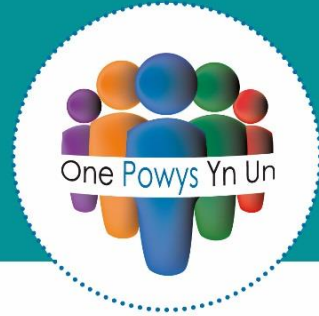


# Well-being Assessment

Powys Public Service Board

2017



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## 1. Introduction from Chair of Powys Public Services Board

*On behalf of Powys Public Services Board I am pleased to present our Well-being Assessment 2016.*

The Powys Public Services Board (PSB) is a partnership of the county's public sector organisations who have worked together to produce this assessment as a first step in developing a plan to produce a positive outlook for our future generations. We are required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to prepare a Local Well-being Plan setting out how we will improve the well-being of its communities, against seven national goals (see section 9 for more detail).

The public sector continues to face unprecedented financial pressure and more than ever needs to have a clear understanding about what it wants to achieve in the coming years.

This year, the council's funding from the Welsh Government – which makes up more than 70 per cent of our finance – was cut by 0.5 per cent, the reduction coming on top of a series of disappointing budgets in recent years.

As a response to the financial environment and to manage ever increasing service pressures the council has been forced to reduce overall spending by nearly £68m since 2012 and will need to cut a further £26m from spending in the next three financial years.

Before we can set out a plan we have to understand the pressures that our communities are facing now and how they could influence the future. This assessment looks at a range of data, evidence and research, and provides a comprehensive picture of the well-being of local people and communities now and how they could influence the future. It looks at economic, social, environmental and cultural factors that impact on people's daily lives, issues such as health, access to employment and education/training opportunities, condition of housing and access to transport.

We have engaged with residents, both young and old, businesses and stakeholders through a variety of methods, including the county council's residents' attitude survey, over the past 18 months to get as much information as possible.

The information helped identify 31 issues and analysed them in detail – see section 3. We have concentrated on the most important issues, the rural nature of Powys is a key factor but we need to do more to understand how this impacts well-being.

Analysis by stakeholders found that the three areas that impact most negatively on the national well-being goals are people's ability to travel around the county, suitable accommodation options for older people / living independently and poverty and deprivation. Factors found to have a positive impact on the goals include adequacy of childcare provision, health prevention, tourism and the county's environment.

Our assessment (see section 5) explains these results including an assessment of the long-term impact if nothing changes. We have identified issues that are most important locally and looked

at how they can be addressed. Initial ideas for responding to the emerging priorities are outlined in section 8. These ideas will be explored in more detail as we develop our well-being plan.

We are using our findings to set well-being objectives and these will provide the framework for our Well-being plan, due to be published in May 2018. The Well-being plan will replace our current 'One Powys Plan' and we will report progress annually.

As we prepare our plan, we welcome your views and would encourage you to take part at planned engagement events, details will be available on the Powys website - <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/>

Our assessment will be a living document and will evolve as we gather and assess data to develop our plan for improving the well-being of current and future generations.

Our timeline for developing the well-being plan:



**Councillor Barry Thomas**, Chair of Powys Public Services Board

## 2. Key characteristics of Powys

# 132,642



The population of Powys was **132,642** in 2015, with just **26 persons per square kilometre**, making Powys the sparsest and most rural county in Wales and among the sparsest in the UK.

Created by Google, 2014  
Wales Board Project

The population of Powys peaked in 2011 and has been falling since. The latest projections for Powys have its population falling by 8% in 2039, the largest fall among authorities in Wales.

- In 2015, **15%** of the population of Powys was aged 15 or under (UK 18%),
- **59%** were of working age (UK 64%),
- **26%** were aged 65 or over (UK 18%).



# 98.4%

 of the population of Powys are white (Wales: 95.6%)

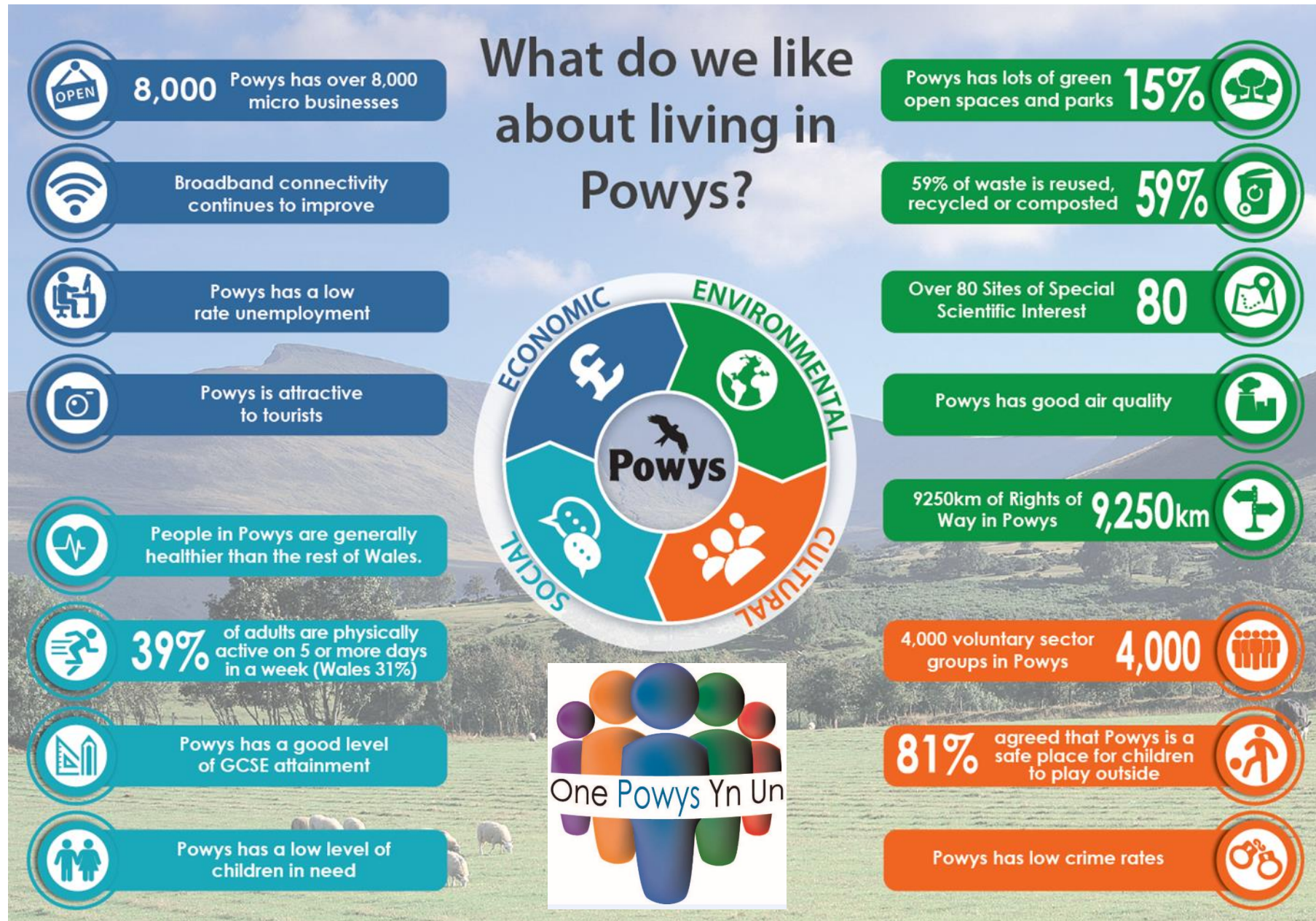
Created by Maths Division  
From NISPS Project

Most people in Powys were born in the UK according to the 2011 Census, with 400 born in Ireland, 1,100 from 'old' EU countries and 1,200 from member of the EU who had joined the EU after April 2001. 200 more came from the rest of Europe, 600 from Africa, 1,300 from Asia, 500 from The Americas and 300 from Australasia. (Although we have used the most up to date published date, this is 5 years out of date and we would expect some changes to these figures).

- In 2015, **5,900** people migrated into Powys and **5,500** migrated out of Powys, with about 400 of each of these two flows being international migrants.
- Migrants flowing out from Powys are usually aged 15-29, but the largest flows of people moving into Powys are also aged 15-29. About **2,000** people in these age groups migrated out of Powys and **1,500** moved in.
- “myth busting” Migration among retired people is at a much lower level than these flows, only **12%** of the flow into Powys is among this age group and more people among the retired left the county than came in. Migration in Powys is dominated by people aged 15-29 and not the retired. 1.6% of people aged 65 and over in Powys in 2015 migrated out of the county. This compares to an estimated 12% of 20 to 24 year olds. 3.5% of 25-64 year olds migrated out of the county.



The image below highlights some of the positive aspects of well-being identified by citizens.



## 3. Key findings from our assessment

We began the process of assessing well-being in Powys with the collation of nearly 300 data sets from a variety of sources. A number of statutory reviews and assessments have also been taken into account as part of preparing this assessment.

The data was grouped into five repositories to build up a common data set and evidence base for the assessment. In order to analyse the data sets in more detail, five working groups were set up:

- Social (Early Life & Young Adult)
- Social (Adult Life & Older People)
- Culture and Community (including Community & Local)
- Economy
- Environment

Each working group consisted of representatives from all statutory PSB partners and some non-statutory partner organisations. Powys PSB agreed to divide Powys into seven community areas in order to better understand the state of well-being at a local level.

All of the data collected for the Powys well-being assessment has been collated, reviewed and grouped into 31 key findings. Each key finding describes the current state and experience of people's well-being, including strengths and assets as well as challenges and issues.

A lead officer was assigned to each of the key findings, they assessed each key finding in terms of its impact on the seven national Well-being goals.

Please see below for a summary of each of the 31 key findings.

### Social



#### Carers:

Powys has a total of 16,154 unpaid carers, 65% of these are over 50 and 39% are retired. Their health is typically below average, and some carers are now providing more than 50 hours of care each week. Unpaid carers are more prevalent in the south of Powys, particularly around Ystradgynlais. The number of unpaid carers is expected to increase over the coming years due to the increasing ageing population.



#### Health Inequalities:

Life expectancy in Powys is above average for Wales and continues to improve. However there has been a growing inequality gap appearing between genders, with females tending to outlive males, as well as between the least and most well off (not yet to levels of statistical significance). This gap is expected to widen over the next 10 years.

Healthy life expectancy is also unequally distributed. 58% of adults are overweight or obese (Wales 59%), yet Powys citizens are generally healthier than the rest of Wales. 20% of adults smoke (Wales: 20%) and 24% of adults in Powys binge drink at least once a week (Wales: 24%). This will put a strain on health services in the county.



#### **Prevention:**

More people are regularly active in Powys than in the rest of Wales, nearly 58% adults are overweight or obese and this is predicted to continue to rise. Powys adults report significantly higher levels of emotional well-being than in the rest of Wales, and the assets required for healthy communities appear to be more prevalent in Powys than elsewhere. According to Age UK, 6-13% of the elderly are often or always lonely, and social isolation is associated with an increased risk of death from any cause (Welsh Government, 2014).



#### **Violence against Women, domestic abuse and sexual violence:**

In 2016 Powys has seen a 10% rise in the number of domestic violence incidents being reported, compared with 2015. Domestic violence appears to be more prevalent in the north of Powys, where BME (Black, Minority and Ethnic) and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) groups are also more likely to be affected. Many crimes are still not reported, and the number of incidents is expected to rise over the coming years. This rise continues an existing trend with an overall increase of 75% since 2010.



#### **Mental Health:**

Improving mental health is a critical issue for people of all ages and its impact is cross cutting, affecting life chances, learning, home life, employment, safety, physical health, independence and life expectancy. One in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year, and 25% of GP consultations are used for people with mental health problems. 11 years is the average time lost to life for males with mental health problems. Women with mental health problems on average lose six years. 8% of the Powys population report being treated for depression or anxiety and it is one of the top three leading causes of disability.



#### **Dementia:**

Dementia prevalence increases with age, roughly doubling every five years for people aged over 65 years. Dementia affects 20% of people over 80 years of age in the UK and one in 14 people over 65. In Powys it is thought that only 39.6% of the projected number of people with dementia have a diagnosis. It is estimated there are 4,256 people in Powys aged over 65 with dementia.





### **Reduced Child Population:**

The number of children in Powys is expected to decrease over the next 10 years. There has been a drop in birth rates since 1991, it is estimated that by 2035 there will be 20% fewer 0-2 year olds in Powys. In addition, many young people are choosing to leave Powys to attend education or seek employment. This change in the population is expected to have a number of negative effects on services such as schools, due to projected falling pupil numbers, increasing cost of services, and weakening of our economy.



### **Children with Disabilities:**

Autistic spectrum disorders are the most common presentation of disability within children in Powys. In 2016, 155 open cases were referred to the team (a decrease of 13% since 2012). From our caseload, 52% of children with disabilities live in north Powys.



### **Young People's Mental Well-being:**

People are increasingly using mental health services in Powys, particularly young people. This is placing more pressure on the service. This increase is partly attributed to improved access to information and counselling services.



### **Childcare Sufficiency:**

There are enough childcare places at present to meet need. However, they are not evenly distributed around the county, leaving some areas with a surplus of places and others with a deficit. Demand for childcare places will increase from September 2017 following changes to the admission age for children to start school. Schools will now only have one intake of pupils at the start of the school year (September) following a child's fourth birthday. The Welsh Government runs a three year old funded education scheme which provides 10 hours of free childcare per week in a pre-school setting. However, in Powys this will rise to 12.5 hours in September 2017.



### **Young Carers:**

The number of young carers is increasing, with most providing up to 19 hours of care. Some young carers, due to their responsibilities, are missing out on school time. This can have an effect on their education and future prospects. Due to the increasing elderly population, more young people are finding themselves with caring responsibilities.

### Exclusions and Free School Meals:



Powys has the lowest percentage of children entitled to free school meals in Wales. Current data shows an attainment gap between students who do receive free school meals and those who don't. The number of exclusions has remained consistent, with some variation between schools.



### Vulnerable Children:

The most common age group of vulnerable children is 10-15 years old, this makes it hard to find suitable foster parents as their needs are greater. More children are being placed on the child protection register, with neglect being the most common reason. The number of cases referred to the Youth Justice Service has fallen since 2010, along with the number of children in need. Adverse childhood experiences are stressful experiences during childhood. Preventing adverse childhood experiences from happening can benefit not only those children but also future generations.



### Child Obesity:

The majority of four to five year old children in Powys are of a healthy weight. However this is not evenly distributed, 28.4% of the most deprived fifth of 4-5 year old children in Powys are overweight or obese compared with 20.9% of the least deprived fifth. The overall rate of overweight or obese four to five year olds has remained at just under 25% in recent years.



### Educational Attainment:

Powys schools have shown an improvement in attainment in recent years, but there are still some with problematic performance during 2016. There is some variation. Sixth forms are also facing increased competition from other providers, with increasing numbers of students choosing to study outside the county or in England.

## Culture and Community



### Crime rates and public protection:

Powys has the lowest number of crimes overall and the lowest crime rate per 1000 population (Dyfed Powys Police). Crime appears to have risen in Powys over the past several years, this is due to changes in the recording of crime.

There has been an increase in certain crimes in Powys such as sexual offences, doorstep crime and cyber-crime. Newtown has the highest crime rate (21.5%) compared with other areas of Powys (Brecon is ranked second: 15.7% and Llanfair Caereinion is lowest with 2.19%).



### **Suitable Accommodation for Older People / Living independently:**

More people over 65 are now living on their own in Powys, there are 19,000 lone person households out of a total of 59,100 households (2015). Many people are finding it increasingly difficult to perform basic domestic tasks. A total of 859 clients are supported by domiciliary care in Powys, a lack of infrastructure and assistive technology has reduced the viability of independent living. Despite this, there has been an increase in the number of adult clients supported in the county. As our elderly population increases, there will be more demand for suitable accommodation options. By 2035, more people are expected to be living alone and the number of people with dementia is also expected to increase. We will need to accommodate citizens within their local communities, whether that is in their own home, in sheltered or extra care accommodation, or a nursing home.



### **Culture:**

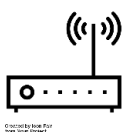
Many arts and culture services are managed by voluntary groups. 19% of citizens said they could speak Welsh (2011 census). The main pockets of Welsh speakers are found in the North West and South West of the county. Promotion of the Welsh language has continued, with an increase in the number of young Welsh speakers since 1991.



### **Community services**

12,900 people are employed in the public sector (2016). A variety of services are provided by the public sector such as 98 schools, 17 branch libraries and 2 mobile libraries, 16 leisure centres, 10 hospitals, 18 fire stations and 14 police stations. The voluntary sector involves over 4,000 groups contributing an estimated £174 million to the economy. Powys has lots of small communities with strong community spirit. 81% of respondents agreed that Powys is a safe place for children to play outside. Other Welsh councils with the highest rating are Anglesey and Gwynedd.

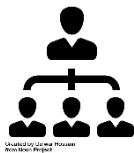
## **Economy**



### **Infrastructure:**

Although superfast broadband has been enabled in many areas of Powys, mobile coverage and internet speeds remain poor in many rural areas of Powys. By June 2017, 96% of

Powys should have access to superfast broadband due to the Superfast Cymru project. Housing affordability (average house price vs average salary) is preventing people from remaining in Powys and poor road and rail links are also reducing access to employment in terms of convenient travel times and suitable connections.



### **Business Growth:**

Powys has a high proportion of micro businesses. Although we have seen a 3% growth in Powys, this is lower than the Welsh average (8%). Self-employment is high, and a large proportion of the population are working part-time jobs on a below average salary. There is also a high reliance on the public sector as a source of employment.



### **Tourism:**

Tourism has continued to grow and provide a £720 million investment to the local economy. Montgomeryshire has the most tourists staying overnight, and southern localities towards Brecon have more day visitors. Tourism is the most prominent in rural areas, with food and drink representing the largest section of the industry in terms of income. There was nearly a 6% growth in tourism during 2014-15, and this may continue in the short term, however there is a risk of tourist numbers going into decline in the future if promotional services do not continue.



### **Employment and Skills:**

Economic activity rates are high in Powys, and we have a very low rate of people claiming unemployment benefits. There are low numbers of people seeking work and productivity in Powys is low compared with the UK, possibly as a result of the large number of people working in part time jobs. Regeneration currently signposts businesses to potential sources of information, advice and funding and plays active role to locate premises. We also help to provide business support to individuals and start-up companies.



### **Poverty and Deprivation:**

Some areas of Powys are very deprived, due to many people in part time employment (46% of women work part-time) or on very low pay. In 2016, average weekly pay in Powys was £366 (Wales: £407, UK: £439). This was a fall of £15 per week in Powys since 2015, whilst Wales rose by £19 and UK by £14. The unemployment rate is 1% (1.3% male, 0.8% female) and Powys has a low number of workless households (15.3%, Wales: 19.4%)



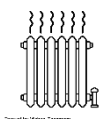
Fuel poverty is high due to lack of access to cheaper fuels such as gas. Home ownership rates are in decline among the younger generation and people are remaining in the rental sector. Travel times to GP surgeries and other public services is extremely poor, Ystradgynlais, in particular is in the worst 10% of areas in Wales.

## Environment



### Renewable energy:

Powys saves the largest amount of Carbon Dioxide and is also the largest low carbon generator in Wales in the biomass, onshore wind, and solar thermal sectors. Photovoltaic solar cells make up a total of 60% of all renewable energy projects in Powys.



### Energy in housing:

Many of our homes are not energy efficient and not connected to the gas network. The majority of these homes rely on other, more carbon intensive forms of heating such as oil, liquid petroleum gas, and coal, which are generally less economical to run. Electricity consumption is high compared to the rest of Wales. As energy prices increase, people are finding it increasingly difficult to heat their homes.



### Your Local Environment

Recycling rates are increasing in Powys, from 50.9% (2012/13) to 59.1% (2015/16). Wales increased 7.9% during the same period.

The number of fly tipping incidents remains below the rest of Wales. We are seeing increased incidents of dog fouling, poor highway cleanliness and graffiti. Recycling remains prominent in terms of a situation that the public feel strongly about.



### Climate Change:

The global climate is changing, including rising sea levels, increasing Carbon Dioxide emissions and higher average temperatures. This could lead to increased instances of flooding in some areas, damage to ecosystems, and increased pests and diseases.



### Resilient Environment:



A healthy, resilient environment creates the conditions for a thriving and sustainable society. We have large areas of woodland (15%), nature reserves and 80 sites of special

scientific interest (SSSI). Just over 70% of the land in Powys is farmed. 85% of Powys is classed as Less Favoured Area, these are areas where agriculture activity is considered difficult. Powys has good air quality and has lower CO2 emissions than the rest of Wales (6.7 tonnes per person compared to 8.7 tonnes for Wales). Evidence shows that our natural environment continues to be put under pressure, for example, several water sources in Powys are contaminated with pollutants and 6,650 properties are at risk from flooding.



### Enjoying the Environment:

The natural environment of Powys - our mountains, rivers, lakes and lowland landscapes give us a fantastic environment in which to live, work and enjoy. They provide a backdrop for the tourist industry and help us lead healthier and better lives. However, of the 9,250km of rights of way in Powys, 40% are open and easy to use, but poor transport links do not make it easy to enjoy the environment.



### Travelling around Powys:

Powys has one of the worst, poorly maintained road networks in Wales, with 5,500km of roads, 1.49 billion kilometres of road traffic (2015), and relatively low traffic congestion. As the elderly population increases, this may have a potential impact on healthcare and statutory services. Most people use their own vehicles for regular travel, only 1% of the population use public buses and people are dissatisfied with the bus service. Powys has 2 railway lines (The Cambrian Line running through Welshpool and Newtown towards Aberystwyth, and The Heart of Wales lines running from Craven Arms to Llanelli) carrying 110,000 passengers a year. Transport services across Powys are not integrated with other county providers and therefore not making best use of our resources.

## 4. What are the challenges for Powys and how does this impact on the well-being goals?

In order to compare and assess the level of impact and whether the current key finding is having a positive or negative affect on well-being, a rating methodology was developed and agreed. The template below shows the rating methodology. The working groups at the challenge events were asked to consider whether the key finding had a positive or negative impact, or even no impact against each of the seven Well-being goals and then considered the severity of the impact.

Well-being Goal	Critical (Direct negative impact)	Substantial (Indirect negative impact)	Moderate (Potential negative impact)	No impact	Moderate (Potential positive impact)	Substantial (Indirect positive impact)	Critical (Direct positive impact)	Comments

A Prosperous Wales (Powys)								
A Resilient Wales (Powys)								
A Healthier Wales (Powys)								
A More Equal Wales (Powys)								
A Wales of Cohesive Communities (Powys)								
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language (Powys)								
A globally Responsible Wales (Powys)								

The ratings given by each of the different groups has been triangulated and moderated to reach an overall rating for each of the 31 key findings. The findings have allowed us to identify the key findings that stakeholders believe are having most detrimental and most favourable impact on the 7 well-being goals.

Our findings have told us that the top three key findings that have a direct negative impact on well-being in Powys are:

- Travelling around Powys
- Suitable accommodation for older people
- Poverty and deprivation.

Most key findings only impacted on one or two well-being goals, *‘Travelling around Powys’*, has a direct negative impact on four well-being goals. Childcare sufficiency is the only key finding which has a direct positive impact on well-being in Powys.





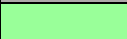



The table below shows the scoring results for the 31 key findings, including those that were classed as having a critical direct negative or positive impact on the well-being of Powys currently.

This assessment analyses current well-being in Powys. In previous assessments, we have not looked ahead to the future. However, the Future Generations Act 2015 has prompted public organisations to think about the longer term implications and may well be crucial in determining the quality of life for future generations. The Future Trends report, produced by Welsh Ministers every five years, has helped us to think about likely future trends affecting economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales.

Following this, we have predicted the likely impact if we do not intervene on current concerns. Our conclusion shows that most key findings are social or environmental issues.

The top 4 key findings in the longer term that may also impact well-being in Powys are:

- Reducing child population impacting business and services in Powys;
- Childcare sufficiency;
- Energy; and
- Our environment.

Key	
	Negative - Critical
	Negative - Substantial
	Negative - Moderate
	No current impact on well-being
	Positive - Moderate
	Positive - Substantial
	Positive - Critical
	Negative - Critical (if no intervention)
	No Score Given



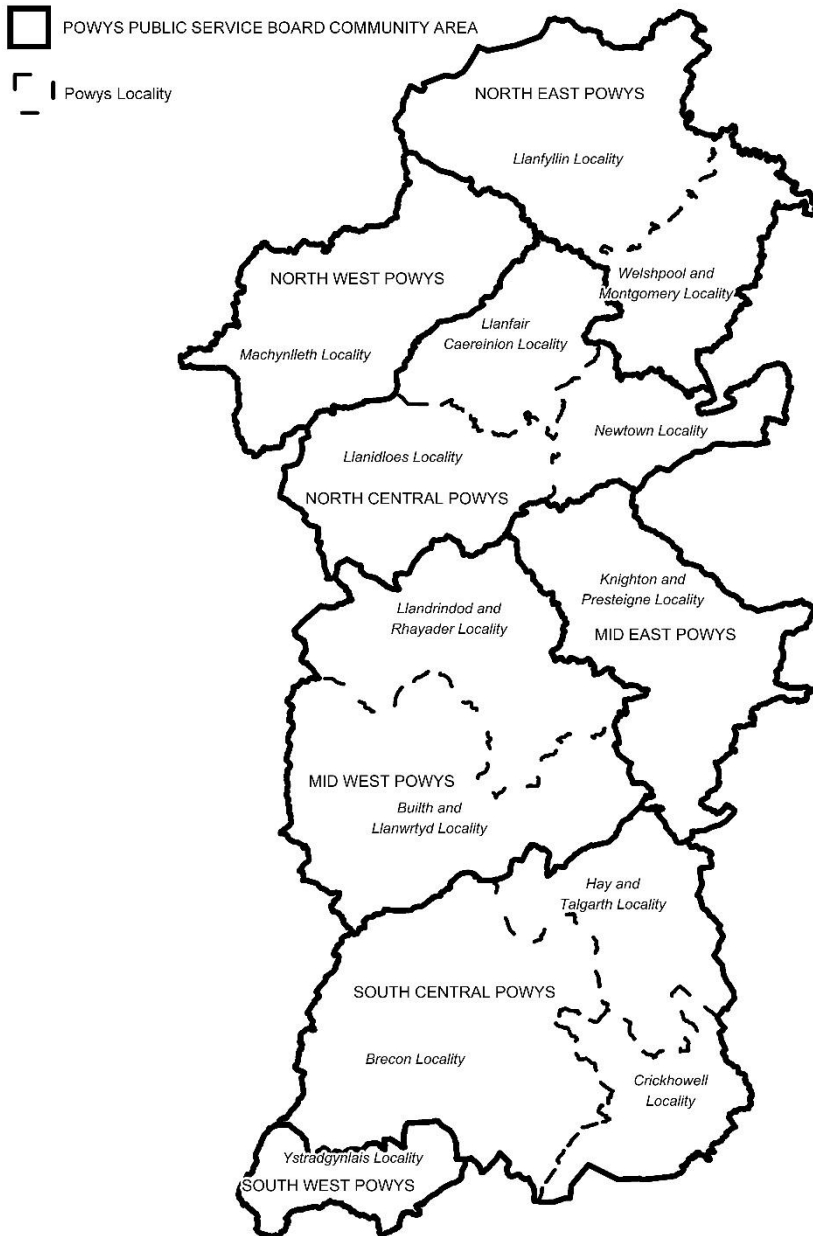
Powys Well-being Assessment 2016 - Framework

Critical key findings	7 Well-being Goals						
	Prosperous Powys	Resilient Powys	Healthier Powys	Equal Powys	Cohesive Powys	Vibrant Powys	Globally Responsible Powys
Travelling around Powys			☆	☆			
Poverty and Deprivation				☆			
Suitable accommodation for older people / Living Independently							
Energy in Housing		☆		☆			☆
Employment and Skills					☆		
Infrastructure					☆		
Health Inequalities				☆			
Exclusions - Free School meal attainment				☆			
Child Obesity							
Young mental well-being							
Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence							
Educational Attainment						☆	
Business Growth							
Young Carers				☆	☆		
Vulnerable Children							
Reduced child population	☆				☆		
Carers							
Enjoying the Environment							
Public Protection	☆						
Children with Disabilities							
Climate Change		☆					☆
Prevention			☆				
Community services							
Resilient environment		☆					☆
Renewable Generation							
Your Local Environment							
Tourism							
Childcare Sufficiency	☆						
Mental Health							
Dementia							
Culture							

## 5. Differences in our community areas

This sections looks at the differences in well-being that currently exist across the seven community areas. The map of Powys below, shows the boundaries for the seven community areas and the 13 localities that sit within them.

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Gwybodaeth ychwanegol © Cyngor Sir Powys 2016 Ni ddylid gwneud unrhyw gopïau ychwanegol heb ganiatâd y Cyngor.





## North East Powys

This area includes the localities of **Welshpool & Montgomery** and **Llanfyllin**

Population **27,676**




Age 0-17 – **19%** (5,199)

Age 18-64 – **56%** (15,394)

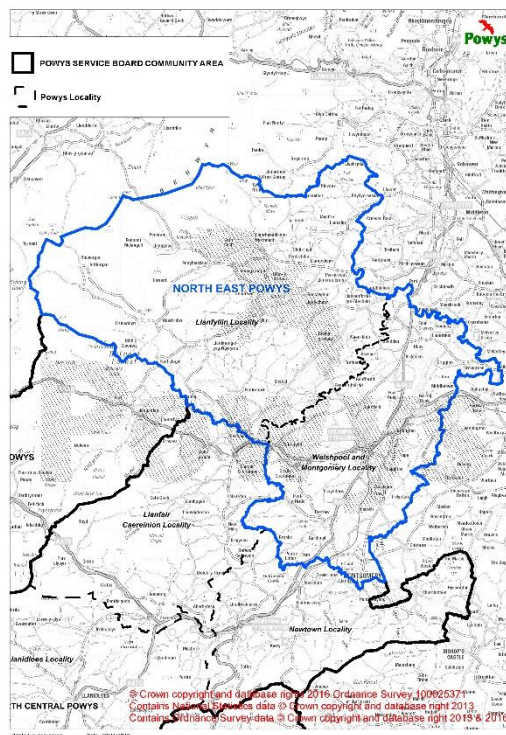
Age 65-84 – **22%** (6,093)

Age 85+ - **4%** (990)

 **5,013 Welsh Speakers (18.1%)**

 **13,834 people Employed**

 **Area – 818.4 km<sup>2</sup>**



Welshpool is one of the county’s main employment centres, and is a key industrial centre. Large proportions of the population work here, employed by the public sector.

Within this community area, the Guilsfield Brook locality has the lowest number of available childcare places in Powys, with only 13 places per 100 children. In addition, Welshpool has the highest uptake of free school meals in the county. This is a strong indicator of deprivation, which is further reinforced by the low score attributed by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD).

The MSOAs (Middle Layer Super Output Areas) in this community area contain some of the widest differences in life expectancy for both genders. The lowest levels of life expectancy are mostly concentrated within the Welshpool area. North East Powys has lower levels of participation in physical activity relative to elsewhere in Powys, although this is not a statistically significant difference. At the same time, it has the highest percentage of the population reporting that they eat the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables each day – again this is not a statistically significant difference.

This community area has the largest number of energy inefficient properties in Powys. This can be attributed to the large number of older properties, which lack modern insulation. Electricity consumption in this community is also high, with Montgomery having the highest average rate of consumption.



Community engagement feedback on our findings

**5 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- Welshpool is doing well – with areas and the toilets kept clean
- Having suitable accommodation has meant I have become more active and this has improved my wellbeing

**Key priority issues:**

- Hidden poverty - food banks being used.
- An ageing population
- Wind farms are a blot on the landscape
- Business Growth. We need more micro-renewables
- Volunteers aren't the answer regarding community resilience. They can only do so much

## North West Powys

This area includes the locality of **Machynlleth**

Population **6,154**



0-17 – **18%** (1,094)

18-64 – **57%** (3,505)

65-84 – **22%** (1,337)

85+ - **4%** (218)



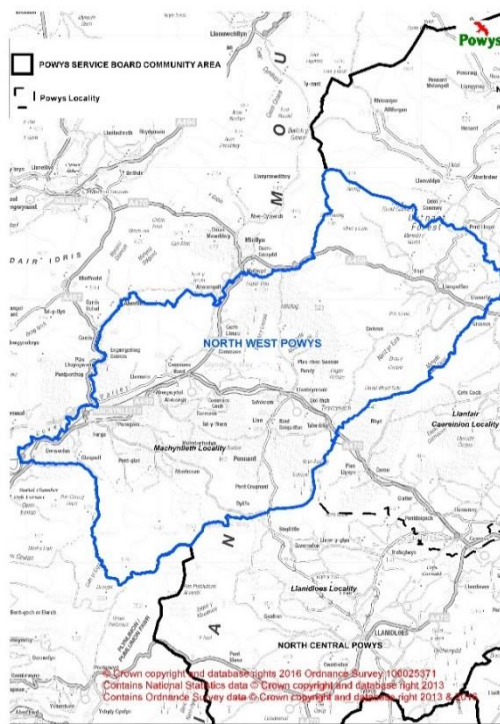
Welsh Speakers – **3,249 (52.7%)**



Employed – **3,071**



Area – **507.9 km<sup>2</sup>**



Along with the South West Powys community area, North West Powys has one of the highest proportions of four and five year olds that are either overweight or obese. This is linked closely to the higher levels of deprivation in these areas (the significance of this difference has not been tested). The rate of adult obesity is just under 20%. In addition, the community area has the highest smoking rate in Powys, although the difference in the rate does not reach statistical significance. This region, in particularly the Machynlleth locality, has the highest percentage of people that are thought to be living in fuel poverty because of the type of homes and lack of access to cheaper fuels. This areas has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in the county.

Community engagement feedback on our findings

**3 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- Machynlleth is a nice place to live with a clean environment
- Bus service to Aberystwyth is good but it stops at 6pm

**Key priority issues:**

- Mental health
- Employment and skills
- Reduced public funding
- Climate change
- Suitable accommodation for older people
- Education
- Local Environment – clean and green communities

## North Central Powys

This area includes the localities of **Newtown, Llanfair Caereinion and Llanidloes**

Population **29,758**



Age 0-17 – **20%** (6,070)

Age 18-64 – **57%** (16,832)

Age 65-84 – **20%** (5,984)

Age 85+ - **3%** (872)



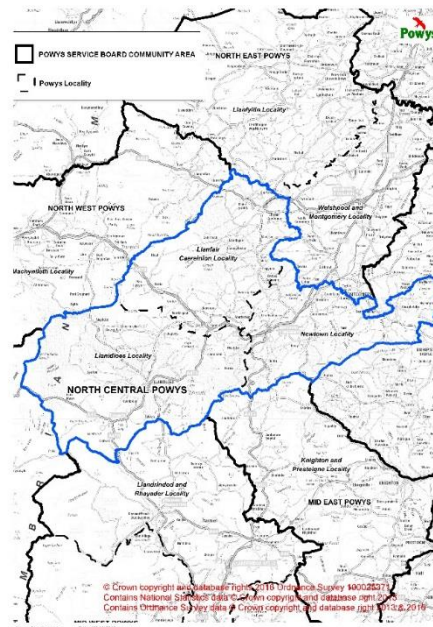
**5,029 Welsh Speakers (16.9%)**



**14,814 people Employed**



**Area – 848.1 km<sup>2</sup>**



Newtown is the principal town of this community area, in addition to being one of the key towns of the county. It acts as one of the main employment centres, as well as being a major industrial area. The community area has the largest percentage of the working population aged between 20 and 39. At the same time, it has the smallest proportion aged 60 and over. As with Welshpool and North East Powys, a number of large businesses are based in Newtown, as well as a large proportion of the county's medium sized businesses. This suggests that Newtown, together with Welshpool, acts as a central driver to the local economy within Powys.

Within the community area, Newtown has the highest number of available childcare places, with 86 places for every 100 children. In addition, based on the uptake of free school meals, this community area is one of the most deprived in the county. Further adding to this evidence, North Central Powys has the highest number of children placed on the child protection register.

Some MSOAs (Middle Layer Super Output Areas) in North Central Powys have relatively low rates of life expectancy for males compared with Powys as a whole. Some MSOAs also exhibit relatively high rates of smoking. However, the area overall does also exhibit relatively low rates of adult obesity. The area has the lowest number of unpaid carers.



According to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), some small parts of this area are severely deprived, with poor scores relating to both health and the economy. Further evidence is found in the high number of homeless presentations, as well as the large increase in the number of reported crimes.

Newtown, in particular, but also the community area in general, has the highest number of energy efficient properties. The area also has the highest number of properties that are connected to the gas network, instead of relying on other fuel sources.

### Community engagement feedback on our findings

#### 7 engagement events held



#### Positives

- Having an extra care housing scheme in the area, but more housing like this is needed
- The local community hospital in Llanidloes has 18 beds, but many of these are occupied with people from as far away as Welshpool
- Dial a ride is excellent but they are struggling for funding
- Excellent childcare provision in the town
- Residents could see the benefits the by-pass would bring to Newtown and felt this would help to revitalise the area and stimulate business growth and regeneration and reduce traffic congestion
- Scope for more links regarding tourism, the environment and mental health

#### Key priority issues:

- Reduced public funding
- Infrastructure
- Employment and skills
- Educational attainment
- Business Growth
- Travelling around Powys
- Local Environment

## Mid-East Powys

This area includes the locality of **Knighton & Presteigne**

Population **9,784**



Age 0-17 – **17%** (1,630)

Age 18-64 – **54%** (5,254)

Age 65-84 – **26%** (2,567)

Age 85+ - **3%** (333)



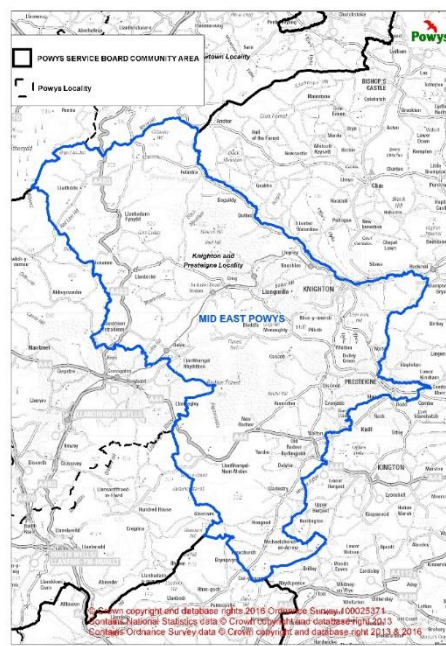
**835 Welsh Speakers (8.5%)**



**4,840 people Employed**



Area – **525.4 km<sup>2</sup>**



Within this community area Knighton and Presteigne have the largest working populations aged over 60 in Powys.

This area is part of a USOA (Upper Super Output Area) with some of the lowest rates of excess drinking in Powys. The rate is significantly lower than the Wales average, and below that of the other community areas in Powys (although this is not statistically significant).

Part of Mid-East Powys is identified as a very deprived area, with a low Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivations (WIMD) score in the areas of health and economy. The area also has the largest proportion of adults with no qualifications. There is a lack of major employers in this area.

Community engagement feedback on our findings

**7 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- 

**Key priority issues:**

- Reduced public funding
- Travelling around Powys
- Enjoying the environment
- Your local environment
- Living independently

## Mid-West Powys

This area includes the localities of **Llandrindod & Rhayader** and **Builth & Llanwrtyd**

Population **19,505**



Age 0-17 – **18%** (3,540)

Age 18-64 – **54%** (10,437)

Age 65-84 – **24%** (4,744)

Age 85+ - **4%** (784)



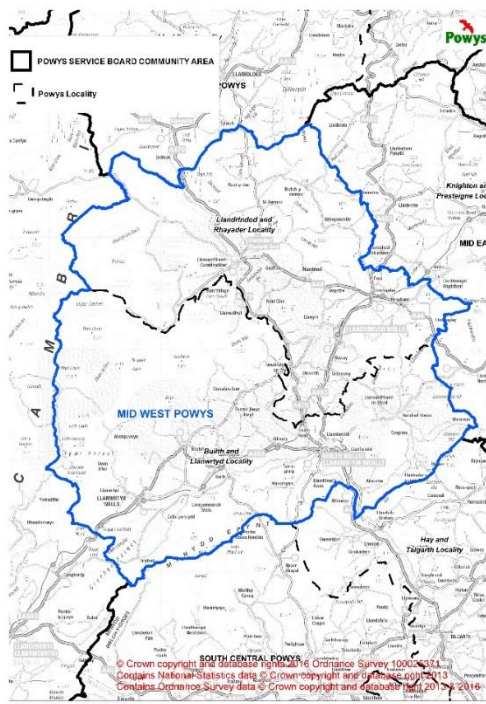
**2,484 Welsh Speakers (12.7%)**



**9,005 people Employed**



**Area – 1034.7 km<sup>2</sup>**



Within this community area, the towns of Llandrindod Wells and Rhayader have the lowest percentage of the working population aged 40 to 59. The area has a small percentage of the workforce made up of younger age groups, and the remaining majority made up of older age groups. This community area scored poorly based on its Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) score. While it is not as deprived as other areas of Powys, the area still scores poorly in relation to the economic measures. Two high schools have been placed into special measures by Estyn due to unsatisfactory performance and a lack of recent improvement.

Community engagement feedback on our findings

**19 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- Close communities exist in this region/area and people do tend to look after each other.
- 2 cardiac nurses in Llandrindod are great
- Appointments in Llandrindod hospital are good
- Builth has some good groups in existence re-supporting older people
- Community transport drivers excellent – capacity and volunteers an issue
- Classes at sports centres are popular and being used more frequently

**Key priority issues:**

- Travelling around Powys. (and outside of Powys for hospital appointments)
- Employment and skills
- Educational attainment
- Mental health
- Reduced public funding
- Suitable accommodation for older people
- Infrastructure
- Living independently



## South Central Powys

This area includes the localities of **Brecon, Hay & Talgarth** and **Crickhowell**

Population **29,658**



Age 0-17 – **19%** (5,572)

Age 18-64 – **55%** (16,436)

Age 65-84 – **22%** (6,661)

Age 85+ - **3%** (989)



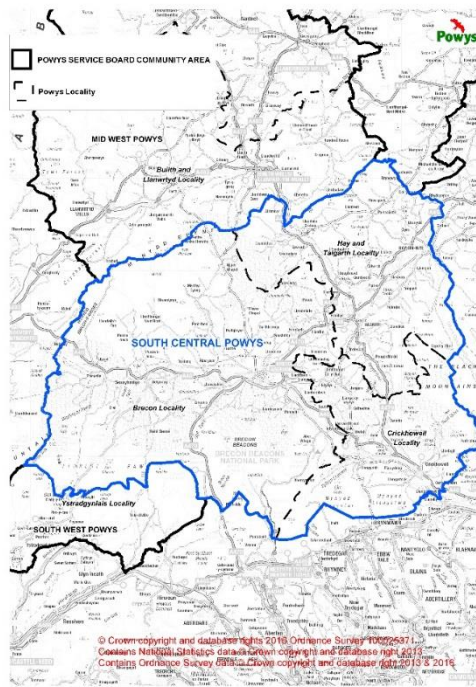
**3,505 Welsh Speakers (11.8%)**



**14,795 people Employed**



**Area – 1278.3 km<sup>2</sup>**



The major towns within this area are Brecon and Crickhowell. Within this community area, Crickhowell locality represents a section with low unemployment and a noticeably greater amount of wealth compared to other towns in the area. However, this region also has the lowest percentage of the working population aged between 20 and 39. The majority of employed residents are in the 40 to 59 age group however, rather than over 65.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) gives a low score to this area, based on the economy and health factors. This is particularly the case around Brecon and the St. Johns localities. Brecon itself has also seen a sharp increase in the number of homeless presentations. However, at the same time South Central Powys has the lowest percentage of residents thought to be in fuel poverty, and also has the lowest average electricity consumption rate.

Community engagement feedback on our findings

**4 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- There are plenty of free resources in the Brecon community to prevent the onset of health conditions
- Encourage more pedestrian use of Brecon town centre
- Keep up the good work – the charter for trade is a great idea
- The county has so much to offer, including the national park. It would be nice to see Powys celebrate this a bit more.
- Involve people at a grass roots level

**Key priority issues:**

- Employment and skills
- Reduced public funding
- Travelling around Powys
- A healthy resilient environment
- Living Independently
- Business Growth
- Community Services

## South West Powys

This area includes the locality of Ystradgynlais

Population **10,107**



Age 0-17 – **18%** (1,825)

Age 18-64 – **56%** (5,696)

Age 65-84 – **22%** (2,225)

Age 85+ - **4%** (361)



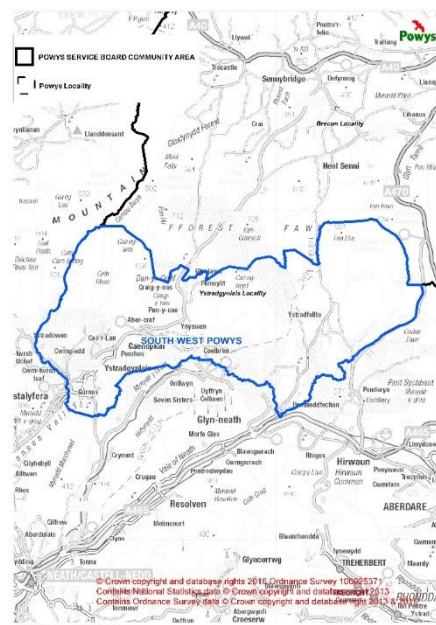
**3,875** Welsh speakers (**38.4%**)



**4,273** people Employed



Area **166.8** km<sup>2</sup>



This community area has a high proportion of students who qualify for free school meals compared with other communities in Powys. The area has the highest percentage of 4-5 year olds who are obese or overweight in the county. South West Powys also has the highest rate of people regularly drinking above recommended guidelines. Within this community area, Ystradgynlais also has the highest number of unpaid carers in the county. The area has seen an overall reduction of 3% in terms of the total homeless population. The area has good transport links with Swansea and other urban centres. The local high school and primary schools have recently undergone major redevelopment, with a large intake of Welsh first language students. The area also has strong links between local hospitals and health centres.

Community engagement feedback on our findings

**7 engagement events held**



**Positives**

- Potential to grow links between council and Brecknock Wildlife Trust regarding providing skills for young people which could lead to employment.
- Local hospital links and health care integration is getting better/good. More scope to integrate further.
- School at Abercraf is excellent. Great links with PTA and parents supporting various events and fundraising and teachers and everyone working together to support community. Planting of daffodils recently. Potential to link/grow connections.
- Enjoying the environment – there are amazing places to walk and enjoy the fresh air. More promotion would be good.

**Key priority issues:**

- Travelling around Powys
- Mental well-being – both for young and older people
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Infrastructure

## 6. How have we engaged with our communities?

As part of this assessment, we involved and sought the views and insights of Powys citizens and communities to understand what well-being feels like, to identify the areas where well-being is a concern and explore how it could be improved both now and in the future.

In order to gather the views of citizens, we first looked at data that already existed, focusing on surveys with open questions about people's current experience of well-being. This included social research which captured residents view on their quality of life living in a rural county and satisfaction with key services like education and recycling services and our Young People's Wellbeing survey which was distributed to all schools and the Youth Forum. Information from public engagement exercises on specific service proposals and changes was utilised (e.g. school reconfiguration, frequency of refuse collection and redesigning day care services). We also spoke to people through established forums and panels (for example Youth Forum, Older People's Forum, Housing 100 panel, Citizens Panel). At this stage data from Powys's annual Residents Satisfaction Survey was analysed along with the results of our Population Assessment Questionnaire (for services users including Adults and Childrens Social Services and carers that we support).

In order to engage broader stakeholders regarding our findings and to address any gaps in our knowledge, two challenge events were held in November 2017, one with PSB staff and another where partner organisations were invited (Powys County Councillors, independent local businesses, Age Cymru, Action for Children, Disability Powys, volunteer groups, and other community representatives). During these events, stakeholders were given brief presentations of each of the 31 findings and were asked to consider each against the seven Well-being Goals and rate them on a specific criteria. At this stage we also engaged with the public through social-media posts and specific social research to pick up on data gaps identified in the initial stage of the Well-being assessment.

For the third stage of engagement people's responses to the assessment were gathered through an on-line survey ("The Well-being of Future Generations and You") and engagement with citizens across 7 PSB community areas. (The latter included drop in sessions at libraries, community halls, and fire stations along with sessions at community social groups and clubs (e.g. parenting groups, older people social groups, Young Farmers Club, Women's Institute, Carers Support Group). We also spoke to people at 'pop-up' style events at supermarkets, hospitals and local markets. These engagement events allowed us to speak directly with a diverse range of residents and local groups). The questions posed captured resident view on what well-being means to them, which of the 31 issues they would class as priorities, whether these differed if they were thinking about the community they lived in as opposed to their own individual well-being, and whether the data had been captured about specific communities rang true.

For a full description of our engagement activities and the common emerging themes please see section 1 Main Document

## 7. Find out more and stay involved

If you found this interesting, you can find all of the detailed information at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=2113>

Full key findings analysis – Social

Full key findings analysis – Culture and Community

Full key findings analysis – Economy

Full key findings analysis – Environment

Links and potential response

Producing our wellbeing assessment

Engagement

Assessment findings and the impact on seven well-being goal

Analysed datasets not included in the assessment

Gaps in our evidence

Key sources of information

National measures of well-being

If you would like any further information or have any questions about this well-being assessment, there are many ways you can get in touch with us:



Email: [business\\_intelligence@powys.gov.uk](mailto:business_intelligence@powys.gov.uk)

Give your views on our engagement [page](#)



Post: Powys Public Services Board secretariat, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG



Phone: 01597 826 000



Please keep a look out for local events happening in your communities on the Powys [website](#).

For more information on Powys Public Service Board partners, please visit our websites:

- Powys County Council - [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk)
- Powys Teaching Health Board - [www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk/](http://www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk/)
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service - [www.mawwfire.gov.uk](http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk)
- Natural Resources Wales - <https://naturalresources.wales>
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority - <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk>
- Dyfed Powys Police - [www.dyfed-powys.police.uk](http://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk)
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner - <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/>
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations - [www.pavo.org.uk](http://www.pavo.org.uk)
- Wales Community Rehabilitation Company - <http://walescrc.co.uk>
- Welsh Government - <http://gov.wales>