

Well-being in Carmarthenshire: What we know

What are we doing?

Public service providers across West Wales are working together to assess the state of well-being of local people and communities, now and for the future. Many things can influence the well-being of our individuals and communities, such as economic, social, environmental and cultural factors.

Based on current knowledge, these are the things we already know about our well-being in Carmarthenshire (see following pages), but **we need to find out what YOU think affects your well-being**. By completing the [survey](#) you will help shape the future of public services in your community.

The information you give us will be used, along with other evidence, to produce our Carmarthenshire Assessment of Local Well-being. This Assessment will then be used to put together our next Carmarthenshire Local Well-being Plan for 2023-28. The Plan will set out our Well-being Objectives and work as Carmarthenshire Public Services Board to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Carmarthenshire.

How do you get involved?

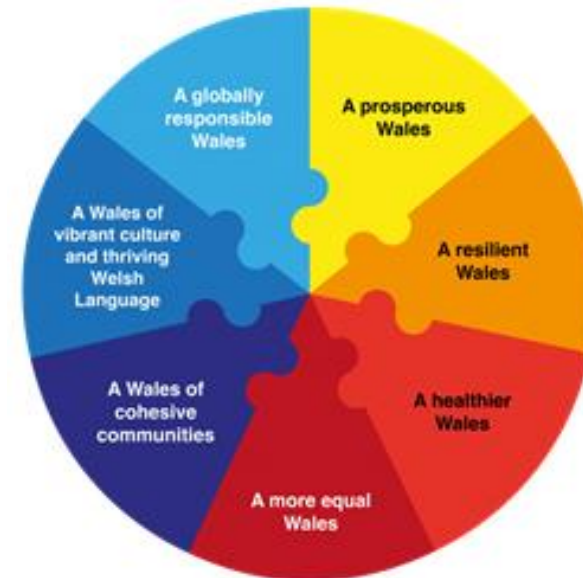
- Please take part in the regional survey
- Please let us know if you would like to take part in our online engagement events by contacting us



Well-being Goals

To make sure that public service providers are all working to the same vision, Welsh Government has set out 7 National Well-being Goals. Our work will need to meet these Well-being Goals.

To find out more visit: <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/>



If you would like a copy of the survey on paper or in another accessible format, or if you would like any further information, please contact us by:

Email: info@thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales

Phone: 01267 234567

Post: Policy & Partnership Team, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Well-being in Carmarthenshire: What we know

Demographics

Fourth most populated county

Carmarthenshire has the **fourth highest population** in Wales at **190,073**

Source: StatsWales

Fairly even split between men and women

The population of Carmarthenshire is fairly evenly split between **women (51.1%)** and **men (48.9%)**.

Source: StatsWales

Population on the increase

The population in Carmarthenshire is currently **increasing at around 0.7%**. This increase is mainly seen in the **65 + age group**.

Source: StatsWales

Net migration increasing

During the last decade, Carmarthenshire has experienced a **continuous increase in net migration**. The net international migration and net internal migration has been entirely positive during this period. From 2018 to 2019 Carmarthenshire has seen an increase of 19% in net migration.

Source: StatsWales

Almost ¼ of the population are aged 65+

Children aged **0-15 make up 17%** of Carmarthenshire's population; **59% are aged 16-64** and **24% are 65 +**

Source: StatsWales

Number of births lower than number of deaths

Natural change is negative across Carmarthenshire, meaning that **more deaths occur in the population than babies being born**. 2019-2020 saw a 6% decrease in babies being born compared to the previous year and 5% increase in the number of deaths.

Source: StatsWales

Employment levels are below Welsh average

Almost **70%** of Carmarthenshire's working age population **are working (69.7%)**. This is lower than the national average of 72.8%.

Source: ONS Office for National Statistics – Annual Survey of hours and earnings Dec 2020

The number self-employed in Carmarthenshire has reduced

There were **10,700 self-employed** people in Carmarthenshire in December 2020 (almost **15%** of those in employment) compared to 13% nationally. This has reduced from the previous year when there were **13,400** self-employed, over **17%** of those in employment.

Source: ONS Office for National Statistics – Annual Survey of hours and earnings Dec 2020

Main employers are in the Public Sector

Just under **1/3** of Carmarthenshire employees work in the **public sector** (universities, schools, health and local government).

Source: StatsWales

Household income amongst the highest in Wales

The **average weekly wage** in Carmarthenshire is £572 which is the **third highest in Wales** compared to a Welsh national average of £542, a 6% increase on the previous year.

Source: ONS Office for National Statistics – Annual Survey of hours and earnings – 2020

Helping our businesses to survive during COVID

During 2020/21 we helped over **4,000 businesses** to receive Welsh Government's business rates grant payments of between £10,000 and £25,000 with a total amount of over £46 million

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Claimant Count has increased significantly

The number of **people claiming benefits** in Carmarthenshire, due to being unemployed has **increased by 89% since March 2020** when the nation went into lockdown from the COVID-19 pandemic up to March 2021.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Stats Explorer

A Resilient Carmarthenshire

Ten Local Nature Reserves in Carmarthenshire

We have **ten local Nature Reserves in Carmarthenshire**. Five of which are all located in surrounding areas of Llanelli, three are near Llandeilo and two in the Llandovery area. These sites have been designated due to their importance for wildlife value, their community enjoyment and education.

Source: Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales

Our beaches are of excellent quality

Both of our EU Designated Bathing Water beaches in Carmarthenshire of **Pembrey** and **Pendine** are of **excellent quality**.

Source: Natural Resources Wales

Biodiversity has many benefits

A healthy natural environment is a vital part of a sustainable and robust society in Carmarthenshire.

There are **81 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** in the county (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) covering 17,088 Ha and ranging in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers. **They cover approximately 7.2% of the county**. Some of these also make up the three Special Protection Areas and eight Special Areas of Conservation, sites of international importance.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment

The Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment (2019) identified that children and young people living within Carmarthenshire generally reported satisfaction with their play opportunities.

However, littering, particularly cigarettes and glass bottles were a problem in their play spaces. Parents/carers worry about their children's safety and often find it difficult to let them out to play.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council - Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment (2019)

We are reducing our carbon dioxide omissions

We are **reducing the amount of CO₂ omissions** we are producing per person in Carmarthenshire. For example, on average a person in Carmarthenshire was producing 6.0 kt CO₂ per person in 2018 reducing to **5.7 kt CO₂ in 2019** the average in **Wales is 7.6** and not surprisingly, this increases to 50.0 kt CO₂ in some areas of Wales, due to high level of Industry.

Source: UK Government - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Good Air quality

Air quality in Carmarthenshire on the whole is reasonably good, for example, in 2019 our level of NO₂ concentration was **just under 6**, compared to **9 nationally**. Although there are some areas of concern such as Llandeilo.

Source: StatsWales

A Healthier Carmarthenshire

Children overweight or obese continues to increase in Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire has **5th highest** levels of children that are **overweight or obese (30.4%)** compared to the previous year of 26.6% and the national average of 26.9%.

Source: Wales NHS Child Measurement Programme for Wales (2018/19)

Children taking part in at least three occasions of activity per week

47.7% of school children aged 3 to 11 take part in at least **three occasions of activity per week**, this is just above the national average of 47.6%.

Source: Sports Wales – School Sports Survey 2018

High percentage of adults meeting physical activity guidelines

55.6% of adults in Carmarthenshire are **meeting the physical activity guidelines**, this being higher than the national average of 53.1%.

Source: National Survey for Wales (2018/19-2019/20)

The number of adults (16+) that smoke is reducing

16.2% of adults aged 16+ in Carmarthenshire **smoke**, this is a reduction from 16.6% in the previous period.

Source: National Survey for Wales (2018/19-2019/20)

Life expectancy in Carmarthenshire is average

In Carmarthenshire, on average **men live to 77.8 years**, which is below the Welsh average of 78.3 years. **Women** in Carmarthenshire's average life expectancy is the same as the Welsh average of **82.3 years**.

Source: ONS Office for National Statistics

Higher than average proportion of population have a disability

Carmarthenshire has a slightly higher than average proportion of its population with a **limiting long-term condition at 23.8%** compared to 22.7% nationally. Conversely, the proportion **without a limiting long-term condition** is slightly lower than average at **74.6%** compared to 77.3%

Source: Census 2011

Working age Adults are well qualified

81% of working age adults in Carmarthenshire are qualified to National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 2 or above with 41% qualified to NQF Level 4 or above.

Source: StatsWales

Gap between disabled and non-disabled employment rate

In Carmarthenshire, the employment rate for those **without a disability (77.5%)** was considerably higher than those **with a disability (48%)**. Meaning there was a disability employment gap of 29.5 percentage point. This is lower than the national average disability employment gap of 31.1%.

Source: ONS Office for National Statistics – Annual Survey of hours and earnings Dec 2020

Gap in exam results for pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who do not

The **gap between exam results for pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who do not was 17.9%** (2018/19 Academic Year) but this has reduced from a 19.7% gap in the previous year. This is the 7th smallest gap in Wales.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council / Welsh Government

Schools in Carmarthenshire are good or excellent

Carmarthenshire has a total of **112 schools**. Schools that have been recently inspected by Estyn are **deemed to be achieving good or excellent** learner progress with only a very few of the schools placed in an Estyn follow-up category.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Over a third of households in Carmarthenshire continue to live in poverty

During 2020, **27,691 households** in Carmarthenshire were **classed as living in poverty**, this is a slight increase on the previous year of 27,576.

Source: CACI Paycheck - Poverty is defined as when a "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income" (in 2020 less than £19,967)

Children living in poverty is increasing

31.3% (almost 10,500) of children in Carmarthenshire were **living in poverty**, compared to 29.3% (9,720) in 2018/19. The percentage of **children living in workless households (8.7%)** is lower than the national average (10.5%).

Source: UK Government Child Poverty Indicators 2019/20

A Carmarthenshire of Cohesive Communities

Carmarthenshire residents feel like they have a sense of community

52% of Carmarthenshire residents believe that they have a **good sense of community** in their local area.

Source: National Survey for Wales 2019-20

Deprivation slightly lower than the national average

15% of Carmarthenshire residents are in **income deprivation**, which is lower than the national average of 16%. **11%** of working age people are in **employment deprivation**, compared to 10% nationally. **13.9%** of residents are in **health deprivation**, compared to 14.3% nationally.

Source: StatsWales

Carmarthenshire residents respectful

79% of Carmarthenshire residents **believe that people treat each other with respect in their area**, this is above the national average of 75.6%

Source: National Survey for Wales 2019-20

Residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live

88.4% of Carmarthenshire residents stated that they were **satisfied with their local area as a place to live**, this is above the national average of 85.3%.

Source: National Survey for Wales

House prices are below average

House prices in Carmarthenshire continue to increase, with a 5.6% increase between January 2020 at £153,222 to **January 2021 at £162,338**. This continues to be below the national average house price in January 2021 of £178,907.

Source: Land Registry

Less than 1/5 of residents feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area

Just **19%** of Carmarthenshire residents aged 16+ **feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area**, this is equal to the national average.

Source: National Survey for Wales 2019-20

A Carmarthenshire of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

Carmarthenshire residents attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year

64% of Carmarthenshire residents **attend or participate in arts, culture or heritage activities** at least 3 times a year, this is lower than the national average of 71%.

Source: National Survey for Wales 2019-20

Encouraging Welsh in the Workplace

The National Centre for Learning Welsh work with many partners in order to **provide community based and Work Welsh provision across the county.**

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers

44% of residents can **speak Welsh**, 4th highest percentage in Wales, this equates to **78,000 speakers** which is the **highest number of Welsh speakers in county.**

Source: Census 2011

High proportion of Welsh Medium Schools

There are **112 schools** in Carmarthenshire, providing primary, secondary and specialist learning provision for their 27,000 learners. Pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh, English or bilingually, ensuring inspirational delivery of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Theatres find innovative ways to operate in lockdown

The lockdown provided an opportunity to operate online, in an innovative way, that would support the well-being of Carmarthenshire residents during the difficult times. Our Theatres held live gigs that would appeal to a young audience and provide much needed work for young Welsh bands. Performers such as Gwilym and Eädyth attracted an **audience of 10,277 viewers** on online platforms.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Celtic Routes

Celtic Routes is a partnership between Wales' coastal communities of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, and our Irish counterparts Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford.

The partnership has made a successful bid to the Welsh European Funding Office Ireland Wales Territorial Cooperation programme for a second phase. This second phase, worth an additional **£1.5 million** will I take the project forward to 2023.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

A Globally Responsible Carmarthenshire

Excellent track record of recycling

Carmarthenshire residents have helped to **recycle 66%** of their waste and we continue to exceed Welsh Government statutory targets (64% March 2020) avoiding any financial penalties.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

A risk of flooding is high

In Carmarthenshire, it is estimated that a **high number of properties are at risk of flooding**. Around 5,600 of properties are at risk of River flooding, 7,000 are at risk of surface flooding and 2,600 properties are at risk of Tidal flooding.

Source: StatsWales - 2019

Increasing our Renewable Energy

Carmarthenshire has the **second highest** number of installed renewable energy projects at **6,119 to generate renewable heat and electricity**. This is the equivalent to over 8% of all Low Carbon Energy projects in Wales (72,834).

Source: Welsh Government – Energy Generation in Wales 2019

First net zero carbon action plan in Wales

In February 2020, Carmarthenshire County Council became the **first local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan** detailing how we work towards becoming **net zero carbon in the next 10 years**. We were one of the first councils in the UK to declare a climate emergency, pledging to becoming net carbon zero by 2030 - 20 years ahead of Welsh and UK government targets.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

Successful resettlement programme

Since June 2016, Carmarthenshire has **resettled 38 refugee families (172 individuals) from Syria**. Over 30 families are still living in the County. In June 2021 we received **three families (15 individuals) from Afghanistan**. One member of each family had been working with UK armed forces or the UK government. The lives of these families would have been in danger in the light of the withdrawal of UK, US and other allied forces from the country. All our families are initially resettled in good quality private rented accommodation, managed to a high standard by the Council's Simple Lettings team.

Source: Carmarthenshire County Council

