the Local Authority.

Reasons for decision:

So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies are monitored.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Creating caring and healthy communities

Finance and Procurement implications:

None

Legal Implications:

To ensure compliance with our statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 and the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014; Part 7

Staffing implications:

None

Property / asset implications:

None

Risk(s):

Managing the safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk

Statutory Powers:

The Children's Act 1989 and the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1- CYSUR CWMAPS Local Operational Group Performance Management Report Quarter 2 2023-2024

Corporate Lead Officer:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

Reporting Officer:

Elizabeth Upcott, Corporate Manager: Safeguarding

Date:

10.01.2024

Acronyms:

CP – Child Protection

CPR – Child Protection Register

Part 4 – Allegations against a member of staff or those working with children, e.g. - foster carers, volunteers, playgroups, etc.

CPCC – Child Protection Case Conference

ICPC – Initial Child Protection Conference



CEREDIGION

CYSUR LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUP

Performance Management Report

Quarter: 2

1.7.23 – 30.9.23

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION:

This is the multi-agency management report in relation to safeguarding children in Ceredigion during the period 1st July to 30th September 2023. It provides performance management information on action taken to safeguard children.

It includes reports from partner agencies relating to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children in Ceredigion.

The indicators and measures used are defined and reported on locally, regionally and nationally.

This management information is regularly discussed by members of the CYSUR Ceredigion Local Operations Group in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements in Ceredigion and the outcomes achieved.

Any comments or queries regarding the report should be addressed to:

Elizabeth Upcott
Rheolwr Corfforaethol Diogelu
Safeguarding Corporate Manager,
Elizabeth.Upcott@ceredigion.gov.uk
01545 574212

SECTION 2: Headline and Comparative Data

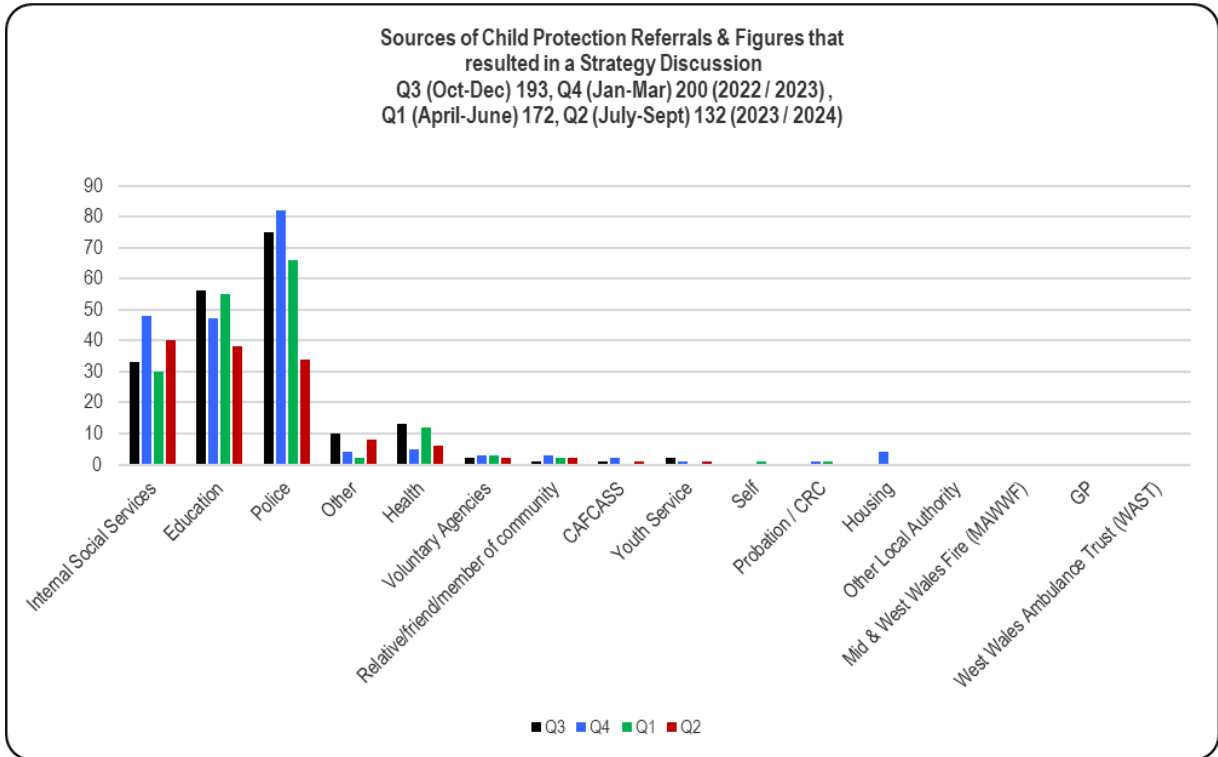
Referral Outcomes	July-Sept 2023	April-June 2023	Jan-Mar 2023	Oct-Dec 2022	July-Sept 2022
Reports/Referrals leading to Child Protection Strategy Discussions / Meetings	132	172	200	193	171
Number of Initial CP Conferences (excluding transfer and pre-birth conferences)	6	6	15	16	7
Number of Initial Pre-Birth CP Conferences	2	-	1	1	2
Number of Transfer CP Conferences	-	-	-	1	1
Pre-Birth Transfer CP Conference	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of Initial CP Conferences (including transfer and pre-birth Conferences)	8	6	16	18	10
Total number of children subject to Initial/Pre-birth/Transfer Conferences	16	10	23	35	21
Number of children's names placed on the CP Register (excluding pre-birth and transfer conferences)	9	10	20	30	14
Number of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth	1	-	-	1	2
Number of children's names placed on the CP Register after transfer from other Local Authorities	-	-	-	-	-
No. of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth after transfer from other Local Authorities	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of children's names placed on the CP Register following Initial Conferences	10	10	20	31	16
Total number of children's names not placed on the CP Register	6	-	3	4	5
Number of Review CP Conferences	22	20	32	17	16
Number of Review Pre-Birth CP Conferences	-	-	-	-	-
Total Number of Review CP Conferences (inc Pre-Birth)	22	20	32	17	16
Number of children subject to Review CP Conferences	36	28	51	39	26
Number of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of children subject to Review/Pre-birth Conferences	36	28	51	39	26
Total number of children remaining on CP Register	14	20	36	11	13
Total number of children removed from the CP Register	22	8	15	28	13

Analysis:

There was a decrease in the number of referrals that lead to action taken under Wales Safeguarding Procedures during this quarter.

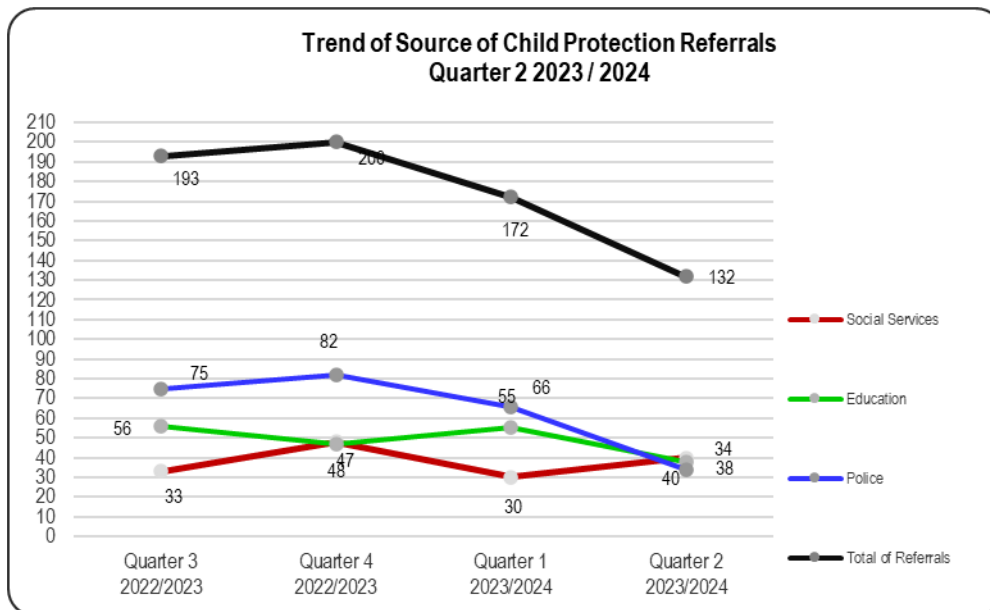
The percentage of children discussed at review conferences and who were deregistered was 61%.

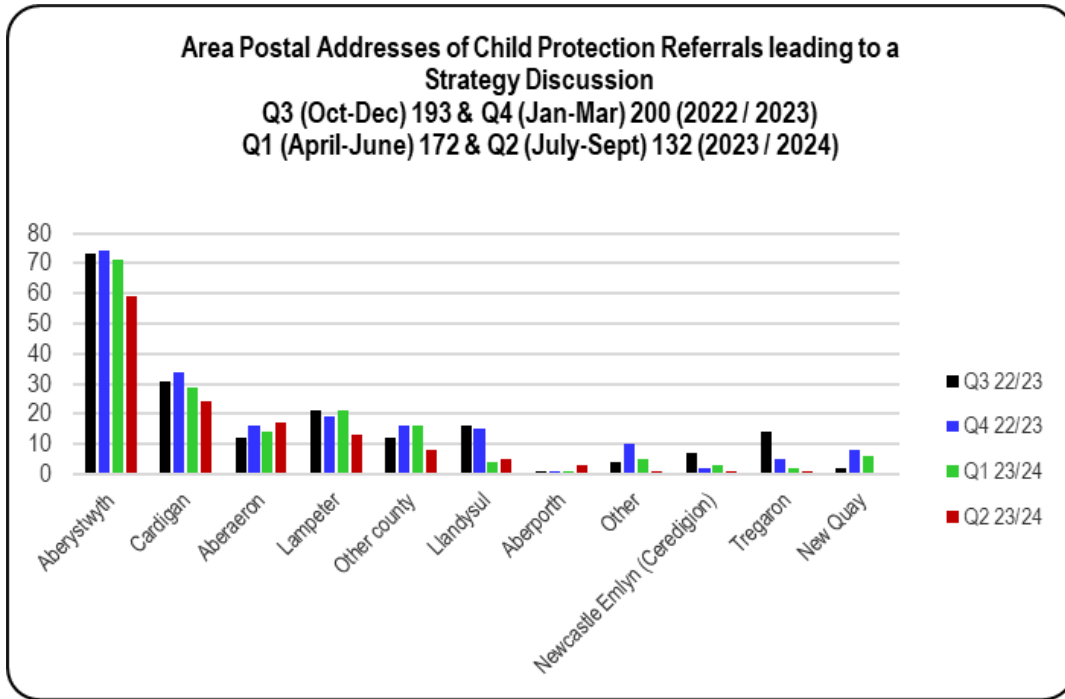
SECTION 3: Child Protection Reports and Referrals:



Analysis:

Internal Social Services have increased and are the largest source of referrals during the quarter, Schools have decreased slightly with a substantial decrease by the Police.





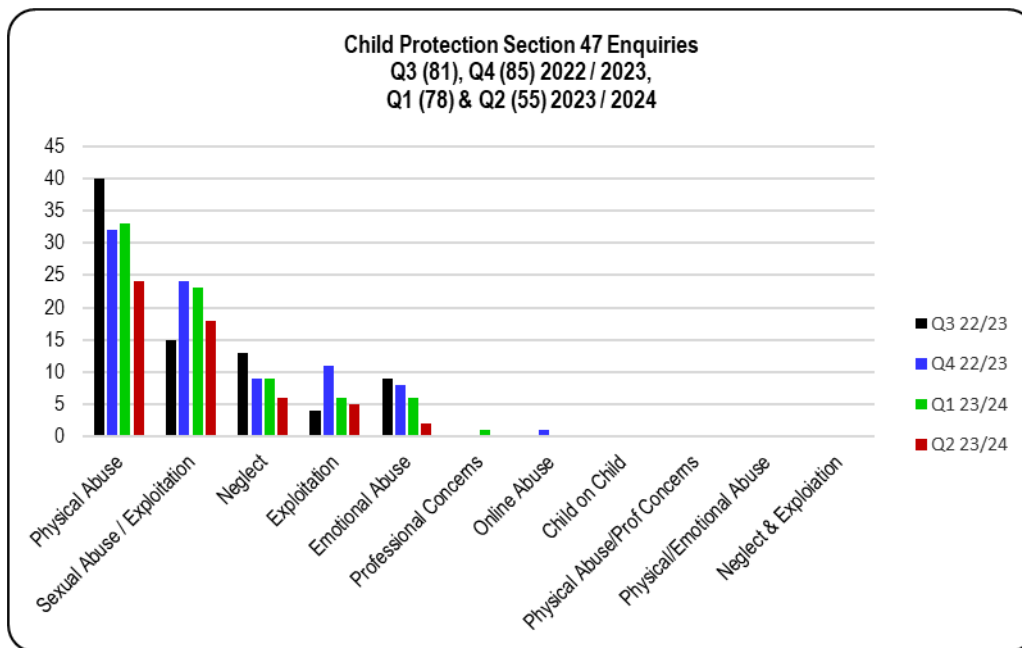
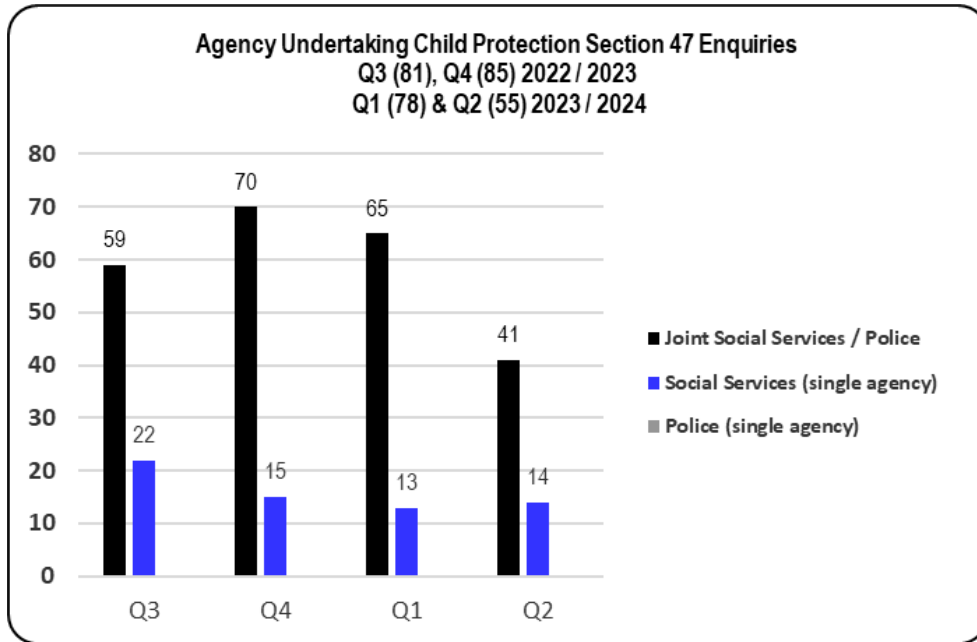
Analysis:

Aberystwyth is consistently the area of the greatest number of referrals.

% Breakdown of Safeguarding Activity Quarter 2 2023 / 2024 (1 July – 30 September)			
Number of all Initial Contacts re Children information.			
Referrals 928	Strategy Discussions 14.2%	Section 47 Enquiries 5.9%	Initial Child Protection Conferences 0.9%

In Quarter 1, there were 888 contacts / referrals; of those, 19.4% went to a Strategy Discussion, 8.8% went to a Section 47 Enquiry, and 0.7% went on to an Initial Child Protection Conference.

SECTION 4: Child Protection Section 47 Enquiries



Analysis:

The main concerns that led to completing child protection enquiries in quarter 2 were allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse/exploitation.

The majority of enquiries were carried out jointly by Police and Children Services.

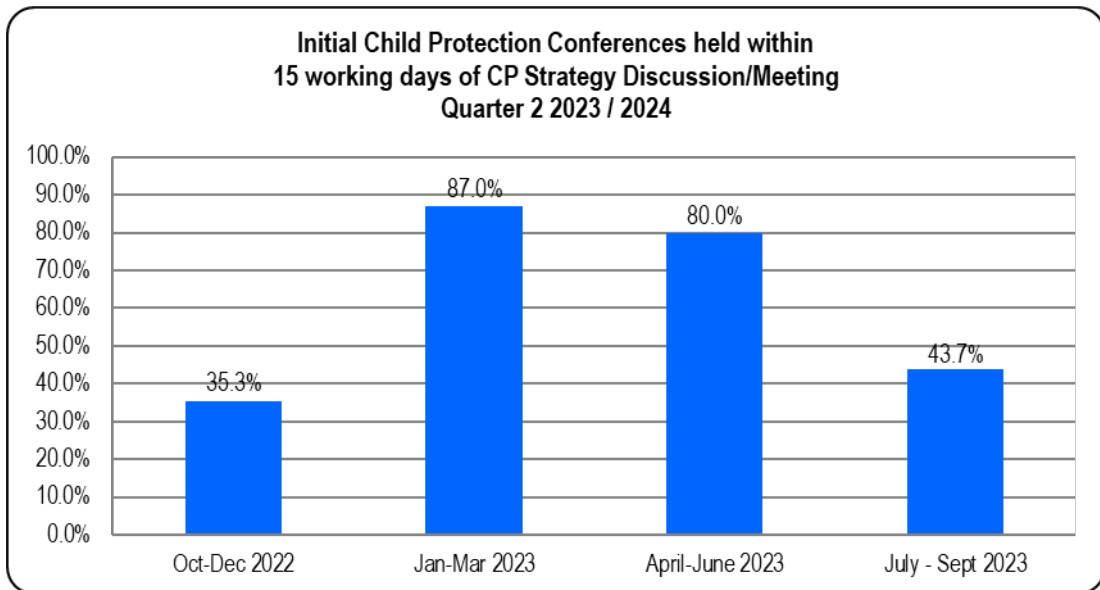
SECTION 5: Child Protection Conferences

This table contains breakdown figures in relation to Outcomes of Initial Child Protection Conferences					
Total Number of Initial CPCs	No. of children	No. of unborn	No. of families	Number of children placed on CPR incl. unborn and transferred	No. of children with Child in Need of Care and Support Plan if not registered
8	13	3	5	10	6

Initial Child Protection Conferences in timescale

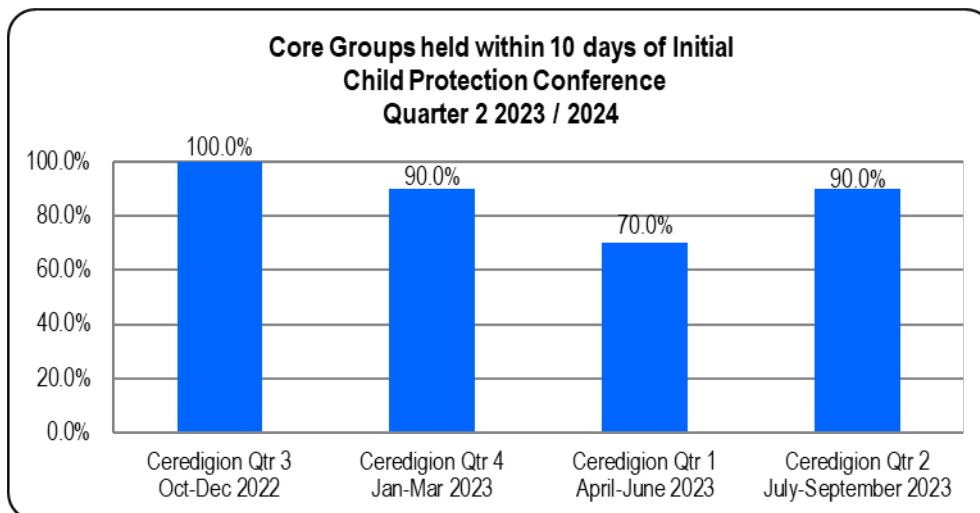
43.7% of Initial Child Protection Conferences were recorded to have taken place within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion/Meeting. For 1 conference of 3 siblings the conference was delayed due to the unavailability of professionals in view of summer holidays and the need to meet with parent to disclose information. Another conference for 1 child reported that there were difficulties in finding a venue for the meeting, in addition to ISRO and Parents’ availability for a hybrid conference. 5 More siblings had their conference delayed due to professionals’ availability, summer holidays and parental wellbeing circumstances.

Initial and Review Case Conferences are being held hybrid / virtually via Microsoft Teams. Both parents and children have been able to participate in the meetings.



Child Protection Core Group Meetings in timescale:

90.0% of Child Protection Core Group Meetings were recorded to have taken place within 10 working days of the Initial CP Conference. 1 Core Group for 1 child was delayed due to miscalculation in date.



This table contains breakdown figures in relation to the outcomes of Review Child Protection Conferences:						
Total No. of Review CPCs	No. of children	No. of Unborn	No. of families	No. of names of children remaining on CP Register	No. of names of children removed from CP Register	No. of children with Child in Need of Care and Support Plan following de-registration
22	36	-	22	14	22	16

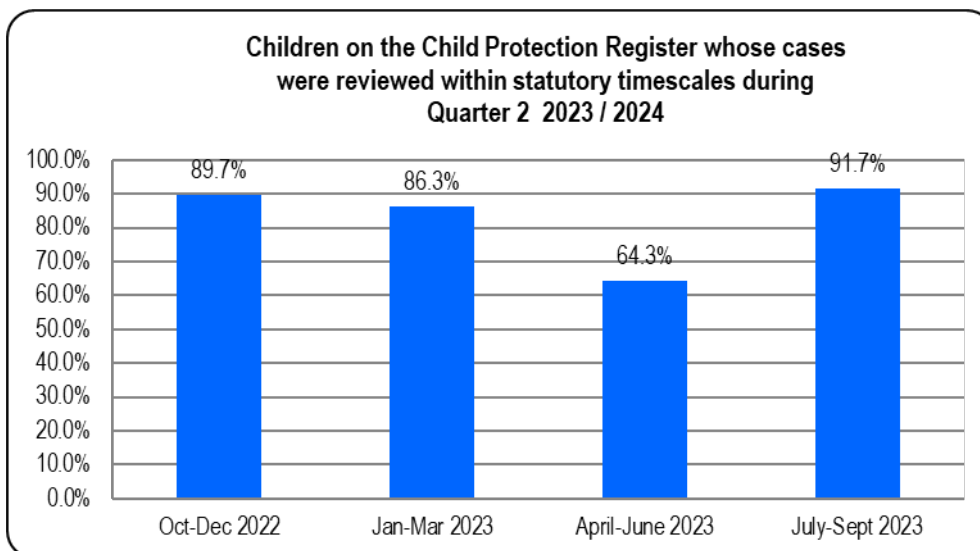
Outcomes of Reviews:

Of the 22 children who were de-registered, 16 were in receipt of further intervention on a Child in Need of Care and Support Plan with a further 5 children becoming Looked After Children. It was recorded that 1 child / young person did not need any services.

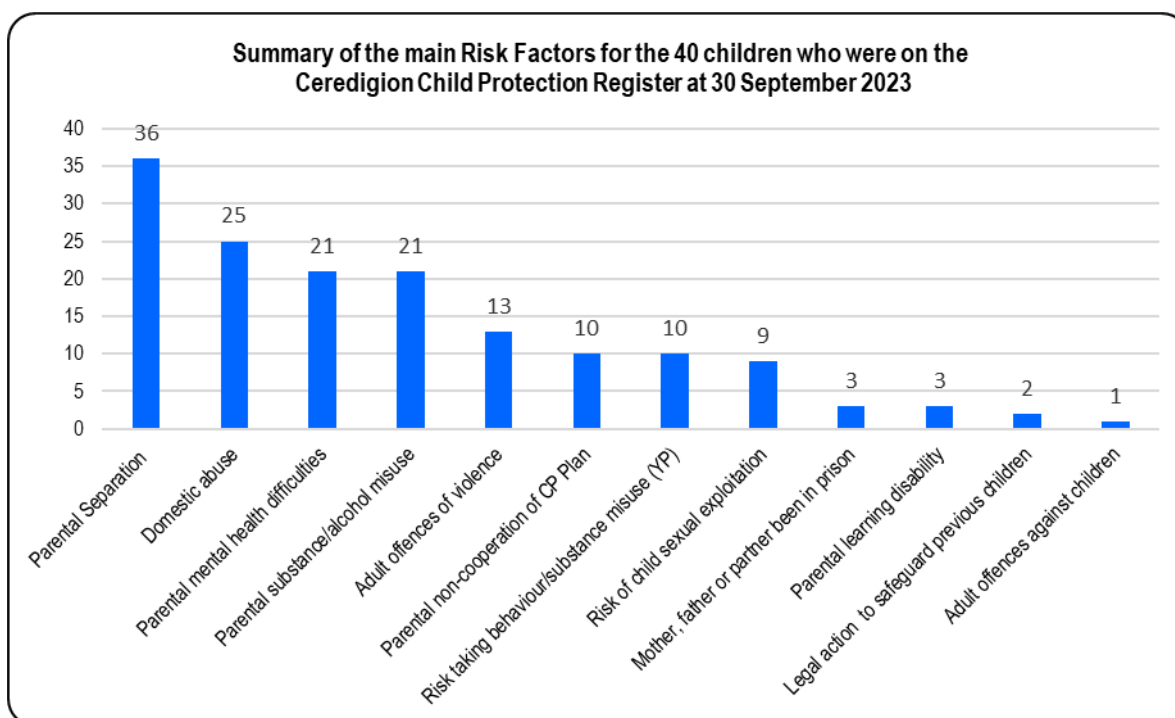
Review Child Protection Conferences in Timescales:

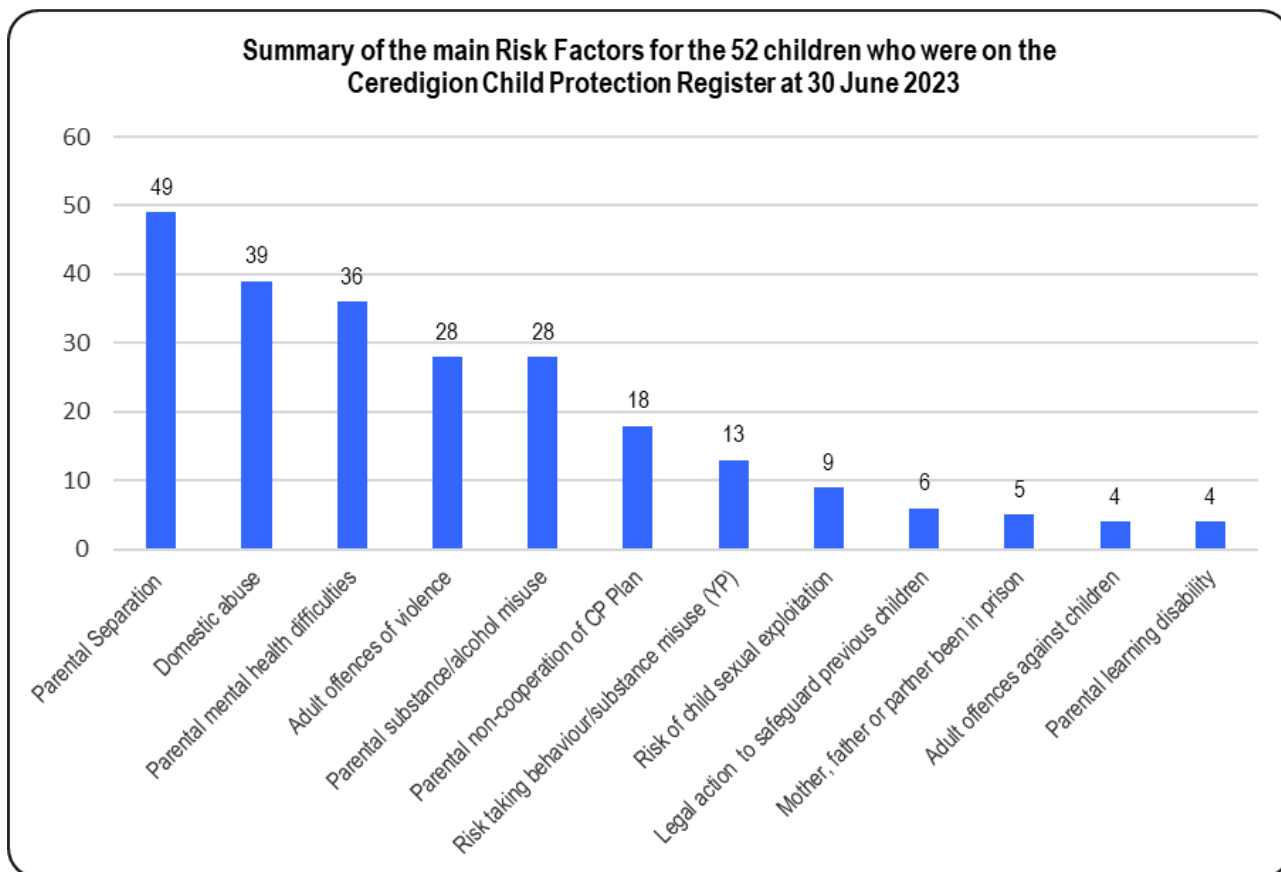
91.7% of Review Child Protection Conferences were recorded to have taken place within timescales.

The reason for the delay in holding 1 conference in time for a family of 3 siblings was due to availability of ISRO and summer holidays.



Participation of parents and children in Child Protection Conferences						
*Comparative data for Quarter 1 in brackets						
*Social Worker report to parents 24 hours before CPC	*CP Chair met with family before CPC	*CP Chair met with child before CPC	*Family member present at CPC	*Children's views represented at CPC who did not attend (5 -18 yrs.)	*Children attendance at CPC (Over 11 yrs.)	*Children Who have allocated Advocate / Tros Gynnal.
100% (100%)	92% (84%)	33% (75%)	96% (87%)	62% (87%)	15% (24%)	43% (52%)





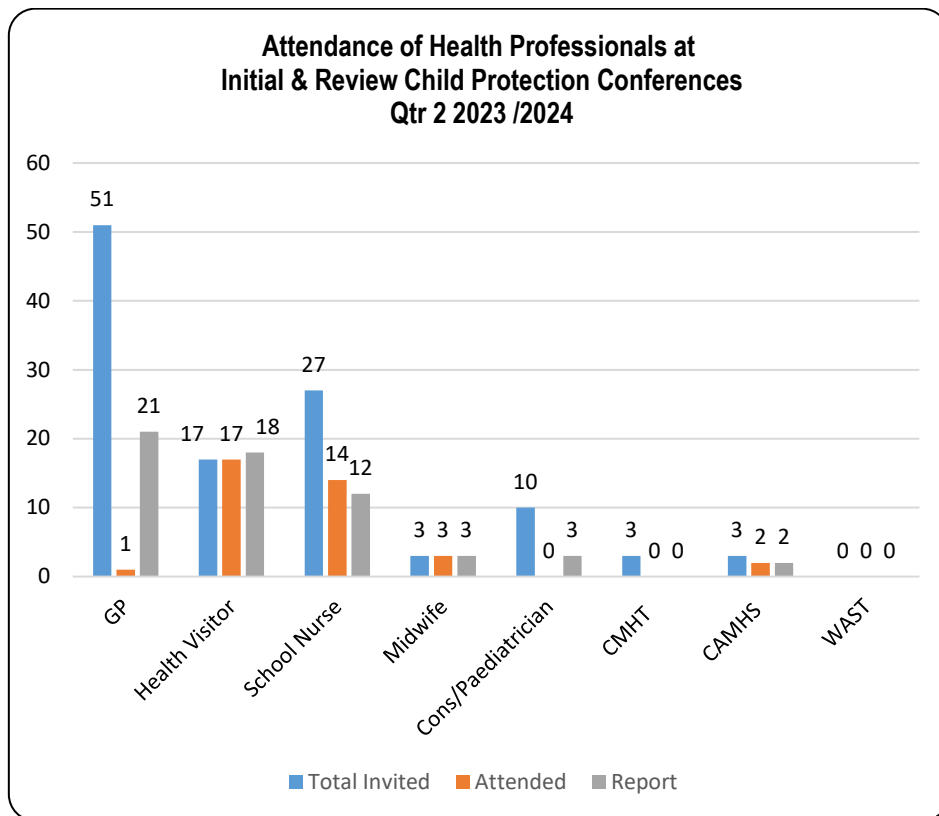
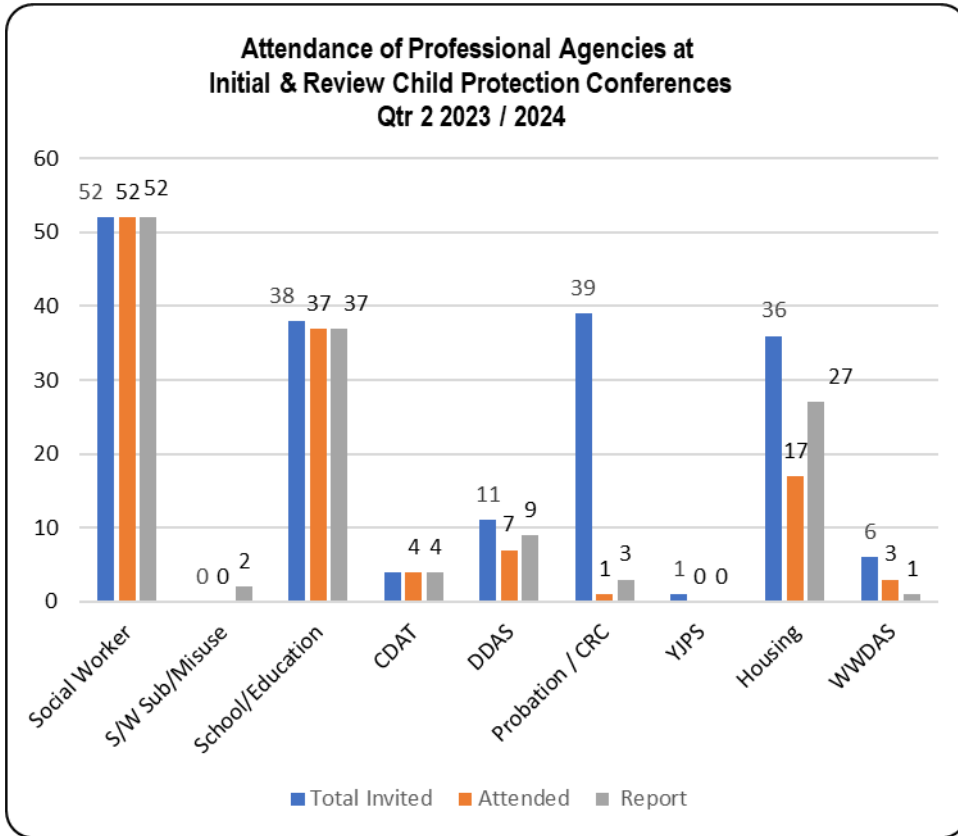
The Toxic Three Risk Factors for the 40 children who were on the Ceredigion Child Protection Register at 30 September 2023		
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where all of the Three Toxic Risk Factors feature (Domestic Abuse, Parental Substance Misuse and Parental Mental Health) ACE	11	27.5%
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where Parental Separation <i>or / and</i> Incarceration feature (ACE)	36	90.0%
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where all five ACE (Domestic Abuse, Parental Substance Misuse, Parental Mental Health, Parental Separation and Incarceration)	0	0.0%

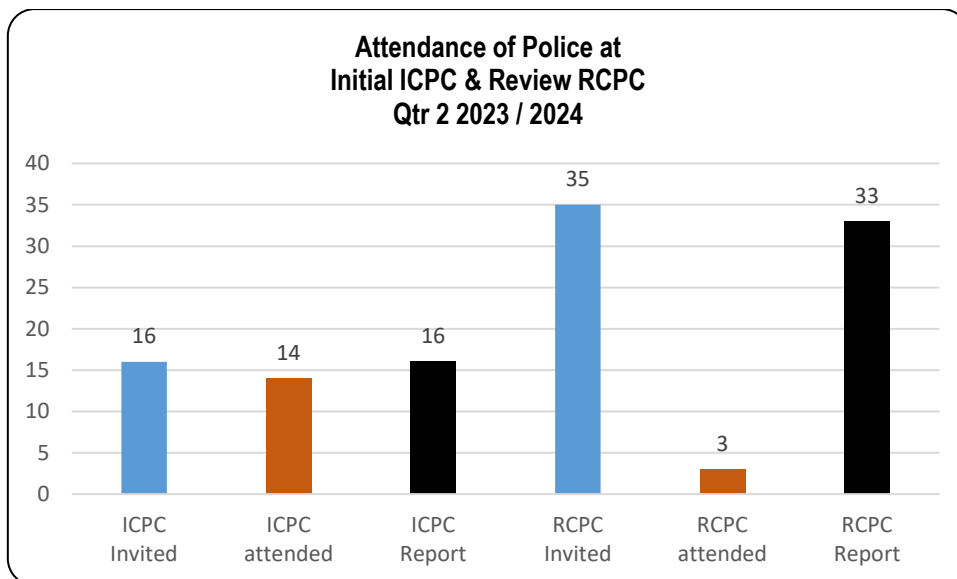
Analysis:

The main risk factors recorded were parental separation, domestic abuse, parental mental health difficulties and parental substance/alcohol misuse.

None of the conferences identified Parents that met the criteria for a referral to the Inspiring Families Project, however 2 families were referred to the Choices Perpetrator Programme.

Agency Attendance at Conferences:





The attendance of agencies at CPCs is illustrated in the charts above. An average of 7 agencies' staff members were invited to each CPC and an average of 3 attended. There was an average of 5 written reports available at each CPC.

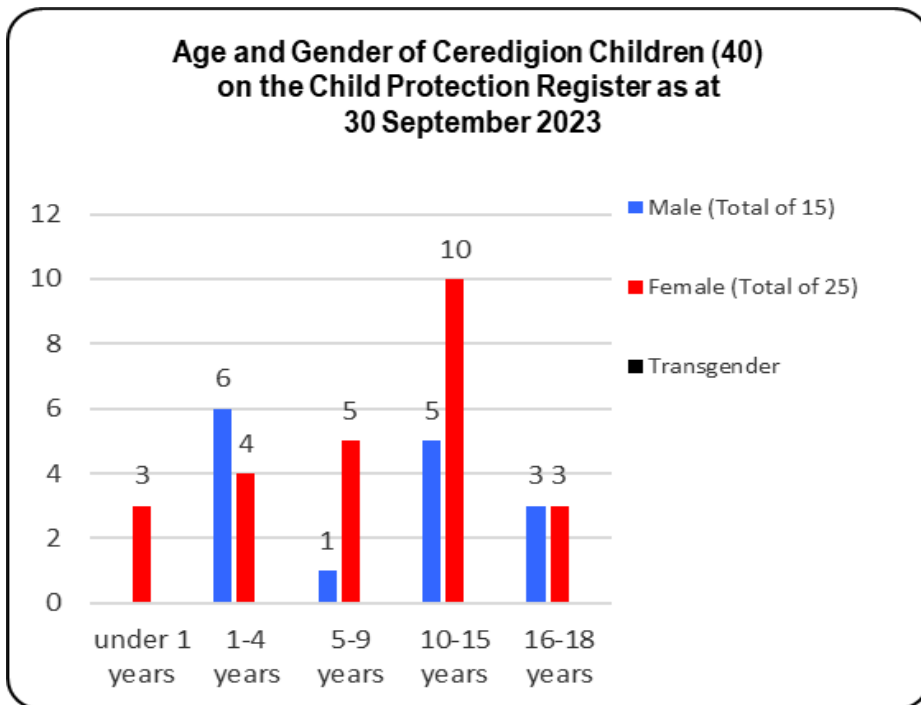
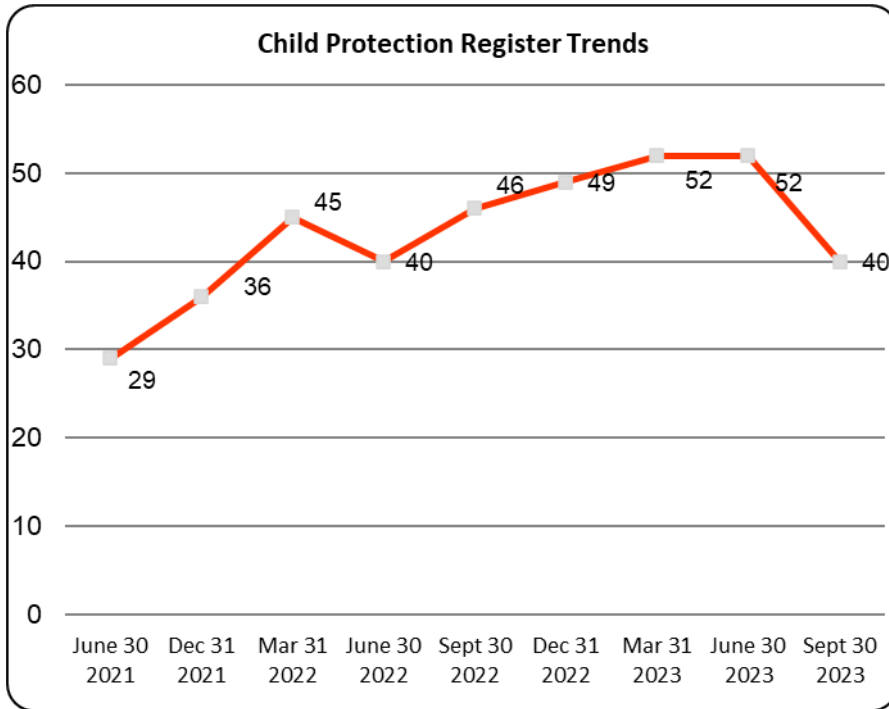
17 (33%) Children's CPC recommended that a Family Group meeting be convened.
 34 (65%) Children's registration decisions were unanimous; with 15 (29%) children's registration a majority decision; with 3 (6%) children's registrations not unanimous.
 3 (6%) Children's CPCs reported that there was dissent regarding the safety of the CP Plan for safeguarding the welfare of a child on the CP Register.
 3 (6%) Children were identified as a young carer.
 It was identified for 6 (14%) Children that there was a shortfall in information regarding the mother's partner.
 A moderate/severe learning disability was identified for 3 (6%) young persons; with 2 (6%) young persons reported as having an Individual Development Plan.
 2 (4%) Children were reported to have a physical/sensory disability, with behaviour problems identified for 5 (10%) young persons.
 4 (8%) Children were recognised as having speech/language difficulties; with 2 (6%) Young persons reported to have been excluded from school.

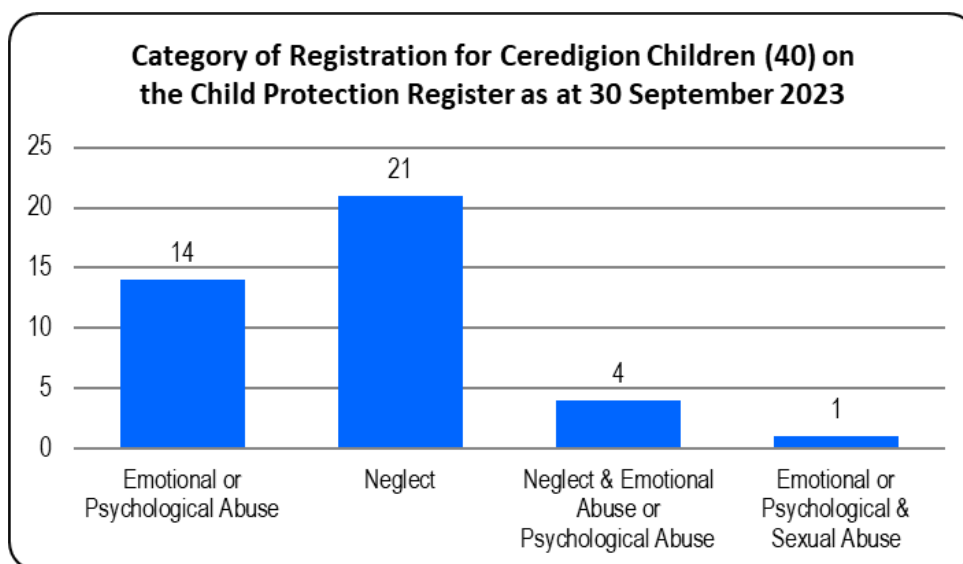
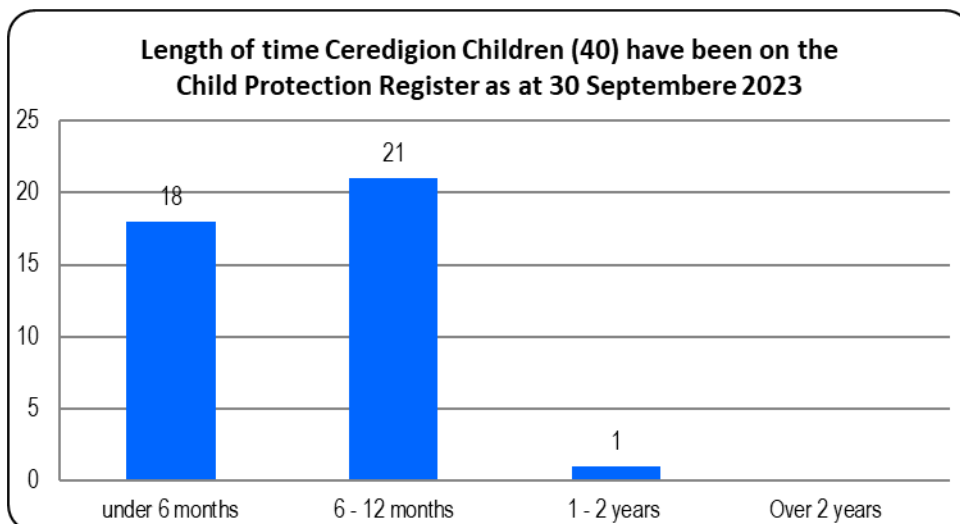
CHILD AND FAMILY FEEDBACK

The previous system for attaining Child and Family feedback following their attendance at a Child Protection Conference has not been possible since the start of the Pandemic in March 2020 due to the fact that most Conferences are held virtually. However, since the beginning of April 2022, Evaluation Questionnaires have been sent to families following their attendance at a Child Protection Conference to gain their views and feedback. This process will continue until such time that Child Protection Conferences take place on a face-to-face basis.

CHILD AND FAMILY FEEDBACK						
Evaluation questionnaires were provided to children/young people (of appropriate age/level of understanding), parents and carers who attended CP Conferences during the quarter. A total of 38 questionnaires were circulated; however non were returned						
Was the venue and time of the Conference				Did you feel prepared to attend the Conference?		
	Very suitable	OK	Not suitable	Yes	Not sure	Not at all
Children						
Parents						
Carers						
Family Members						
Were you able to say what you wanted				Did you feel your views were taken into account		
	Yes	Not enough	No	Yes	Some	Not at all
Children						
Parents						
Carers						
Family Members						
Is there anything that you would like to say that might help us to improve the process?				Action taken by Quality Assurance & Independent Service to address any concerns		
Child	•					
Parents	•					
Carers	•					
Extended Family	•					

SECTION 6: Child Protection Register





WG Measure 28 - The average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register:		
This Measure asks for the average length of time in calendar days on the register for all children who were de-registered during the quarter	July-Sept	242.27

WG Measure 27 – The number of re-registrations of children on Local Authority Child Protection Registers within the year								
Initial Conferences	July-Sept 2023	April-June 2023	Jan-Mar 2023	Oct-Dec 2022	July-Sept 2022	April-June 2022	Jan-Mar 2022	Oct-Dec 2021
Number of Children previously on the register and deregistered within last 12 months	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0

**ADRAN SECTION 7: Cyfarfodydd Strategaeth Amddiffyn Plant Ganllawiau
Amddiffyn Plant Cymru Gyfan / Child Protection Strategy Meetings of the All
Wales Child Protection Procedures**

Category of Child Protection Strategy Meeting	Total number of cases	Total number of meetings
Risk of child exploitation	12	17
Concerns regarding neglect	7	10
Concerns regarding physical abuse	2	4
Concerns regarding sexually harmful behaviour	7	7
Concerns regarding a young person going missing	4	5
Concerns regarding emotional abuse	4	4
Concerns regarding a person in contact with children through their work	10	11
Total number of meetings		58
Total number of cases discussed in this quarter	46	

ADRAN/SECTION 8: Ecsbloetio Rhywiol Plant Cyfarfodydd Rheoli Aml Asiantaethol / Multi Agency Child Exploitation Management Meetings

New Case / Review	Exit / Remain in MACE	Male / Female	Age	At home / in care	CPR	Date of meeting	Agency Attendance
N	Remain	F	13	H	N	13.09.23 28.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, Education, YJS, PCC, Health
R	Remain	F	14	H	Y	12.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Ed Inc, Health, PCC
N	Exit	M	16	H	N	09.08.23	Safeguarding, Police, Ed Inc, Planned Care, PCC
R	Remain	M	16	H	N	18.07.23 12.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, Planned Care, Education, Choices
N	Remain	F	16	H	Y	18.08.23	Safeguarding, Police, Planned Care, Health
R	Exit	F	15	H	Y	17.07.23 08.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, Planned Care, Education, Health
N	Exit	M	17	H	N	20.07.23 22.08.23 06.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, PGT, YJS, PCC, WWHA, Housing
N	Remain	M	15	H	Y	08.08.23	Safeguarding, Police, Planned Care, CAMHS, YJS
N	Remain	M	15	H	N	18.07.23 12.09.23	Safeguarding, Police, Planned Care, Education, YJS

SECTION 9: Police Marac Report

Division	Daily Discussion cases	Cases with children	Amount of Children	MARAC Cases	Cases with children	Amount of Children
Carmarthenshire	240	102	185	17	5	14
Ceredigion	68	28	57	8	5	10
Pembrokeshire	166	92	215	10	7	15
Powys	139	61	126	17	7	17

SECTION 10: Learning Services

ADRODDIAD LOG GWASANAETHAU YSGOLION

BWLIAN / BULLYING

Mae data bwlio yn parhau i gael eu gasglu yn dymhorol ym mhob cyfarfod Llywodraethol yr ysgolion. Gweler isod, data Tymor yr Gwanwyn 2023 (a gafodd ei goladu yn ystod tymor yr Haf 2023).

Bullying data is collected by all schools during Governing Body meetings on a termly basis. Please see below data collected for the Spring Term 2023 (which was collated during the Summer term 2023)

Math o Fwlian / Type of Bullying	Hydref 2022 / Autumn 2022	Gwanwyn 2023 / Spring 2023
Gallu / Ability	2	3
Oedran / Age	0	0
Edrychiad / Appearance	7	5
Biffonig / Biphobic	0	1
Anabledd / Disability	3	0
Rhyw / Gender	3	2
Homoffonig / Homophobic	3	1
Plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal / Looked after Child	0	0
Di-ddeuaidd / Non-Binary	0	0
Beichiogrwydd neu Famolaeth / Pregnancy or Maternity	0	0
Hiliol / Racial	12	2
Crefydd neu Gred / Religion or Belief	0	0
Rhywiol / Sexual	0	3
Sexual Orientation	0	0
Trawsffonig / Transphobic	0	0
Gofalwr Ifanc / Young Carers	0	0
E Ddiogelwch / E Safety	9	7
Eraill / Other	26	7
Not Specified	2	2
Cyfanswm / Total	67	33

Mae'r ffigyrau uchod yn dangos gostyngiad mewn achosion bwlian sydd yn cael ei cofnodi, i gymharu a'r tymor blaenorol, sef tymor yr hydref 2022, ble adroddwyd 67 achos penodol.

The above figures show an reduction in bullying incidences being recorded, in comparison with the previous term, Autumn 2022, where 67 cases were reported.

HYFFORDDIANT / TRAINING

Mae hyfforddiant Diogelu ac Amddiffyn Plant lefel 1 ar rhaglen e-ddysgu yn unig, dyma'r nifer o staff sydd wedi cwblhau yr hyfforddiant hyn drwy cyfnod chwarter 1. Yn ogystal, mae'r niferoedd o staff sydd wedi cwblhau lefel 2 Amddiffyn Plant yn rhithiol hefyd wedi ei ychwanegu yn ystod y cyfnod hwn.

Level 1 Safeguarding and Child Protection training is only available as an e-learning programme, below is the number of staff who have completed the training during the quarter 1 period. In addition, the number of staff who have completed the level 2 Child Protection training virtually during this period, is also noted below.

Lefel 1 / Level 1	863 mewnol / internal 60 allanol / external
Lefel 2 / Level 2	25 mewnol / internal 12 allanol / external

VAWDASV

Mae yna 309 o staff mewnol a 26 o staff allanol wedi cwblhau hyfforddiant VAWDASV ar-lein yng nghyfnod chwarter 1

309 internal staff and 26 external staff have completed the online VAWDASV training during the quarter 1 period.

ADDYSG DDEWISOL GARTREF / ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Nifer o blant yr ydych yn ymwybodol ohonynt sydd yn cael eu haddysgu'n ddewisol gartref / Number of children that you are aware of that are Electively Home Educated (EHE)	Nifer o blant EHE sy'n hysbys i'r Awdurdod Lleol sydd wedi cael cynnig ymweliad blynyddol yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf / Number of EHE children known to the Local Authority that have been offered an annual visit in the last 12 months	Canlyniad / Outcome
234	194	Declined – 72 DNA'd – 8 Child seen – 80 Child not seen – 13 Report received – 3 Re- arranged - 18

PLANT MEWN GOFAL / LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Plant mewn gofal yng Ngheredigion o oedran ysgol stadudol / Looked after children in Ceredigion of statutory school age	Gorffennaf/July: 51 Medi/September:48 (1 is dual registered but out of county in a residential/ 1 awaiting a school place in England but still on roll in Ceredigion)
Plant mewn gofal allan o'r Sir o oedran ysgol stadudol / Looked after children placed out of County of statutory school age	Gorffennaf/July: 38 Medi/September: 39 (40 if you include the dual registered out of county LAC)

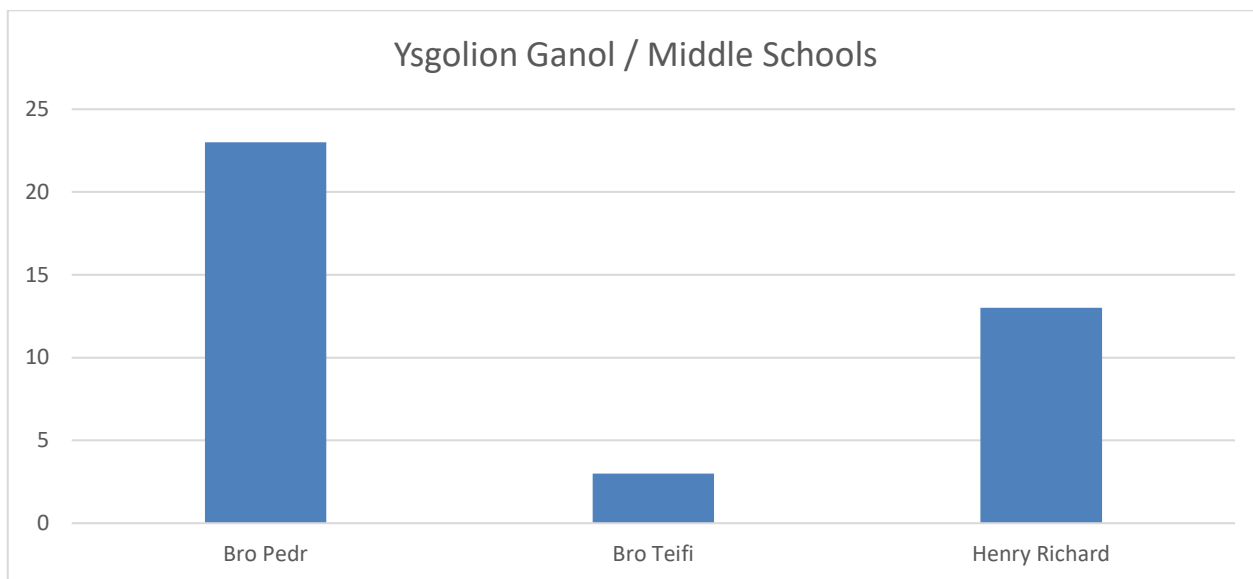
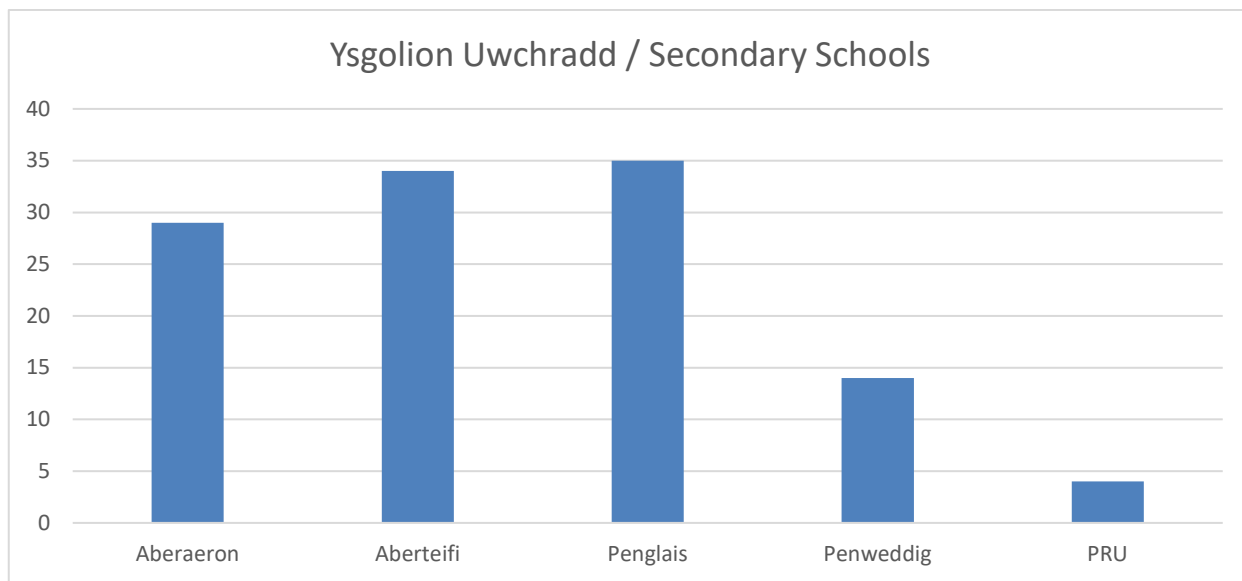
Plant mewn gofal o Siroedd eraill o oedran ysgol statudol / *Looked after children from other Local Authorities of statutory school age*

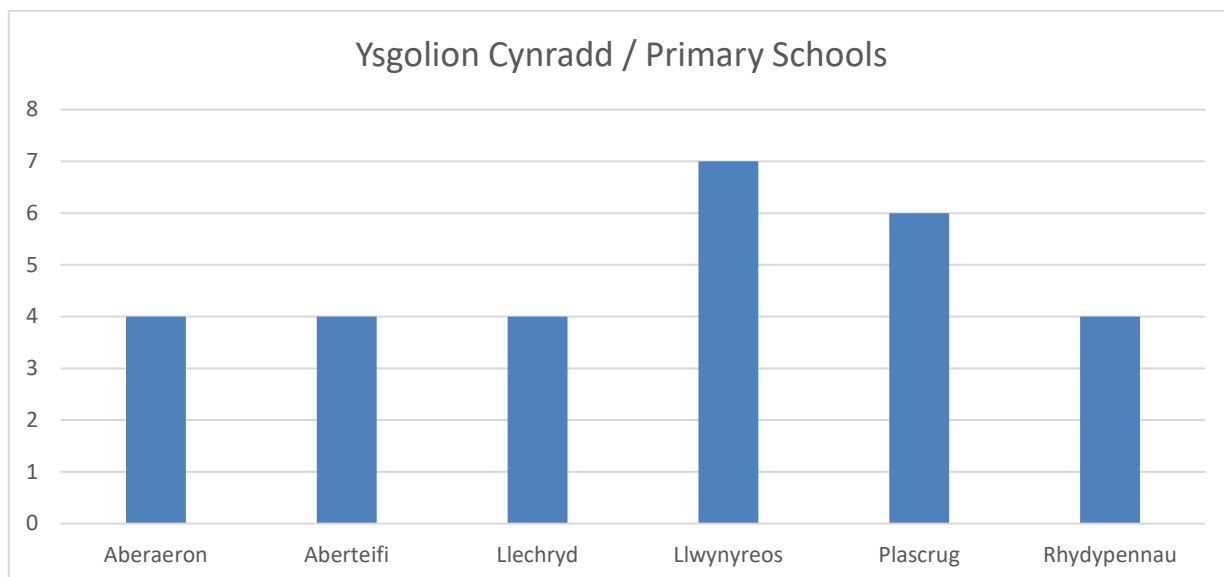
Gorffennaf/July: 23
Medi/September: 23

CYSWLLT YSGOLION / SCHOOL CONTACTS

Gweler isod, y rhifau a natur y cyswllt a dderbyniwyd o ysgolion / sefydliadau dysgu yn ystod cwarter 2.

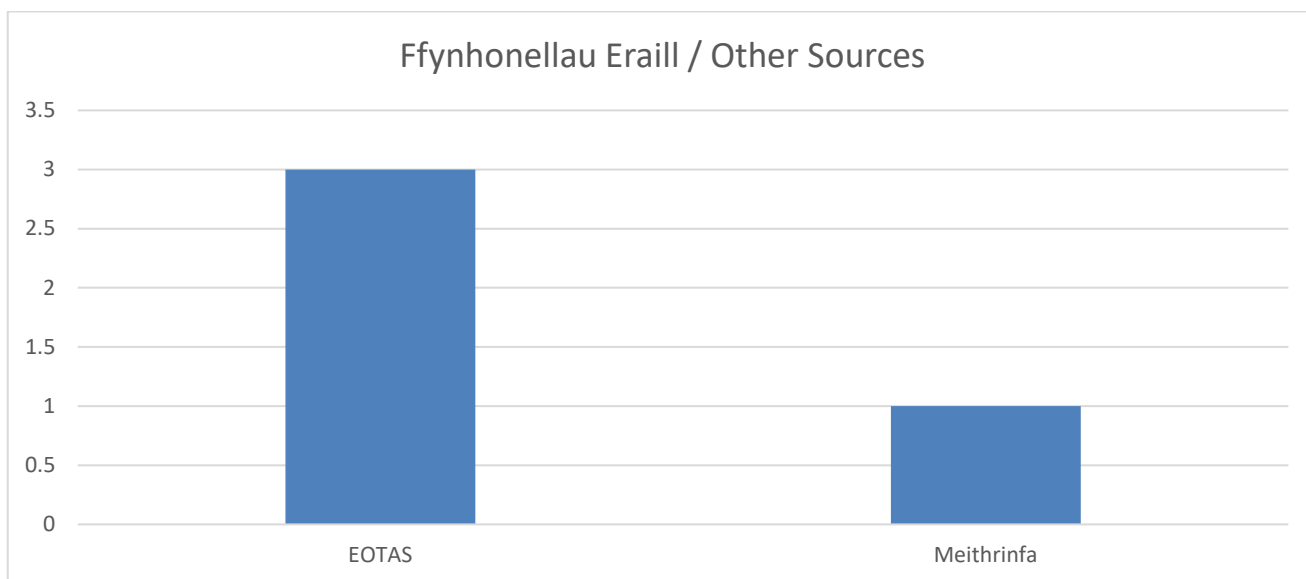
Please see below the number of contacts received from schools/learning establishments and their nature, during the period of quarter 2.

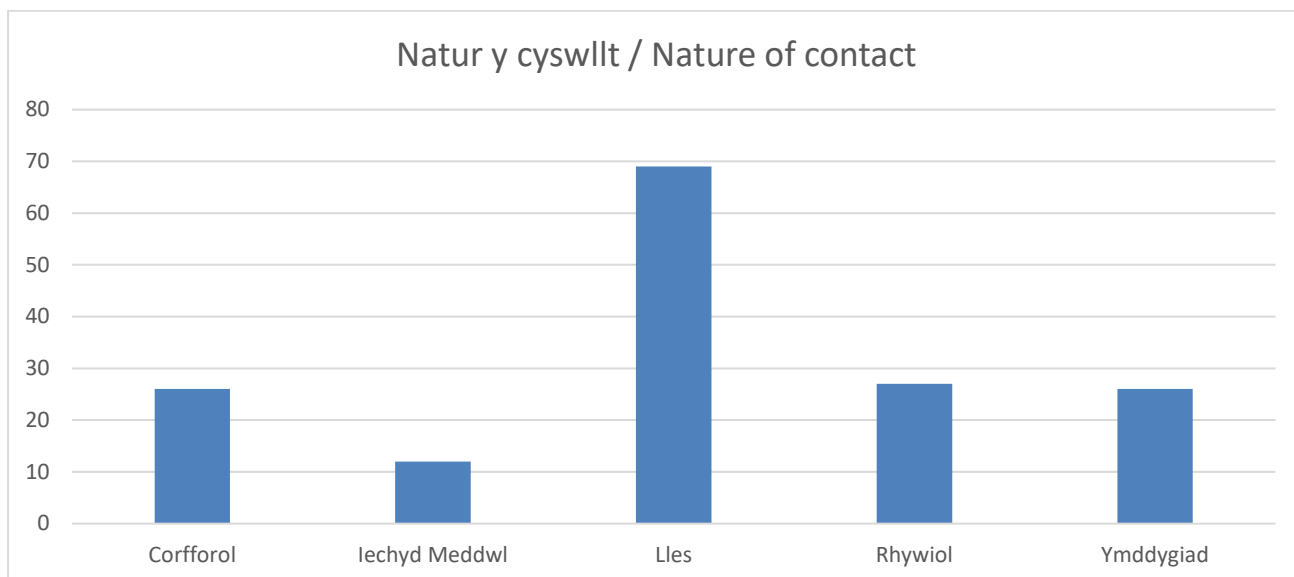




I nodi, fe wnaeth 30 o'r Ysgolion Cynradd gwneud cyswllt yn ystod cwarter 2. Oherwydd y rhif uchel hyn, nid oedd modd cynnwys pob Ysgol ar y dabl, felly wedi cynnwys yn yr uchod, y rhai wnaeth gysylltu pedwar gwaith neu mwy drwy gydol y cyfnod.

To note, 30 Primary Schools made contact during quarter 2. Due to this large figure, it wasn't possible to capture all on one table. Therefore the above only highlights the Schools who made contact on four or more occasions during the period.





Oherwydd fod niferoedd fawr o rhesymau cyswllt, maen't wedi crynhoi mewn l'r grwpiau isod, er mwyn medru darllen yn fwy glir ar y siart. Yn yr adroddiad yma, dwi wedi ffocysu ar y prif pryderon yn unig.

Due to the large amount of reasons given for contact, some have been grouped together as noted below, in order for the information to be presented more clearly on the chart. In this particular report, I have highlighted the main concerns raised only.

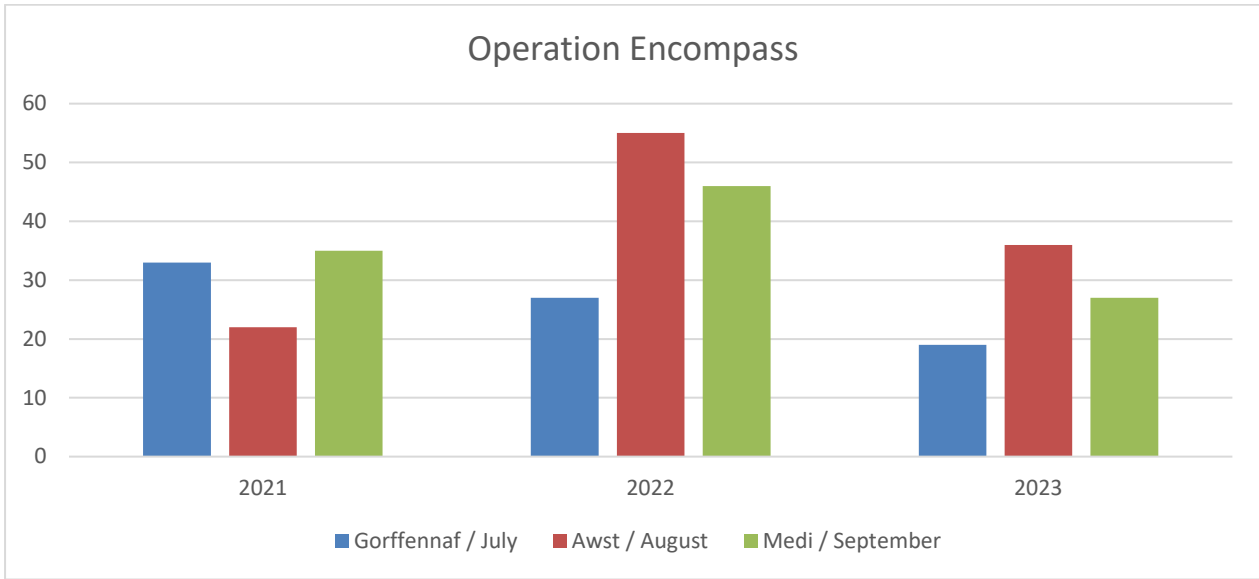
Lles / Wellbeing	Gan gynnwys plant ar goll, presenoldeb, tor perthynas, galar, gofalwyr ifanc, materion cyswllt rhwng rhieni / Which also includes missings, attendance, relationship breakdown, young carers, contact issues, contact issues between parents.
Rhywiol / Sexual	Gan gynnwys perthnasau amhriodol ag egsbloetio plant yn rhywiol / Which also includes inappropriate relationships and Child Sexual Exploitation.

I nodi, gafodd 34 o ddisgyblion ei gwahardd o ysgolion uwchradd Ceredigion yn ystod chwarter 2, a hynny o gyfanswm 64.5 diwrnod. (Y rhif yma yn gostyngiad o'r chwarter blaenorol, gan fod y cyfnod yma yn cynnwys mis Awst, pan mae'r ysgolion ar gau am wyliau'r haf). Y rhesymau sydd wedi cofnodi am y gwaharddiadau yma, fel y ganlyn; Bwlian, Difrod, Sylweddau, Camdriniaeth Hilliol, Camdriniaeth Lafar, Ymddygiad Bygythiol, Camdriniaeth Corfforol, Ymddygiad Aflonyddgar Parhaus ag arall.

Yn ogystal a hyn, fe dderbyniwyd 65 o gyfeiriadau ar gyfer cefnogaeth ataliol drwy Porth Cymorth Cynnar yn ystod chwarter 2 (eto, y niferoedd yn llai oherwydd yr uchod). Nid yw'r ffigwr yma yn cynnwys cyfeiriadau TAF).

To note, a total of 34 pupils were excluded from Ceredigion Secondary Schools during quarter 2, for a total of 64.5 days. (These figures being significantly lower than the previous quarter, due to period containing August, where schools are closed for the summer break). The reasons noted for exclusions have been recorded as: Bullying, Damage, Drug & Alcohol, Racist Abuse, Verbal Abuse, Threatening Behaviour, Physical Assault, Persistent Disruptive Behaviour and Other.

In addition to this, Porth Cymorth Cynnar received 65 referrals for Support and Prevention during quarter 2, which is a decrease in comparison to the previous quarter, due to the reasons above. (These figures do not include TAF referrals).



SECTION 11: HEALTH



Hywel Dda University Health Board Safeguarding Report to the Local Operational Groups

Qtr 2 2023/24

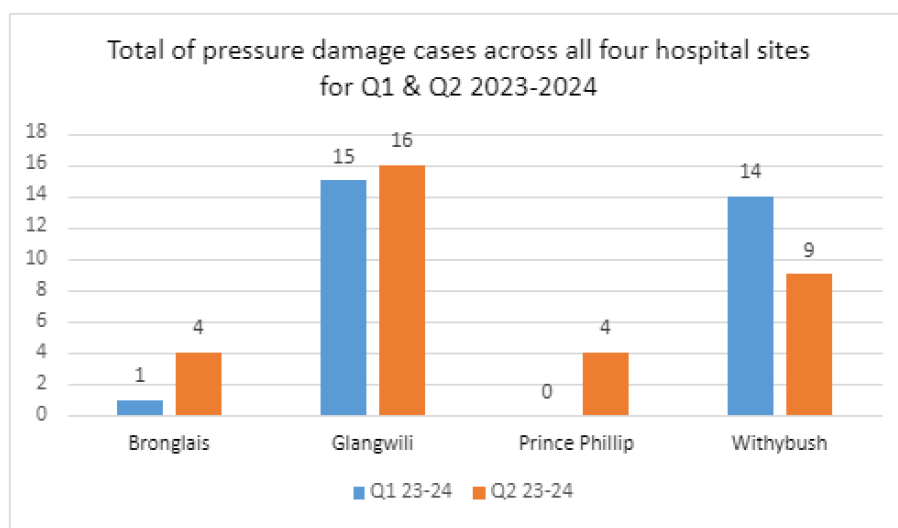
This report informs the Local Operational Groups of updates on safeguarding developments in Hywel Dda University Health Board during quarter 2 2023/24

Adult Safeguarding

The Adult Safeguarding Team undertook a retrospective review of all cases of avoidable pressure damage between the dates of January 2021 and August 2023. The findings were presented to the Acute Safeguarding Service Delivery Group. Data was broken down by month of occurrence, Hospital site and ward, and grade. This data is readily available for each service area to identify any peaks and troughs and any additional learning opportunities that may not have been identified in specific action plans. The information has all been collated onto a live spreadsheet, which will be updated following all scrutiny meetings. This will ensure that all the acute services have the relevant information as it becomes available.

The data is also available to the Tissue Viability Team who can use this information to target training and potentially monitor impact of same. Recent examples of this training include work at the PPH site to improve identification and grading of pressure damage and the necessary investigation to inform scrutiny panel.

Quarter 2 2023/24 Acute Hospital Avoidable Pressure Damage Data



There was a total number of 33 avoidable cases of pressure damage incidents reviewed in pressure damage scrutiny meetings across the four acute hospital sites in Q2, a slight

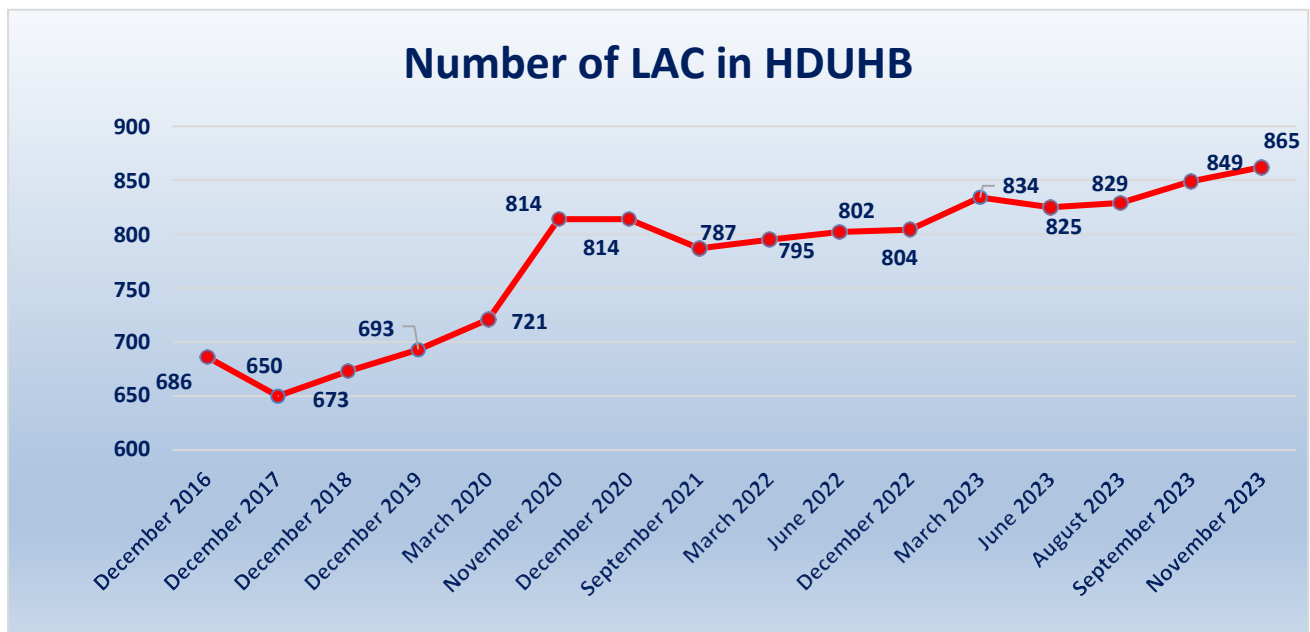
reduction from Q1. The numbers of cases reported do now reflect when the pressure damage actually occurred, rather than as previously, when the number reflected the date that pressure damage cases were presented at scrutiny meetings. It is noted that the figures are liable to change in future reports due to delays between the pressure damage occurring and progression through the scrutiny process; this may occur when cases are deferred at scrutiny meetings, or meetings postponed.

Of the 33 cases reviewed, 26 were recorded as grade 1 or 2, one as grade 3, one as unstageable and five as Suspected Deep Tissue Injury (SDTI). It is not uncommon for pressure damage to be reported as SDTI, but within a few days, it becomes apparent that it is a grade 1 or 2. Incident reporting captures the pressure damage at its most significant grading. There continues to be a higher proportion of cases at lower grades.

Assurance is given that with regard to cases of reported pressure damage yet to be discussed at scrutiny, appropriate actions will have been implemented to safely manage the individuals' pressure damage at the time of identification.

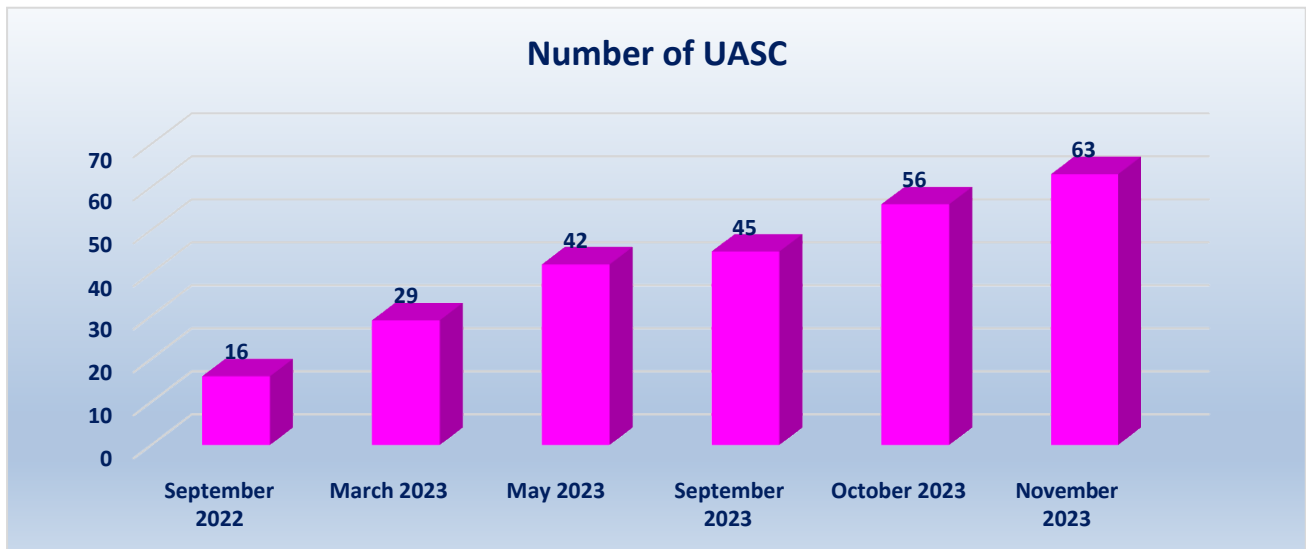
Looked After Children

The data below represents the increase in activity related to Looked After Children in the Health Board. The data demonstrates a rising trajectory which impacts on workload in operational teams and the LAC corporate team.



Q2 Data 2023-2024	Looked After Children	Number Placed in HDUHB by Other LA'S	Total
Pembrokeshire	252	57	309
Carmarthenshire	242	137	379
Ceredigion	143	34	177
Total	637	228	865

UASC



Risks

The risk continues for the service due to cost pressure to the Looked After Children (LAC) service budget to meet the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children placed under the National Transfer Scheme. Currently of the 63 placed only one is living within the Hywel Dda Footprint. The service is incurring costs due to commissioning health assessments in the areas where the UASC have been placed.

Safeguarding Children

The Emergency Department in GGH has supported a Safeguarding Support role to enable improvement work in relation to safeguarding children and VAWDASV in the department. Excellent progress is being made with level 3 child safeguarding training compliance with the delivery of bespoke training to the team. Outcome measures are being developed to enable us to evaluate the impact.

VAWDASV

The IRIS pilot in Carmarthenshire continues and we are seeking resources to continue the pilot after May 2024.

The Health DVA pilot based in Bronglais General Hospital Emergency Department is ongoing with an interim report due to NHS Charities in the New Year.

The Lead Practitioner for VAWDASV is supporting embedding routine enquiry in Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units.

The UHB Strategic Safeguarding Working Group and Quality Experience and Safety Committee have noted the publication of the Pembrokeshire DHR 'June'.

Once for Wales Management System

The completion of safeguarding duty to report forms via Datix Cymru is progressing well. We extend our thanks to our Local Authority partners for supporting the pilot, the only pilot in Wales.

Mandy Nichols-Davies
Head of Safeguarding

SECTION 12: S-CAMHS:

S-CAMHS Update Report for CYSUR

In line with the Welsh Government document “Admission Guidance”, HDUHB has in place a robust Admission Policy/Pathway outlining the process for admitting any young person into an Adult Mental Health Ward. The Guidance stipulates that the Health Board must have a designated Unit and within HDUHB this is Morlais Ward on the Glangwili Hospital campus.

A new Protocol has been approved to meet this statutory requirement which will ensure compliance against Welsh Government expectations.

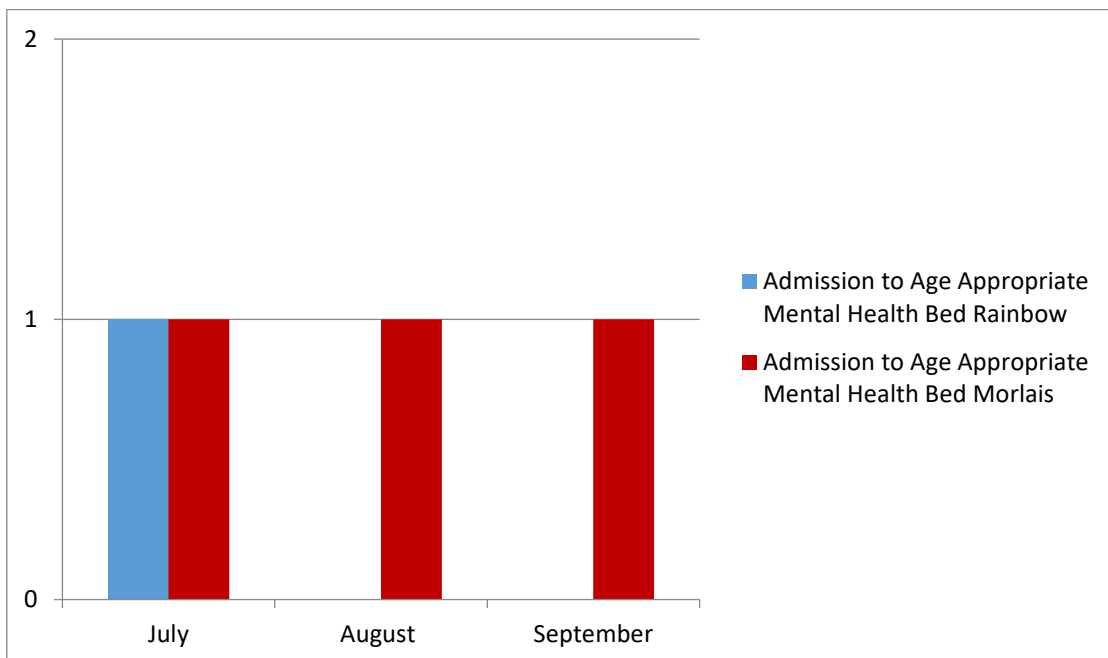
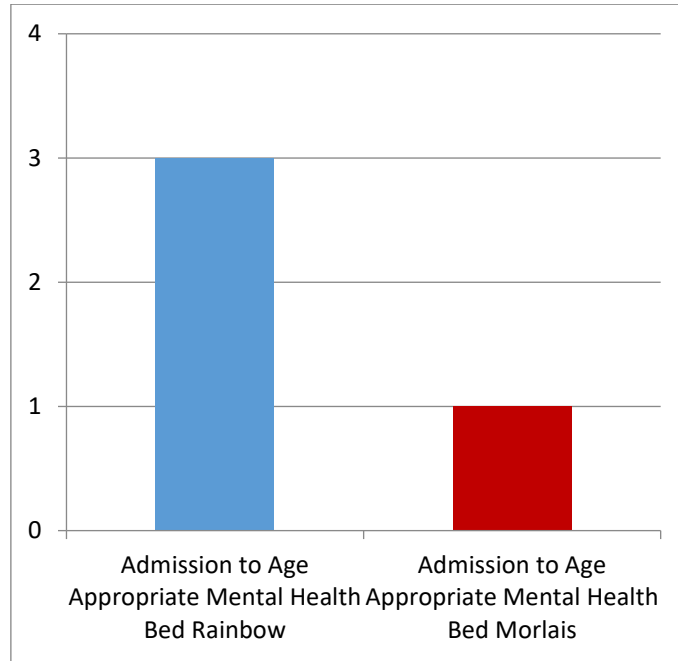
Admission to an adult mental health ward can be a frightening experience and every attempt is made to consider the least restrictive alternative for admission. In the majority of cases a young person is admitted to the designated unit on Cilgerran Ward supported by staff from the mental health unit.

In line with the guidance, the staff have received additional training in safeguarding young people and in addition the staff on Morlais ward have all undertaken the following:

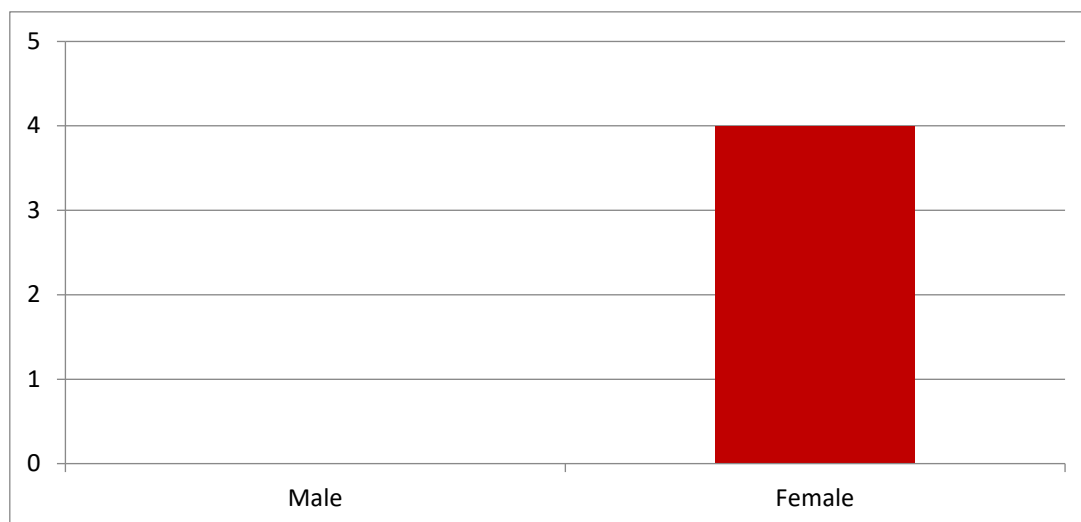
- Safeguarding Children Level 3 Training
- Have a valid Enhanced DBS in place
- Undertaken specific training on the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people
- Training on the Mental Health Act and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

All admissions to the mental health bed must be reported, initially internally as a DATIX, and followed by a Serious Untoward Incident report to the Delivery Unit in line with the Welsh Government’s Admission Guidance Document.

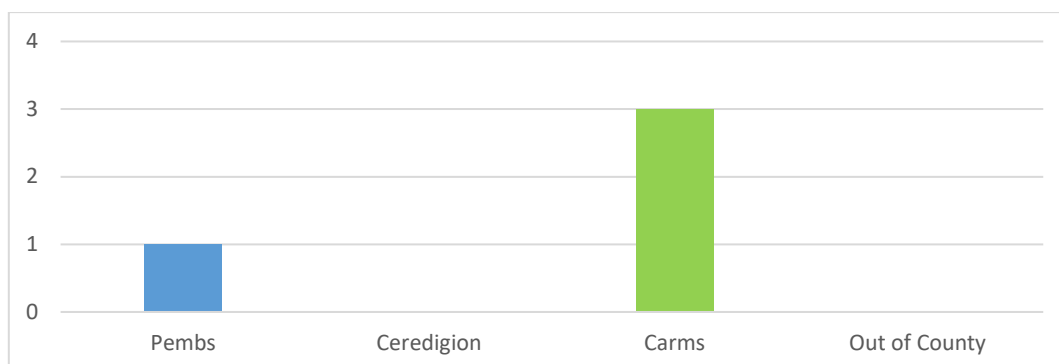
Q2 Admissions to the age appropriate bed on the Rainbow bed and Morlais Adult Mental Health Ward Glangwili Hospital site:



Q2 Admission to Age Appropriate Mental Health Bed Rainbow / Morlais Bed by gender:



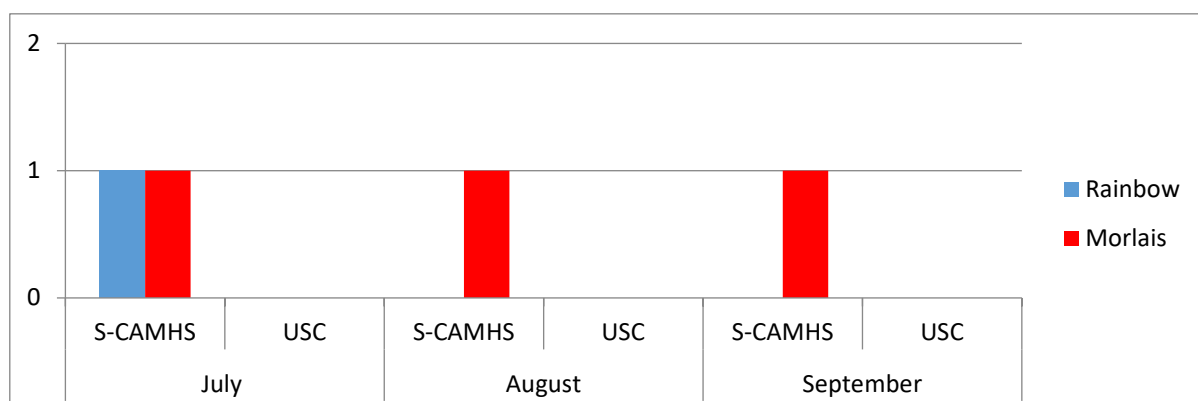
Q2 Admissions to Rainbow / Morlais Bed according to Locality:



Admissions to Paediatric Age Appropriate Bed (Rainbow Unit, Non reportable)

Specialist CAMHS records for Quarter 2 2023-24 are outlined above with 4 Admissions in total, with 3 Admissions to the Paediatric bed and 1 Admissions to the Adult Mental Health Ward (Morlais). There were fewer admissions over the summer months although these tended to be extended periods of admission.

Q2 Admissions to Rainbow / Morlais split by admitting team:



Mental Health Act Status

We received NO activity for under 18's during Quarter 1 under the Mental Health Act:

Admission Outcomes

	Discharged Home	Onward Admission	Remains on Ward
Rainbow	2	1	0
Morlais	1	0	0

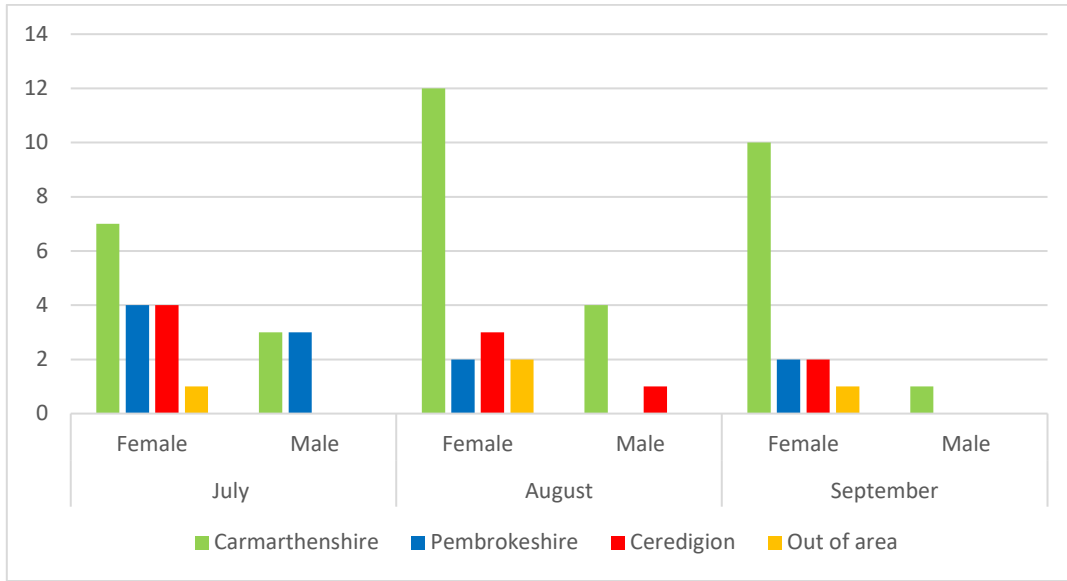
Admissions relating to Self-Harm

Within HDUHB there are robust systems in place for S-CAMHS to provide a mental health assessment, following referral from the Paediatric ward where any young person is admitted following an episode of self harm. The reason for admission is generally following an overdose but, on occasions, it can be following deliberate cutting or an attempted hanging.

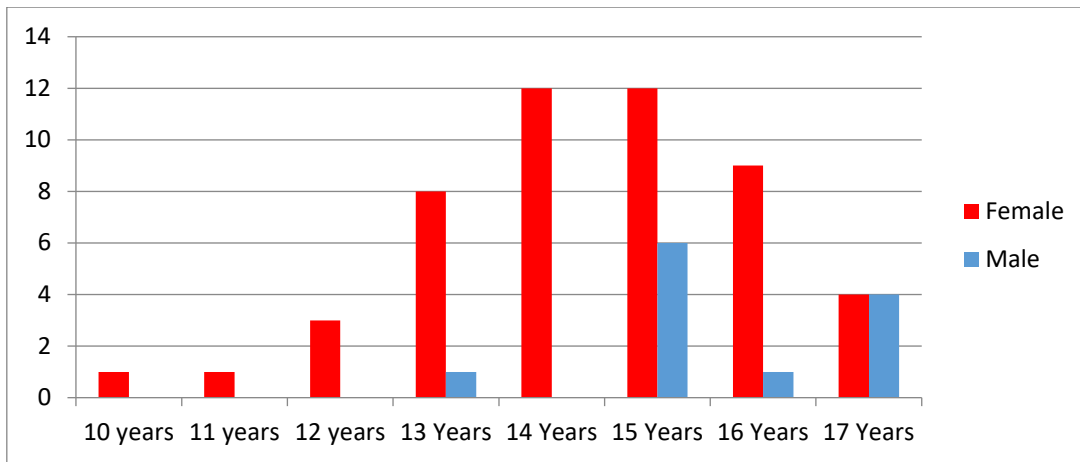
All overdose/self harm admissions receive a follow up appointment within three working days to monitor risk and provide support. There is a robust Pathway in place along with Guidance for admission of all young people who present following self harm in order that a comprehensive mental health assessment and risk management plan can be agreed. Where appropriate, referral to the Safeguarding team and/or Social Services may be considered.

The following table details the numbers of admissions following Deliberate Self Harm (DSH) Quarter 2 2023/2024 for the 3 Local Authority Areas:

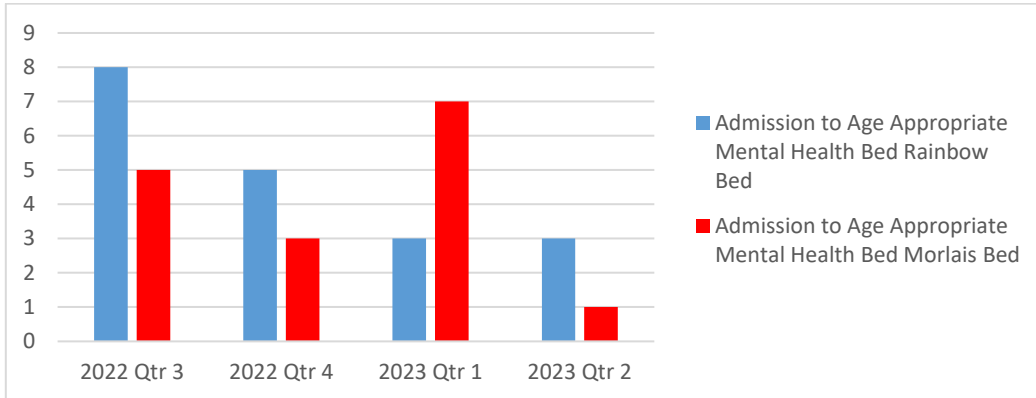
Q2 Self-harm / Overdose Admission Statistics split by gender and locality:



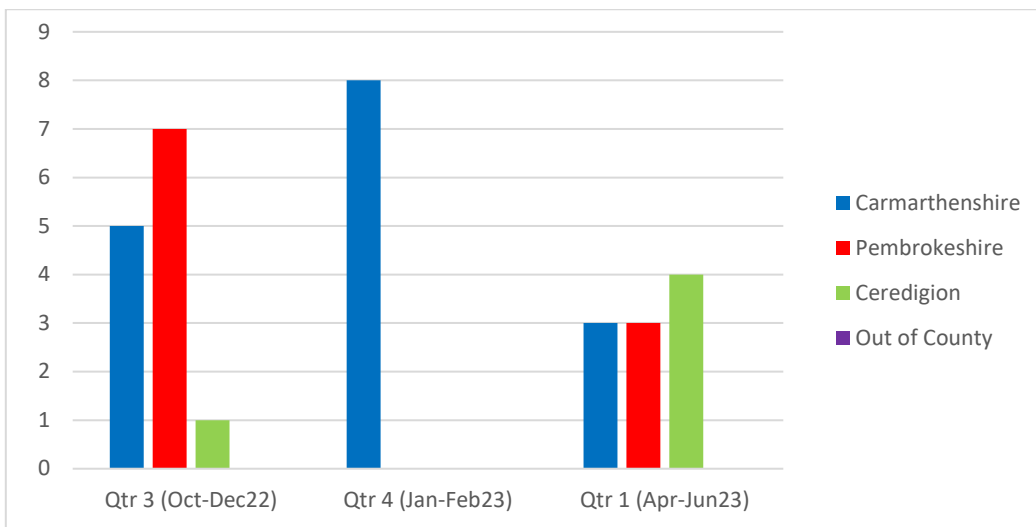
Q2 Self-harm / Overdose Admission Statistics split by gender and age profile:



Comparison Data (last 12 months) - Age Appropriate Bed

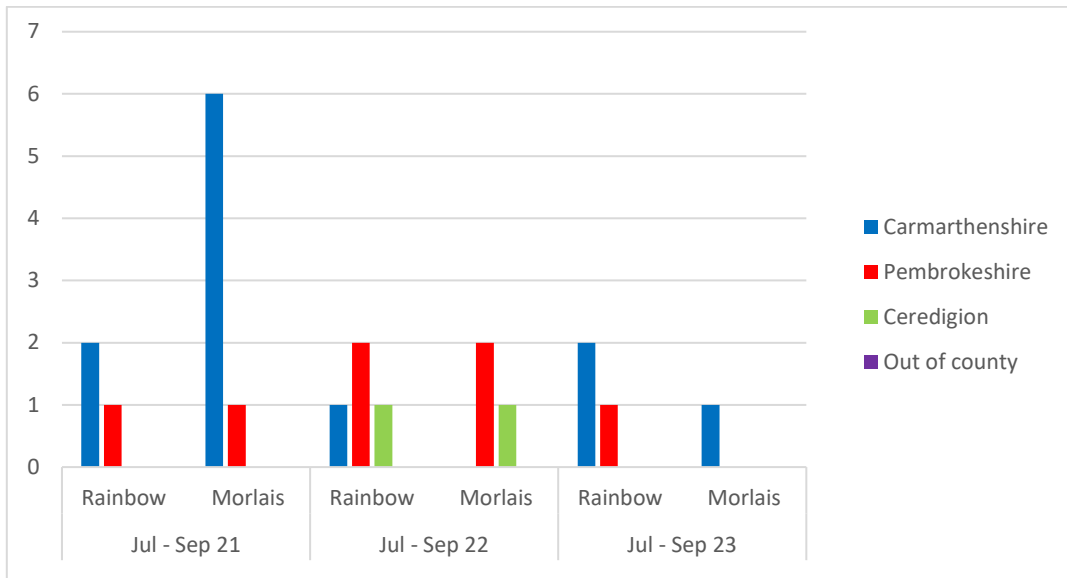


Admission Trend comparison by locality (last 12 months)



Annual Admission Comparison by locality

The following graph compares the numbers of admissions for Quarter 2 2023/2024 against the number of admissions for the same quarter of 2022/2023 and 2021/2022, further defined by locality.



Advocacy

In line with the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2012, Health Boards are expected to ensure that access to Advocacy Services is in place, as per Part 4 of the Measure, for any individual admitted into hospital. All young people admitted to Morlais Ward are asked on admission if they would like access to an Independent Mental Health Advocate. The expected performance target is that 100% of clients are offered this and this information is recorded and reported via our Information Analyst.

On Cilgerran Ward, information is provided to young people on admission on the availability of access to the Advocacy Service. However, the above performance standard is not applicable therefore data is not routinely collated.

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CWMPAS LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUP

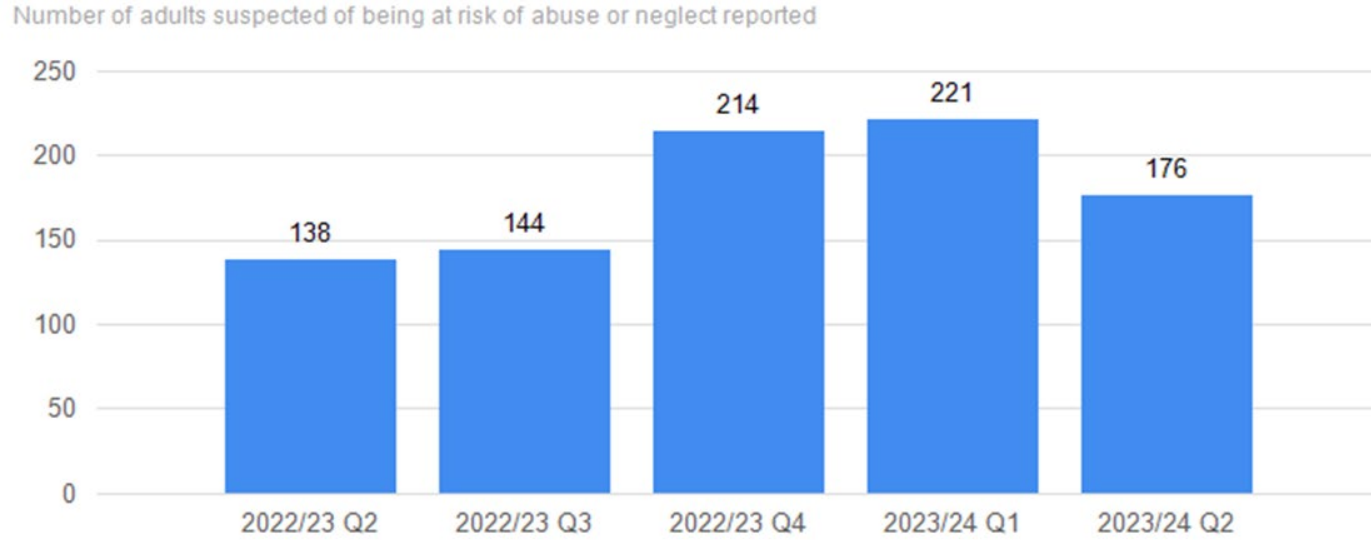
Performance Management Report – Safeguarding Adults

Quarter: 2

1/7/23 – 30/9/23

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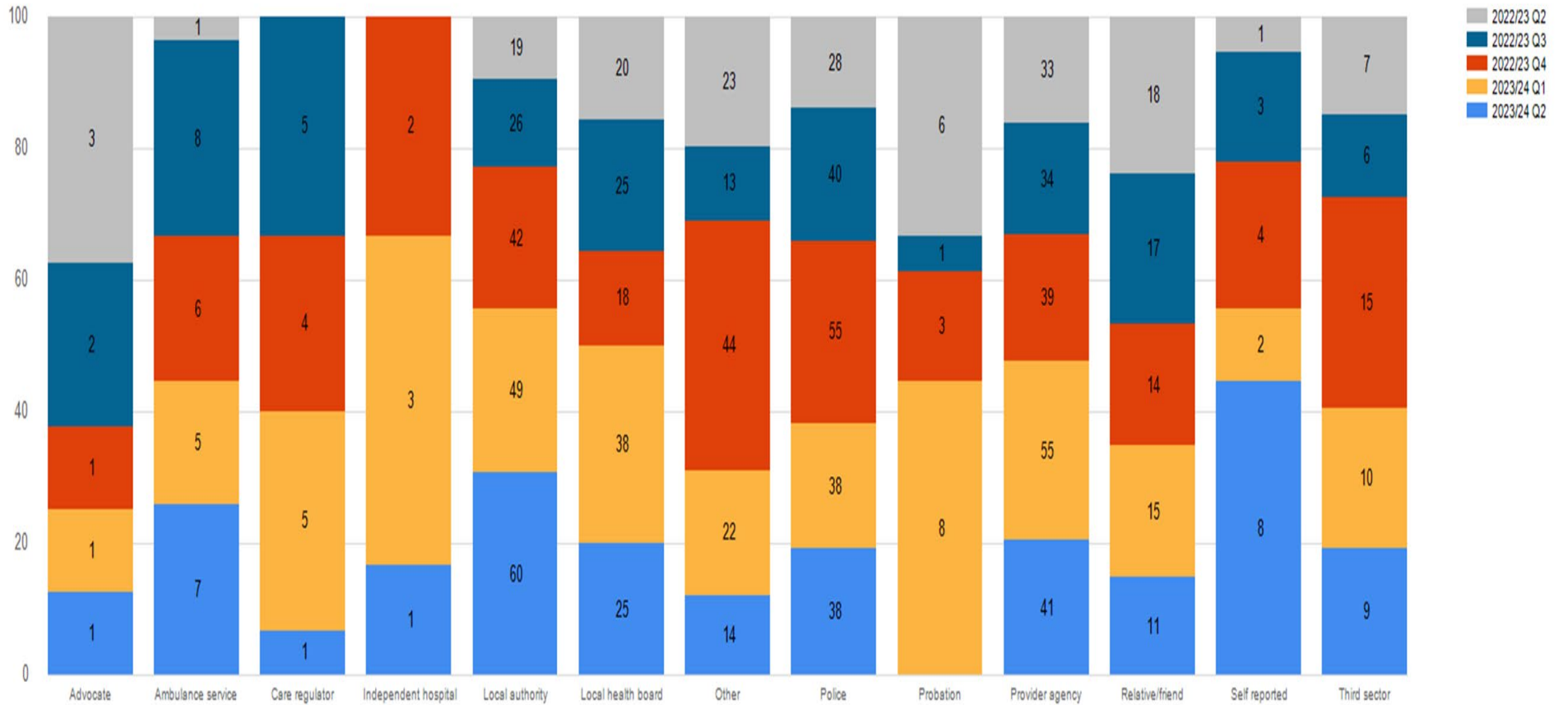
Quarter 2 Overview





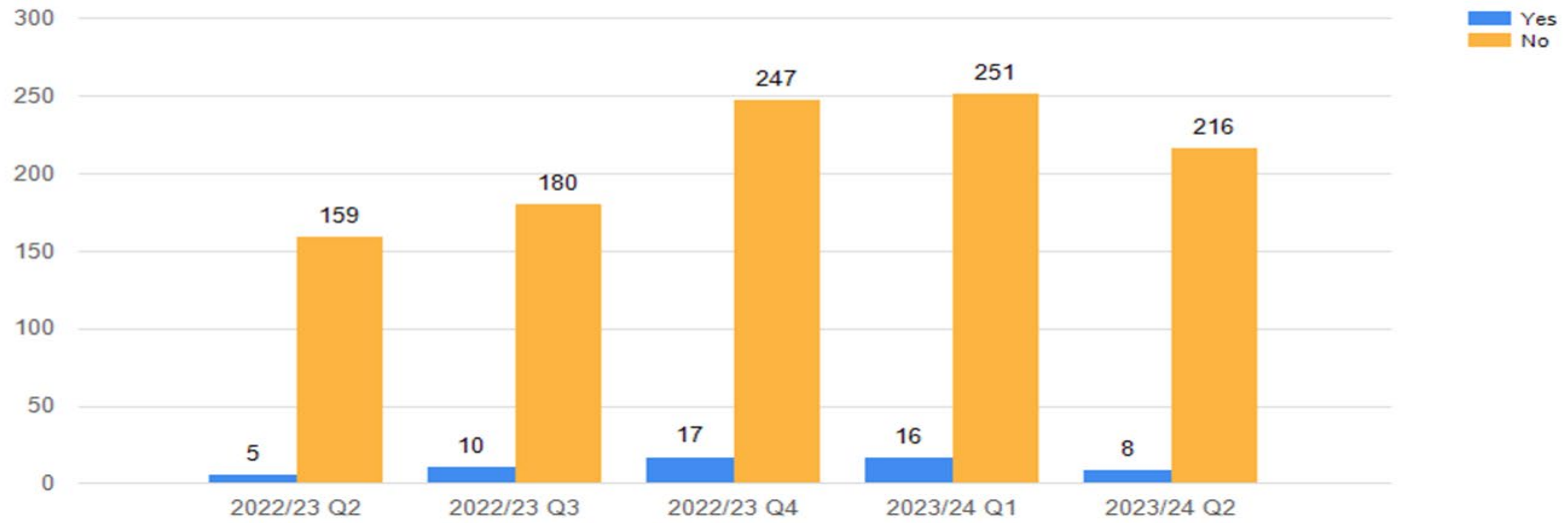
Quarter	Month	Reports
2022/23 Q2	August	42
	July	68
	September	49
2022/23 Q3	December	45
	November	73
	October	62
2022/23 Q4	February	71
	January	74
	March	102
2023/24 Q1	April	54
	June	106
	May	91
2023/24 Q2	August	83
	July	75
	September	58

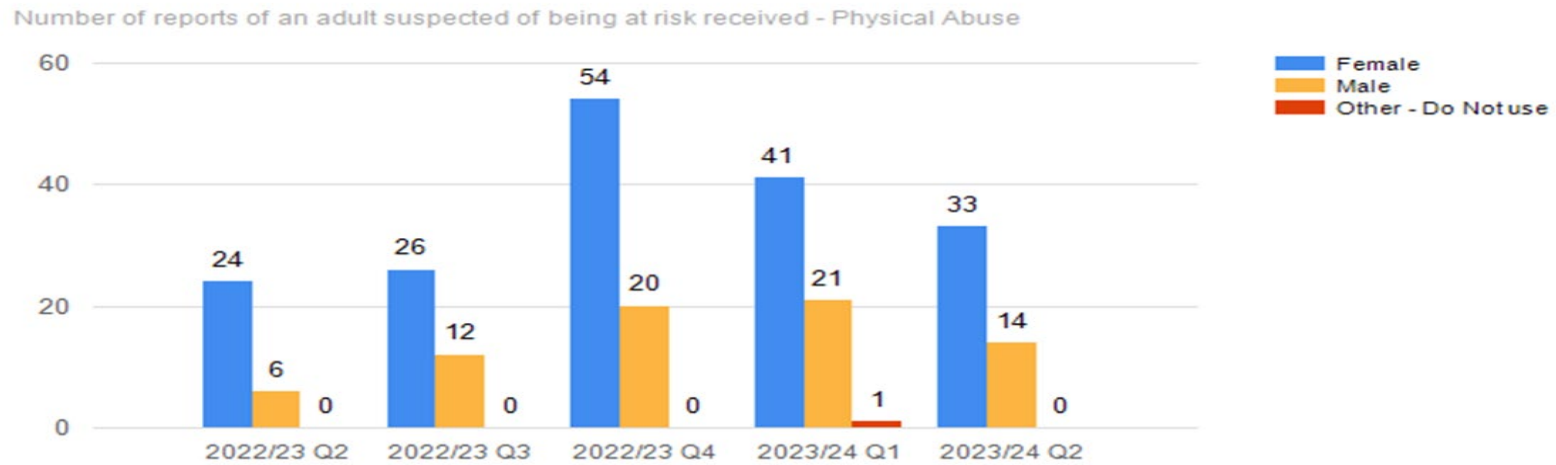
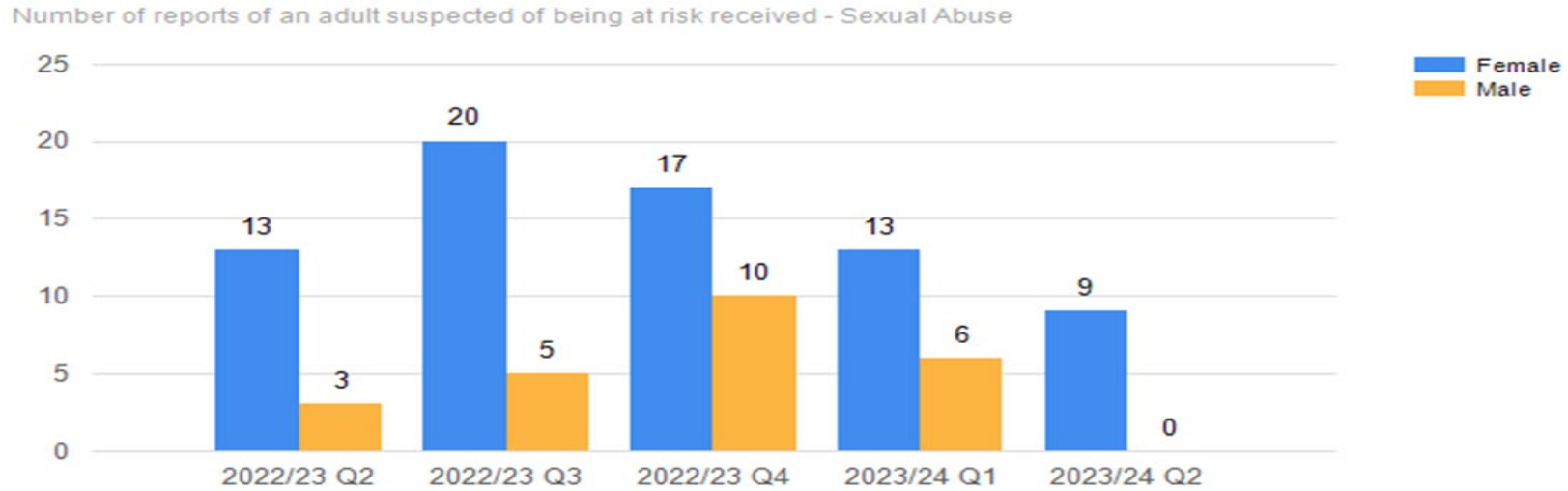
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received -Source of Report



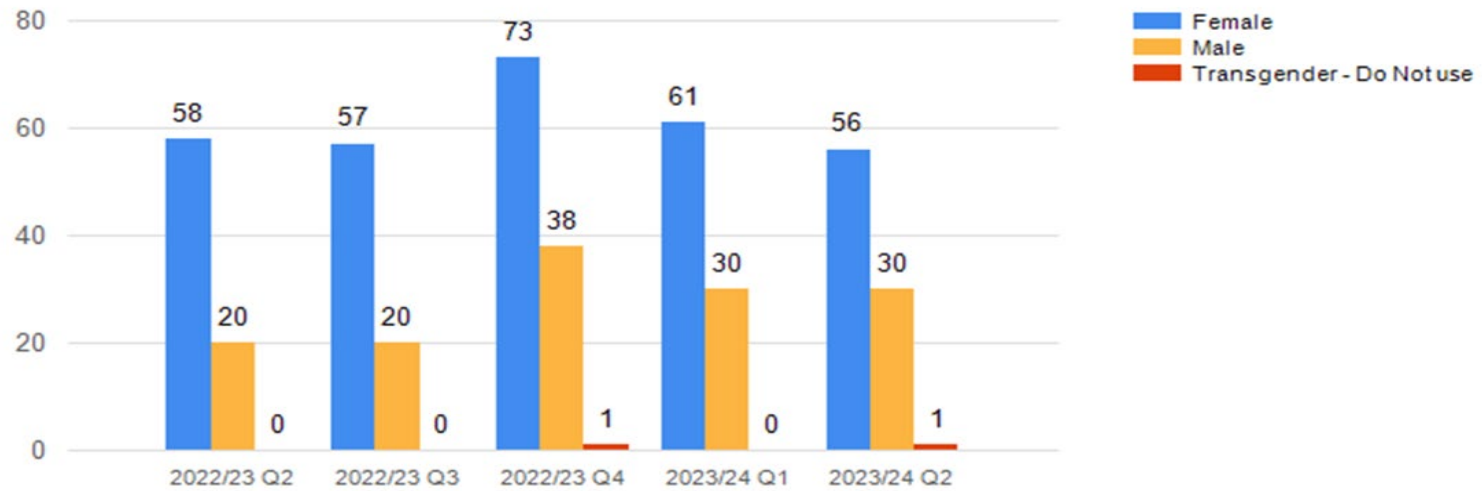
Report Source	Quarter					Total
	2022/23 Q2	2022/23 Q3	2022/23 Q4	2023/24 Q1	2023/24 Q2	
Advocate	3	2	1	1	1	8
Ambulance service	1	8	6	5	7	27
Care regulator	0	5	4	5	1	15
Independent hospital	0	0	2	3	1	6
Local authority	19	26	42	49	60	196
Local health board	20	25	18	38	25	126
Other	23	13	44	22	14	116
Police	28	40	55	38	38	199
Probation	6	1	3	8	0	18
Provider agency	33	34	39	55	41	202
Relative/friend	18	17	14	15	11	75
Self reported	1	3	4	2	8	18
Third sector	7	6	15	10	9	47

Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received - DA Notifications

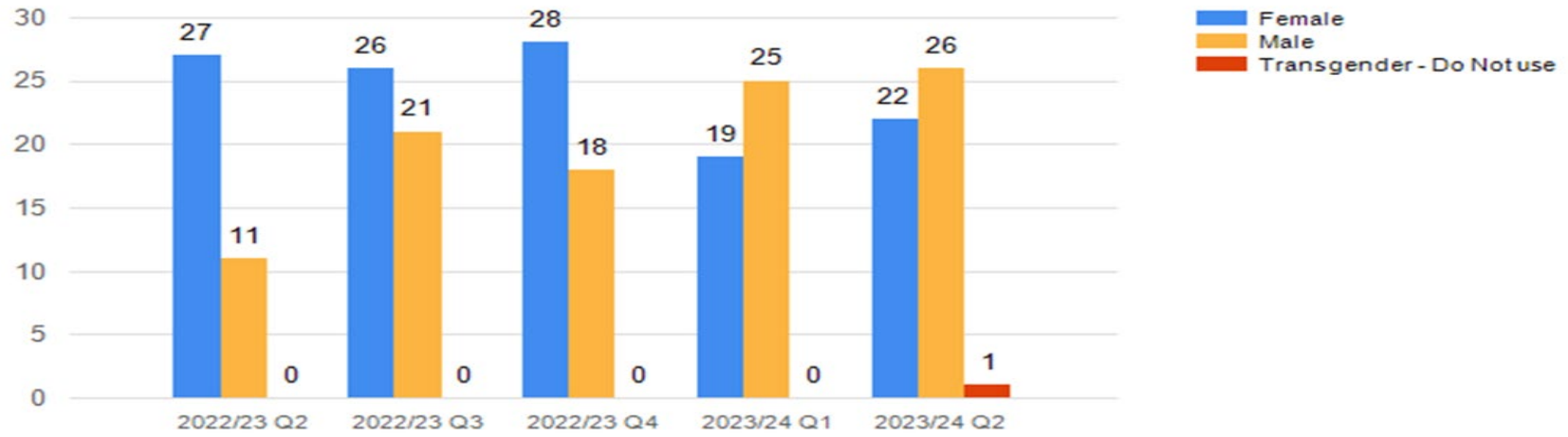




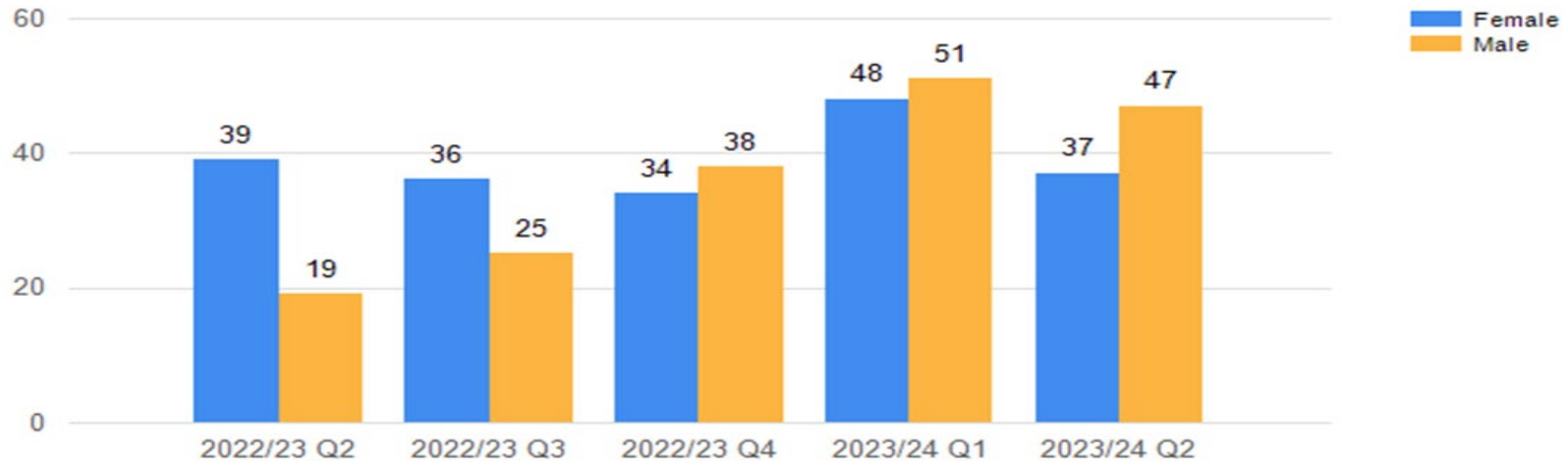
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received - Emotional/Psychological Abuse



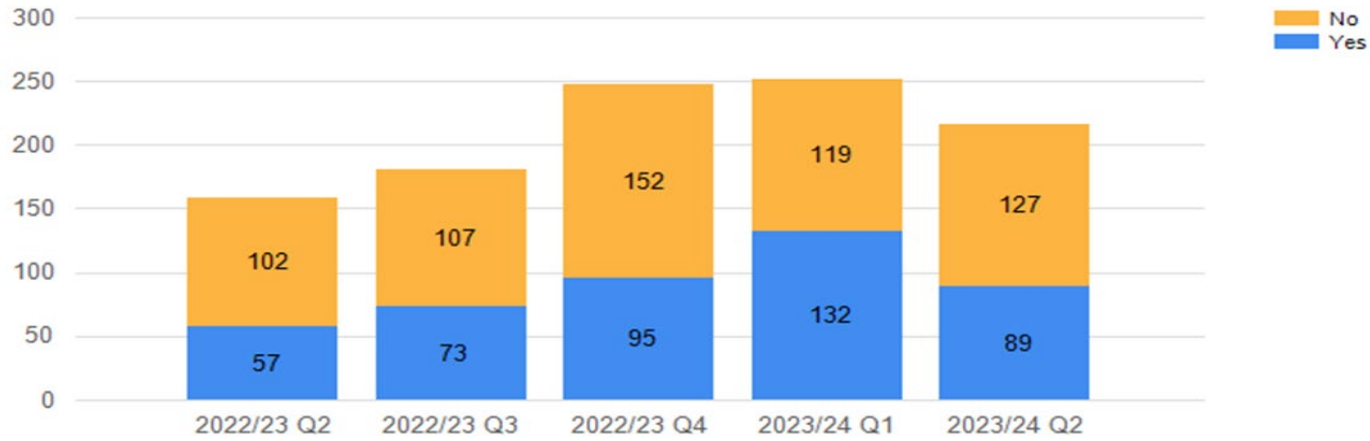
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received - Financial Abuse



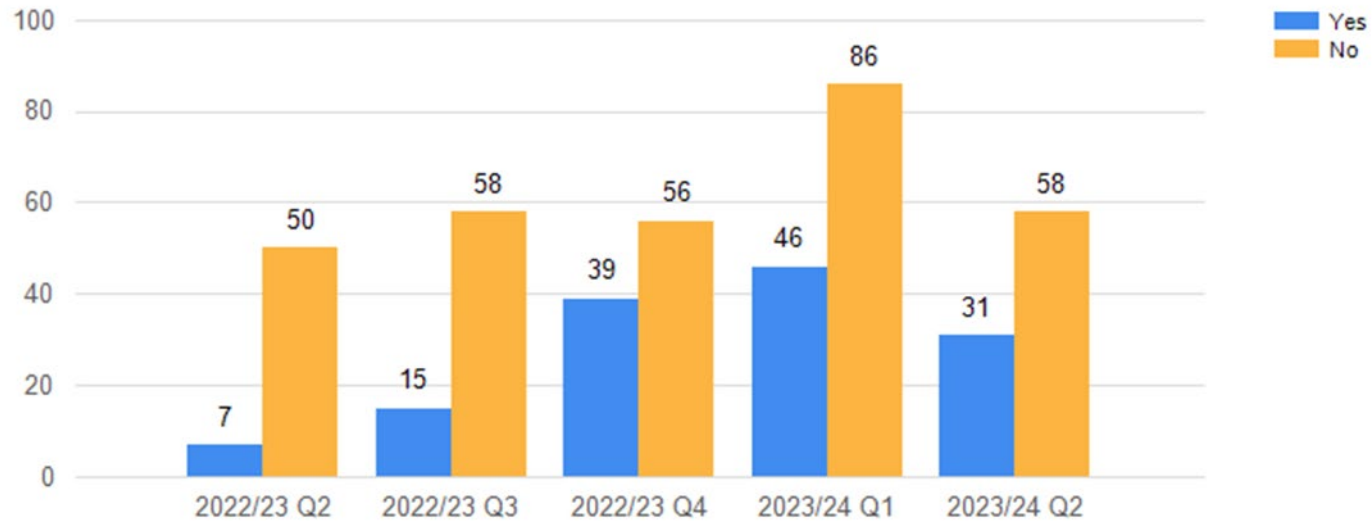
Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received - Neglect

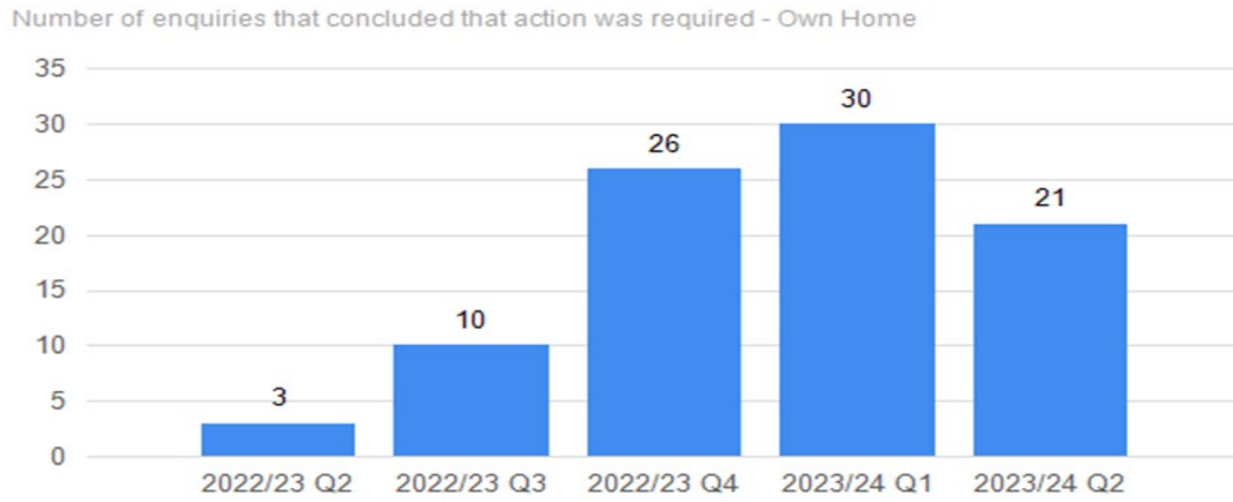


Number of reports received that proceeded to an enquiry

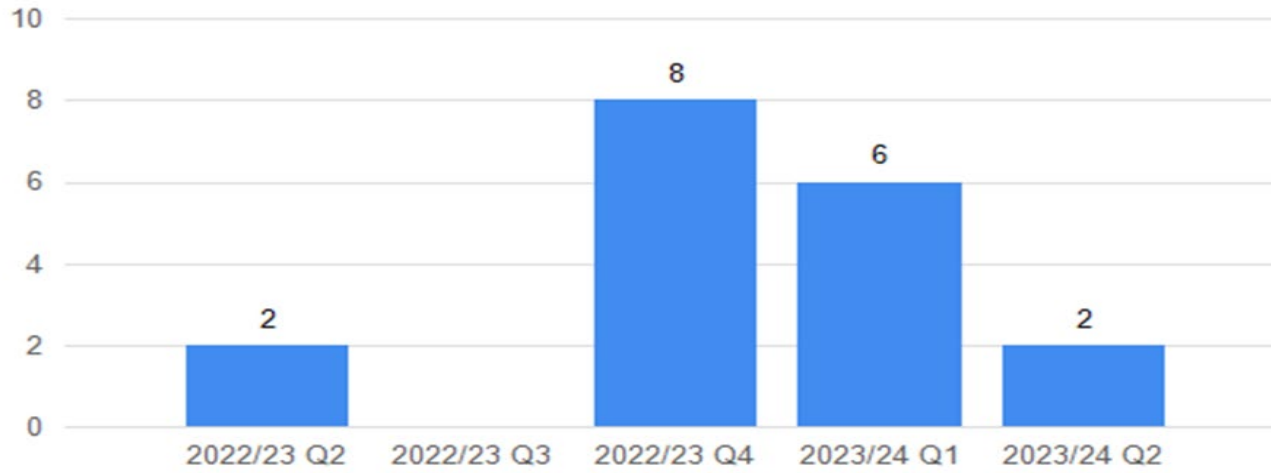


Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required

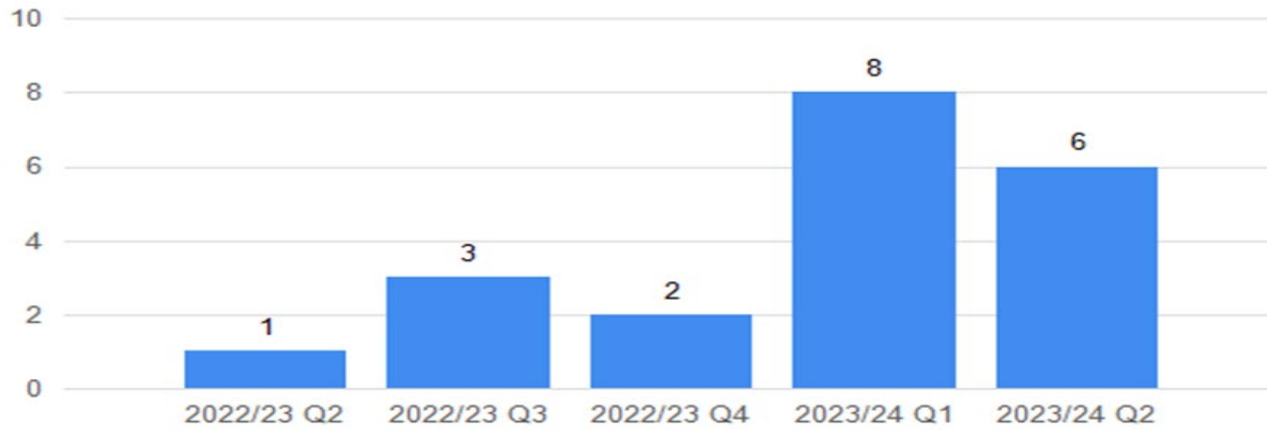




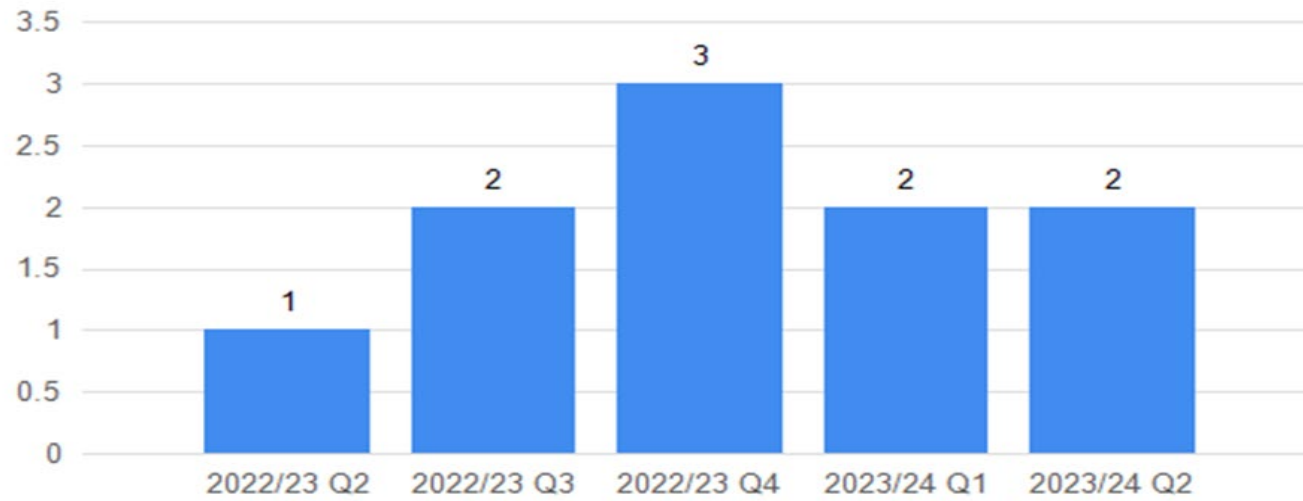
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Community



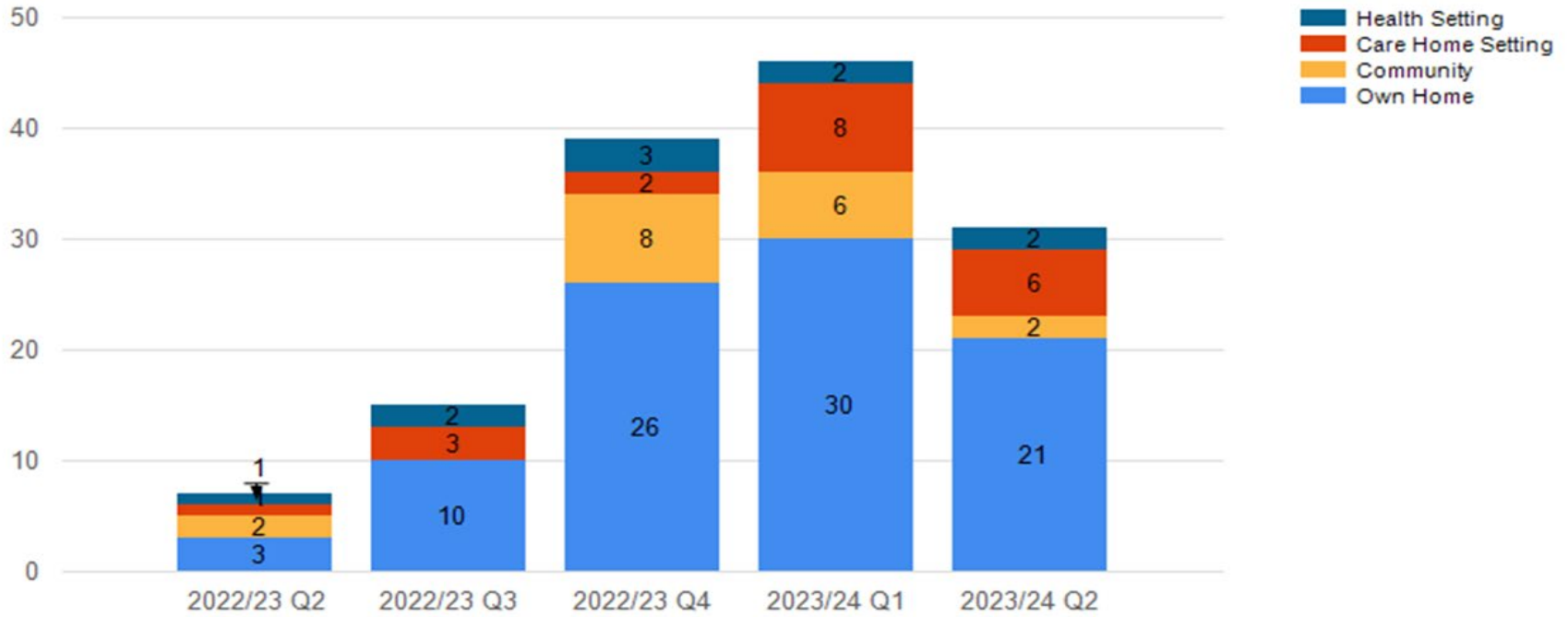
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Care Home Setting



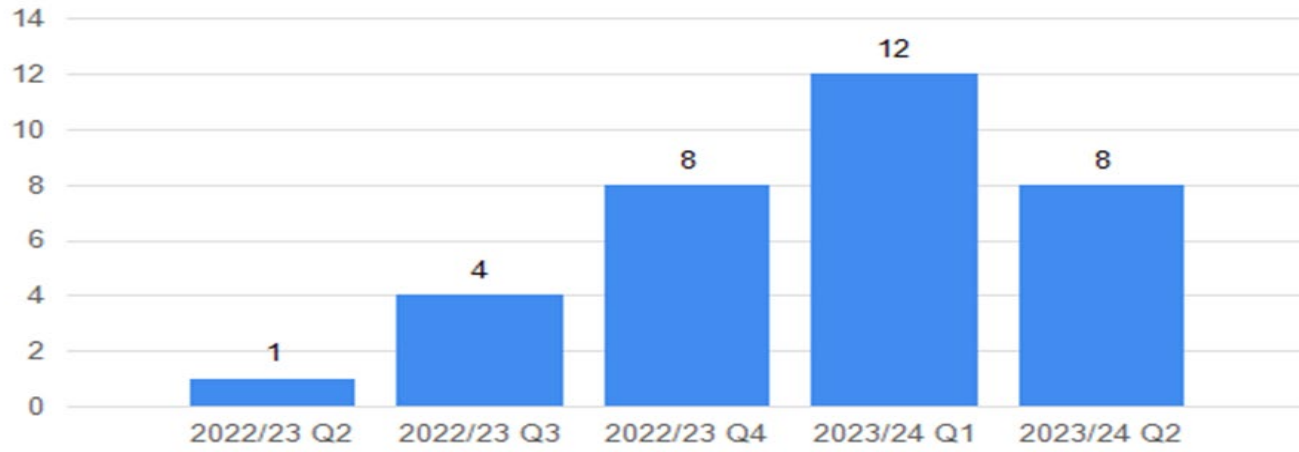
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Health Setting



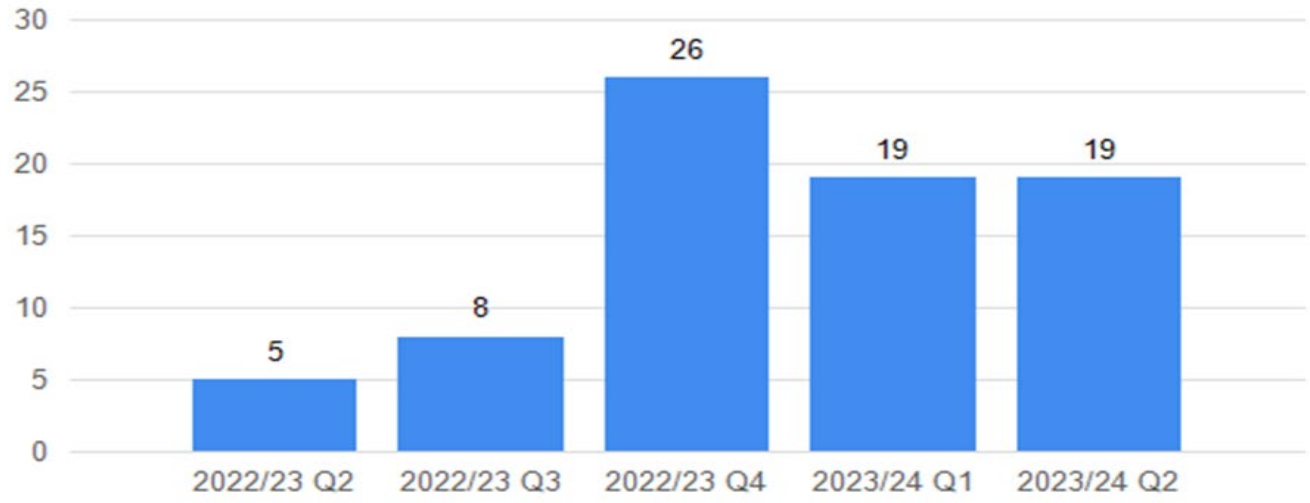
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Place



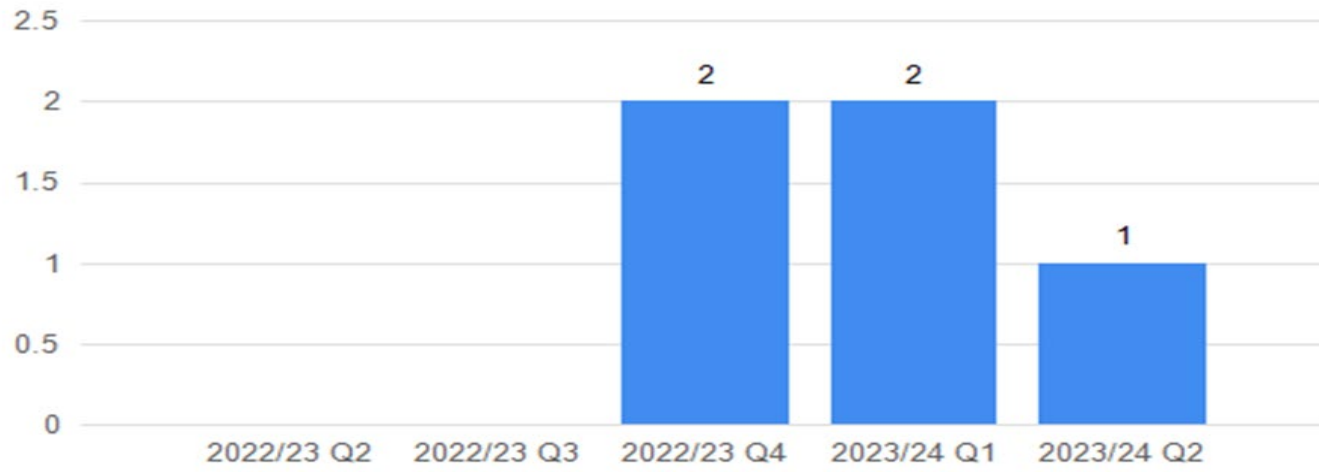
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Paid Employee



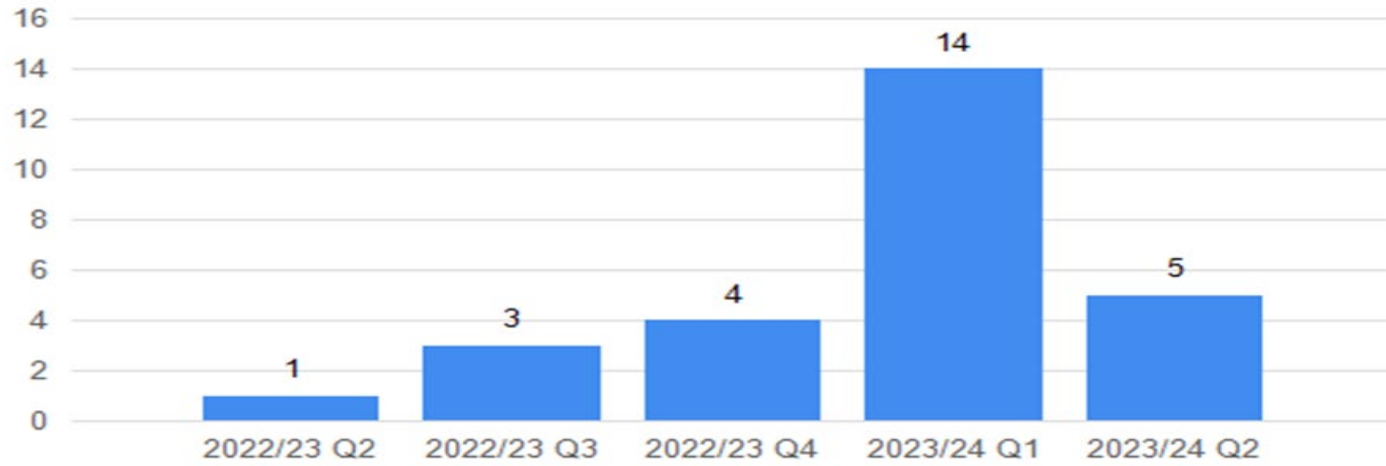
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Relative / Friend



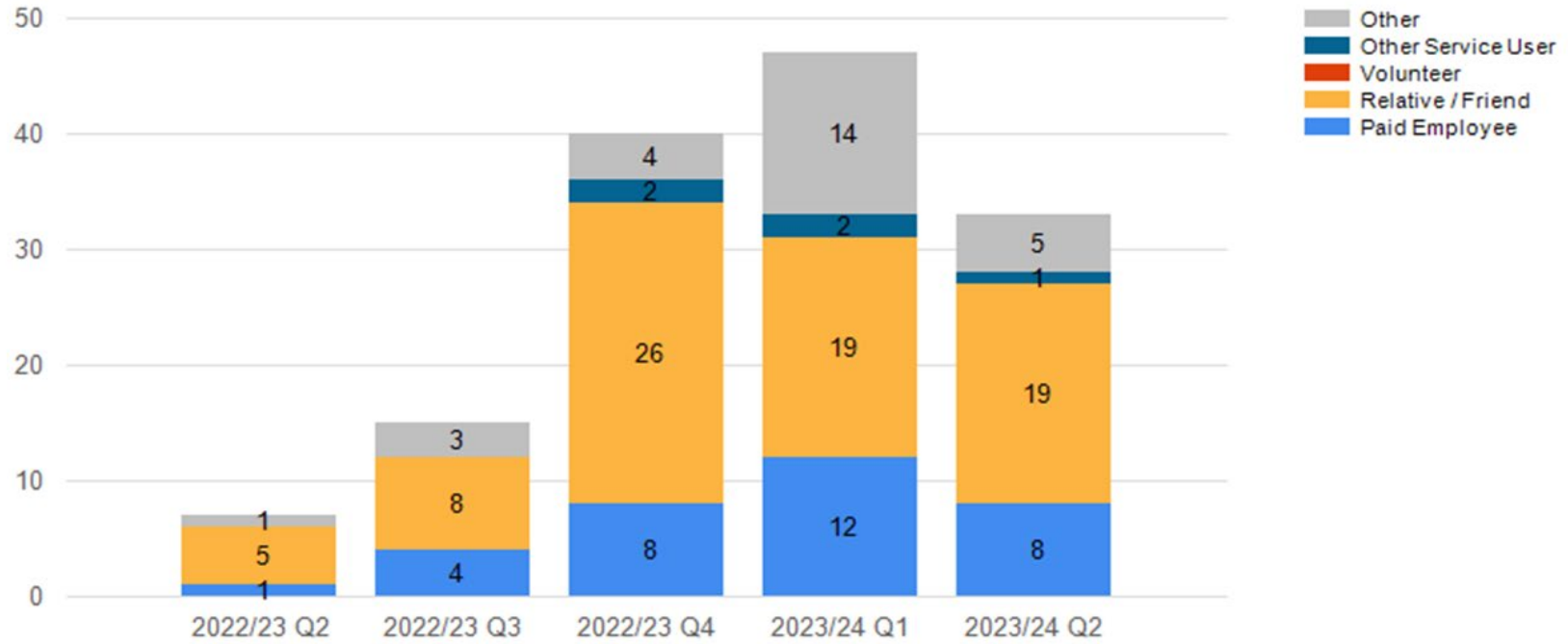
Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Other Service User



Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Other



Number of enquiries that concluded that action was required - Person



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