

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT 2006**

## **MINISTERIAL FOREWORD**

Since the creation of the National Assembly for Wales in 1999 our agenda has been shaped by our goal of achieving social justice for the people of Wales. As a Government it is our fundamental belief that tackling poverty and inequality is an essential objective if we are to improve quality of life, promote social inclusion and deliver equality of opportunity in every community in Wales.

As this Report demonstrates the Welsh Assembly Government is continuing to develop and implement a range of policies and programmes aimed at combating the poverty and exclusion faced by disadvantaged groups and those living in our most deprived communities. However, tackling the social, economic and educational barriers that create inequality is not an easy task, particularly when we are faced with reversing decades of decline and multiple deprivation. There is no 'one size fits all' solution. And neither is it right for Government to impose centrally devised solutions upon communities or individuals. Instead, and through programmes such as our Communities First initiative, we have demonstrated that this Assembly Government is committed to providing long-term investment and to promoting new ways of working.

Our strengthened and growing evidence base for Wales is pinpointing where the challenges lie - in eradicating child poverty, reducing homelessness, tackling economic inactivity, raising skill levels and combating health inequalities. This Report highlights that we have in place a range of initiatives across the Assembly Government aimed at providing solutions to these deep-seated social and economic problems. Much of this work falls outside my own Social Justice and Regeneration portfolio, but all my Cabinet colleagues share the objective of achieving social justice for communities across Wales.

Evidence shows that we are making good progress in some key areas. Notably, steady falls in the proportion of people of all ages living in low-income households have brought poverty rates in Wales down to the UK average. There have been sizeable falls in recent years in levels of child poverty and the rate in Wales is now the same as the average for the UK as a whole. The proportion of pensioners in low-income households has reduced and unemployment has fallen steadily, again to UK levels or below.

However, there is no room for complacency and the Assembly Government, alongside its partners in local government, the health service and the private and voluntary sectors, will continue in its drive towards our goal of achieving social justice and equality for all those who live and work in communities across Wales.

**Edwina Hart AM MBE**  
**Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration**

## Content

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Research and Evaluation Base

Section 3 – Assembly Government Action on Social Justice

- Helping More People into Jobs
- Improving Health and Well-Being
- Developing Strong and Safe Communities
- Creating better Jobs and Skills

Annexes

Annex A – Monitoring and Indicators

Annex B - Assembly Government targets for main policies and programmes

## 1. INTRODUCTION

'Wales: A Better Country' commits the Welsh Assembly Government to action on social justice that tackles poverty and poor health, and provides people and their communities with the means to help themselves and break out of the poverty trap.

### **Social Justice Report 2006**

The Assembly Government has a commitment to report regularly on what it is achieving in tackling poverty and social disadvantage and it has done that on an annual basis since 2001. The 2006 Social Justice Report is the sixth and latest in this series, comprehensively reporting on action during 2005-06 and providing a valuable focal point for the Assembly Government's work in tackling social exclusion across Government Departments.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report, "Monitoring Social Exclusion in Wales" has provided a good evidence base in relation to the key measurable problems to be tackled and, where possible, the 2006 Report uses that evidence as its primary focus for outlining Assembly Government action.

Indicators, introduced in the 2005 Report, have been updated for 2006. In addition, and in order that progress can be tracked year on year, Annex A of the Report outlines the robust and quantifiable indicators included in previous reports dating back to 2001. Annex B outlines a cross-Government picture of existing targets for the Assembly Government's main policies and programmes that combat social exclusion. The Report also includes reference to the Assembly Government's commitment to develop new milestones and targets to monitor progress in eradicating child poverty by 2020. It is intended that, from 2007 onwards, the Report will be the main vehicle for monitoring the Assembly Government's progress in its aim to eliminate child poverty.

The report comprises three sections:

- An overview of the evolving research and evaluation base which underpins many of the initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving social justice in Wales;
- a summary of Welsh Assembly Government action on Social Justice; and
- an analysis of key indicators and summary of existing Assembly Government targets.

## **Social Justice**

Social Justice is at the heart of the Welsh Assembly Government's objectives. It is the principle that everyone is entitled to enjoy a basic set of human rights, standards of treatment and level of material welfare regardless of differences in economic position, class, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religions affiliation, health etc. Action to eradicate child poverty and poor housing, provision of legal support and advice, support for vulnerable people and measures to reduce crime are just some of the ways in which the Welsh Assembly Government works to bring about social justice.

The majority of Assembly Government policies and programmes impact on social justice and many of its objectives can only be achieved through influencing and working in partnership with others in local government, the health service and the voluntary and private sectors.

'Wales: A Better Country' sets out a clear agenda for creating a future with social justice at its heart and embodies the principles of sustainability. It shows how we will set about making Wales a more prosperous, healthier and better educated country, rooted in a commitment to social justice at the heart of policy-making. It offers a vision and explains how we and our partners will work together to improve life for the people of Wales.

In taking forward the vision in this second Assembly term, there are four key areas that the Assembly Government will focus on as it continues to develop policy:

- helping more people into jobs;
- improving health;
- developing strong and safe communities; and
- creating better jobs and skills.

## **The Challenge**

Research suggests that the main challenges the Welsh Assembly Government faces in combating social exclusion and poverty are:

- a rising number of households living in poverty, where a household member is in work;
- one in every four children still living in a low income household, despite sizeable falls in child poverty;
- more people classified as 'economically inactive but wanting work' than there are people classified as unemployed;
- high prevalence of ill health across people of working age;

- a particularly high proportion of 16 year olds failing to get any GCSEs;
- high levels of fuel poverty and relatively high levels of severe fuel poverty; and
- high levels of homelessness and increasing use of temporary accommodation.

## **Making Progress**

Steady falls in the proportion of people of all ages living in low-income households have brought poverty rates in Wales down to the Great Britain average. Unemployment has also fallen steadily to UK levels or below and rises in real incomes for the population of Wales as a whole have risen. There have been sizeable falls in the levels of child poverty and the rate in Wales is now the same as the average for the UK as a whole. The proportion of pensioners in low-income households has also reduced. Rates for burglary in Wales were much lower than that for England and Wales as a whole and people in Wales have lower levels of worry about crime when compared with the average for England and Wales. The number of 15 year olds in Wales achieving 5 or more good GCSEs continues to rise steadily

## **Social Justice in the context of Welsh Assembly Government Strategies**

Underpinning the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to Social Justice are a number of strategic documents, themes and statutory duties.

### **'Wales: A Better Country'**

'Wales: A Better Country' sets out the strategic agenda of the Welsh Assembly Government:

- a guiding vision of a fairer, more prosperous, healthier and better educated country rooted in our commitment to social justice and to putting health and wealth creation that is sustainable at the heart of policy-making;
- a radical agenda for public services in Wales, with a programme for delivering the manifesto commitments;
- the priority issues which are broader than any one section of government and where smarter working and working together can make a bigger and longer-lasting impact; and
- the way the Assembly Government wants to deliver jointly.

'Wales: A Better Country' identifies ten commitments as flagship programmes to drive forward our distinctive approach to delivering health, jobs and social justice, based on the needs of citizens and communities and reflecting our values of equality and sustainability. Through targeted investment and support coupled with access to key universal services the Welsh Assembly Government's policies

and programmes can make a lasting difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged in Wales. In The budget plans and priorities have been reshaped to deliver these key objectives over the life of this second Assembly term.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

Under section 120 of the Government of Wales Act, the Assembly Government has a legal duty to ensure that its functions are exercised with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people. One of the main mechanisms in achieving this is through the development of a Mainstreaming Equality Strategy. This will ensure that respect for diversity and equality of opportunity principles, strategies and practices are integrated into the every day work of the Assembly and other public bodies in Wales. The National Assembly for Wales is committed to promoting equality of opportunity in all aspects of life including race, language, religion, disability, age, gender and sexual orientation. Any policy being developed by the Assembly Government, therefore, should take this commitment into account from the start.

Individual policy departments are responsible for incorporating equalities duties and commitments into the development of strategies and plans, supported by a dedicated Strategic Equality and Diversity Unit (SEDU) providing advice and guidance to all Assembly Government Departments on how equality issues impact on their policy area. SEDU, in partnership with the Commission for Racial Equality, has developed a Race Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit for Departments to complete for both a screening process and for a full race equality impact assessment.

## **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development recognises that complex problems such as poverty have interconnected social, economic and environmental causes. Solutions to such problems therefore must take an integrated approach.

The National Assembly for Wales is one of the few Governments in the world to have a legal duty to integrate SD into everything it does. Section 121 of the Government of Wales Act 1998 requires the Assembly to make a Scheme setting out how the Assembly will implement the duty. The Scheme was remade in early 2004 and sets out the vision of a sustainable future for Wales.

The accompanying Action Plan identifies the key sustainability challenges facing Wales, and the actions that the Assembly will undertake to meet these challenges. It contains around 100 actions ranging from those to mitigate the effects of climate change, to embedding SD principles into public sector procurement.

## **Welsh Language**

The Welsh Assembly Government wants Wales to be a truly bilingual nation: a country where people can choose to live their lives through the medium of either Welsh or English or both and where the presence of the two languages is a visible and audible source of pride and strength to us all.

In order to help fulfil that vision, the Assembly Government has made a commitment – in *laith Pawb*, the National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales and its Welsh Language Scheme – to mainstream the Welsh language across all policy areas. *laith Pawb* also includes actions relating to a range of programmes across all policy areas, including specific actions in the Social Justice portfolio geared towards helping Welsh speaking communities become economically and socially sustainable.

Section 47 of the Government of Wales Act states that the Welsh and English languages should be treated on a basis of equality. The Welsh Language Scheme for the Welsh Assembly Government commits the Government to reflecting linguistic considerations and the bilingual nature of Wales in public policies and initiatives.

## **Health Challenge Wales**

Social Justice is also about improving the Health and Well Being of the people of Wales. One of the leading mechanisms for achieving this is Health Challenge Wales, the national focus for action to improve health and well being. It has six main themes: smoking, infections, accidents and injuries, substance and alcohol misuse, food and fitness, mental health and well being. Although its scope is wider than this and encompasses the full socio-economic and environmental determinants of ill health.

Health Challenge Wales is not owned by the Welsh Assembly Government. It is a Challenge for all individuals and organisations to respond to, including the Assembly Government. As part of its response, the Assembly Government hosts the national Health Challenge Wales web site and newspaper '*Being Part of It*'. It also includes all the work it does to improve the health and well being of the people of Wales under social justice and regeneration.

Health Challenge Wales utilises branding is represented by an eye-catching logo. This branding is used wherever a service is being delivered to improve people's health or prevent ill health in the first place. All social justice programmes that improve health and well being will use the Health Challenge Wales branding to let people know that it is part of the effort to improve the health of the nation.



## **Wales Spatial Plan**

The Wales Spatial Plan "People, Places, Futures" was adopted by the Assembly in November 2004. It translates the Welsh Assembly Government's policies into visions for each part of Wales, which will shape how each area will sustainably develop.

Within the overall framework for Wales, six distinctive areas of Wales have been recognised. The fundamental proposition of the Wales Spatial Plan is that each area will need a different response to deliver its future.

The Spatial Plan provides a framework for collaboration, linking national and local policies, and has been shaped by a huge range of organisations and individuals. It provides the basis for the Assembly Government to work with its partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to turn the visions for the different areas of Wales into reality.

## **Making the Connections**

"Making the Connections" sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's vision of a prosperous, sustainable, bilingual, healthier and better-educated Wales. This vision will guide the transformation of public services and deliver services of top quality in Wales.

On 14th June 2005, the Assembly Government published the action plan for taking forward its vision called "Delivering the Connections". The aim is to reform the public services in Wales to make them:

- more citizen focused;
- responsive to the needs of communities;
- driven by a commitment to equality and social justice; and
- to deliver efficiency.

Making the Connections outlines four main principles:

- Citizens at the Centre: services more responsive to users with people and communities involved in designing the way services are delivered;
- Equality and Social Justice: every person to have the opportunity to contribute and we will reach out to those hardest to reach;
- Working together as the Welsh Public Service: more co-ordination between providers to deliver sustainable, quality and responsive services; and
- Value for Money: making the most of our resources.

## **First Minister's Annual Report**

The First Minister's mid-term report on the progress of the Welsh Assembly government in towards a sustainable and prosperous Wales, was published in June 2005.

## **2. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION BASE**

### **Introduction**

Last year's Social Justice Report (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005a) indicated that the majority of data available and research into issues of social justice focused on the UK as a whole, with little Welsh-specific research. Since then, a number of Welsh-specific studies have been published, significantly increasing the evidence available on social justice in Wales. This chapter outlines the findings from these studies and considers how planned research will build on, and explore, the issues identified in more detail. The discussion is structured around the themes of individual circumstances, housing and communities.

### **Individual Circumstances**

The Bevan Foundation (Winkler, 2006) has recently published a policy paper concerned with justice in the economy and employment in Wales, which argues Wales exhibits some of the greatest social inequalities in the UK. A recent study – Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005) - found an uneven picture, with improvements in some indicators of social justice and a worsening in others. The following sections draw on two reports (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005; Blackaby et al 2005) to consider issues of poverty, unemployment, and health in Wales.

### **Poverty**

Rises in real incomes for the population of Wales as a whole have risen. Consequently, the number of people living in households below a fixed income threshold has been falling. Research has found, for example, the proportion of people with incomes below the contemporary low income threshold (60 per cent of median household income in the current year) fell from 27 per cent of the population in 1997/98 to 22 per cent in 2003/04. This represents a fall of around 100,000 people and means some 650,000 people in Wales were living in 'income poverty' in 2003/04. The fall in the proportion of people living in low income households brings Wales to just above the UK average.

Research has also found a big fall in the proportion of people with incomes below 50 per cent of median household income. By contrast, there has been very little fall in the proportion of people living below the 40 per cent threshold. This means, whilst the proportion of people living in low-income households has dropped, the number of people in Wales who are living in what could be called 'deep poverty', some 250,000 people, has not changed over the last decade. The falls that have taken place have, therefore, been among households whose incomes were closer to the 60 per cent threshold in the first place.

Research has found the proportion of people of all ages living in low-income households in Wales has fallen steadily. Pensioners, for example, now make up twenty per cent of low income households, a rate comparable to that for working age adults, compared to around twenty five per cent in the mid 1990s. Sizeable falls in child poverty in recent years has resulted in the proportion of children in Wales living in low-income households being the same as the average for Britain as a whole. Despite progress, however, one in every four children in Wales still lives in a low income household with the highest levels of child poverty being the highest in the south Wales valleys.

Whilst there have been falls in the number of people of all ages living in low-income households in Wales, households where someone is in work are a rising share of those living in poverty in Wales. Forty per cent of low-income working-age households have someone working compared with the mid-1990s when working households accounted for only 30 per cent of those in low income, working-age households. As a result, there are some 150,000 working-age adults suffering from what could be called 'in-work poverty', that is, they are in a low income household and either working themselves and/or living with a partner who is working. Research has also highlighted: women are disproportionately affected by low pay; the public sector is a major, direct employer of low-paid workers; and low pay is most prevalent in parts of rural Wales especially Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys.

### **Education**

Poor qualifications increase the risk of both unemployment and low pay. Comparable to the experience in England, improving trends in educational attainment at 11 and 16 slowed in around 2000, and in some cases came to a halt. Wales has a particularly high proportion of 16 year olds failing to get any GCSEs at all. This is significant for future prospects since 17 year olds who have neither five good GCSEs nor an equivalent vocational qualification are very unlikely to have got any further qualifications by the age of 24.

### **Earnings, employment, unemployment and inactivity**

Unemployment has steadily fallen in Wales to levels comparable to those of the UK generally. There are, however, more people classified as 'economically inactive but wanting work' than there are people classified as unemployed and Wales has higher rates of economic inactivity than most other UK countries and regions. Economic inactivity affects particularly the low skilled, and is concentrated in, but not confined to, the south Wales valleys and other urban areas. Wales also experiences relatively low levels of average earnings largely resulting from the mix of jobs found in Wales, and in particular a relative lack of very highly paid jobs.

However, growth in average gross weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales has exceeded growth in the UK as a whole over the last four years. The relatively low levels of employment and earnings in Wales are associated with low levels of GVA (Gross Value Added) per head when compared to much of the rest of the UK.

Over the period since 1999, Wales has broadly matched the good rates of growth in GVA achieved by the UK as a whole. Furthermore, improvements in the relative performance of the labour market in Wales over the last few years may have yet to be reflected in GVA. Due to the sources and methodologies used in the compilation of the sub-UK GVA statistics, the overall estimates may be a little sluggish in responding to changes in the labour market performance of different parts of the UK.

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) in Wales in 2004 was, at 88% of the UK average, at its highest relative level since 1996. Having declined between 1995 and 2000, this percentage has increased in each of the last four years.

### **Health and health care services**

Wales stands out for the high prevalence of ill health amongst people of working age. This is particularly the case in the south Wales valleys, although high levels of long-term illness are found across much of the west of Wales.

Broad indicators of child health and well-being, including the state of teeth of 5 year olds and the incidence of births to mothers who conceived under the age of 16, are highest in the valleys than elsewhere, especially in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil.

The quality of GP services (measured by scores on the Quality and Outcomes Framework or where list sizes are excessive) and the provision of childcare places are lower in the valleys than elsewhere in Wales.

### **Communities**

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005d) provides a picture of deprivation across Wales based on the circumstances and lifestyles of people living in specific locations. The index provides data on deprivation at the small area-level, comprising of a population of around 1,500 people. The data collected is used to inform policy, which tackles social justice issues within the most deprived areas in Wales including, for example, the areas included within the Communities First Programme.

An increasing number of research projects are being undertaken, which relate to social justice issues raised in relation to the goals of creating sustainable communities. At the UK level, the Department for Trade and Industry recently

commissioned a survey of social enterprise across the UK (IFF Research Ltd., 2005), which provides a picture of social enterprise at the regional level in England and at an aggregate level for Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government plans to build on this research through a study of the social enterprise sector in Wales. The study will determine whether, and in what ways, the social enterprise sector contributes to local economy, community welfare and cultural capacity. The results of the study will facilitate a more in-depth understanding of the role of social and community enterprise and will inform the development of the strategic direction for the social and community enterprise in Wales.

The key role of voluntary activity in creating and maintaining sustainable communities is also receiving attention. The Research and Information Unit is currently undertaking a systematic review of the effectiveness of strategic approaches used across governments to encourage increases in levels of voluntary activity. Research will also be undertaken to consider the long-term funding arrangements of voluntary organisations in Wales. A study into Welsh voluntary organisations' receipt of funding from European Union sources will assess the scale and nature of support provided to the voluntary sector through EU programmes to prepare the Welsh Assembly Government, and the sector itself, for the consequences of withdrawal of EU funding for economic and social development after 2007. A further study will consider Welsh voluntary organisations' receipt of funding from charitable trusts, the private sector and UK government sources. The study will identify the level and nature of funding received by voluntary organisations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales from organisations with a UK-wide funding remit; and explore any differences identified. The research aims to inform advice on what further action the Welsh Assembly Government could take to improve Welsh voluntary organisations' knowledge of UK-wide funding opportunities and to increase their capacity to make successful bids for funding.

Anti-social behaviour is generally considered an increasing problem for communities in Wales. A study will be commissioned to examine the Local Anti-social Behaviour Strategies by local authorities. The study will explore issues identified in the Evaluation of the Safer Communities Fund, such as the weakness of evidence-based decision-making in local strategic planning, with the aim of enabling Community Safety Partnerships to achieve more effective planning based on local need. The Welsh Assembly is also funding four Anti-social Behaviour Action Areas pilot projects where partner agencies will introduce linked interventions to address anti-social behaviour. The pilot projects will run for one year from 1 April 2006.

## **Housing**

A series of reports stemming from the Living in Wales Survey were published from the end of 2005. The Living in Wales Survey collects data on housing and households in Wales. The survey comprises of two data sources: a housing

condition survey, which provides an accurate picture of the nature and condition of housing in Wales; and a household survey which captures the circumstances of Welsh households. These surveys result in the collection of a wide range of information relating to social justice issues, covering topics such as housing conditions, home heating and energy measures, household structure, the economy of households and disability and illness.

In the area of housing, the Living in Wales Survey provides data which facilitates the monitoring of progress towards reaching Welsh Assembly Government published targets such as levels of unfitness and disrepair, fuel poverty and elements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard; and to inform policy development and resource allocation planning.

The survey found the standard of the housing stock in Wales is generally fit for human habitation. In 2004, 57,700 homes (4.8% of the housing stock) were found to be unfit compared with 98,200 homes (8.5% of the housing stock) in 1998. Whilst there was an overall increase in the housing stock of 51,800 units (representing an increase of 4.5%) between 1998 and 2004, the number of unfit dwellings fell by 41% during this period (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005b).

The Fuel Poverty Study (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005c) adds to the data collected through the Living in Wales Survey by providing, for the first time, an accurate picture of the level and nature of fuel poverty across Wales. The study is split into two parts. The first part was published in 2005 and is based on data collected through the 1997/98 Welsh House Condition Survey. The study found Wales had a high level of fuel poverty, with around 360,000 or 31% of all households needing to spend over 10% of their 'full' net income to maintain satisfactory heating and cover other normal fuel costs. These include some 71,000 households or 6% who were in severe fuel poverty. This frequency compares with the 1996 headline figure for England of 22%, of which only 3% were in severe fuel poverty (DETR, 2000; DTI and DETR, 2001).

The second part of the study is expected to report in 2006. This stage disaggregates the fuel poverty estimates based on local authority level used in the first stage of the research to the small area level by providing estimates of fuel poverty for each Electoral Division. The research will also analyse the fuel poverty statistics by categories such as household age and composition, property age and type.

More recent research suggests the number of households in Wales living in fuel poverty has dropped sharply. The first indications from the Living in Wales Survey 2004, for example, suggest around 130,000 households (11% of households) were living in fuel poverty in 2004, compared with the 1997/98 survey which found 360,000 (31% of households) were living in fuel poverty. Modelling to update these figures to 2005, to include the year since the property survey took place, shows that, taking into account increases in incomes and fuel

prices, approximately an additional 30,000 households may have fallen back into fuel poverty.

Access to adequate housing is fundamental to the concept of social justice. The number of households accepted as statutorily homeless in Wales doubled from around 4,400 to 9,900 between 2000/01 and 2004/05 (SB 71, 2005), although figures have fallen slightly during the last quarter. The number of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation trebled to 3,400 during the same period.

The Social Justice and Regeneration Research and Information Unit is working towards developing a comprehensive picture of homelessness in Wales to understand its causes and to account for the different experiences of homelessness in Wales and England. An exploratory paper has recently been completed which found recorded levels of homelessness in Wales have fluctuated in synch with private housing market changes, particularly the real costs of entry into the housing market.

Research will also be undertaken to explore whether specific social groups are disproportionately at risk of homelessness; what services are available for specific social groups; and what practices are adopted to support people at risk of homelessness.

### **Conclusion and Discussion**

The evidence base for social justice policy in Wales has significantly increased with the publication of a number of studies. These studies have pointed to some significant improvements across social justice issues and have also clarified the challenges the Welsh Assembly Government faces in combating social exclusion and poverty. In summary these challenges are:

- high levels of fuel poverty and relatively high levels of severe fuel poverty
- high levels of homelessness and increasing use of temporary accommodation
- a rising number of households living in poverty, where a household member is in work
- one in every four children still living in a low income household, despite sizeable falls in child poverty
- more people classified as 'economically inactive but wanting work' than there are people classified as unemployed
- high prevalence of ill health across people of working age
- a particularly high proportion of 16 year olds failing to get any GCSEs.

The Assembly Government's policy responses to these challenges are outlined in the following sections.



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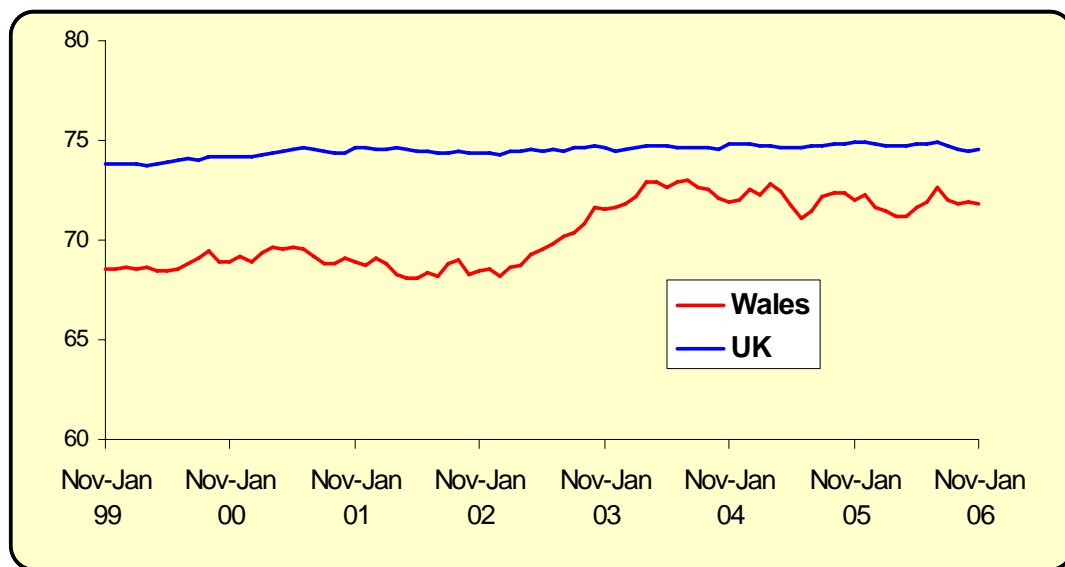
### 3. ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### HELPING MORE PEOPLE INTO JOBS

##### STATISTICAL CONTEXT:

This section provides some key high-level indicators related to helping people in Wales into jobs. Wales has a low level of economic performance compared with most other regions in the United Kingdom, and the main reason seems to be lower employment, not lower productivity. The chart below shows how the Welsh employment rate is lower than the UK as a whole, despite recent increases.

**Employment rate** (as percentage of the working age population)

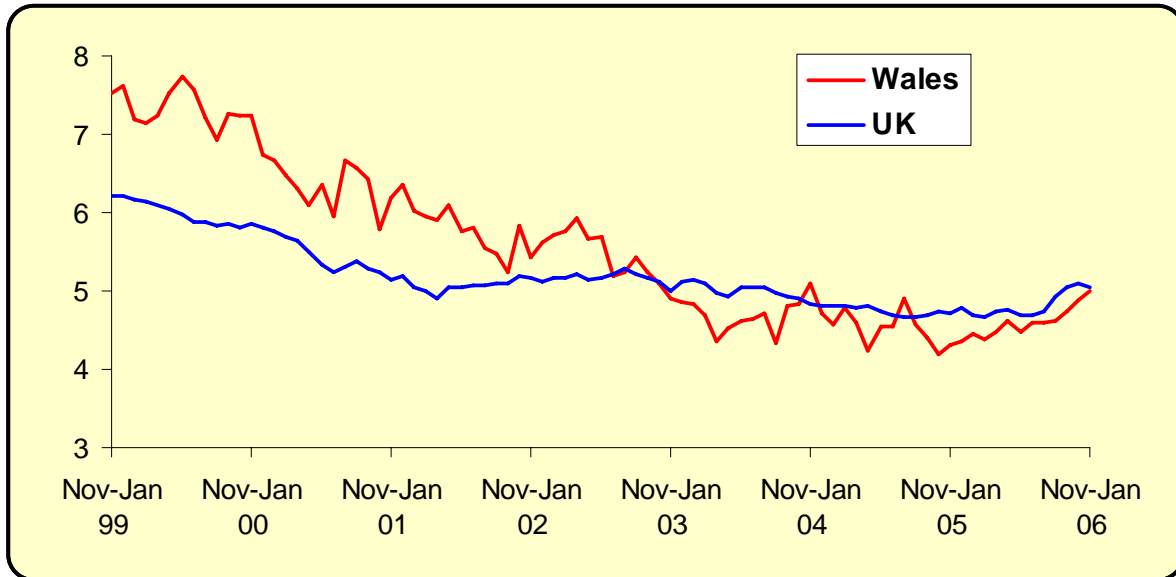


Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

- The employment rate in Wales is slightly below the peak in mid 2003, but remains higher than levels in recent years before 2003.
- The UK rate has not changed much over the past six years, so that the gap between the Wales rate and UK rate has halved in that time.

The low employment rate in Wales is not due to high unemployment. Unemployment (that is, being out of work and looking for it) has now fallen to a level that is lower than the rest of the UK.

### The Unemployment rate (as a percentage of the economic activity)

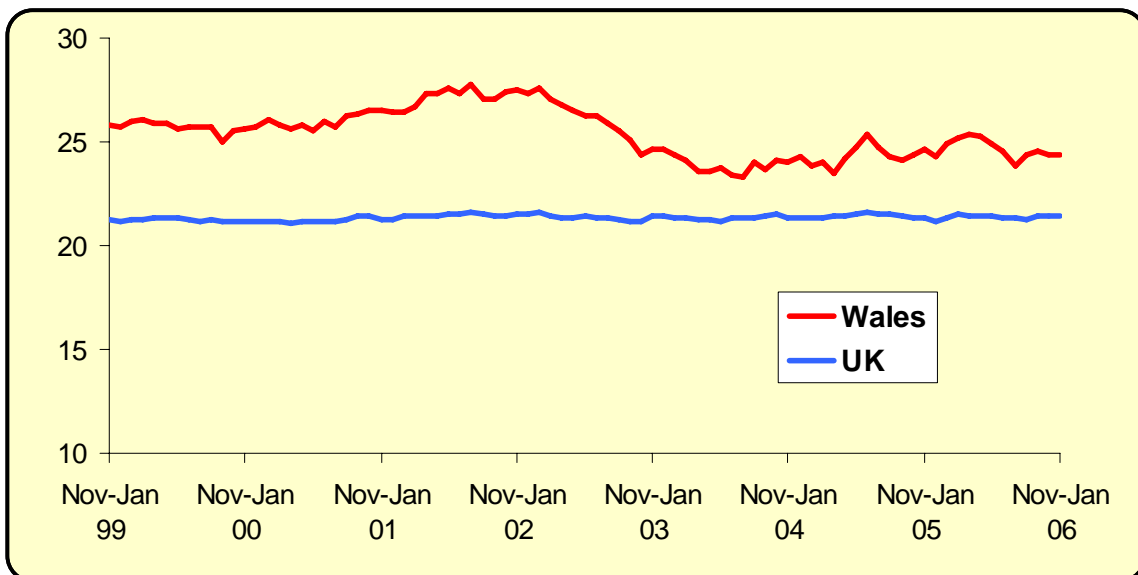


Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

- The ILO unemployment rate in Wales has decreased more sharply than the UK rate over recent years up to the end of 2005 when both rates started to increase slightly.
- Despite being above the UK rate in recent years before 2003, the Wales rate has been below that for the UK for nearly all of the past three years.

The lower rate of economic activity in Wales is probably due to the relatively high rate of economic inactivity, that is people who are not working and are not looking for work.

### Economic Inactivity rate (as percentage of the working age population)



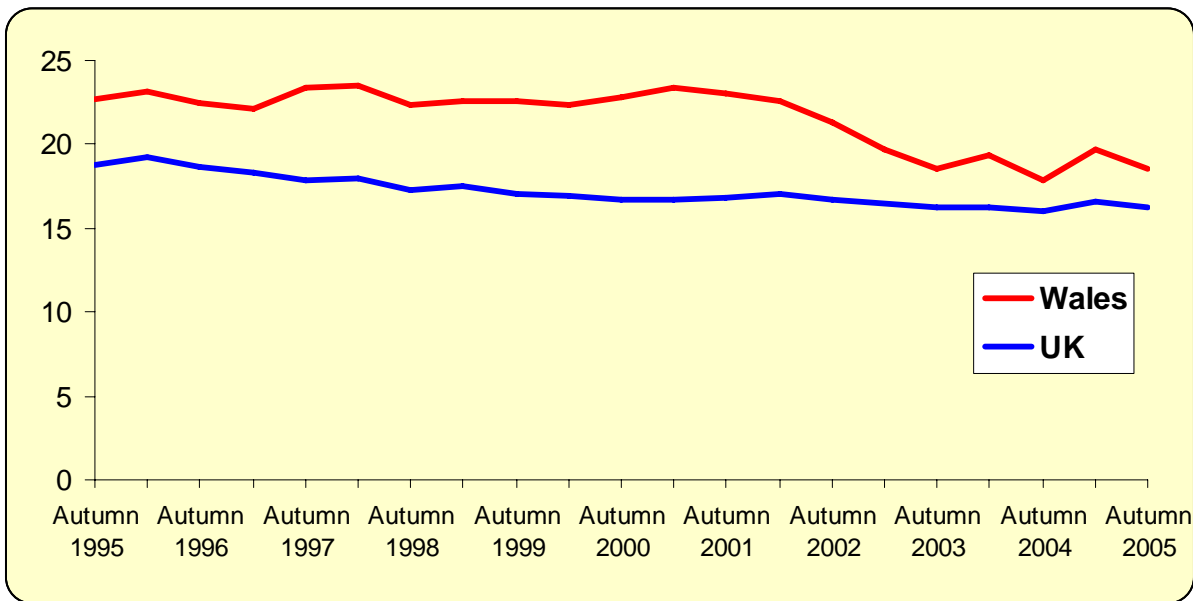
Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

- The inactivity rate in Wales decreased during 2002 and 2003, but since then the trend has increased slightly (but it is still lower than the rate before 2002.)
- The UK rate has been largely unchanged over the past six years, so that the gap between the Wales rate and UK rate has closed by about a third in that time.

The higher level of economic inactivity in Wales is present across all categories of people of working age, regardless of age and sex. But it is most marked in men, aged between 50 and 64, who are self-reported long-term sick. Any further rises in the employment rate will have to come from people who are currently economically inactive starting (or returning to) work.

The damaging effects of economic inactivity (and unemployment) are greater if no-one in the household is in employment.

**Workless households** (as a percentage of working age households)

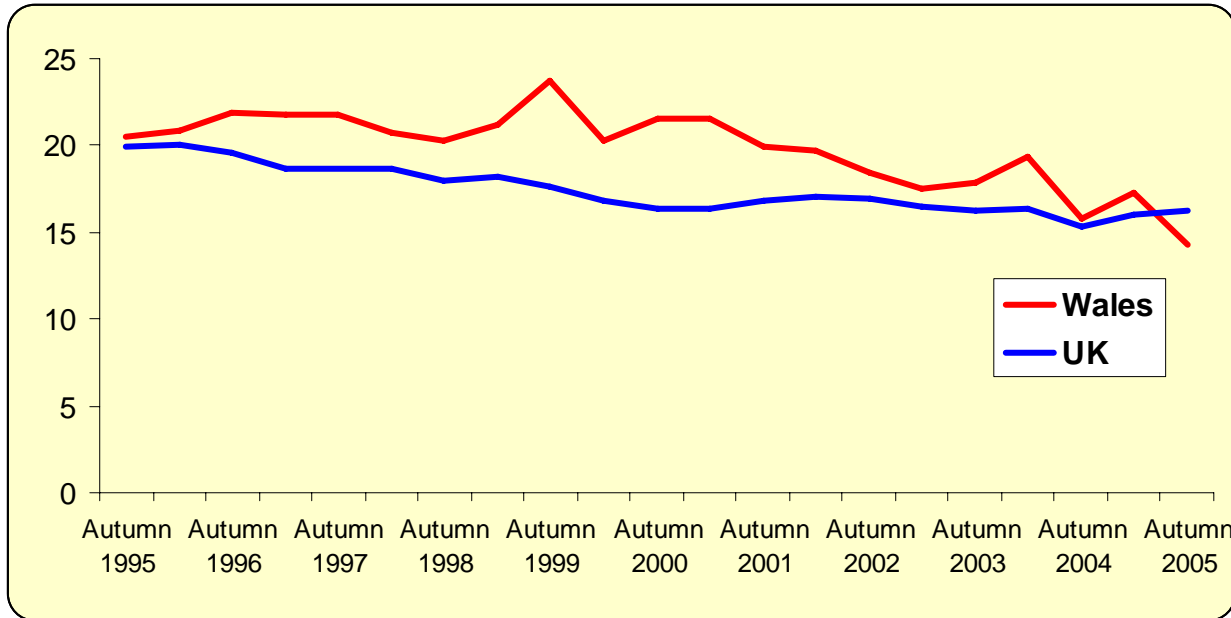


Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

- Following an increase during 1999-2001, the percentage of workless working age households fell to 18.5% in Autumn 2005.
- The difference in percentages of workless households between Wales and the UK was more than 5 percentage points in years around 1999: in autumn 2005 it was less than half that (2.3 per cent).

Many of these workless households contain children, and it is possible that the current experience of worklessness will have a long-term impact on their future.

## Children in Workless households (percentage of all children)



Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

- Following the peak in Autumn 1999, the percentage of children in workless working age households fell to 14.3% in Autumn 2005, which is below the UK level.

## POLICY CONTEXT

### 'Want2Work'

The joint Welsh Assembly/Jobcentre Plus pilot initiative called 'Want2Work', funded by ESF, is successfully tackling inactivity at a local ward level and reaching the harder to help disadvantaged groups within communities. Since the project started in January 2005, figures to 31 March 2005, show that the project has engaged with 1,473 economically inactive people and helped 304 (20%) into work.

Want2Work offers specialist Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser support and an enhanced financial package that includes a Job Preparation Premium and a Return to Work Credit. For those with a work limiting health problem who find work, there is access to advice from a health professional working alongside Jobcentre Plus advisers.

Delivered in partnership through outreach provision in local community outlets, Want2Work is helping more people into work, improving health, and building strong and safe communities where people want to live and work.

Want2Work is currently running in the four local authority areas of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot and (from January 2006) Rhyl.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/jcp/partners/regionalbusinesscommunity/wales/index.html>

**'Pathways to Work'**

The Welsh Assembly Government has worked closely with Department for Work and Pensions in the development of the 'Pathways to Work' initiative, which is being piloted in Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf to new and existing customers to incapacity benefit. The pilots are fully funded by DWP.

Since the pilot commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003, almost 4,000 people who have a work limiting health problem and are claiming incapacity benefit have been helped into employment. (figures to October 2005)

The initiative includes a 'Condition Management Programme' run by the NHS, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, which offers work focussed specialist health help and support. For those who find work, a new financial package has been introduced, to help support the transition from benefit to paid employment. This includes a tax-free Return to Work Credit, of £40 per week for 52 weeks, for those whose earnings are less than £15,000 per annum.

Reference and web links to existing documents

[http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/jcp/customers/programmesandservices/pathways\\_to\\_work/index.html](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/jcp/customers/programmesandservices/pathways_to_work/index.html)  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/pathways2work.pdf>

**European Structural Funds**

European Structural Fund programmes contribute to the social, economic and environmental regeneration of Wales and support projects that deliver a range of activities to help people into employment, to tackle disadvantage and promote social inclusion and to support community development. At March 2006 Structural Funds had committed £1.511 billion to 2,719 projects, representing some £3.616 billion of total project investment.

Reference and web links to existing documents

WEFO website: <http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/>

## **Brynteg Lifelong Learning Centre**

The Brynteg Lifelong Learning Centre is one of 4 community centres built as part of URBAN II in West Wrexham. Phase I supported 198 beneficiaries on training courses; 170 completed their courses (140 were women) and 143 gained qualifications. Phase 1 received an ERDF grant of £1.03m and completed in December 2004. An additional 2 centres are under construction, with another being designed. Centres are within walking distance of their target communities and offer a range of services, including childcare, health and wellbeing advice, ICT access, higher and further education, and office space for small local businesses.

## **Careers Wales**

Careers Wales was established in April 2001 as the first all-age careers information, advice and guidance service in the United Kingdom. This national service is available to young people from the age of 13 and to adults in a range of settings from the classroom, to high street drop-in centres, over the learndirect freephone 0800 100 900 or increasingly over the net at <http://careerswales.com>

Whilst Careers Wales aims to provide a universal service, there is a recognition that some groups need additional help and support in making transitions. Careers Wales works with schools and colleges to provide additional help to young people having difficulty making transitions or requiring extra service in finding appropriate provision. For 16 and 17 year olds no longer in education Careers Wales provides a referral and placement service into learning or employment opportunities. The Youth Gateway provides enhanced assessment and guidance including motivational strategies to help young people focus on more appropriate routes into training and other opportunities. Originally a post-16 service, Youth Gateway has been increasingly introduced into the pre-16 cohort. Whilst Careers Wales adult services are free to all, Careers Wales operates marketing and outreach strategies to ensure that groups such as Returners to Work, unemployed adults outside the New Deal and those under threat of redundancy are made aware of the services available.

Careers Wales Online ([www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com)) is the world's first all-age, bilingual virtual careers information, advice and guidance service. It has won the BAFTA Interactive Award for Technical and Social Innovation. This is a leading edge development that can help people to develop the skills to manage their own career development and learning. It also has the potential to bring added value to traditional face to face guidance interactions as well as being a key supporting resource in the delivery of 14-19 Learning Pathways.

In 2005-06 there were 9,400 starters on Youth Gateway (estimated including ESF Objective 1 and 3 beneficiaries); 13,000 estimated placements into

education, employment or training (based on 2004-05 achievements) and 113,000 Careers Wales/Online personal accounts opened since launch in October 2004.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://careerswales.com>

## **Manufacturing**

In September 2005, manufacturing accounted for 15.1 per cent of total employee jobs in Wales, compared to 11.7 per cent across UK as a whole. There were 177,000 manufacturing employee jobs in Wales in September 2005, down 6,000 or 3.0 per cent on September 2004. The UK as a whole saw a 3.5 per cent reduction over the same period. Between September 1999 and September 2005, the number of manufacturing employee jobs in Wales declined by 15 per cent, compared to a decline of 23 per cent across the UK as a whole. Wales saw the smallest percentage decline over this period out of any of the devolved countries or English regions.

In 2003, manufacturing accounted for 19.3 per cent of total Gross Value Added (GVA) in Wales, compared to 15.2 per cent across UK as a whole. Whilst this percentage has dropped over recent years, manufacturing still remains the largest sector in Wales in terms of its contribution to GVA.

During its first 3 years of operation, Manufacturing Advisory Service Cymru has injected over £10 million of added value into Welsh manufacturing, providing free advice to Welsh small and medium sized enterprises on all aspects of manufacturing performance.

The Economic Development & Transport Minister established the Manufacturing Task and Finish Group in January 2004 to look at the issues and challenges confronting the manufacturing sector and to make recommendations as to how best fine-tune public sector support. The Minister announced on 10 October 2005 that, subject to further discussions, it is intended to create a Manufacturing Forum for Wales to take forward the development of a manufacturing strategy.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.maswales.org.uk/default/>

## **Broadband**

The Assembly Government's Broadband Wales Programme, was launched in July 2002 and following a review was refreshed in January 2005 with publication of the Broadband Wales Programme Strategy 2005-07. The Programme works



with the private sector to provide affordable access to and take up of communications infrastructure for businesses, public sector, voluntary organisations, individuals and communities in Wales.

The Regional Innovative Broadband Support (RIBS) project is designed specifically to supply broadband to those areas in Wales that are currently unable to receive broadband services. When fully delivered, this project will have a significant impact on social inclusion as it will improve access to high-speed broadband connectivity throughout Wales. Some specific benefits of broadband are: access to information, an educational resource, on line gaming, bringing families together by addressing geographical dispersion and allowing 24/7 internet shopping.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

*Broadband Wales Strategy – 2005-7*

[http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs\\_irc/69\\_20050119104316\\_e.pdf](http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs_irc/69_20050119104316_e.pdf)

#### **Broadband Opens New World for Ex-Mining Community**

Broadband is opening up a world of opportunities for local people in the former mining community around Banwen, at the head of the Dulais Valley. With two IT Laboratories, teaching rooms, a day nursery and café, Dove Workshop is a hub of local activity, running courses ranging from sociology degrees to crocheting for beginners. And Broadband has enabled the centre to offer people much more.

[http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs\\_irc/77\\_20050207122440\\_e.pdf](http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs_irc/77_20050207122440_e.pdf)

#### **Reynaldston Village Community**

Living and working in the village of Reynaldston is a richer experience than ever, thanks to broadband. Enterprising members of the Village Hall Association (A Charitable Association) have used wireless technology to solve the problem of being to get broadband via phone lines or cable.

[http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs\\_irc/57\\_20041112132109\\_e.pdf](http://www.broadband.wales.gov.uk/docs/docs_irc/57_20041112132109_e.pdf)

## **Invest Wales**

### **RSA Cymru Wales (Regional Selective Assistance)**

RSA Cymru Wales is a discretionary grant scheme designed to increase regional competitiveness and prosperity by encouraging viable businesses to take forward new investment projects that create and/or safeguard jobs in the Assisted Areas of Wales (the most economically disadvantaged areas where, under EC law, regional grant aid can be given.)

The Scheme was refocused in June 2004 so that it better addresses the needs of Wales and the wider Assembly Government priorities. It is now targeted more at key sectors and higher quality projects - e.g. each application is considered in the light of its potential contribution to the Welsh economy in areas such as training, good management practice, equality of opportunity, sustainability, innovation and resource and development. Particular emphasis is also placed on the relative degree of deprivation of the intended project location.

During 2005-06, 278 RSA grant offers were made with a combined value of £58 million. These offers are expected to lever in £260 million of private sector investment; and create or safeguard 7,155 jobs in the Assisted Areas of Wales.

Sixteen of these offers also involved an offer of New Deal Plus Premium, which will hopefully lead to 245 of the jobs being taken up by people who were previously on the register of long term unemployed.

### **New Deal Plus Premium**

Since June 2005 we have also offered, as part of the RSA scheme, a premium for employers who, as part of an RSA assisted project take on individuals from Job Centre Plus programmes or benefit schemes. The premium is administered with the co-operation of Job Centre Plus.

### **Export Assist**

Research has shown that firms on average pay higher wages and increase employment through investment in export activities. It also linked improved export performance with better quality jobs.

The Assembly Government recognised that SMEs in the more disadvantaged areas of Wales, ie those classified for Objective One support, would benefit from additional support in order to encourage them to consider international trade as a means of improving and expanding their businesses. To this end, its international trade support arm, WalesTrade International, applied for and succeeded in attracting EU monies to introduce ExportAssist. This is a

programme designed to provide dedicated and flexible support to Objective One-based companies in order to increase their international trading and profile.

The 3 year Phase One of the programme was completed in September 2005, creating over 100 new exporters and generating in excess of £130million of secured deals. The £12million Phase 2 programme was launched in September and is looking to build on these achievements.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

RSA Cymru Wales and Assembly Investment Grant Annual Report 2005

Issued October 2005. Web link:

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/grants\\_and\\_funding/investment/rsa](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/grants_and_funding/investment/rsa)

### **Concessionary fares**

Accessibility is central to so many things - going to and from education, training or employment, visiting friends and relatives, attending important medical and dental appointments, or simply getting out and about for leisure.

### **Free travel for elderly and disabled people**

The Assembly Government's scheme guaranteeing free travel by elderly and disabled people continues to be extremely successful. Local authorities have issued more than 530,000 free bus passes, and the scheme has helped to turn around what had been a long term decline in the number of bus passenger journeys in Wales. As a result, operators in some cases have been able to extend existing services or introduce new ones, meaning that all bus passengers are benefiting. This success has demonstrated that a partnership approach involving the Assembly Government, local authorities and bus companies can deliver for passengers.

### **Half-Fares 16 –18 year olds**

Developing a half-fare scheme for 16 to 18 year olds on buses is a Top Ten Manifesto commitment. Pilot schemes will be undertaken in Bridgend and North East Wales (the areas of Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire Councils) between April 2006 and April 2008. These will identify the operational and financial issues that would have to be overcome to implement such a scheme. The four participating local authorities will issue young people with a free bus pass allowing half fare travel on buses.

## **Free Travel on Community Transport**

This is a £3m scheme, managed on behalf of the Assembly Government by the Community Transport Association, over three years (2005 to 2008). £2.2m was awarded in September 2005 to 10 projects throughout Wales to test a variety of means of improving the accessibility of severely disabled people (i.e. those unable even to use a low-floor bus).

The Assembly Government, in promoting use of sustainable transport modes, is making good progress in the provision of public transport information. More than £1m has been provided to the traveline multi-modal public transport information service, which is handling around 400,000 telephone calls per year. The Traveline Cymru internet site went live in February 2003. Public Transport Information Cymru intends to introduce more detailed fares and information by phone and internet as part of the service.

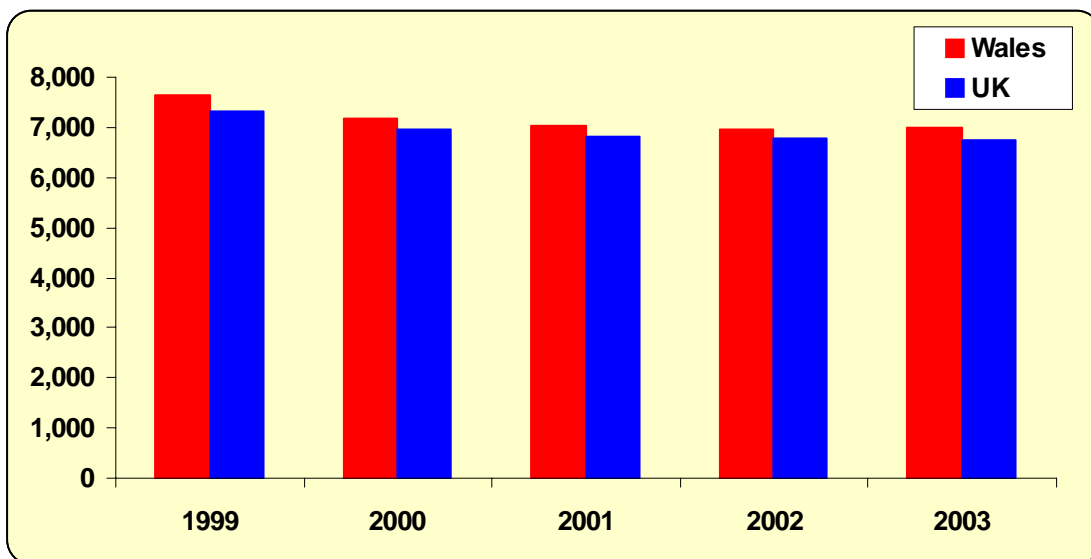
## IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL BEING

### STATISTICAL CONTEXT:

This section provides some key high-level indicators related to improving health and well-being in Wales.

Despite recent improvements, levels of ill health remain high in Wales when compared with the rest of the UK, and there is significant variation in the levels of ill health between local authorities. These levels of ill health can be seen both for elderly and for working age people.

#### Age standardised mortality rate (deaths per millions population)

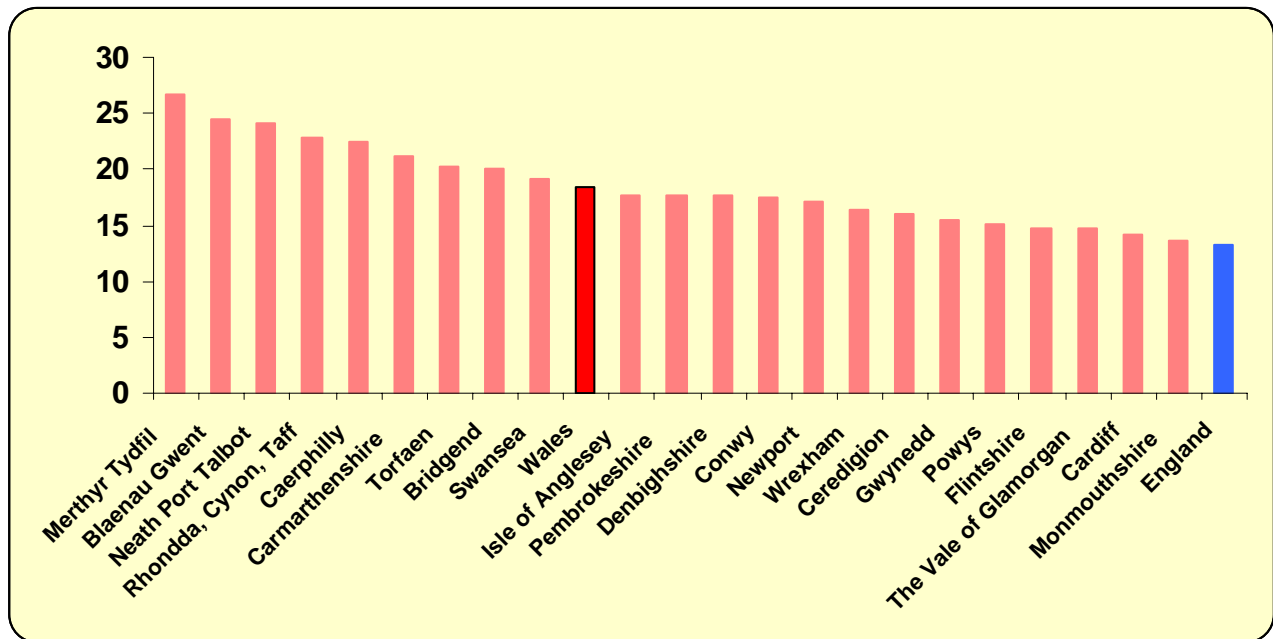


Source: Office for National Statistics

- The mortality rates in Wales decreased from just over 7,600 per million in 1999 to just under than 6,600 in 2004.
- UK mortality rates followed a similar pattern, falling from just over 7,300 per million in 1999 to just under 6,400 in 2004

For people of working age (16 to 59/64), there appear to be large health differences between England and Wales, and between local authority areas within Wales. This is shown by looking at self-reported Limiting Long-Term Illness (LLTI).

**Limiting long-term illness of people of working age: April 2001**  
 (as percentage of all people of working age, i.e. 16 to 59/64)

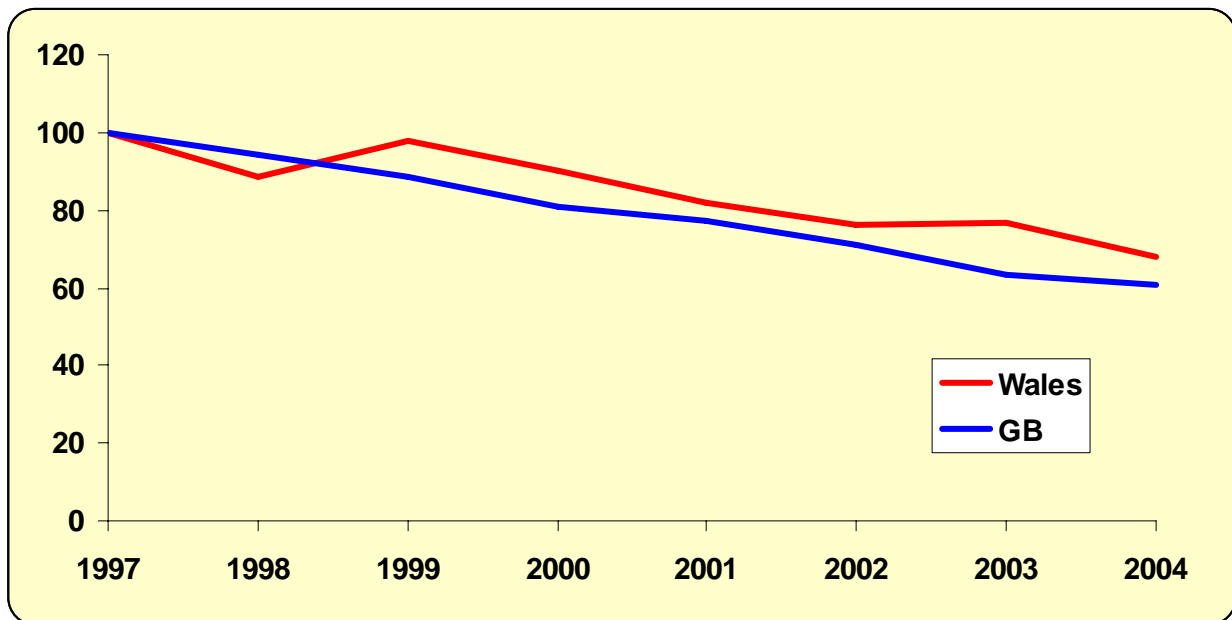


Source: 2001 Census of Population, Office for National Statistics

- 319,000 people (18.4 per cent of the working age population) in Wales reported having a limiting long-term illness. The percentage in England was nearly a third lower (13.3 per cent).
- Within Wales, Merthyr Tydfil had the highest percentage (26.7 per cent) and Monmouthshire the lowest (half the Merthyr figure, at 13.7 per cent).

For children, a serious health risk are accidental injuries, particularly road accidents. Here the position in Wales has been improving steadily over the past few years, though levels are still higher than in England.

## Children killed or seriously injured in Road Accidents (Index 1997=100)



Source: DfT and Welsh Assembly Government

- In 2004 170 children were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Wales, 11 per cent lower than the number in 2003 (192). In GB the number of children killed or seriously injured in 2004 was 5 per cent lower than the figure for 2003.
- In 2004 the number of children killed or seriously injured in Wales was 41 per cent lower than the average for 1994-98 (baseline for targets). In GB the corresponding reduction was 43 per cent.

Source: Office for National Statistics

## POLICY CONTEXT

### Health and Social Care

The Assembly Government is committed to reducing health needs and improving services, and this operates at many levels. Various actions are being taken to remove barriers to better health.

**Prescription charges** have halved during the lifetime of this Assembly Government, and they are due to be abolished completely by 2007. This will mean that patients on modest incomes no longer need to pick and choose the medication that they get dispensed, so that in the long term their health will benefit.

**Free Swimming**, introduced in 2003 by the Assembly Government, in partnership with the WLGA and all 22 Welsh local authorities, provides free swimming together with a range of free structured water-based activities to children and young people aged 16 and under during all school holidays. The primary aim is to make a significant contribution to the *Climbing Higher* sport and physical activity participation targets. In November 2004, the Assembly Government launched a similar scheme for older people - '60+ Free Swimming/Nofio Am Ddim 60+' which operates throughout the country throughout the year.

A priority in the public health improvement policies and programmes is to work with the most disadvantaged communities or population groups.

There is a requirement for all local authorities and Local Health Boards jointly to prepare local **Health Social Care and Wellbeing Strategies** targeted on local needs.

Professor Townsend was commissioned by the Health and Social Services Committee to advise on how NHS resources can be allocated to tackle **inequalities in health**. As a result of that work and his first report (Targeting Poor Health) funding arrangements have been changed to target resources to Local Health Boards with above average need. It also recommended a 'dual strategy' approach, advocating strategic action inside and outside the NHS to improve health and tackle inequalities in health. Programmes such as the Inequalities in Health Fund and Equity and Training and Advocacy Grants were subsequently established.

The Inequalities in Health Fund is currently supporting 62 ongoing projects with a primary focus on coronary heart disease. Project teams are providing diverse action or services including screening, lifestyle change advice, cardiac rehabilitation and work-place health. Working with partners including local government, the voluntary sector and front-line primary care and NHS Trust staff action is being targeted across Wales' most disadvantaged communities. In February 2006 the Minister for Health and Social Services announced extended funding for the whole portfolio and many projects will now go through to March 2008. The Funds projects are at the forefront of the Assembly Government's commitment to Health Challenge Wales and also link with many other policies and programmes such as 'Climbing Higher', 'Making the Connections' and 'Designed for Life'. The collaborative working practices fostered within communities and between health professionals are a prime example of how positive outcomes can be achieved.

Equity Training and Advocacy Grants have funded projects to provide an opportunity for health care professionals to reflect on issues of inequity of access to health care services and if appropriate to make changes in services to address issues that are identified. The grants have also enabled healthcare professionals



to engage in advocacy to address issues identified outside the health sector which adversely impact on the health of individuals. Following a successful pilot in 2003-2004, twenty-two projects are being funded with a further nine planned for 2006-07. It is planned to roll-out the scheme across the three regions for a second round of funding during 2007-08. Professor Townsend's second report (*Inequalities in Health: The Welsh Dimension 2002-03*) acknowledged support for the type of targeted action inspired by the work undertaken through programmes such as the Inequalities in Health Fund and Equity Training and Advocacy Grants and in response, there will be increased emphasis on the action that can be taken within local health board areas to tackle health inequalities – this work will be incorporated within the review of the NHS commissioning framework that is currently underway.

**Local Health Alliances** have been established in each local authority area with the Assembly Government providing £15,000 each year for three years to local authorities to support their response to **Health Challenge Wales** and develop a three-year health improvement action plan that will actively engage disadvantaged communities.

The Assembly Government made a commitment in 2004 that no one would wait more than 12 months for inpatient and daycase treatment or a first outpatient appointment. In May 2006 the end of year waiting times show that Trusts across Wales met that commitment. The figures reveal a huge drop over the past year in the number of people waiting more than 12 months. In March 2005 there were 840 people waiting more than 12 months for inpatient and daycase treatment and now there are none at all. Similarly in March 2005 13,860 were waiting more than 12 months for a first outpatient appointment. Now there are just 15, all of whom are Welsh residents waiting for an appointment in an English Trust.

In addition, at the end of March 2006, the waiting times figures showed that 79% of those patients on the inpatient/daycase waiting list had been waiting for less than six months. This compares with a figure of 75% at the end of March 2005. The latest available statistics giving the median wait for inpatient/daycase treatment is for 2004/05, which showed an all-Wales figure of 77 days or 11 weeks. The figure for outpatients at March 2006 showed that 80% were waiting less than six months. This compares with a figure of 71% at the end of March 2005.

The figures show how the huge investments in the health service are making a difference for patients. The Assembly Government has allocated an extra £80m to help Trusts in Wales meet the waiting times targets and the capital investment programme is now seeing new developments such as the orthopaedic unit at St Woolos Hospital, Newport.

The progress made over the last year is just the start of an improved health service for Wales. By March 2007 the target is to have no-one waiting more than 8 months for inpatient and daycase treatment or for a first outpatient appointment. If this progress continues Wales will soon have the world-class health that everyone wants.

**National Service Frameworks** have been developed to set measurable standards in relation to the health of children and older people, and for mental health, and are currently being implemented.

The Assembly Government's Health and Social Care Department is developing policies aimed at **better access** for all, including specific policies for specific vulnerable groups e.g. travellers, homeless and ethnic minorities.

Improving **access to primary care doctors and dentists** is a defined policy aim. Funding support was provided to support the Heads of the Valleys project in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly, a recruitment and retention initiative undertaken in collaboration with the Department of General Practice at Cardiff University. This involved the creation of attractive salaried GP posts in practices directly managed by the Local Health Boards that had previously struggled to recruit doctors. It also involved extending the role of the nurse and expanding the range of services delivered by these practices. The salaried roles incorporated elements of teaching and research as well as provision of general medical services. The Health and Social Services Department is reviewing this and other salaried GP schemes to enhance recruitment and retention and raise clinical standards in economically disadvantaged areas.

The Assembly continues to provide £700,000 recurrent funding to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau (NACAB) for the Better Advice: Better Health scheme. The initiative allows GPs to refer patients requiring benefits and social care services to expert advisers. NACAB are delivering the scheme through projects in all 22 local authorities in partnership with local health groups, voluntary bodies and primary care interests. Between April - December 2005 the benefit gains were £4.1m. Better Advice: Better Health services have assisted clients with £2.2m of debt.

The Assembly Government recognises that the voluntary sector is a key partner in delivering its health & well being policy and ***Designed for Life. Building Strong Bridges*** identified recommendations and actions to ensure that the voluntary sector was engaged as a key partner in the Health Social Care & Well Being agenda. Funding of £3 million was made available from the Assembly for three years (2003-2006) to support national and local partnership working through a network of Health & Social Care Facilitators in County Voluntary Councils. Following due consideration of an independent evaluation of the Facilitator posts, the H&SS Minister confirmed the continuation of funding of just

under £3 million for *Building Strong Bridges* from 2006-2009 to strengthen and build on the investment to date.

Policies and funding aimed at raising the qualification and skills levels in the **social care workforce** in Wales – including increasing the numbers with appropriate vocational qualifications for the work they do and increasing the numbers coming forward for social work training, and so creating better jobs and skills.

### **Delayed Transfer of Care**

Welsh Assembly Government policies directed towards preventing avoidable hospital admission, strengthening discharge planning and improving the efficiency of internal processes are beginning to have a real impact on reducing the number of people who are inappropriately delayed.

Since January 2004 the number of delayed transfers has reduced by 487 (45%) and the total number of days delayed at census point by 58%.

The Assembly Government has a strategic objective to promote the development of a range of domiciliary care services to offer older people choices in accessing effective, user centred support to maintain their independence. New regulations and national minimum standards for domiciliary care have been introduced to strengthen the sector with additional funding for adult social services provided. The soon to be published strategy for social services over the next ten years will develop this objective further.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

The rationales for the health gain targets and inequality indicators are outlined in the papers on proposed targets available on the Welsh Assembly Government website:

[www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/health-gain-targets/index-e.htm](http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/health-gain-targets/index-e.htm)  
[www.cmo.cymru.gov.uk/content/work/health-gain-targets/index-w.htm](http://www.cmo.cymru.gov.uk/content/work/health-gain-targets/index-w.htm)

Local Health Alliances - <http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/local-health-alliances/index-e.htm>

For details of the Inequalities In Health Fund –  
<http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/inequalities-in-health-fund/index-e.htm>

For the Children's NSF and other material relating to the Children First programme, see  
<http://www.childrenfirst.wales.gov.uk/content/framework/index.htm>

A Strategy for Older People in Wales

(<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subisocialpolicy/content/ssg/contents-e.htm>)

First Report Volume 1 - Professor Townsend's original report (126 pages)

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/TargetingPoorHealth.pdf>

First Report Volume 2 - the research team's report (197 pages)

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/TargetingPoorHealthVol2.pdf>

Summaries of Task Group reports (work carried out for First Report) (25 pages)

[http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/RAR -  
\\_Task\\_Group\\_Exec\\_Summaries\\_Revised\\_2.pdf](http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/RAR_-_Task_Group_Exec_Summaries_Revised_2.pdf)

Urban / rural issues report (98 pages)

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/targeting-poor-health-e.pdf>

Final report (126 pages)

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/microsite/documents/307/Final%20Report%20of%20Professor%20Townsend%20%2D%20English%2Epdf>

### **'Heart'Ely'**

The 'Heart'Ely' project has seen over 800 people go through a programme consisting of an eight-week core focused on physical activity, relaxation and group education. The number of people saying they exercised more than 30 minutes a day rose from 54% to 68%. There are also reported to be significant falls in consumption of fatty foods and salt and significant improvements in measured anxiety and depression levels.

Overall, 86% increased their fruit and vegetable intake and 54% of participants lost weight. The average weight loss was 2.55kg, and the average waist circumference fell from 43 inches to 39 inches. Users of the service say that they have found the programme informative, motivating and very helpful, and it has helped boost their confidence.

### **Climbing Higher**

The Climbing Higher strategy is the Welsh Assembly Government's long term strategy for sport and physical activity. The aim of the strategy is to maximise the contribution that such activity can make to wellbeing in Wales across many dimensions such as health, economy, culture, environment and society.

To take forward the Climbing Higher strategy, an action plan will be in place by summer 2006 which will be a visible demonstration of the Assembly Government's own response to Health Challenge Wales. As well as working to achieve targets, it will focus on encouraging more people to introduce the recommended amount of physical activity into their daily routines. The action plan will also bring together key activities and programmes that are currently delivering sport and physical activity; provide leadership and direction for the development of sport and physical activity in Wales; challenge and provide a basis for the introduction of radical new approaches that can add value; break down barriers and help to make real differences to participation levels in Wales. In taking forward this action plan there will be a particular focus on providing opportunities for the more disadvantaged areas of Wales.

Reference and web links to existing documents

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/dlqc/publications/sport/climbing\\_higher?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/dlqc/publications/sport/climbing_higher?lang=en)

**Appetite for Life**

Diet in childhood plays an essential role in growth and development, current and future well being, educational performance and the avoidance of chronic disease throughout life. School meals and the provision of free school meals in particular, are an important aspect of the Assembly Government's anti poverty strategy.

Building on existing work, in July 2005, the Assembly Government established the Food in Schools Working Group to examine how to improve the quality and nutritional standards of school meals and how to ensure a consistent and coherent approach to driving forward improvements in food and nutrition in our schools. The Group's report "Appetite for Life" will be launched as a consultation document on 29 June 2006. This report seeks to further develop recommendations contained in "Health Challenge Wales – Action on food and fitness for children". The importance of improving our children and young people's diet is also recognised in the Sustainable Development Action Plan and the Children's National Service Framework.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/food-and-fitness/index-e.htm>

**Free Breakfast Initiative**

The Assembly Government has committed itself to provide the funding for all children of primary school age registered in maintained primary school in Wales to have a free, healthy breakfast at school each day.

There is increasing evidence that a balanced diet is important both to school performance and health. That is the reason for the Assembly Government's whole school approach to food and nutrition. The free breakfast initiative is a key element of this approach because evidence suggests that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and children who have the opportunity to eat a healthy breakfast are more likely to achieve their full educational potential. This initiative will involve parents but is not intended to replace breakfast already provided. It will allow all those that for whatever reason, have not had breakfast, to have one in school.

Restricting the initiative to Primary Schools is principally intended to ensure not only that our youngest children are given a flying start in life, but also to ensure that the increasing practice of skipping breakfast is stemmed at the earliest possible stage. The initiative complements work already being done on healthy eating and nutrition through the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS).

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

[A Study of the Preliminary Phase of the Welsh Assembly Government 'Primary School Free Breakfast Initiative'](#)

[Draft Guidance on Free Breakfasts](#)

### **Community Focused Schools**

The Assembly Government is committed to providing an excellent system of non-selective comprehensive schooling for all pupils in Wales. Wales must become a place that puts learners' interests first; offers wider access and opportunity for all; aspires to excellence across the board; and will not settle for second best in making lifelong learning a reality. That means making the most of all opportunities to achieve excellent results and finding innovative and radical ways to create opportunities.

The Assembly Government sees schools as being integral to community capacity building – providing a base for delivering education and training, with links to Further and Higher Education institutions - but also providing a range of other family services like family support, health and enterprise promotion. This is particularly relevant in deprived areas where alternative facilities often do not exist and/or low-esteem amongst local resident's means they are unlikely to take up opportunities outside their immediate areas.

The Assembly Government issued guidance on 15 December 2003 to assist schools and their key partners develop a community focus. The agenda for community focused schools is a long term one. A growing number of schools are well on the way, others are just beginning to develop in that direction. Many

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are working closely with schools to develop a community focus. Increasingly capital investment in school buildings is directed at dual school and community use.

£3m in grant funding was provided to LEAs in 2005-06 to fund exemplar schemes that were either used as models of good practice elsewhere or which would lead to further development or to provide start-up funding. Consideration is now being given to how exemplars and good practice can be shared and the Assembly Government officials will be working with ContinYou Cymru on developing guidance material to support LEAs develop their Community Focused School strategies. Funding for the next two years has now been secured and LEAs have been notified of their 2006-07 allocations. A total of £3.6m has been made available.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/40382112/40382112/403821/NAFWC31-05-e.pdf?lang=en>

## **Cymorth**

Cymorth (the Children and Youth Support Fund) is about different sectors working together in innovative ways for the benefit of children and young people, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and particularly Communities First areas. Many disadvantaged children, young people and their families are being reached across Wales through around 900 individual Cymorth projects.

Since the Cymorth grant scheme commenced in 2003, over £125 million has been allocated to local authority partnerships. In 2003-04 and 2004-05 over £39 million and over £42 million was made available respectively. Local Cymorth plans are being funded in 2005-06 to a total of over £43 million. The indicative Cymorth budget shows increases to £56.7 million in 2006-07 and £59.5million in 2007-08. While the new funding is available to expand all the themes of Cymorth, there will be a particular focus on support to parents, and the budget will fund the forward childcare strategy.

The Assembly Government is carrying out an evaluation of the introduction of the Children and Young People's Partnerships and the Cymorth Grant. It is vital we ensure that we get the best possible value for children, young people and their families from the funds invested in Cymorth and this research will put a robust evaluation system in place for the future. This evaluation report is now being considered by the Assembly Government in conjunction with Framework co-ordinators and a seminar is being held in June to discuss the report.

Revised Cymorth Planning guidance is being developed and is due to be issued in the summer.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/cymorthannrep?lang=en>

### **Flying Start**

'Flying Start' will be strongly targeted at 0-3 year olds in the most deprived communities in Wales, recognising the evidence that children within areas of multiple deprivation suffer additional effects of disadvantage. It will be based on international evidence of the interventions that support improved outcomes for children in the long term.

'Flying Start' will build on and complement existing valuable work done under the Sure Start theme of the Cymorth grant scheme. Proposed interventions include free, good quality childcare, additional health visiting, and parenting programmes. There is provision of £46 million for Flying Start in the draft budget between 2006 and 2008: £15 million in 2006-7 and £31 million in 2007-8.

A public consultation document on 'Flying Start' was launched on 28 November, and the consultation concluded on 20 February 2006. The Assembly Government is now considering its response to the consultation prior to the issue of final guidance in May.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/flyingstart?lang=en>

### **Parenting Action Plan**

The Assembly Government's Parenting Action Plan was published in December 2005. It seeks to enhance the support and information available to all parents in Wales, from early years provision through to the teenage years by:

- raising the profile of parenting among policy makers and those who provide services in Wales;
- furthering the development of policies and services that support mothers, fathers and carers; and
- identifying key actions to be taken by the Assembly Government to support parenting in Wales.

Key actions in the Plan are:



- extra money for parent services: significant additional funding has been made available to local Children and Young People's Partnerships under Cymorth in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Guidance to Partnerships has made it clear that some of this additional funding should go on increased support for parents;
- a new bilingual helpline for parents: planned to be operating from 1 April 2007, and providing parents with up-to-date information and advice about what is available in their local area;
- designed to supplement The Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five, which are already given to all new parents, booklets for parents will be made available from April 2006 giving tips on handling everyday situations, on managing challenging behaviour, and advice on alternatives to physical discipline;
- funding the training of up to 120 people in six locations across Wales in the Incredible Years Parenting Programme, and commissioning a review of evidence-based parenting programmes in Wales;
- Parent Networks: already in some areas, providing support for parents, and enabling them to have a bigger say in what services are available and how they are organised. A good practice guide is being produced for local Partnerships on how to set up and support Parent Networks; and
- promoting parental involvement in schools, and improving Parentsnet, the new education website for parents: [www.learningwales.gov.uk/parents](http://www.learningwales.gov.uk/parents)

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/PAP?lang=en>

#### **Childcare Strategy – 'Childcare is for Children'**

The new Childcare Strategy, "Childcare is for Children" was launched on 29 November 2005. The strategy sets out the vision of childcare as part of the modern welfare state, available to all parents who need it. Childcare should be delivered by qualified professionals, dedicated to serving the development needs of the children in their care. The Childcare Strategy supports three broad inter-related objectives:

- to ensure that all childcare supports the developmental needs of children in Wales;
- to ensure that childcare is widely available and affordable, to enable parents to train or work and thus raise levels of economic activity in Wales; and

- to provide childcare so that parents can have flexibility and choice in how they balance family, work and other commitments within their lives, and in doing so promote gender equality within the workforce.

As with the earlier Childcare Action Plan, this Strategy sees the objective for children's development as paramount, not least because it sees investment in childcare as delivering significant long term returns to society, including a better skills base amongst young people. It highlights a number of initiatives that the Assembly Government is taking to promote childcare, including the Genesis Wales ESF project and the Torfaen childcare pilot. At the same time it acknowledges the challenges that are faced in building childcare provision including:

- areas of high poverty facing particular deficiency;
- with the end of lottery funding for out of school childcare, expansion of places is faltering;
- some potential new providers find the barriers to start up, both regulatory and financial, daunting;
- providers report a challenge in recruiting, training and retaining sufficient qualified staff; and
- despite support from the Working Tax Credit and the tax advantages of employer provided vouchers, it can be difficult for some providers to gain sufficient income for sustainability at the required level of quality.

The Strategy contains 19 specific and timed actions, including actions on regulation, the needs of disabled children, local authority duties, the workforce, information for parents, links with Communities First and the needs of ethnic minority communities.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/childrenyoungpeople/403821/childcareactionplan-e.pdf?lang=en>

### **Play Implementation Plan**

Play is fundamental in a child's emotional, physical, social development and it is vital that every opportunity is taken to support it and create an environment that adopts this policy.

Since the Play Policy was published in October 2002 it has been a vision of the Assembly Government to develop a plan that looks at all play needs of children at each stage of their development. This vision became a reality when the Play Implementation Plan was published on 15 February 2006. The Plan outlines the

Assembly Government's commitment to implement play in Wales and how it relates and contributes towards other complimentary Assembly strategic plans.

The Plan includes a commitment that in forthcoming statutory Children Act planning guidance, local authorities will be required to co-operate in addressing the play needs of local children and young people. This will include consideration of the need for staffed adventure play, that provides children with a rich play environment to compensate for the loss of natural open space. It also examines the role of schools in creating play environments, and discusses how government can promote managed risk as an alternative to over-protection of our children.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subchildren/content/play-policy-e.pdf>

<http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/pdfs/play-policy-implementation-plan-e.pdf>

### **Children's Commissioner for Wales**

The Children's Commissioner for Wales published his fourth annual report in October 2005. It included a review of key issues relating to the rights and welfare of children in Wales that had held the Commissioner's attention during the preceding year. These included respect and child poverty, both of which particularly impact on the Assembly Government's social justice agenda. The Assembly Government's detailed Response to the Commissioner's Annual Report was published on 29 March 2006.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.childcom.org.uk/>

### **Commissioner for Older People in Wales**

The commitment to establish a Commissioner for Older People in Wales was included in the Labour Manifesto for the 2003 Assembly Elections and was one of the recommendations made in the Report on a Strategy for Older People in Wales, "*When I'm 64...and more*".

On 25th May 2005 the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill was formally introduced into the House of Lords by the UK Government. This was the first step in the process of securing the necessary primary legislation to establish an independent Commissioner for Older People in Wales. The Bill has since completed its passage through the House of Lords and was introduced into the House of Commons on 16 February 2006. Subject to the Parliamentary process it is anticipated that the Bill will complete its passage through the House of

Commons and receive Royal Assent by the end of the 2005-06 Parliamentary session. This will enable the Commissioner to be appointed in 2007.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subicommolderpeople/index.htm>

## DEVELOPING STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

### STATISTICAL CONTEXT:

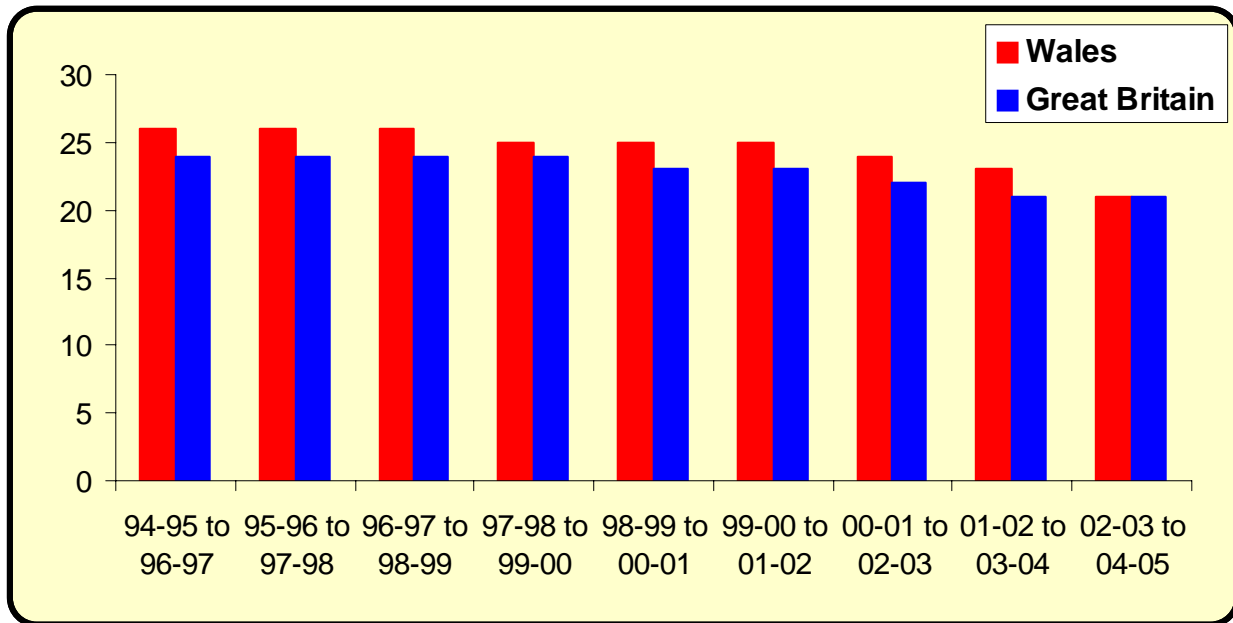
This section provides some key high-level indicators related to developing strong and safe communities in Wales.

An important indicator of the overall circumstances of a community is the degree of income inequality and the level of poverty. The general trend, taking the UK as a whole, was that until the mid-1970s, there was less income disparity, a trend that had been taking place since the end of World War II. During the 1980s, the trend was reversed, with incomes starting to diverge. In the 1990s, the trend flattened.

The main official indicator of income poverty in Great Britain is set out in the publication *Households Below Average Income, 2004-05* (March 2006). This report gives information on the income distribution in Great Britain using data from the Family Resources Survey of the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Households Below Average Income

Proportion of the population living in households below 60% of median income



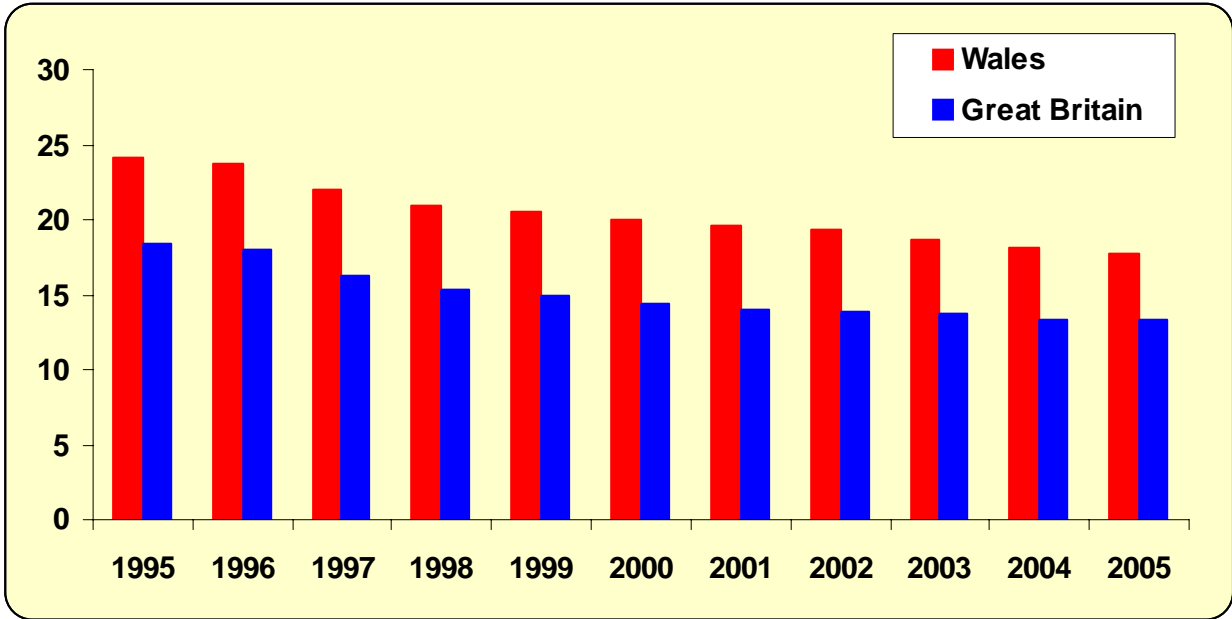
Source: Family Resources Survey, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

- The proportion of households in Wales below 60% of the median has fallen by 2 per cent overall since 2000/01 (and is 5 per cent lower than eight years ago)
- Over the eight years before 2005 the proportion of Welsh households falling below 60% of median income was 1 or 2 percentage points above the average for Great Britain as a whole: in the period 2003 to 2005 they were the same.

Benefit claimants give an alternative measure of income deprivation.

**Benefit Levels:**

Recipients of key benefits as a percentage of the working age population

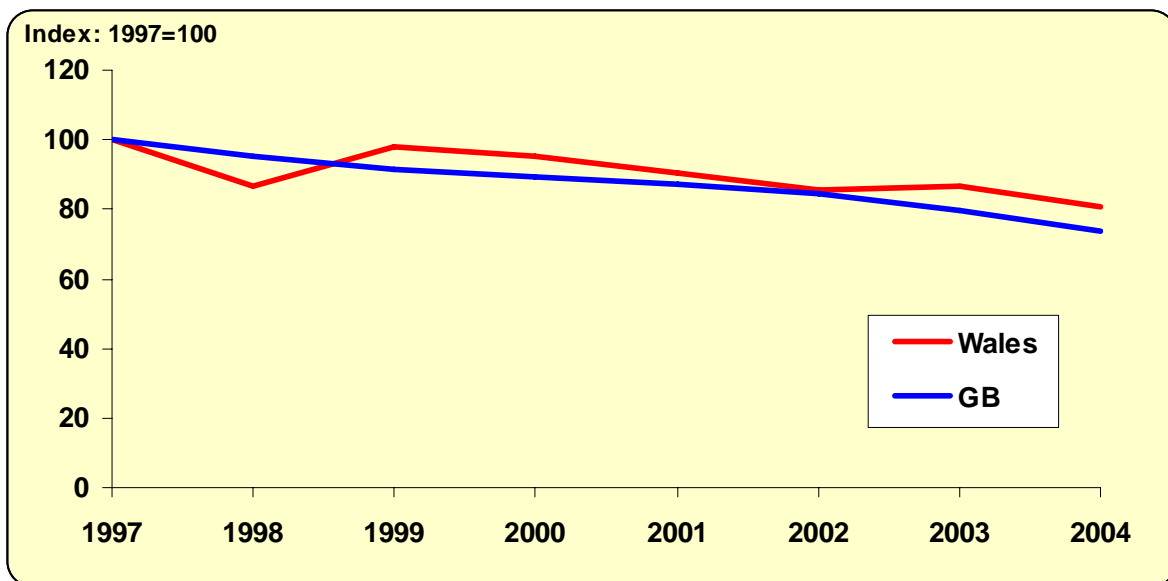


Source: Client Group Analysis, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

- Between 1995 and 2005 the percentage of the population of Wales claiming key benefits has fallen from 24 per cent to 18 per cent.

Other important community indicators are the incidence of traumatic events that can seriously affect the people that live in there. The main ones include traffic accidents, crime, and fires.

**People killed or seriously injured in road accidents (Index 1997=100)**

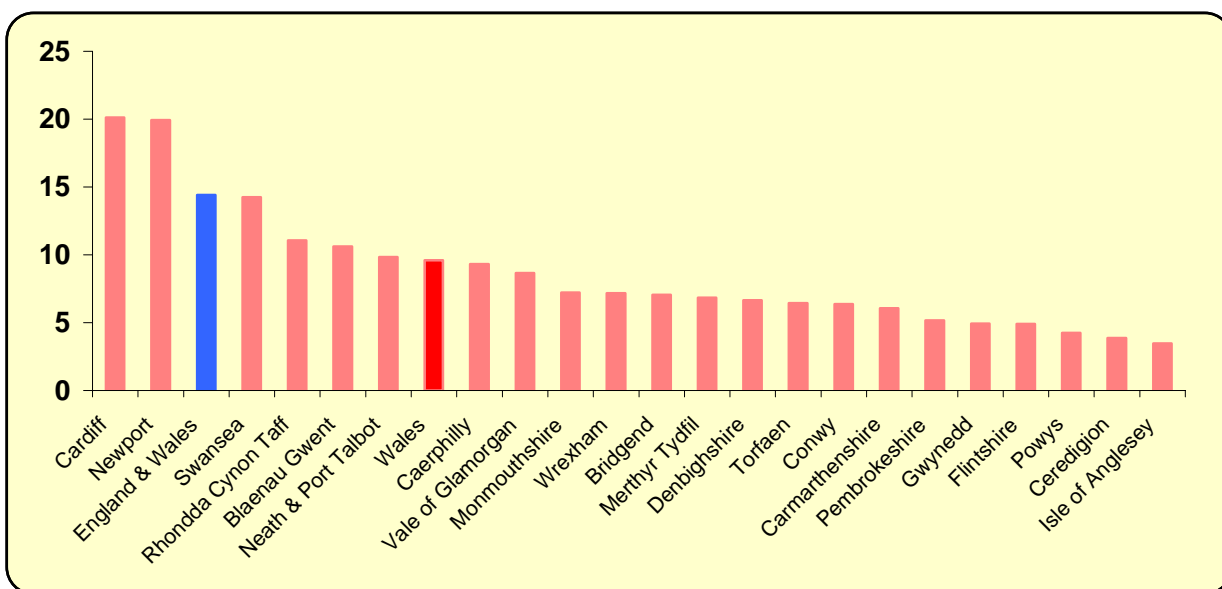


Source: DfT and Welsh Assembly Government

- In 2004 1,500 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Wales, 7 per cent fewer than in 2003. In GB the number of people killed or seriously injured in 2004 was 8 per cent lower than in 2003.
- In 2004 the number of people killed or seriously injured in Wales was 23 per cent lower than the average for 1994-98 (baseline for targets). In GB the corresponding reduction was 28 per cent.

Crime can impact directly on property, for example burglary or vehicle crime. It can impact directly on people through the various crimes of violence, including domestic violence. And it can have a psychological impact through the fear of crime that is distinct from the level of the actual incidence of crime.

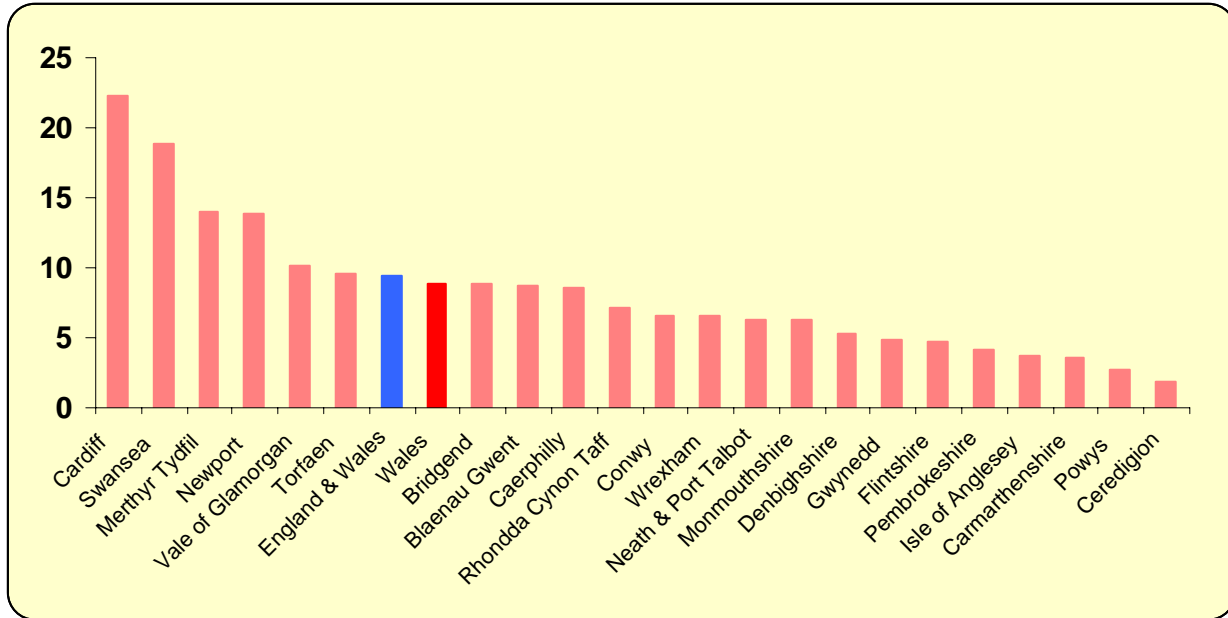
### Burglary (offences per 1,000 households)



Source: Home Office

- Rates for burglary in Wales were much lower than that for England & Wales as a whole in 2003/04 (9.6 burglaries per 1,000 households compared with 14.4 per 1,000 households in England & Wales)
- Within Wales rates for burglary range from 3.5 per 1,000 households in Anglesey to 20.1 per 1,000 households in Cardiff and 19.9 in Newport. Burglary rates for Cardiff and Newport are more than twice that for Wales as a whole.

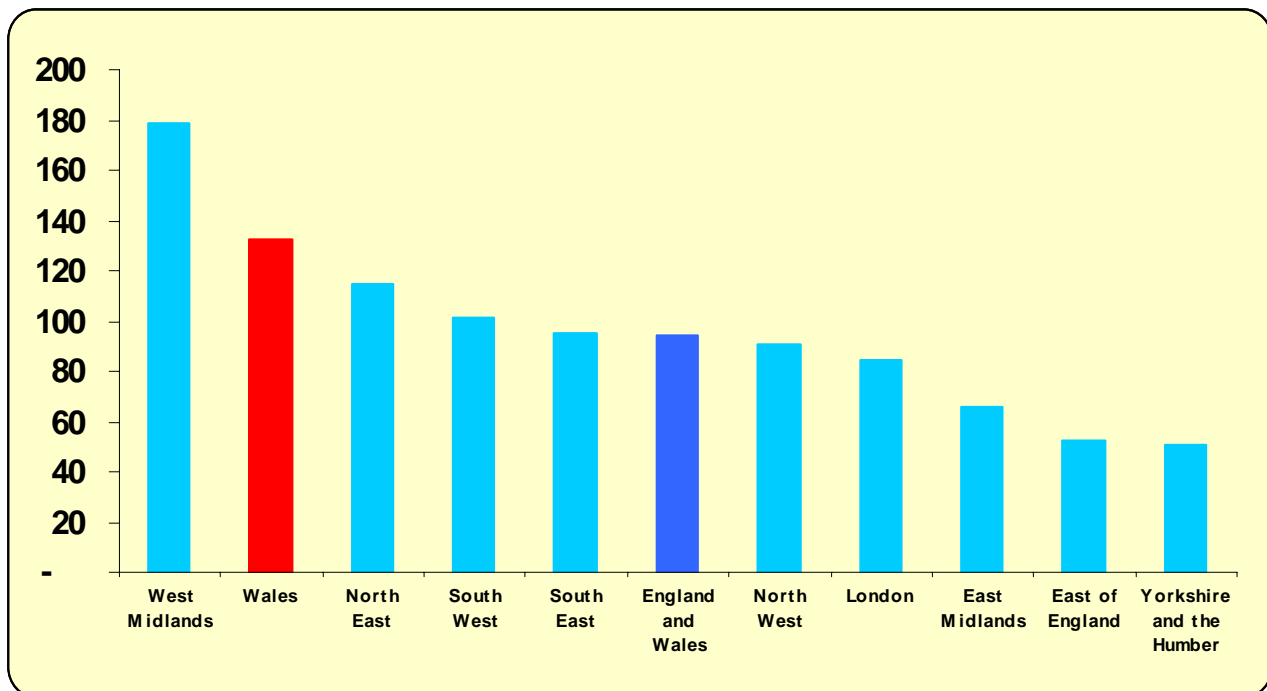
### Theft From a Motor Vehicle (offences per 1,000 population)



Source: Home Office

- Thefts from motor vehicles in Wales were lower than that for England and Wales (8.9 offences per 1,000 population for Wales, 9.4 for England and Wales)
- Within Wales rates for theft from a motor vehicle varied greatly between local authorities but was highest in Cardiff (more than twice the rate for Wales).

### Domestic Violent Crime (rate per 10,000 adults)

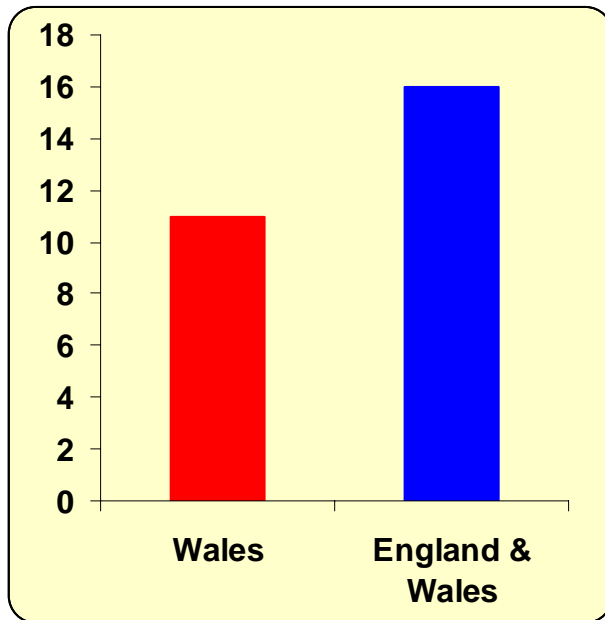




- Domestic violent crime in Wales was the second highest of all regions of England and Wales in 2003/04, 40 per cent higher than England and Wales as a whole (and an increase of nearly 30 per cent compared to the Wales figure for the previous year). 132 offences per 10,000 adults for Wales compared with 94 for England and Wales as a whole.

### Fear of Crime, 2003/04

Percentage with a high-level of worry about violent crime



Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

- People in Wales have lower levels of worry about crime when compared with the average for England and Wales as a whole.

## POLICY CONTEXT

### Communities First

The Communities First programme is the Assembly Government's long-term strategy for improving opportunities and the quality of life for people living and working in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. Designed to regenerate deprived localities around Wales it seeks to enlist a high degree of community support and participation and strong commitment from public sector bodies and voluntary agencies.

The eligible Communities First areas are the 100 most deprived electoral divisions as identified by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, 32 areas at sub ward level where pockets of deprivation have been identified and 10 imaginative proposals. Communities First funding focuses on the staffing costs of

Communities First Partnerships and small scale capacity building projects. Therefore, key to the success of the programme is the ability of other policies and programmes to be targeted at Communities First areas resulting in increased sums of public money going into these communities.

During 2006-7 the Assembly Government will continue to build on work already undertaken in existing Communities First areas. This will include:

- working with the education sector to ensure that there are a sufficient number of professionally trained community development officers throughout Wales;
- publishing revised Communities First Guidance which takes into account lessons learnt from implementation;
- considering the implications for the programme of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005;
- working towards ensuring Communities First areas are prioritised in funding programmes and service delivery culture of Assembly Government departments, agencies and other service providers; and
- considering and publishing the Evaluation of Communities First by Cambridge Policy Consultants.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>

<http://www.communitiesfirst.info/>

### **Moving Movies**

Communities First funding was approved in August 2004 for a pilot project "Moving Movies", delivered by non-profit media production company Creative Vision. The primary aim was to address issues of social inequality and youth annoyance by showing feature films to young people and, once engaged, encouraging them to produce short films of their own. Delivered in the Southern end of the Merthyr Borough the project has engaged over 1,500 young people.

Creative Vision is now building on its success and through Communities First is rolling out the project on a borough wide basis. The project - now called Making Movies - is targeted at young people aged between 13 and 26 years old offering activities such as scriptwriting, storytelling, animation and digital filming. The project aims to increase participants' self confidence and communications skills, leading to enhanced employment opportunities.

## **Communities @ One**

Communities@One is the Assembly Government's initiative to "enable communities to use Information Communication Technology (ICT) in ways relevant to them to enhance their quality of life, overcome difficulties and allow them to fulfil their social, economic and cultural potential".

The initiative is targeted at the 132 Communities First geographic areas across Wales and will provide a framework of support for these communities, building on what already exists, to strengthen community organisations and individuals' ICT skills to help achieve social inclusion.

A team of Community Brokers is working with local community groups, including Communities First Partnerships, to develop a flexible programme of work to meet the needs of local people. These Brokers are based in local organisations but are centrally contracted through the Wales Co-operative Centre, who won the contract to administer the initiative. This support will be complemented by a £4.5 million grant fund, which community organisations can bid into in conjunction with a community broker, to support local priorities.

Over the three years the project will be looking to:

- Bring new provision to areas where it does not currently exist;
- Extend existing provision to provide an outreach capacity for our most marginalised groups;
- Make contact between activities that are already in place in order that they no longer stand alone and can benefit from joint working; and
- Identify the priorities of local community groups in conjunction with a Community Broker.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/communitiesatone/?lang=en>

<http://www.walescoop.com/site/template.asp?plD=1&slD=68&llD=1>

## **The Heads of the Valleys Programme**

The Heads of the Valleys Programme is a wide ranging regeneration partnership between the Assembly Government, five Local Authorities (Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and Caerphilly), and other Public, Private and Voluntary/Community sector stakeholders. A 15 year strategy focusing on the following 5 Priority Themes will shortly be issued:

- An attractive and well-used natural, historic and built environment;
- A vibrant economic landscape offering new opportunities;
- A well educated, skilled and healthier population;
- An appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience; and
- Public confidence in a shared bright future

Reference and web links to existing documents

[www.wales.gov.uk/headsofthevalleys](http://www.wales.gov.uk/headsofthevalleys)

**Cleaner Valleys Task Force**

The Welsh Assembly Government is developing the concept of a Cleaner Valleys Task Force which will tackle the persistent challenges of littering, graffiti and fly tipping that discourage visitors and deters potential investors. Making creative use of an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) model, the Task Force will soon be equipped to provide an essential service throughout the Heads of the Valleys, helping to clean up areas where local authorities and local communities lack the resources to do so by themselves.

**Rural Community Action**

Rural Community Action (RCA) - Gweithredu Dros Gymunedau Gwledig' launched in 2002, operates across the whole of rural Wales. It covers the nine predominantly rural local authorities (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire) and rural wards of Flintshire, Wrexham and the Vale of Glamorgan.

RCA is a grant scheme to support area-based strategic Partnerships across rural Wales, to address community capacity building needs as part of an integrated strategic approach to promote development across a range of economic, social, environmental, cultural and other sectors. The Welsh Assembly Government has allocated £1.8m per year to the programme for the financial year 2005/06 and £1.8m has been budgeted for the programme for the next 3 financial years.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=6&n2=72>

[http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/working\\_with\\_your\\_community/rural\\_programmes/rural\\_community\\_action/en5884](http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/working_with_your_community/rural_programmes/rural_community_action/en5884)

### **Llwyddo'n Lleol Bursary Project**

The Llwyddo'n Lleol Bursary Initiative has proven to be an unprecedented success since its creation in 2005. The initiative was developed to help support individuals or groups aged between 13-30 in rural Gwynedd, who wish to develop or trial a business idea. It aims to strengthen rural communities in Gwynedd by fostering and developing young people in the area to become enterprising within their communities and to contribute to the development of their local economy. The bursary also provides support for young people who wish to undertake investigative research, develop and practice the know how to formulate draft business plans, or foster links with their local community-led development group.

To date a total of 27 businesses have started trading as a result of the bursary, and the scheme has also highlighted a clear gap in provision of flexible financial assistance for young people wishing to turn their enterprise ideas into reality.

### **Rural Development Plan**

The Rural Development Plan for Wales 2000-2006 makes provision for a range of possible measures to promote the adaptation and development of rural areas. The overall objectives of the programme are to raise GDP levels and the quality of life in rural areas. The scheme relates to the following measures:

- basic services for the rural economy and population;
- renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage; and
- encouragement for tourist and craft activities.

The scheme currently operates only in those areas outside the West Wales and the Valleys area which are also ineligible for Objective 2 or Transitional 5b. The scheme will bring some £6.6 million of funding to the eligible areas, supporting a total expenditure of over £9 million.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk>

### **Castle Parade Murch Regeneration Scheme, Vale of Glamorgan**

The Murch Regeneration Working Group, a community interest group, was formed in January 2003 in order to regenerate the local shopping precinct, the parade, and the surrounding area as a measure to reduce levels of youth crime and to provide improved facilities for the public.

The £152,000 Article 33 project, match funded by the police, has upgraded street lighting, improved paving, provided bollards and cycle stands, removed graffiti, installed a security gate and CCTV cameras at the parade site. The project has also provided a multi use games area, teen shelter, children's play equipment and improved surroundings at the Murchfield Community Centre Site.

The impact of the project is already being felt with reports of significant reduction in crime figures and increased commercial confidence in the area. Local communities feel much safer and more confident shopping at the local parade without the fear of youths causing trouble in the area.

### **Physical Regeneration Fund**

The Physical Regeneration Fund assists local authorities with capital costs in support of physical regeneration projects. Funding is available both to assist the development of proposals and for project implementation. Applications must address one or more of the four priority themes:

- Town centre regeneration
- Physical regeneration which has a positive impact on Communities First areas
- Enhancement of industrial areas
- Tackling prominent dereliction or decay

In 2005-06 three development rounds and one implementation round were held. Fifteen development applications were approved with grants totalling £1.1 million and grant was approved for 15 of the implementation projects, totalling £13.1million.

### **Regeneration of Cefn Mawr, Wrexham**

A grant of £1.5 million was offered to Wrexham County Borough Council to undertake a comprehensive programme of renovations and restoration to key buildings in the centre of Cefn Mawr. This included links to Pontcysyllte Aquaduct and major repairs to, and the conversion of, the Ebenezer Chapel which will become a base for the Dee Valley Partnership Development Trust.

## **Community Facilities and Activities Programme**

The Community Facilities and Activities Programme was established by the Assembly Government to help voluntary and community organisations with projects to aid regeneration of their communities including:

- creating or refurbishing facilities available to the community as a whole, such as community centres and faith-based community facilities.
- involving people of all ages and abilities in the community and addressing the needs of socially excluded groups; and
- providing facilities and activities that aim to reduce poverty, inequality, discrimination and social disadvantage.

The programme has committed £13.676 million over three years in support of 121 bids for funding in 2005-06.

### **Maesteg Voluntary and Community Resource Centre**

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations has been awarded £200,000 over the next three years from the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a Resource Centre in Maesteg. The project is well underway and will deliver a multi purpose resource centre for community and voluntary organisations across Bridgend to access.

## **Community Safety**

The Assembly Government is committed to reducing fear of crime and addressing drug-related crime, including effective treatments for addicts; it focuses on policies to develop strong and safe communities.

The Assembly Government is:

- funding two pilot On Track projects in Wales which aim to establish what works in terms of community safety interventions - Tylorstown in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerau in Bridgend chosen because of high levels of social deprivation. On Track is a long term initiative, intended to run for 7 years; the two Welsh projects have received over £3.5 million of Assembly Government funding since April 2003. On Track is providing community linked, multi-agency working and has developed services for children aged between 4 and 12 years of age, who are deemed to be at risk of offending later in life, and for their families so that they are provided with consistent support. Evidence from the first published evaluations shows that setting up complex, multi-agency lead programmes such as On Track, that aim to bring about changes in

practice, can take time. However, On Track is now starting to show some early indications of how it might start to have a positive impact and the evaluators say that it clearly has the potential for future success.

- providing funding of £281,750 for the setting up and running costs of a Wales National Office for Victim Support, an independent national charity that provides support and advice for all victims of crime. It also offers a comprehensive service to all sections of the community and is committed to ensuring that minority and disadvantaged groups are welcomed and involved throughout the organisation. Trained volunteers are based in local schemes and crown courts to offer free confidential support and information.
- funding Anti-Social Behaviour Action Area Pilot Projects where partner agencies introduce linked interventions to address anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of lives in local communities. The four projects that have been approved will each receive £45,000 in 2006-07.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/?lang=en>

### **Youth Offending**

The All Wales Youth Offending Strategy (AWYOS) is now in its third year of existence. Published in 2004, the Strategy was the result of the Assembly Government, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and local agencies working together to develop a national framework for preventing offending and re-offending among children and young people in Wales.

In order to assist in the implementation of the AWYOS, the Assembly Government is allocating £12m to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) over the next three years (2006-09) under the Safer Communities Fund for distribution to local projects aimed at the prevention and reduction of youth crime. The projects are aimed at improving the quality of life in local communities and include diversionary projects that steer young people away from criminal activity.

The AWYOS Implementation Group will be looking at specific measures to prevent Welsh children entering the criminal justice system. In particular, issues around housing will be examined. Also for children involved in the system, a group has been looking at the issue of custody and what can be done to improve the situation in Wales.



## **The Innovative Personal Support Worker in Custody Pilot**

The innovative Personal Support Worker in Custody pilot project uses youth work methodology to support young people in the transition from custody to community. The two Youth workers are in place at Stoke Heath HMP YOI and Ashfield HMP YOI, working collaboratively with local Young People's Partnership and Youth Offending Teams in Denbighshire and Bridgend respectively.

Resettlement is a key element to the work with education, training and employment outcomes a priority. Initial feedback and response has been positive. A formative evaluation is running alongside the pilot and will conclude its findings after the first year.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk/YouthJusticeBoard/>

## **Domestic Abuse**

"Tackling Domestic Abuse the All Wales National Strategy" was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Domestic abuse and the serious crime associated with it demands joint, local action and the Strategy sets out how this can be done – by bringing down barriers, sharing information and working collectively to meet the needs of victims. In order to assist with the delivery of the Strategy, a total budget of £5.8m has been allocated in 2006-09.

The Assembly Government will be looking to CSPs throughout Wales to ensure the Strategy is put fully into practice, to the benefit of all those presently suffering from domestic abuse. The delivery of the Strategy will be monitored by the Working Group on Domestic Abuse.

Main achievements in 2005-06 include:

- safeguarding all national and local projects have been safeguarded for 3 years and a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has been appointed in each CSP in Wales;
- 8 domestic abuse projects received capital funding totalling £300,000 from the Domestic Abuse Fund in 2005-06;
- review of the All Wales National Helpline;
- establishment of an All Wales network of Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators has been set up to share best practice across Wales;

- completion of the All Wales Pathway to ensure that health professionals in Wales carry out routine enquiries for domestic abuse within the antenatal period. The training pack, for use in all NHS Trusts, was distributed in October 2005. The plan is that it will be rolled out gradually across Wales when the training is completed from March 2006 onwards.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/domesticabuse/?lang=en>

### **Substance Misuse**

A key strategic aim of the Welsh Substance Misuse Strategy is to increase the participation of problem substance misusers in substance misuse treatment programmes. Additional funding has been allocated to increase the capacity of treatment services across Wales. Improving the availability of, and access to, treatment services remains a priority in Wales.

The 22 CSPs in Wales have received £9.2million in 2005-06 to address the needs identified in their substance misuse plans. This is an increase of £1.6million on 2004-05 and has provided an additional 1,600 treatment places in Wales. CSPs will receive £10.1million in 2006-07. £3 million was made available in 2005-06 for capital projects to improve substance misuse treatment facilities. A further £4.1million will be made available in 2006-07.

29 schemes across Wales were approved in 2005-06. These include proposals for refurbishment, adaptations to pharmacy premises to provide privacy for supervised consumption, specialist mobile units, accommodation and the setting up of multi-agency units.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/substancemisuse/?lang=en>

### **Drug Intervention Programme**

The Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) is a Home Office funded crime reduction initiative, which provides a much needed support structure to encourage offenders out of crime and into treatment. It also has the potential to lead to more wide ranging benefits for the individuals concerned as well as their families, communities and organisations. However in recognition of the need for this initiative to fit within structures in Wales, the Assembly Government has taken responsibility for implementing the scheme and to ensure cost effectiveness and

maximum benefit, services have been regionally commissioned by a range of partners.

From April 2006, 9 Criminal Justice Intervention Teams (CJIT's) will be delivering services across Wales. Dedicated caseworkers will retain case management responsibility for their clients from referral through to case closure. The Programme will also offer a range of drug treatment solutions that include short term rapid prescribing, family and peer led support, single point of contact, 24/7 phone support, assistance with prison resettlement, housing, training, employment and education. Service delivery will be enhanced through the use of multi agency team bases which will provide a real opportunity to pull together resources from a number of organisations under one roof and jointly work towards building a single support package that is tailored to suit individual needs.

Each region has commissioned a service model that suits local needs. For example in South Wales additional Home Office funding has further increased treatment capacity to support drug testing on charge at custody centres in Swansea and Cardiff and in Dyfed Powys criminal justice partners have shown innovation in pooling budgets to commission a single DIP support package which includes the provision of arrest referral.

Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/substancemisuse/dip/?lang=en>

### **The National Offender Management Service**

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has overall responsibility for reducing re-offending. Re-offending accounts for at least half the crime committed each year across England and Wales. NOMS oversees that orders of the courts are implemented and offenders are supervised in such a way as to protect the public, and that offenders are properly punished and rehabilitated.

NOMS brings together the work of Prisons and Probation to provide end-to-end management of offenders focussed on providing offenders with access to appropriate services and interventions to address their offending behaviour. Since December 2004 the NOMS Wales team has commenced work on reducing re-offending, commissioning and offender management agendas in Wales, working closely with the Assembly Government.

In 2005 a Wales Pathfinder Project was commissioned by the Home Office with the agreement of the Assembly Government to examine ways of developing a strategy to reduce re-offending within the specific Welsh context. This led to the joint ministerial launch of *Joining Together in Wales 'An Adult and Young*

*Peoples Strategy to Reduce Re-offending*'. The strategy forms the basis of a consultation, the outcome of which will inform the development of a joint action plan that reflects both the Assembly Government's responsibilities and those of NOMS to reduce re-offending in Wales.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

"Joining Together in Wales; an Adult and Young People's Strategy to Reduce Re-offending" (consultation document)

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subicsu/content/jointo-e.htm> /

<http://www.cymru.gov.uk/subicsu/content/jointo-w.htm>

### **Financial Inclusion**

Financial inclusion is a key element in bringing the more disadvantaged communities to the levels of the better off. The Assembly Government is working on three main elements to achieve this: increasing income; encouraging better financial management; and stimulating wealth creation.

The Deputy Minister for Communities published his Review of Overindebtedness in July 2005. In it he made 10 recommendations which were all accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government. Work is underway to take these forward.

The Welsh Assembly Government has also worked to ensure that Wales benefits from the UK Government's Financial Inclusion Fund.

£45million has been allocated to the Department for Trade and Industry to support the expansion of free face-to-face debt advice services in England and Wales. The objectives of the face to face debt advice scheme are to increase both the number and capacity of debt advisers and target the high financial exclusion areas of England and Wales, as defined by HM Treasury. CABx Wales has successfully bid to deliver face to face debt advice. Their bid covered all of Wales and seeks to target many vulnerable groups including rural, disabilities, lone parents & young families and credit union clients. It will employ 37 advisers and cost £3.15m over 2 years.

The Department for Work and Pensions is managing a Growth Fund of £36 million aimed at helping to provide affordable loans to people on low incomes in areas of high financial exclusion. The Growth Fund will be used from mid 2006 to increase the funding and service provision available to the public via, for example, Credit Unions (CUs) and Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs). Bids from potential service providers will be evaluated during April and May, with contracts to be signed and first payments made from late June 2006. It is the Department for Work and Pension's intention to announce successful bidders during June.

## Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/debt/?lang=en>

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/overindebtedness?lang=en>

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/growthfund/>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics1/debtadvice.htm>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics1/overindebtedness.htm>

## **Credit Unions**

The promotion of credit unions continues to form an integral part of the Assembly Government's wider agenda to develop a sustainable social economy and regenerate Wales's deprived communities. The overall aim is to secure a self-sustaining credit union movement in Wales, through membership growth and volunteer development.

The challenges presented by the issues surrounding the public funding of credit unions remained in the early part of 2005. However following a decision by the European Union the Assembly Government and its partners will look in 2006 to publicly fund credit unions using the Services of General Economic Interest model as a mechanism.

## Outputs

Membership Dec 2004 (running total)	34,441
Membership Dec 2005	37,480
Assets Dec 2004 (running total)	£13,084,120
Assets Dec 2005	£14,559,011
Shares Dec 2004 (running total)	£11,225,838
Shares Dec 2005	£12,697,821
Loans Dec 2004 (since Jan 04)	£8,105,424
Loans Dec 2005	£15,916,954

## Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.walescoop.com/site/template.asp?pID=1&sID=25&IID=1>

## Social Enterprise

The Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales was launched in June 2005 and focuses on the four main objectives of:

- Creating an Enabling Environment
- Making Social Enterprises Better Businesses
- Establishing the Value of Social Enterprises
- Encouraging the Development of New Opportunities

The Strategy provides details on the barriers to achieving these objectives, information on some of the measures being put into place to overcome these barriers and a synopsis of work which is already underway. The Strategy also incorporates a number of key actions and targets and information on how these will be monitored and evaluated.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales (June 2005)

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/socialenterprise/?lang=en>

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/socialenterprisestrategy;jsessionid=CCBC8621723E2D3AE04B7289F0F4ECCF?lang=en>

### **Cynon Valley Crime Prevention**

As a charity Cynon Valley Crime Prevention provided security equipment free of charge to vulnerable target groups such as: the elderly, ethnic minorities, victims of crime and single parents. The organisation saw the opportunity to provide these services to people outside of their charitable criteria and in 2001 set up a trading arm as a community enterprise.

The enterprise initially offered a lock fitting service, but the product range has now grown to include: CCTV and burglar alarm installation, access control and fire alarm fitting, key cutting, chimney sweeping as well as Corgi- Registered gas servicing and installation. With just 1 full-time and 2 part-time employees in 2000, the organisation currently comprises 22 full-time staff and turnover more than doubled between the first and second year of trading and has continued to grow.

The company's customer base extends across the UK and, by holding the rights to certain lock systems, they have recorded international sales. Ambitions for the

future are to continue broadening the range of services offered and to develop sales through e-commerce.

## **The Voluntary and Community Sector in Wales**

Estimates suggest that there are between 25,000 and 30,000 voluntary organisations and community groups in Wales, ranging from large organisations with well-developed management systems and structures and significant budgets, to local community groups consisting of a handful of individuals with much less formal constitutional arrangements and few resources.

The voluntary sector provides support and services to some of the most disadvantaged communities and under-represented groups in Wales. Voluntary service empowers people to contribute to the development of their own communities. The Assembly Government provides funding and assistance to help facilitate this on an all Wales basis.

In response to the recommendations of the Independent Commission which reviewed the Voluntary Sector Scheme, the Assembly Government has:

- begun developing a Strategic Action Plan outlining its vision for the future of the voluntary sector, in partnership with the sector; and
- established a wide-ranging Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee, comprising a representative mix of Voluntary Sector Partnership Council members, which is reviewing the Code Of Practice for Funding the Voluntary Sector and investigating alleged breaches of the Code.

In 2005 - Year of the Volunteer - the Assembly Government actively promoted the impact of volunteers and celebrated volunteering. As part of its own commitment to volunteering the number of special leave days that Assembly Government staff can take for volunteering was increased from 3 to 5 per year. By undertaking a wide range of voluntary activities, including working with children, auditing accounts for voluntary organisations and helping environmental groups, staff have helped the communities around them.

The Corporate Challenge was launched in Wales in 2005 by the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales following research which indicated that Welsh charities were not attracting the same level of corporate support as their English counterparts. The initiative highlights a series of corporation tax credits available to companies which give money, goods, services or staff time to charitable organisations. It also promotes employee volunteering and payroll giving. It is envisaged that the Corporate Challenge initiative will greatly increase corporate social investment in Wales over the next few years. Further events are planned for 2006.

In 2006 the Assembly Government will be implementing the findings of the Russell Commission regarding promotion of Youth Volunteering. £1million has been set aside and a secondee co-ordinator has been recruited to take this forward.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

Voluntary Sector Scheme -

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/volsectorscheme;jsessionid=9DDAA60B5DBC3A4F65BA73439EB04F02?lang=en>

Grants Guide 2005 -

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/grants/voluntary;jsessionid=9DDAA60B5DBC3A4F65BA73439EB04F02?lang=en>

### **Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

Asylum seeking is not a devolved issue. Welsh Assembly Government Officials have observer status at the regular meetings of the Welsh Local Authority Consortium for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The issue has been raised in the Assembly's Task and Finish Group considering the child protection needs of black and minority ethnic communities. The Group will be reporting in the near future.

The Assembly has established the All Wales Refugee Policy Forum and work has been undertaken through focus groups to inform the Refugee Inclusion Policy that is being developed. The Migrant Workers sub group of the All Wales Refugee Policy Forum are developing a code of practice for employers, detailing workers rights. Also, a 'Welcome to Wales' pack will be available to all Migrant Workers."

### **Housing**

The quality of people's homes is critical to the quality of their lives. Homes are a cornerstone of the strong, safe communities the Welsh Assembly Government wishes to see throughout Wales. The Assembly Government work will help to tackle the problems of homelessness, address the needs of older people and those with disabilities and ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to live in a good home. In order to drive forward the work of eliminating unfit housing in Wales the Assembly Government has introduced the Welsh Housing Quality Standard which all social housing must meet by 2012. During the last 20 years, levels of unfit housing in Wales have fallen from some 20% of total housing stock total to around 4%. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that this trend continues.



## Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/?lang=en>

### **Welsh Housing Quality Standard**

The National Housing Strategy provides a clear long-term vision for housing in Wales. The Assembly Government wants everyone in Wales to have the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and be able to exercise choice over where they live and whether they rent or buy. This vision is underpinned by the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

Local authorities have reported that it will cost over £3 billion to tackle the backlog of repairs and improvements to council houses. As a result they will have to consider all credible options to secure investments for improvements. For some, this will mean transferring their houses to new or existing housing associations, so that they can borrow the extra money to meet the costs of repair and improvement. Others may be able to achieve improved homes by alternative arrangements - what is important is that tenants get good quality homes appropriate to the twenty first century.

Local authorities were required to submit updated business plans to the Assembly by September 2005 demonstrating proposals to achieve the WHQS by 2012 and maintain it over a thirty year business planning period. Five local authorities have resolved to ballot tenants on housing stock transfer. Several others have submitted proposals which demonstrate the achievement of WHQS within their own resources whilst retaining their stock.

Other developments in 2005-06 include:

- Significant progress on the establishment of a construction skill training centre in Bridgend to provide good quality training and employment opportunities for up to 70 economically inactive people per year;
- Guidance published in the form of a “toolkit” to enable local authorities to assess and report compliance with the technical requirements of the WHQS;
- Significant progress was also made in the production of tenant empowerment and training modules to provide local authorities with guidance on stimulating tenant consultation and encouraging tenant participation.

In 2006-07:

- the Assembly Government will work with the local authorities who will be balloting tenants in 2006 to ensure that tenants are able to make informed decisions. Those local authorities which have not yet submitted viable

business plans demonstrating the achievement of WHQS will be required to do so as a matter of urgency;

- "The Right to Know" will require every Welsh Local Authority to ensure that all council tenants are made fully aware of the means by which their local authority intends to meet and maintain WHQS. A new Unit will be established under the sponsorship of the Welsh Assembly Government to work with local authorities, tenant groups and other stakeholders to identify and disseminate "best practice" guidance;
- The new Bridgend training centre will be officially opened and the training programmes implemented;
- The tenant empowerment and training modules produced by Priority Estates Partnership will be launched; and
- A protocol will be established with the Wales Audit Office to work with local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government in order to provide independent monitoring and reporting on the achievement of WHQS by local authorities.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/social/whqs/?lang=en>

### **National Homelessness Strategy**

In April 2003 the National Assembly for Wales adopted a National Homelessness Strategy. The Strategy set out the Assembly's objectives in tackling homelessness, including the need to reduce the length of time people spend in temporary accommodation, and ending the use of Bed and Breakfast for housing families. During 2005 the Welsh Assembly Government reviewed and revised the National Homelessness Strategy to cover the period 2006-8. The revised Strategy reflected increased emphasis on prevention and joint working, and the Assembly Government continued to support this Strategy through funding, guidance and legislation. As a result of this policy the trends in numbers of homeless people in the key target areas below began to fall significantly.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

National Homelessness Strategy 2006-8

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/homelessnessstrategy?lang=en>

## **Disabled Facilities Grant**

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) provide essential help to enable older and disabled people to remain in their own homes. These are mandatory grants and the Assembly Government has encouraged local authorities to rightly regard them as a priority. A review of home adaptations, including DFGs, was completed in March 2006 and had strong cross-party support. All of the recommendations are being implemented, including the abolition of the parental means-test for disabled children in September 2005.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

Disabled Facilities Grants -

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/grants/dfg/?lang=en>

Review of Housing Adaptations including Disabled Facilities Grants – Wales (March 2005) -

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/houseadaptreview?lang=en>

## **Care and Repair Services**

Care and Repair agencies help older and disabled people remain in their own homes by providing direct practical assistance in regard to the most suitable home repairs and renovation including welfare benefit advice, equity release, healthy homes and fuel poverty checks. As well as the national body, Care and Repair Cymru, there are 22 agencies (one per local authority area) giving all-Wales coverage, a situation unique in the UK.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

Care & Repair Cymru - <http://www.careandrepair.org.uk/>

## **Rapid Response Adaptations Programme**

This Assembly Government initiative continues to help older people remain in their own homes by undertaking repairs (e.g. ramps, grab rails) which obviate admission into residential care or hospital. It also facilitates hospital discharge and alleviates delayed transfers of care. The programme fully accords with the Wanless agenda for Health and Social Care. During the first 18 months of the programme 10,416 service users were assisted. This enabled 3,277 people to leave hospital early. A further 7,139 people have been prevented from having an accident or illness associated with housing.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/private/improvementandrepair/disabledhelp/>

## **Social Justice & Regeneration Committee's Policy Review Housing for Older People**

Published in July 2004 as the Committee's contribution to the Assembly Government's 'Strategy for Older People in Wales', the report made 26 recommendations covering housing, health and social care. Implementation of the recommendations continues.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

SJ&R Committee's Policy Review *Housing for Older People (July 2004)* - <http://www.wales.gov.uk/assemblydata/N000000000000000000000000022398.pdf>

## **Renewal Areas**

Local authorities in Wales continue to develop their very successful approach to strategic area-based housing renewal including Renewal Areas; the aims of which are to reverse the process of decline by increasing market confidence, stimulating private sector investment and sustaining communities through economic regeneration. There are currently 51 active or completed Renewal Areas in Wales with more in the pipeline, with activities ranging wider than housing to include improvements to socio-economic and environmental conditions. This helps restore confidence and plays an essential role in improving housing and living conditions and developing long-term sustainable and viable futures for communities. For 2006-2007 the Assembly Government has made £25.8 million grant available for renewal areas.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

#### Renewal Areas

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/private/improvementandrepair/localauthorities/?lang=en>

#### Housing Renewal Guidance (NAfW Circular 20/02)

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/publications/private renewal?lang=en>

## **Housing Act 2004**

The Housing Act 2004 includes a number of measures to improve the conditions and management of the private rented sector including licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of other residential properties. It also

includes measures to tackle problems with empty homes and replaces the housing fitness standard with the new Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Most of the provisions are to be implemented in Wales in summer and autumn 2006. Large-scale training for local authorities has been undertaken and collectively, such changes will go an appreciable way to improving the quality of the private rented sector.

### **The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme**

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme is now in the seventh year of Assembly Government funding, and has a budget of £19.6m for 2006-07. The scheme is the Assembly Government's main mechanism for tackling fuel poverty, and offers insulation and heating measures to households on qualifying benefits. Over 60,000 households have received measures such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, draught proofing, and central heating through the scheme. For households in rural areas it can be harder to reduce fuel bills, as properties are often off the gas network, and may have solid walls which are expensive to insulate. We will be carrying out some piloting of renewable energy and other solutions to assess the potential of these in assisting us in meeting our fuel poverty targets.

Maximising income is a very important tool in helping households who are vulnerable and/or in fuel poverty. All households applying to HEES are now offered a Benefits Entitlement Check to help them identify if there are any benefits to which they are entitled but not claiming.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

[http://www.eaga.co.uk/Grants/hees\\_wales.htm#](http://www.eaga.co.uk/Grants/hees_wales.htm#)

### **Child Poverty**

The Assembly Government's Child Poverty Strategy reaffirms the Assembly Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and to halve child poverty by 2010, compared with 1997 figures. The approach adopted by the Strategy is informed by the findings of, and consultation on, the report of the independent Child Poverty Task Group. The Assembly Government has repeatedly made clear that tackling child poverty is a fundamental component of its broader strategy to improve quality of life and extend opportunity to every community in Wales.

The Deputy Social Justice Minister is taking forward the implementation of the Assembly Government's Child Poverty Strategy, "A Fair Future for our Children". On 3 May 2006 the first phase of the Deputy Minister's policy proposals were considered by the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee. The Deputy

Minister has developed a range of general and specific policy proposals. The proposals are grouped in three phases:

- Phase 1 - incorporating those proposals to be taken forward over the next 12 months;
- Phases 2 and 3 – proposals that will remain under consideration and have the potential to be taken forward post -2007.

In addition, the Assembly Government has identified those major policy areas where it will commit to developing targets and will set medium term (2010) milestones and long term (2020) targets so that its progress in eradicating child poverty can be measured over time.

In the context of potential new powers forthcoming under the new Government of Wales Act, the Social Justice Minister has signaled her intention to consider developing a new 'Measure', post 2007, to combat child poverty. Over the next 12 months the Deputy Social Justice Minister will seek views from a variety of organisations in the sector across Wales on what that Measure, or Measures, should entail and will be particularly keen to seek the views of organisations about the experiences of hard to reach groups, such as disabled children, young carers and those for whom English or Welsh is not the main language.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subchildren/content/child-poverty-e.htm>

#### **CyMAL : Museums Archives and Libraries Wales**

CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, a division of the Welsh Assembly Government, is actively developing regional library partnerships to improve public access to the resources held by various types of libraries in order to promote lifelong learning.

The majority of services provided by public libraries in Wales are free of charge and as such have a crucial role in promoting social inclusion and helping individuals develop their knowledge and skills. The initial Strategic Library Development Programme is a major new investment by the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a strategic framework to support innovative and inclusive bilingual library services. The initial phase of the programme, 2005-2007, has received £1 million funding per annum to help develop library services appropriate for the needs of individuals and local communities.

#### Promoting Learning

Public library users in Gwynedd, Conwy and the Isle of Anglesey can borrow items from UW Bangor Library free of charge. This was the first free reciprocal borrowing scheme of its type between public and university libraries in the UK. The scheme is being extended to include some Further Education colleges in North West Wales.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

@ eich llyfrygell chi/ @ Your Library 2005-2007, published 2005

[www.cymal.wales.gov.uk/library/atyourlibrary.pdf](http://www.cymal.wales.gov.uk/library/atyourlibrary.pdf)

### **Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales**

On Common Ground (OCG) is a two-year project which runs from January 2005 to January 2007 and is co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). It engages with young people aged 14-24 from 5 disadvantaged communities across the West Wales & the Valleys Objective 1 region. OCG uses museum and heritage collections to inspire learning, deliver skills, improve employment opportunities, encourage participation and combat barriers to opportunity as an alternative to individuals regarded as 'low achievers' for whom formal education has been problematic. This target group was chosen because of the potential of the project to develop opportunities for young people who otherwise might not engage with training and learning activities. In addition the project reaches an audience that includes people from black and ethnic minorities, Welsh speakers, and people who are in need of basic skills support.

The project contributes to building capacity within disadvantaged communities, as project work explores young people's perspectives on local culture and heritage and encourages them to think about the areas in which they live, and the people who live there.

### **National Library of Wales**

The National Library's outreach programme is designed to provide ever-widening access to the Library's collections and to offer varying groups the opportunity to make use of its facilities. As a result, partnerships have been created with groups of disabled and disadvantaged people, to allow them to take advantage of creative opportunities the Library offers.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

[www.oncommonground.co.uk](http://www.oncommonground.co.uk)

[www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk) via the 'learning' link of the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales homepage.

### **'Booktown' animation project, Blaenavon**

Scott Thomas was permanently excluded from school and involved in anti-social behaviour within the area. Prior to joining the Doorway Youth Information Centre, Blaenavon at age 12 the only activity he had taken part in was playing pool. Since the project, Scott, now 15, commented that this was the only time he felt that he'd "*wanted to learn*", and that he'd thoroughly "*enjoyed the whole experience*". Scott is now moving into the youth work scene and is currently undertaking volunteering at the Doorway.

### **Welsh Language and Media**

The Welsh Language Board (WLB) contributes to the achievement of social justice indirectly through its work in promoting the Welsh language. Under its grants programme for promoting the use of Welsh, funding is provided to a wide range of voluntary organisations. These include the Mentrau Iaith, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Papurau Bro, Merched y Wawr etc. Their activities bring people together and help make the Welsh language accessible. The WLB's statutory regulatory role in overseeing Welsh Language Schemes ensures that in public life in Wales that people are able to access services in both English and Welsh.

Key achievements in 2005/06 include implementation of a plan showing how the WLB will extend access to and awareness of the Welsh Language amongst ethnic minority groups across Wales; maintenance of 9 Language Action Plans in areas of special linguistic significance; and launching key strategies for Youth and the Private sector.

Key Objectives in 2006/07 include establishing a new scheme to integrate newcomers, implementing a strategy for marketing public services that are available in Welsh and implementing the Welsh Language Board's bilingual skills strategy.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/welsh\\_language/?lang=enArts](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/welsh_language/?lang=enArts)



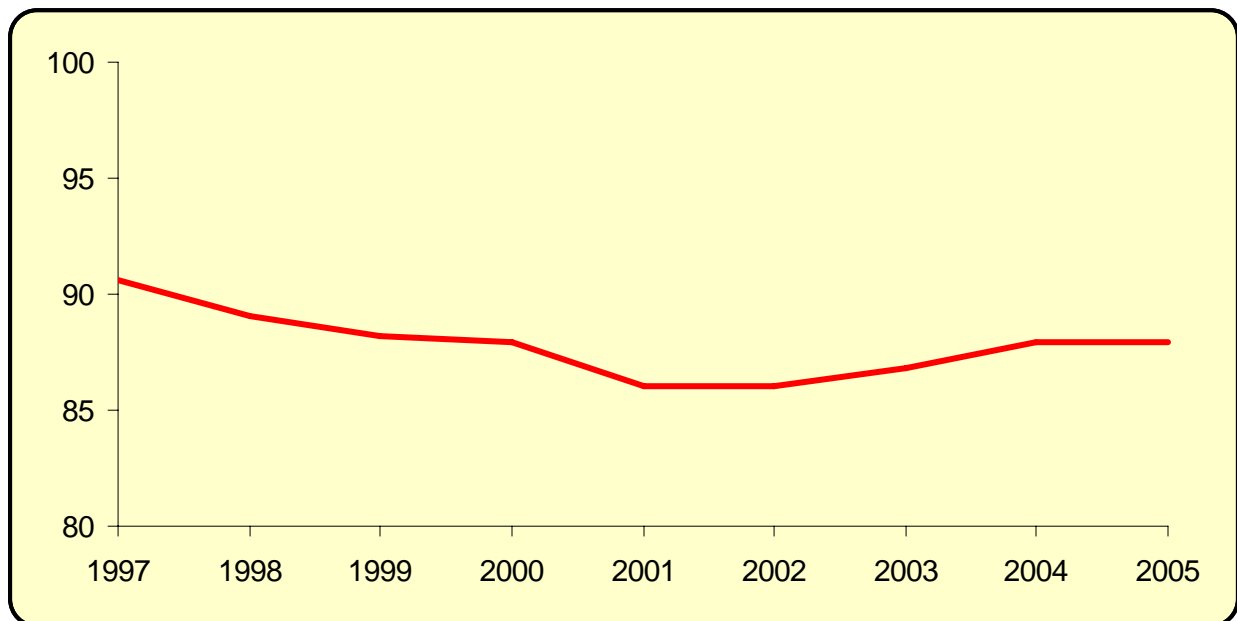
## CREATING BETTER JOBS AND SKILLS

### Statistical Context:

This section provides some key high level indicators related to creating better jobs and skills in Wales.

Average wages in Wales are lower than in Great Britain as a whole. This difference is probably due to the structure of the Welsh workforce, which is concentrated in less well paid occupations. If Wales is compared with the rest of the UK there is similar pay for similar occupations.

### Average Gross Weekly Earnings (Wales as a percentage of Great Britain)



Source: New Earnings Survey, Office for National Statistics

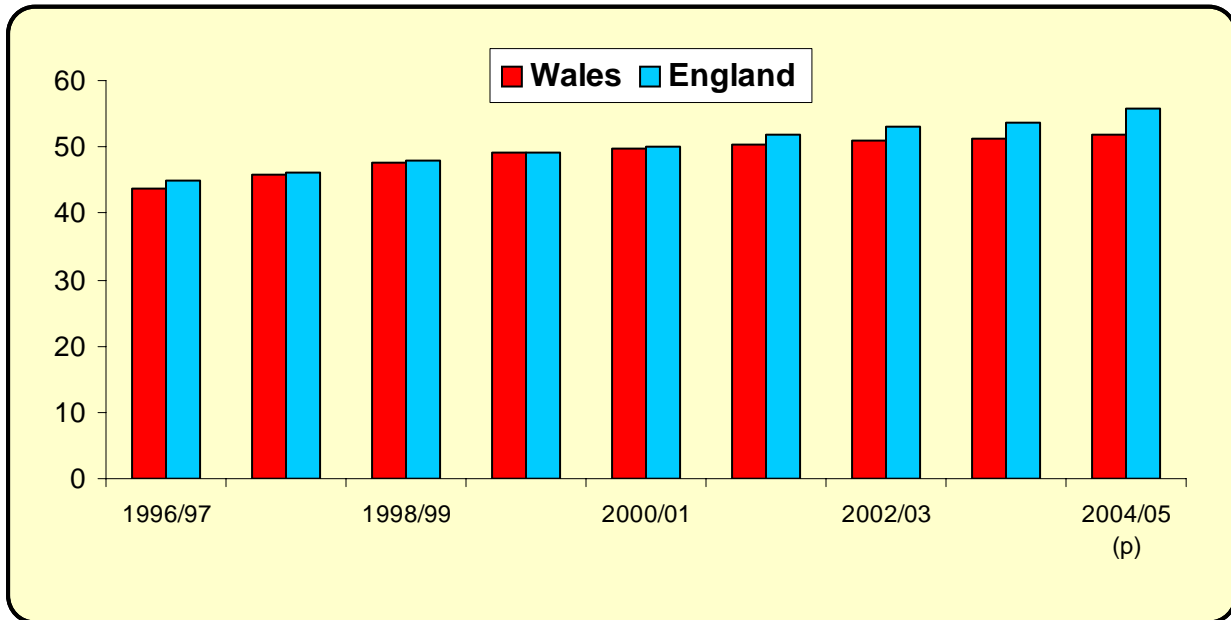
- In April 2005, average gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in Wales was £454, 87.9% of the UK average.
- This percentage fell between 1997 and 2001, after which it recovered slightly.

Over the 1990s and into the new millennium, there have been a similar trends, in Wales and in the rest of the UK for an increasing proportion of jobs to be better paid. There have also been a smaller increases in more poorly paid jobs with a correspondingly fewer middle range of jobs.

These changes make it more difficult for people with few qualifications to improve their position in the jobs market.

This will affect people joining the jobs market, that is those leaving school without any qualifications. The proportion of 15-year-olds achieving no GCSEs/GNVQs in Wales has decreased since 1999/2000, although it is still higher than in England.

Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 or more A\*-C or equivalent at GCSE

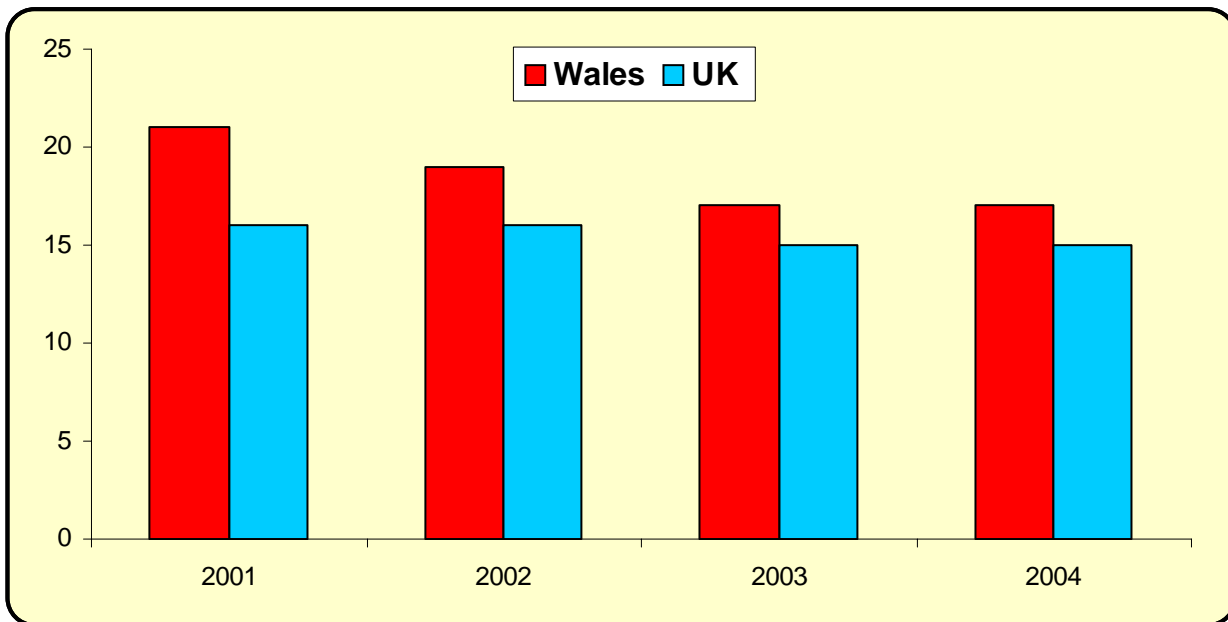


Source: School Performance System, National Assembly for Wales

- Just over half of 15 year olds (52 per cent) in Wales now achieve 5 or more good GCSEs. This has steadily risen from 44 per cent in 1996/97.
- England continue to have a slightly higher percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A\*-C (or an equivalent qualification).

This will also disadvantage people already in the jobs market, in particular those without any qualifications.

## Percentage of the Working Age population with no qualifications



Source: Annual Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

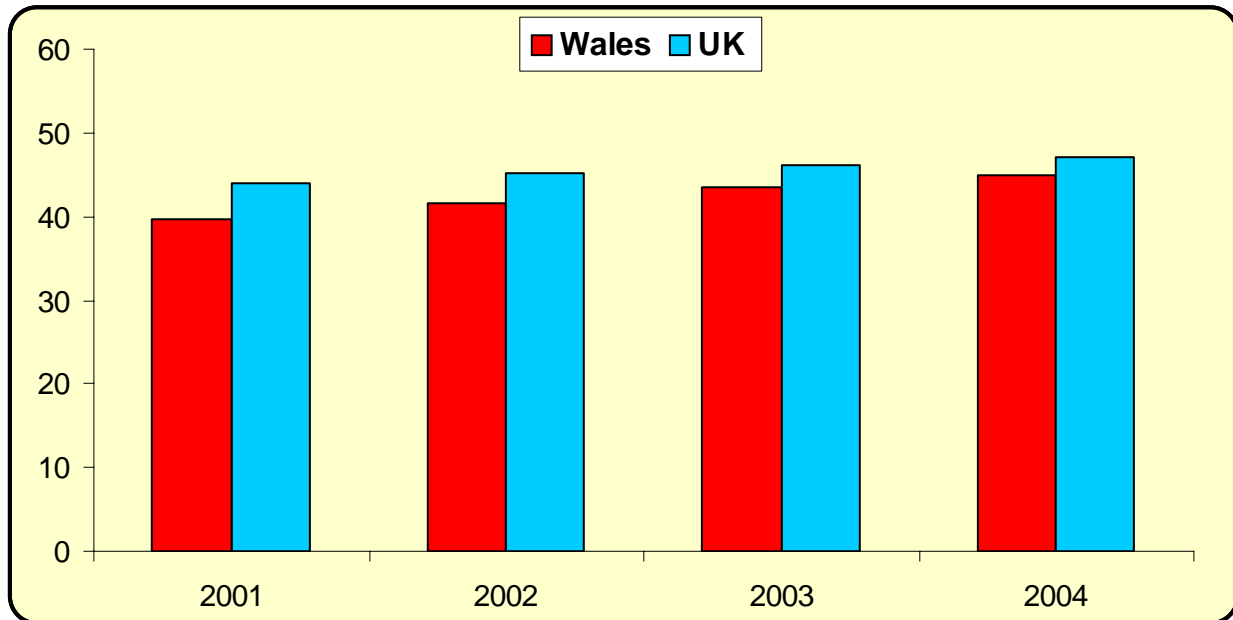
- In 2004, 17 per cent of working age adults had no qualifications, compared with 21 per cent in 2001.
- Wales has a higher proportion of working age adults without qualifications than the UK as a whole.

There have been recent improvements in the numbers of adults without qualifications as a proportion of all working age adults. This proportion is expected to decrease over time as people who retire from the labour market are replaced with school and college leavers with higher levels of qualifications.

The proportion of working age people with higher levels of qualification has been increasing, but is still lower than the UK as a whole. For graduates (NVQ level 4) the trends and levels are similar to the Northern regions of England.

There is no sign of systematically lower pay for graduates in Wales, as compared with pay for graduates in the rest of the UK.

## Percentage of those of working age at NVQ level 3 (or equivalent) or above



Source: Annual Local Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

- In 2004, 45 per cent of working age adults held level-3 (or equivalent) qualifications, compared with 40 per cent in 2001.
- Wales has a lower proportion of working age adults with level-3 qualifications than the UK as a whole. However the gap has narrowed since 2001.

## POLICY CONTEXT

### Wales: A Vibrant Economy

The Assembly Government's vision is of a vibrant Welsh economy delivering strong and sustainable economic growth by providing opportunities for all. The priorities in pursuit of this vision will be to:

- increase employment still further, so that over time the Welsh employment rate matches the UK average, even as the UK employment rate itself rises; and
- raise the quality of jobs, so that average earnings increase and close the gap with the UK average.

The key actions for achieving these priorities will be:

- supporting job creation and helping individuals to tackle barriers to participation in the world of work;
- investing to regenerate communities and stimulate economic growth across Wales;
- helping businesses to grow and to increase value-added per job and earnings by:
  - investing in Wales's transport networks and other economic infrastructure
  - attracting more high value-added functions to Wales and supporting businesses and sectors with strong growth potential, notably through the new *Knowledge Bank for Business*;
  - further improving the skills base and using the opportunities created by the mergers of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies to deliver more demand-led training tailored to the needs of businesses; and
  - helping businesses to become more competitive by supporting other drivers to business growth: entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and trade; and
- ensuring that all economic programmes and policies support sustainable development, in particular by encouraging clean energy generation and resource efficiency.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/403821/business\\_and\\_economy\\_research/1711511;jsessionid=499727B49E938A47C676B604EE5D7CBB?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/403821/business_and_economy_research/1711511;jsessionid=499727B49E938A47C676B604EE5D7CBB?lang=en)

#### **Foundation Phase**

The Foundation Phase, a new curriculum for 3 to 7-year-olds, makes a commitment to give all children a flying start in life. We will achieve this by providing an appropriately developmental curriculum and setting high expectations early on that will enable all children to reach their potential and to take their full place in society. Every child is different and it is vitally important that the opportunities they are given provide a positive attitude to learning. The future benefits of the Foundation phase will lead to a reduction in disaffection and support those children facing disadvantage and poverty of opportunity.

The Foundation Phase encourages children to become self-reliant, enjoy challenge and acquire positive attitudes to learning. It is about developing children aspirations, motivation and socialisation.

A pilot in 41 schools/settings started in September 2004 with the intention of monitoring and evaluating the impact the new curriculum will have on teaching practices and learning opportunities. The Pilot will continue until the statutory rollout of the Foundation Phase which is planned to start in September 2008.

Reference and web links to existing documents

[www.learning.wales.gov.uk/foundationphase](http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/foundationphase)

### **Narrowing the Gap in the Performance of Schools Study**

The Narrowing the Gap in the Performance of Schools Project is a joint project between the Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association. The study was initiated by the WLGA in response to the fact that in Wales, whilst standards of attainment have risen in all schools over the last 10 years, the gap between the best and the least well performing schools has not changed - it has not diminished or grown. The Assembly Government recognises that until that gap is addressed and narrowed, children in Wales are not being offered true equality of opportunity.

However, whilst we know that there is a link between poor performance and deprivation, we also know that there are schools that do not follow this pattern – they are doing well despite being in an area of deprivation or having a high number of pupils from deprived backgrounds. The aim of the study therefore was to identify what works for those schools and to disseminate that good practice so that schools in similar circumstances could consider what might also work for them.

The report of the Phase I, which looked at secondary schools, was published in October 2002. Phase II, looking at primary schools, was concluded during 2005 and the report published in November 2005. The findings of both phases of the study have been widely disseminated at a range of formal joint Assembly Government and WLGA conferences and workshops held across Wales and through other relevant events.

Reference and web links to existing documents

Narrowing the Gap in the Performance of Schools

[DfTE Information Document No: 029/02](#) published October 2002

Narrowing the Gap in the Performance of Schools Project Phase II Primary Schools

[DfTE Information Document No: 048-05](#) published 17 November 2005

## **Additional Revenue Grant for Under Performing Schools**

The Assembly Government has made £3m additional revenue grant available to local education authorities to help tackle under performing schools each year from 2003-04 to 2005-06. 209 primary and 86 secondary schools have received funding (but not necessarily in every year), ranging from £371 to £90,000 a year, with amounts from under £1,000 to £10,000 most prevalent. Authorities and schools were free to use the funding as they judged appropriate including: initiatives in ICT, literacy, numeracy, behaviour, attendance; after school clubs; additional classroom support and teaching staff; and class size reduction.

A review of this funding has led to the announcement on 5 April 2006 of a new scheme commencing in 2006/07 to be known as RAISE (Raising Attainment & Individual Standards in Education in Wales) targeted at disadvantaged pupils to seek to raise their levels of performance.

## **Learning Pathways 14-19**

The Assembly Government has supported the establishment of 14-19 Networks in each local authority area which work in partnership with local Community Consortia for Education and Training and Young People's Partnerships. The Networks are responsible for ensuring that all 14-19 year olds are given choice, flexibility and opportunity in their learning pathways.

The aims of Learning Pathways include:

- lifting the proportion of 16 year olds with level 2 and the proportion with level 3 qualifications at 19;
- reducing the number of young people leaving full time education with no qualifications;
- reducing the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- increasing attendance, reduce exclusion and improve retention; and
- impacting positively on basic skills, workforce skills and sustainable employment

### Reference and web links to existing documents

[Guidance on Learning Pathways 14-19](#), July 2004 (Guidance II available May 2006)

[14-19 Learning Pathways - Report by Christine Chapman AM](#), November 2005 and subsequent 14-19 Action Plan 2006-10 from Minister (March 2006)

## **Children and Young People's Participation**

The Assembly Government has recently established a Participation Project to promote the active involvement of children and young people from 0-25. The aim of the project is to enable children and young people's voices to be heard and acted upon both internally within the Assembly Government as well as within other organisations and agencies in Wales. The themes of the project include making sure that children and young people's involvement is meaningful and relevant, that the diversity of children and young people in Wales is represented in participation activity and that a system of two way dialogue with children and young people is established and maintained. Within the Assembly Government the project is looking at ways in which children and young people's voices can be heard throughout the policy making process and also when we consult on policies. The project is also looking involving young people in processes that take place within the Assembly Government such as recruitment of staff, procurement of services and audit. The overall aim of the project is to mainstream children and young people's involvement into all appropriate areas of the Assembly Government's work as well as that of other key statutory organisations.

## **Participation Consortium**

The Assembly Government is keen to promote the importance of partnership working, and has funded a Participation Unit and Consortium which are facilitated by Save the Children Cymru. The Consortium is made up of representatives from a number of statutory and voluntary children and young people's organisations and agencies and is working to share ideas and good practice in participation as well as to support a co-ordinated approach within Wales. The Consortium has been involved in facilitating discussion around definitions of participation, developing a set of core principles for children and young people's involvement and is beginning to look at putting in place a framework of National standards for participation.

## **Schools Councils**

Wales is introducing statutory schools councils for all primary, secondary and special schools by November this year. This will mean that all schools should have a mechanism for young people to get their voices heard on aspects of their education and school life as well as on wider issues..

In order to make sure that schools are supported in taking forward their school council and that children and young people have as much chance as possible to participate in a way that is fair, democratic and inclusive, we are producing guidance and training materials on schools councils for both school staff and children and young people. These materials will aim to ensure that all young people have a real voice in their school and that school councils are never tokenistic or include just a small group of young people. We are aiming to launch



the materials in September, when they will be available online. We are also looking at ways other than school Councils in which we can help to support schools to become more participative and listen to the voices of all pupils.

## **Funky Dragon**

Funky Dragon is the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales and is made up of a Council of representatives from local children and young people's forums and national and local peer-led groups. It ensures that the views of children and young people are heard and taken into account in the decision making process particularly by the Assembly Government. It has been in existence for nearly 3 years and is going from strength to strength in improving communication and understanding between children and young people and the Assembly Government.

Each Summer Funky Dragon hold their AGM and Annual Conference, which is hosted by the Assembly Government. The purpose of the conference is to promote dialogue between the young people on the Funky Dragon Council and the Assembly Government on issues affecting young people in Wales and find out how the Assembly Government is addressing those concerns. The next Funky Dragon AGM will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

## **Extending Entitlement**

There are 580,000 young people aged 11-25 in Wales. The Assembly Government's flagship policy supports them all to access a universal basic entitlement to services. The entitlements are attached (not yet on website). The policy is long term, designed to achieve change in the way local services are delivered by making them young-person focused and responsive to young people's needs. Local activity is coordinated via 22 Young People's Partnerships (YPPs) across Wales. During 2006-07 significant activity will be taking place to raise awareness amongst young people, adults and organisations about the strategy and its implications.

Websites:

[www.extendingentitlement](http://www.extendingentitlement) <<http://www.extendingentitlement>>

[www.cliconline.co.uk](http://www.cliconline.co.uk) <<http://www.cliconline.co.uk>>

## **Young Offenders Learning Project**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Offenders Learning Project seeks to improve the education and training provision which is available for all young people aged 11 - 25 in and from Wales. This is specific to those who are known to Youth Offending Teams or otherwise clients of the criminal justice system in the context of current Assembly Government policies applicable to such young people.

## **Inclusion Policy and Performance Framework for Wales**

The Assembly Government is developing an Inclusion Policy and Performance Framework for Wales that considers the needs of all children and young people with additional needs and those at risk of disaffection. A number of task groups, with key stakeholders, have been established to review all the processes involved with additional learning needs in the context of inclusion and to develop guidance. The recommendations from these groups will provide the basis and direction to which future service policy guidance could relate.

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy\\_strategy\\_and\\_planning/95394-wag/953942-wag?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/95394-wag/953942-wag?lang=en)

## **Welsh Assembly Government School Uniform Grant**

The Welsh Assembly Government has made £750,000 available in 2005-06 and in each of the following financial years to fund a School Uniform Grant Scheme as part of its initiatives to tackle disadvantage. The scheme, launched in June 2005, provides a grant of £85 to the families of pupils of Year 6 pupils with existing entitlement to free school meals moving into secondary school as this move has the most significant impact on families in terms of school uniform purchase. The grant is also available to pupils in special schools, special needs resource bases and pupil referral units who are aged 11 at the start of the school year and have an existing entitlement to free school meals.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

Guidance on the Welsh Assembly Government School Uniform Grant Scheme  
NAW Circular No: 25/2005, published 12 August 2005

## **Educational Maintenance Allowance**

Further roll-out of the Education Maintenance Allowance – Wales scheme in 2005-06 extended the financial incentives and support available to encourage young people aged 16 to 18 years old from lower income backgrounds to continue their studies or training following the end of their compulsory schooling. Eligible students can receive up to £30 per based on their attendance and may also receive further bonuses during the year to reflect performance

## **Assembly Learning Grant**

Financial support for those aged 18 and over wishing to follow courses in Further Education is provided by the Assembly Learning Grant. This means-tested grant offers support of up to £1,500 a year to the least well off students.

## Reaching Higher

Widening access is a key priority in reaching higher education and since 2002/03 £2 million has been invested each year on widening access initiatives throughout Wales. Welsh Higher Education Institutes consistently outperform UK averages in attracting a wide social mix of students and is at the forefront in terms of increasing participation from under-represented groups.

Four Reaching Wider Partnerships, working specifically in Communities First areas, have been supported since 2002-03 at a level of some £2 million per annum. The Partnerships are engaged in a wide range of projects designed to promote higher education to those whose families and communities have no tradition of going on to university.

With the devolution of responsibility for student support and tuition fees to Wales under the Higher Education Act 2004, a flexible tuition fee regime will be implemented from the academic year 2007/08. In the 2006/07 academic year, there will be a supplementary income stream from the Welsh Assembly Government to mitigate Higher Education institutions in Wales against any risk of reduced competitiveness when the flexible fee regime is implemented in England.

The annual remit letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) recognises that the introduction of new variable fee arrangements in Wales, one element of which is a nationally-agreed bursary scheme that will include widening access among its objectives, will have a significant bearing on widening participation activities. HEFCW have therefore been remitted to take stock in 2006-07 of actions to date and to consider whether any changes are needed to maintain Wales' good progress towards making higher education available to people from all parts of society. HE institutions will be required to demonstrate their commitment to using a proportion of the extra income they will earn from the supplementary income stream and, from 2007/08, additional fee income to widen access.

With the completion of work on defining measurable geographies for the Communities First pockets of deprivation and communities of interest, work will be taken forward on the development of a new widening access target. Early indicators show a growing number of people from Communities First areas accessing Higher Education.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

[Reaching Higher](#), March 2002

[Wales widens access to higher education](#), Press Release, January 2004

[Reaching Higher in Welsh](#), Press Release, July 2005

## **Basic Skills**

A lack of basic literacy and numeracy skills presents a barrier to educational achievement, employment, access to health provision and the ability to manage one's business and financial affairs. It is also a factor in offender behaviour.

The second Basic Skills Strategy, 'Words Talk-Numbers Count' is being implemented by the Welsh Assembly Government in partnership with the Basic Skills Agency and builds on the foundations of the first Strategy. Over the next 5 years, it aims to overcome the key barriers that are holding back progress. It will comprise an all-age approach whilst England's strategy focuses on the post -16 age group. It aims to develop good practice to a degree that will enable the strategy to be integrated into mainstream learning provision.

Ten priority groups have been identified for specific targeted support, including groups at risk of social exclusion, together with ten horizontal themes. Included in the strategy are an expanded Language and Play Programme together with a new Number and Play Programme which will target Communities First areas. Additional and innovative new features will work towards a range of new targets.

### Reference and web links to existing documents

[Words Talk, Numbers Count](#), April 2005

[National Assembly for Wales Basic Skills Strategy Evaluation: Main Report](#), December 2004

[The National Basic Skills Strategy for Wales](#), October 2001

## **Individual Learning Accounts**

The Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs) Wales programme widens participation in learning particularly from people who are on low incomes. Eligible individuals are aged 18 or over; British citizens, EU nationals or persons entitled to live in the United Kingdom and living in Wales; individuals or partners in receipt of one or more of the specified income related benefits; individuals who are dependants of such persons (priority groups) or individuals not in the priority groups whose highest level of learning attainment is at National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 2 or below.

The maximum ILA Wales award is £200 in the learning year. The two levels of funding are:

- 100% of course costs, up to a maximum of £200, if the individual, or their partner, is in receipt of: Income Support; Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based); Pension Credit, (Guarantee or savings parts); Working Tax Credit; Housing Benefit; or Council Tax Benefit;

- 50% of course costs up to a maximum of £100 if the individual's highest prior learning attainment is at NQF level 2 or below.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

ILA Wales website - [www.ilawales.com](http://www.ilawales.com)

58 year old Les Jones from Gowerton was made redundant from a 40 year career in the rail industry. He has been a carer and suffered ill health. Working at Morrisons supermarket in Swansea, Les has enrolled on a part time ECDL computer course at Gorseinon College thanks to an ILA grant. With the support of his tutors he was soon able to get into learning again. Having already completed the first module of his course, Les is hoping that his new qualifications will lead to a job in which he can use his new skills.

## **Planning**

Planning contributes across all four Wales: A Better Country main headings, but specifically supports the vision of 'Action in our built and natural environment that enhances pride in the community, supports bio-diversity, promotes local employment and helps to minimise waste generation, energy, and transport demands'.

*Planning Policy Wales* and associated Technical Advice Notes set out how the Assembly Government's sustainable development agenda is delivered through the planning system. Socially, sustainable communities can be assisted through the development and use of land in the public interest: for example, by ensuring that all communities have sufficient good quality affordable housing for local needs and for special needs, in safe neighbourhoods, and by improving accessibility to buildings, services and facilities for all sections of the community.

*Planning: delivering for Wales* is a change programme based upon partnership working, with key stakeholders from the public, business, and voluntary sectors. The programme seeks to ensure that local planning authorities deliver improvements in the planning service to enable the Assembly Government to achieve its objectives, whilst also seeking to ensure that communities, including business and the voluntary sector, are effectively engaged locally in plan preparation and decision-making.

Planning Aid Wales provide free advice on planning related matters and is designed to reach those groups unfamiliar with the planning system. The Welsh Assembly Government provides funding for Planning Aid Wales to develop its services for local communities and the voluntary sector. The funding has been used to produce material in non-technical language, as well as support for

outreach staff. Planning Aid volunteers work with local communities, minority groups, individuals, and seldom-heard groups, by providing advice and support so that such groups can contribute to the plan-making process, and in relation to decisions on specific developments.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

*Planning Policy Wales* (2002)

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/delivering/introd-e.htm>

*Planning: delivering for Wales* Programme (2002)

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/delivering/introd-e.htm>

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (2004)

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/delivering/pcp-act-2004-e.htm>

Local Development Plans Wales (2005)

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/content/devplans/ldpw-e.pdf>

Planning Aid Wales

<http://www.planning-aid-wales.org/>

#### **LEADER+**

LEADER+ is a Community Initiative and is part of the European Structural Funds. The Programme has EU funding amounting to 14.768 M Euros, approx. £9.23 million (as at August 2001)) and the Welsh Assembly Government have allocated in its supplementary budget £1.75million a year to match-fund the Programme in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/8.

#### Reference and web links to existing documents

<http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=6&n2=71>

[http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/working\\_with\\_your\\_community/rural\\_programmes/leader\\_/en5883](http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/working_with_your_community/rural_programmes/leader_/en5883)

<http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/default.asp?action=page&ID=21>

#### Mona Bauhaus Major Study

The Mona Bauhaus project was created by the Menter Mon Local Action Group to develop a range of products that utilise local resources, imagery, skills and manufacturing capacity. The project will help to identify opportunities within the sector that the local people can exploit and capitalise on but more importantly the

project will help to create new employment opportunities for businesses and the local population in the area. The main objectives of the project are: -

- to address the pressing need to expand the island's product range and to rejuvenate its small scale manufacturing sector which has all but disappeared.
- to provide help for the private sector in developing new products
- to promote co-operation between designers, producers and the marketplace in order to create a range of branded products embodying the island's raw materials, its imagery and heritage
- to improve the island's positioning in the marketplace
- to harness the islands raw, secondary and waste materials in order to add value to them

- to work in partnership with the private sector to prototype and market test new products.
- establish new enterprises within the private sector in order to take the products to market.

The project aims to generate 25 new product ideas, 25 added value actions and 15 new businesses created with 15 new products produced and marketed by the end of the LEADER+ programme.

To date the Mona Bauhaus project has developed furniture, clothing, textiles, porcelain and cosmetics all of which are produced in Ynys Mon, a rural area in Anglesey. Parys Design Limited has been established to progress the products to the market place.

## **ANNEXES**

### **Annex A**

#### Monitoring Progress

The *Fourth Annual Report on Social Inclusion in Wales* identified a range of indicators outlining progress on social inclusion, based on the Assembly's published strategy documents. The section below updates these indicators with the latest information.

#### **Tackling Poverty and Improving Economic Opportunity**

Since 1999

- The number of 15 year olds leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification has fallen to 1,050 in 2005, a 21 per cent reduction overall.
- The proportion of adults of working-age without a qualification has fallen, from around one-fifth to 17 per cent (latest is 2004).
- The number of people in modern apprenticeship schemes has increased steadily to around 15,500 at the end of November 2005
- There has been an increase in employment overall and for the over 50s, ethnic minorities, and for disabled people: Comparing the whole of 2005 with 1999, there was an increase in employment of 92,000 including:
  - an increase of 55,000 for the over 50s
  - an increase of 8,000 for ethnic minorities<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The figure published in the previous report was incorrectly stated as 91,000. The correct figure for the increase in employment for ethnic minorities between 1999 and 2004 was 9,000.



- an increase of 23,000 for the disabled

### **Improving Health, Reducing Inequalities and Supporting Vulnerable People**

- Life expectancy at birth in Wales was 76.0 years for males and 80.4 years for females in 2002-2004 (3 year average, the latest period for which estimates are available).
- Deaths from heart disease have been falling among older people. In 2003, the rates were:
  - for men, 84 per 10,000 population aged 65-74
  - for women, 37 per 10,000 population aged 65-74
- Lung cancer deaths have risen slightly, although for women there has been little change over the past 10 years. In 2002, the rates were:
  - for men, 40 per 100,000 of the population aged under 75
  - for women, 21 per 100,000 of the population aged under 75 (the latest year for which figures are available).
- In the Winter 2005 Labour Force Survey estimates that 18.2% of working age people in Wales had a long term health problem<sup>2</sup> that limits the kind of paid work they can do (Labour Force Survey).

### **Children and Young People**

Since 1999

- Levels of attainment by 11 year olds have steadily increased with:
  - 78.5% reaching the expected level in National Curriculum teacher assessments in 2005 for English,
  - 76.1% reaching the expected level for Welsh,
  - 79.2% reaching the expected level for Maths, and
  - 85.8% reaching the expected level for Science
- Overall absenteeism at secondary schools has remained at 9.4% of half-day sessions (2004/05), down from 10.6% of half-day sessions in 1999.
- Results from local authorities for 2003/04 show that:
  - 37% of children leaving care aged 16 or over had two or more educational qualifications (GCSEs grades A\*-G or GNVQs)
  - 11% of children looked after had 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months

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<sup>2</sup> The figure published in the previous report was for persons with a long-term health problem regardless of whether this was work limiting or not. As such the reported figure for 2004 (30.7%) was incorrect and the correct figure for 2004 is 18.4%.

## Where We Live

Since 1999

- A new question on homelessness was introduced into one of the regular survey forms completed by local authorities in 2002. Results for the quarter July to September 2005 show:
  - Just over 11% of the households that left temporary accommodation were resident for between 6 months and 1 year, and
  - A further 5% had been resident for over 1 year.
  
- The number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Wales during 2004 has continued to fall; the rates for the relevant population group were:
  - 52 per 100,000 of the population overall (the average of rate for the period 1994 to 1998 was 69) and
  - 30 per 100,000 for children, that is aged under 16 (the average rate for the period 1994 to 1998 was 48).
  
- There has been a continued increase in the number of libraries with internet access for the public. At the end of January 2005, virtually all libraries had internet access and nearly two-thirds had broadband access via the Welsh Assembly Government's Lifelong Learning Network.

## **Annex B**

### **Assembly Government targets for main policies and programmes**

#### **IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

Targets and inequality indicators, and indicators to monitor the wider determinants of health in Wales have been set in relation to five priority health areas - coronary heart disease (CHD), cancer, mental health, and the health of older people and children.

The overall targets should improve health for all. Examples include:-

Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) health outcome target:

- to reduce CHD mortality European Age Standardised Rate (EASR) in 65-74 year olds to 400.0 in 2012.

Cancer health outcome target:

- to reduce cancer EASR mortality in those aged below 75 years by 20 per cent by 2012 (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer).

Older people health outcome targets:

- to reduce the EASR for stroke mortality by 20 per cent in 65 to 74 year olds by 2012, and
- to reduce the EASR for hip fractures in the 75-and-over age group by 10 per cent by 2012.

The health inequalities targets should ensure that these are not achieved at the expense of difficult to reach groups. Examples include:

- To improve CHD mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for a more rapid improvement in the most deprived groups.
- To improve cancer mortality in all groups and at the same time aim for a more rapid improvement in the most deprived groups.
- to increase the mean MCS score for carers by one point by 2012 (the MCS measures mental wellbeing).

Work is currently underway to identify evidence-based indicators of the social determinants of health. Examples of indicators of the social determinants of CHD and mental health include:

#### **CHD**

- The proportion of households with annual incomes below 60% of the national median income
- The proportion of the population with very short-term jobs in an area.

- The proportion of men divorced.

Mental health (common mental disorder (CMD):

- The proportion of youth unemployed.
- The proportion of the population long term unemployed.
- The proportion of the population in care.
- The proportion of families that are on the at-risk register.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services contains 203 key actions, of which 84 have been identified as core key actions flagged for delivery by March 31st 2006. These can be viewed at the web-site below.

The Strategy for Older People in Wales is a 10 year action plan which has clear milestones.

Targets to increase the numbers training as social workers - 380 registrations by 2007-08.

### Climbing Higher

The strategy proposes a range of ambitious targets. These range from increasing mass participation through to elite performance.

## **HELPING MORE PEOPLE INTO JOBS**

### **WAVE**

A set of tracking indicators is set out in Annex B of WAVE. These will track progress in a range of economic indicators, notably employment, earnings, and GVA, in absolute terms and relative to other parts of the UK and EU, together with robust objective-setting and evaluation of individual programmes.

'Want2Work' aims to engage, on a voluntary basis and with no threat of benefit sanction, with a minimum of:-

- 5,000 people (recipients of Incapacity Benefits and Income Support) and;
- of these, help at least 1,000 to find and stay in work.

### **Pathways To Work**

The UK Government's overall aspiration is to achieve an 80 percent employment rate by 2010. To help towards achieving this aim, DWP plan to reduce by 1 million the number of people on incapacity benefit.

### **Structural Fund Programmes**

Structural Fund Programmes contain targets at Programme, priority and measure level.

### **Broadband Wales Strategy**

Strategic Target 1 – “Ensure that take up of First Generation broadband in Wales is at least equal to the UK average”.

Strategic Target 2 – “ Ensure that everyone in Wales has access to information, which allows them to make a decision on what broadband could mean for them”.

Strategic Target 3 – “Award a contract to allow homes, businesses or voluntary sector sites in Wales to have access to first generation Broadband Infrastructure”.

Strategic Target 4 – “ Issue at least a thousand Business Support Scheme Grants to SME's and the Voluntary Sector in Wales”.

Strategic Target 5 – “Create a fund to support the provision of broadband to public sector sites in Wales”.

Strategic Target 6 – “ Develop an agreed Welsh Policy for the aggregation of public sector demand for broadband infrastructure, in line with Making Better Connections”.

Strategic Target 7 – “Demonstrate to the telecommunications Industry the level of demand for

## **CREATING BETTER JOBS AND SKILLS**

### Learning Pathways 14-19

- 95 per cent of young people to be ready for high skilled employment or higher education by 2015.

### Reaching Higher

#### Interim Target

- To increase the number of all undergraduate new entrants to HE courses at UK HEIs and FEIs who are domiciled in the Welsh Communities First area. This will be measured by monitoring the proportion of undergraduate new entrants to courses who are domiciled in Communities First areas equivalent to the 100 Most Deprived Electoral Divisions, which is target to rise from 8.9% to 11.4% by 2010.

### Basic Skills Strategy

- By 2010, 80% of working-age adults should have at least Level 1 literacy skills and 55% to have at least Level 1 numeracy skills.
- All schools will maintain the Basic Skills Quality Mark standards and all post-16 learning providers will hold the Quality Mark by 2006.
- 50% of employees are expected to work for employers that have signed the Employer Pledge by 2010.

### Individual Learning Accounts

Targets for 2006-07 are:

- 8,500 registrations
- 5,950 course bookings
- 45% learners from the priority groups
- 20% renewal rate (applications from previous ILA Wales learners)

### Leader +

In 2005-06 the programme aims to support at least 300 new jobs or existing rural businesses and create or safeguard 30 jobs.

By the end of the programme in 2008 it is anticipated that: -

- Over 250 community groups will have been advised and assisted
- Over 400 new products and processes will have been piloted

- Over 500 businesses will have been advised and assisted



## DEVELOPING STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

### Heads of the Valleys

A limited number of relevant 'high level' key indicators will be used to track progress towards meeting the strategic goals for the Heads of the Valleys.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
Economy	Percentage of people of working age in employment	64.3% (2004)
	Percentage of working age population who are economically inactive	30.7% (2004)
	Unemployment rate	7.0% (2004)
Tourism and leisure	Number of hotel bedrooms	275
Education, skills and health	Percentage of people of working age with no qualifications	24.0% (2004)
	Percentage of people of working age with a limiting long term health problem	36.0% (2004)
	Percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 GCSEs at A*-C grades	41.1% (2004/05)
Public confidence	Population decline	9% to 235,000 in the 21 years to 2002
	Percentage owner occupied households	66.2% (2001)

### National Offender Management Service

To reduce re-offending by 10% in 2010

### Social Enterprise Strategy

These targets for the Strategy from 2005-08 are aspirational; the Assembly Government and its partners will work throughout the life of the Strategy and beyond to facilitate their achievement.

- 80 new social enterprises incorporated
- 100 new, emerging or potential social enterprises registered with the Wales database
- £1m growth in turnover amongst registered social enterprises
- £6m of transferred assets to social enterpriss
- £12m investment secured to purchase and/or refurbish assets
- £2m in new contracts secured by social enterprises
- 20 sets of social and environmental accounts produced in Wales annually by 2007 and 30 annually by 2008

### Rural Development Plan

- Set up new, or support existing, local groups who will identify actions to regenerate their local communities, engaging with 3,000 individuals from rural communities.
- Ensure funding is available to deliver actions and support 150 community projects delivering, for example: ICT training; new community facilities; traffic calming measures; safe play areas; support for small scale activity tourism projects; etc.
- Create 25 social enterprises which are designed and delivered by the community, for the community. For example, community training provision, community shops, community transport, etc.

### Homelessness

- To reduce the number of homeless households found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need by 20% by April 2008
- To reduce the number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation by 50% by April 2008.

### SJ&R Committee Policy Review

Targets are set by the Health, Social Care and Housing Officials Group which are regularly monitored.

### Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (NMW)

The On Common Ground project aims to involve 400 participants through the set-up of 47 projects across the South Wales Objective One Regions, which in this case are Caerphilly, Ceredigion, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea and Torfaen. The target of 400 participants is then broken down into sub-categories which include the five regions, gender, ethnicity, disability, Welsh-speakers and age.