



**Vale of Glamorgan  
Local Service Board  
Unified Needs Assessment**

**Priority Outcome Five –  
Children and Young People**

**December 2013**

**Produced by the  
Business Intelligence Group**

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## Priority Outcome Five

**Children and young people in the Vale are well informed and supported to access a broad range of quality services that enable them to take full advantage of the life opportunities available in their local communities and beyond**

### Approach

In order to explore the extent to which young people receive the best start in life, and the appropriateness of this outcome, we need to identify suitable indicators upon which to make a judgement. Since no single direct indicator exists to measure this outcome we have identified a number of proxy indicators which might serve to assess the position in the Vale of Glamorgan.

### Indicators

Population;  
Child poverty;  
Conceptions and births;  
Early years and childcare;  
Children looked after by the local authority;  
'Children in need'  
Domestic abuse;  
Youth offending;  
Education;  
Young carers;  
Sport and physical activity;  
Housing;  
Access to services; and  
Participation and consultation.

The Children and Young People's Partnership uses 'Viewpoint', a web based interactive survey tool to consult with children and young people aged from seven years and upwards attending primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. The primary school needs assessment and the secondary school needs assessment is refreshed every three years and is used to gather their views. Information gathered from the surveys is used to inform the development of services and provision and results from the School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013 are included under various indicators throughout this chapter. At the time of writing, 706 primary school pupils and 1478 secondary school pupils had completed the surveys. It should be noted that responding to all the questions is optional and therefore care should be taken when analysing the results as not every respondent will have answered every question.

## Population

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year estimates for 2012 estimate that there are 37,045 children and young people aged between 0- 24 years in the Vale of Glamorgan, approximately 29% of the estimated total population. For 2012 it is estimated there are 23,814 children and young people aged between 0 and 15 years and 13,231 aged between 16 and 24. This is a slight decline in numbers for both age groups over the last three years. This small decline in the number of children and young people aged 0 -25 has been estimated to continue in the population projections for the Vale of Glamorgan.

The 2011 Census estimates that there are 37,136 families in the Vale of Glamorgan, 15,763 have dependent children (a dependent child is a person aged 0-15 in a household or aged 16 -18 in full time education and living with a family). The 2011 Census estimates that there are 4,018 lone parent families, of which 90% are female parents. The Census also estimates 37.7% of all lone parent households are in part time employment, 25.6% in full time employment and 36.7%, are not in employment.

It is predicted that the number of families with dependent children will increase steadily until 2030.

**Table 1: Predicted family composition, Vale of Glamorgan, 2012-30**

	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030
Couples predicted to have dependent children	11,433	11,854	12,539	13,149	13,663
Lone parents predicted to have dependent children	4,329	4,489	4,748	4,979	5,174
Total families predicted to have dependent children	15,763	16,343	17,287	18,128	18,837

Source: Daffodil

The 2011 Census also estimates that in the Vale of Glamorgan for children and young people aged from 3 to 24; 10,013 read and write Welsh; 1,061 can speak and read Welsh; 1,964 can speak Welsh and 4,083 can only understand spoken Welsh.

The following table shows the breakdown of pupils aged over 5 in the Vale of Glamorgan with regards to ethnic background. The table shows that the majority of pupils in the Vale are of 'White' ethnicity, followed by 'Mixed' and then 'Asian'.

**Table 2: Ethnic Background of pupils aged 5 or over in the Vale of Glamorgan**

	Unknown ethnic background	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese	Other ethnic group
2010/11	36	8,012	307	118	29	9	57
2011/12	23	7,951	347	114	42	11	70

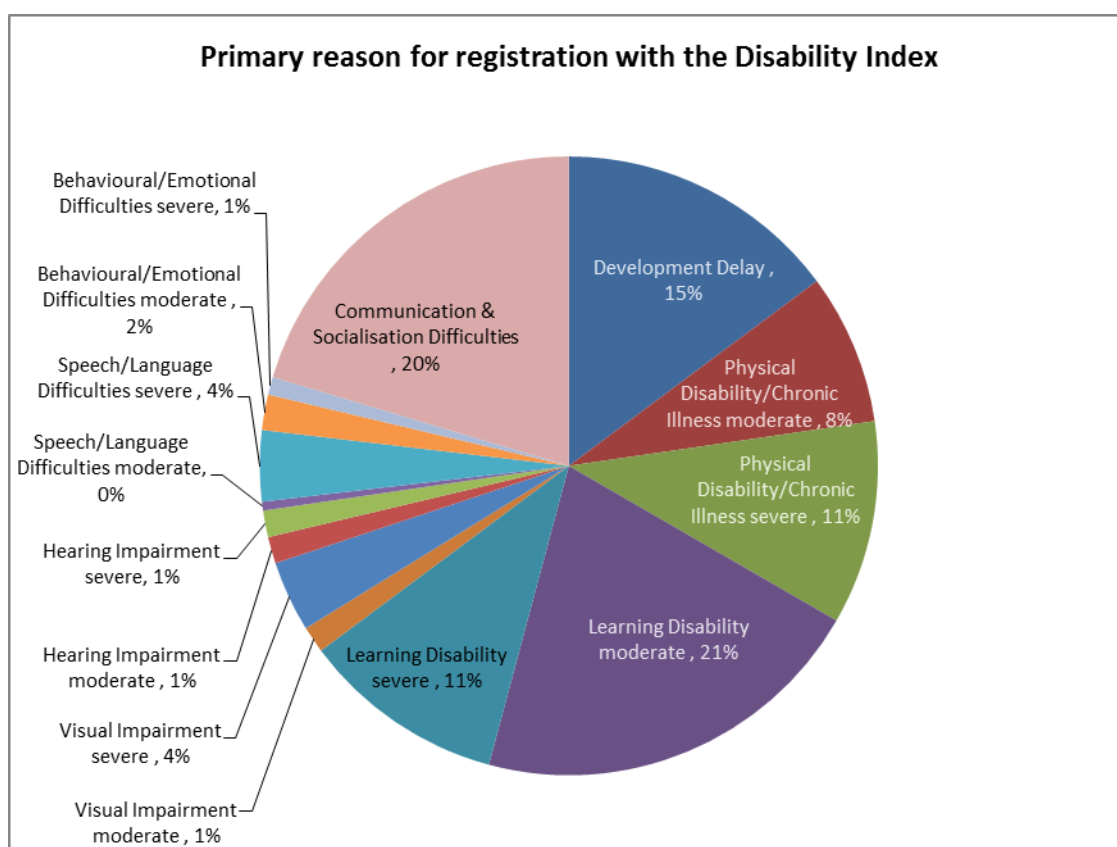
Source: Welsh Government

It is predicted that 2,038 Vale of Glamorgan children and young people (aged 0-17 years) have a disability and it is predicted that this will rise to 2,115 by 2020 and 2,206 by 2025 (Disability Discrimination Act 2012 definition). The number of children and young people reported as severely disabled is 0.1% of the 0-16 population. (Source: Daffodil)

There were 140 children and young people with disabilities aged between 1 and 17 registered as 'Children in Need' with Social Services. These children and young people have complex needs and meet the required criteria to be supported by Social Services. It should be noted that not all disabled children and young people meet this criteria. (Source: Welsh Government)

In August 2013 there were 262 children and young people aged between 1 and 18 registered on the Disability Index. The criterion for being registered on the Disability Index is that the child or young person is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. When signing up for the Disability Index parent/carers are asked to state the primary reason for the registration as well as listing any other associated disabilities/difficulties. (Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council).

**Figure 1: Primary reason for registration with the Disability Index**



Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council

Finally with regards to the population of children and young people within the Vale of Glamorgan, it should be noted that for the period 2011-12 there were 85 children on the Child Protection Register and 185 looked after children within the Vale of Glamorgan. (Source: Welsh Government)

## Child poverty

The UK Government have pledged to halve the numbers of children and young people living in poverty in the UK by 2010, and eliminate child poverty by 2020.

The 2010 target was not met although the number of children living in relative income poverty reduced to 2.3 million. This was 600,000 short of the number required to meet the 2010 target. The End Child Poverty campaign states that nearly 4 million UK children are living in poverty (after housing costs). The UK has one of the worst rates of child poverty in the industrialised world and there is still a significantly greater chance of children living in poverty in Wales than in the rest of the UK, as Wales has the highest proportion of children living in severe poverty (14%), followed by England (13%), then Scotland and Northern Ireland with (9%). With regards to child poverty in the Vale of Glamorgan:

- 14% of children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan are living in severe poverty (50% or less of median household income) and face at least two measures of material deprivation. (Blaenau Gwent is the highest with 20% and Monmouthshire the lowest with 10%)
- In the Vale of Glamorgan 16% of 0-19 year olds live in relatively low income poverty (households at or below 60% of median income). Blaenau Gwent is the highest with 29%, Monmouthshire and Powys have the lowest with 12%.
- 6% of the Vale of Glamorgan's Lower Super Output Areas are in the 10% most deprived in Wales.

*(Source: Save the Children)*

Although the overall percentage of children in poverty in the Vale is lower than the Welsh average; there are small pockets within wards where the poverty level is greater than the Welsh Average. These include the wards of Barac, Butrills, Cadoxton, Court, Castleland, Gibbonsdown, Dyfan, Iltyd situated in the Barry Area; Cornerswell situated in Penarth; a small area in Dinas Powys; and Llantwit Major and St Athan situated in the rural Vale.

Within the Vale of Glamorgan a number of programmes have been designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families as they emphasise prevention and early intervention for families, particularly for those living in poverty. Examples of such Welsh Government funded programmes are Families First; Flying Start; Communities First and the Integrated Family Support Team.

Research has shown that poverty during the early years of a child's life can have long reaching impacts on areas such as health and educational attainment. Insufficient resources impact on the welfare of the whole family. *(Source: Joseph Rowntree)*

- 4,980 children and young people (0-18 years) in the Vale of Glamorgan live in 2,760 households that are dependent on key out-of-work benefits. *(Source: Save the Children)*
- The Median gross hourly earnings figure across all jobs in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2011 was £10.82, a 7.4% increase since the previous year. 17.1% of workers in the Vale of Glamorgan earn a gross hourly wage of £7.20 per hour or less. The Wales' median gross hourly earning for 2011 was £10.05 per hour. *(Source: Save the Children)*

The Vale of Glamorgan has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest free school meal percentage out of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities. By this measure it is therefore a fairly prosperous local authority. However, this masks pockets of deprivation and this is particularly

the case in Barry which has the highest percentage of pupils receiving free school meals in the Vale. Other small pockets within the Vale of Glamorgan where a high percentage of pupils receive free school meals are within Cornerswell and Stanwell (Penarth); Dinas Powys; St Athan, Rhoose and Llantwit Major in the rural Vale. It should also be noted that following the Welfare Reform Act 2013, the changes to the benefits system will also impact passported benefits such as free school meals and a change in figures regarding this indicator may be observed in future.

The Department of Health (England) recognises food poverty as “the inability to afford or to have access to, food to make up a healthy diet”. Poor diets are characterised by excessive intakes of saturated fat, salt or sugar and insufficient consumption of dietary fibre, fruit and vegetables.

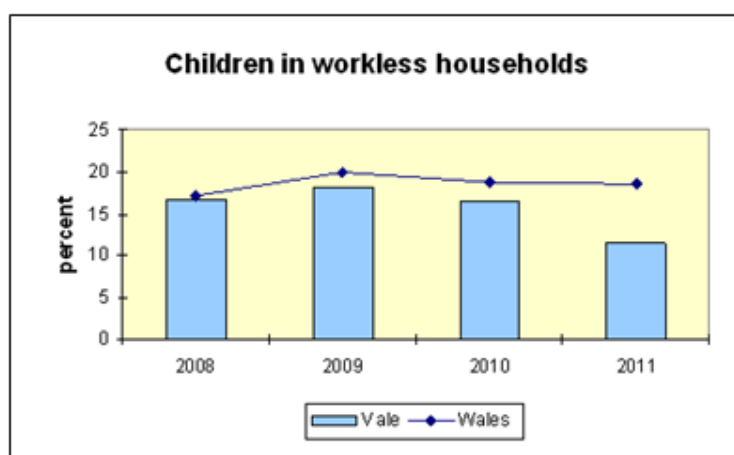
The Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom in a briefing paper stated that “the poorer people are, the worse their diet, and the more diet-related diseases they suffer from”. The paper outlined the link between poor diets and the higher prevalence of dental caries among children. Dental caries in children is a poverty measure that is currently under development. Although historical data exists it has not been included in the unified needs assessment as a result of the time lag between the data sets and this report.

While schemes are available to support economically disadvantaged families, there are challenges identifying these people and enabling them to access appropriate services. Access to relevant information, advice and support helps to reduce social and economic disadvantage. To help young people access information the SWOOSH website has been developed and the Family Information Service (FIS) offers information and signposting to services. The Vale also has a project within the Citizens Advice Service in Barry which focuses on supporting families to claim the correct benefits.

Although not focused totally on poverty, many of the data sets in this chapter of the needs assessment have a link to poverty and its effects.

## Children in workless households

Figure 2: Children in workless households



Source: Welsh Government



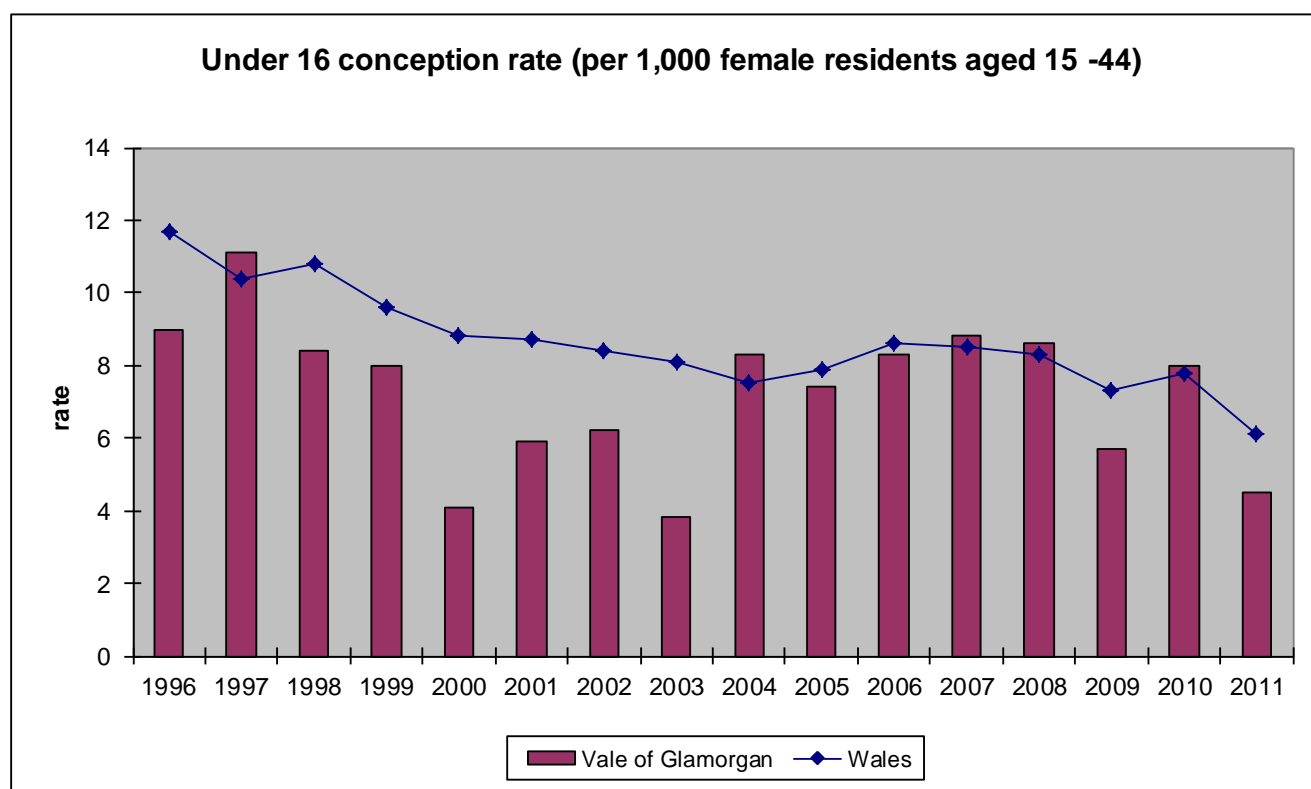
The percentage of children in the Vale of Glamorgan who live in workless households continues to decrease. Workless households can be considered as those households where no one aged 16 or over is in employment, and can include households with unemployed or inactive members. Nationally the number of working households where all members are working has dropped, while the number of mixed households where some members are in employment and some are not has risen. These figures include people who are neither in employment nor unemployed, for example those who are looking after a home or retired.

Further statistics on employment can be found under priority outcomes 7 & 8.

### Conceptions and births

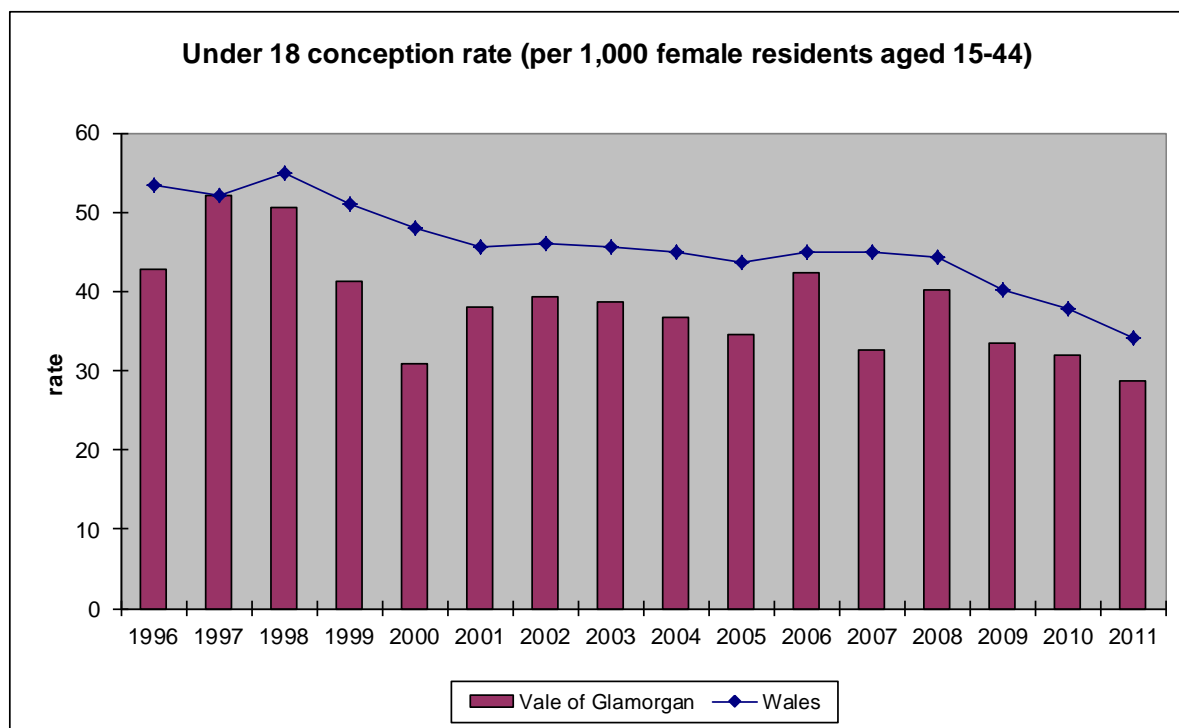
With regards to this indicator, caution should be taken when looking at the conception rate and low birth weight data, as the actual numbers are very small meaning that minor fluctuations can be misinterpreted as more significant than they actually are.

**Figure 3: Conception rates - under 16 girls, 1996-2011**



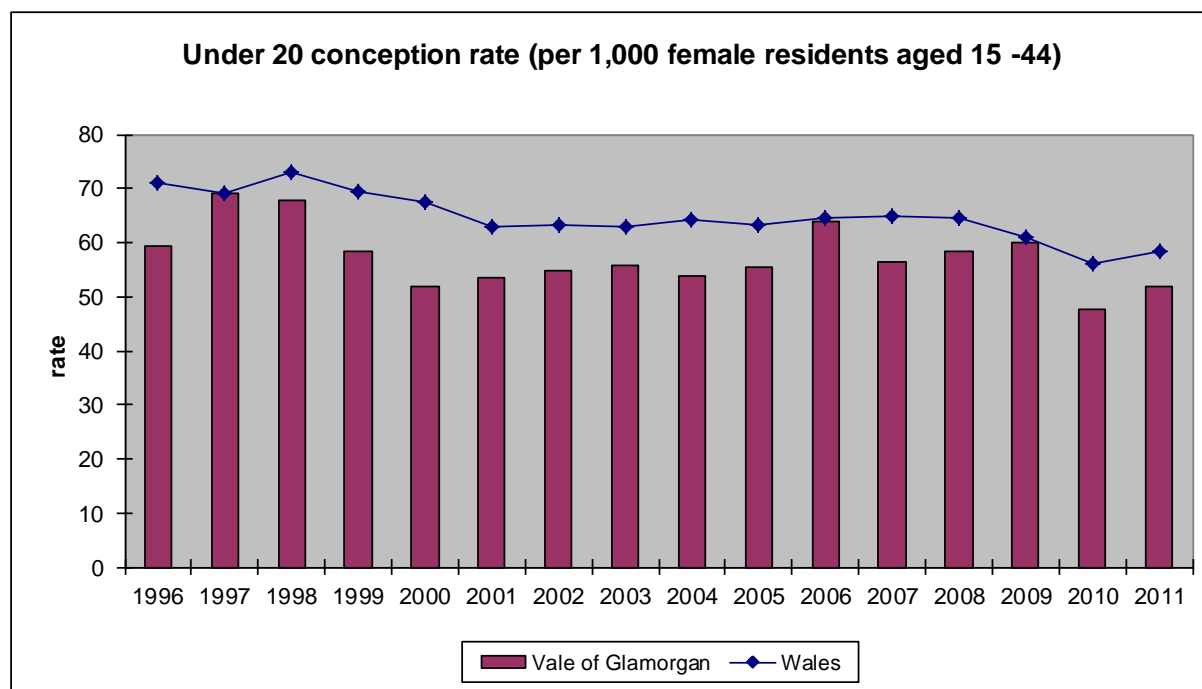
Source: Welsh Government

**Figure 4: Conception rates - under 18 girls, 1996-2011**



Source: Welsh Government

**Figure 5: Conception rates - under 20 girls, 1996-2011**



Source: Welsh Government

Rates of teenage conceptions in the Vale vary over time, but are generally similar to or below the average rate for Wales. There are some signs of teenage conception rates falling over time in the under 18s and under 20s, but the small numbers cause random variation which makes it difficult to discern the overall pattern in the annual trend.

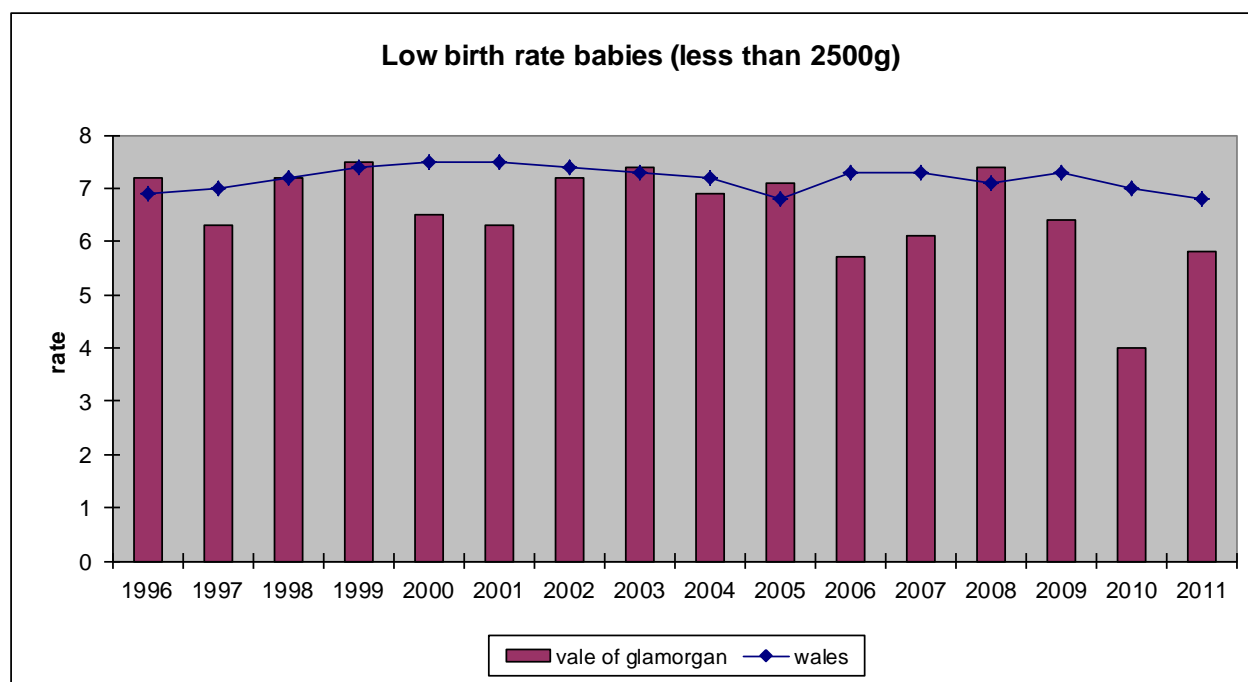
While conceptions remain low, sexually transmitted infections occur most frequently in young people under the age of 25. There are three family planning clinics in the Vale although these are not specifically targeted at young people and barriers may exist for young people to access sexual health services.

To ensure that young people are able to access sexual health services in their local area; the C Card service has been developed. The C Card service offers youth friendly sexual health information, advice and access to condoms in venues that young people can access in their local areas and at times suitable to them.

The wards of Gibbonsdown, Castleland and Cadoc have the highest percentage of teenage pregnancies and these wards also have the highest proportion of children living in families on benefits. Although the number of young parents in the Vale of Glamorgan is reasonably low, research highlighting the link between low educational achievement and poverty illustrates additional support is required for these young parents. The Partnership for Young Parents (PYP) project offers pregnant teenagers up to the age of 18, support in the form of parenting and health advice and supports them to maintain their education by working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College who provide a tutor. The PYP also offers a one-to-one service in the home to those unable to access the group project situated in Barry.

In the Barry area these young parents are also able to access the services of Flying Start. Young parents meeting the criteria to access the FACT (Families Achieving Change Together) team are also provided with short term preventative interventions.

**Figure 6: Percentage of low birth weight babies, 1996-2010**



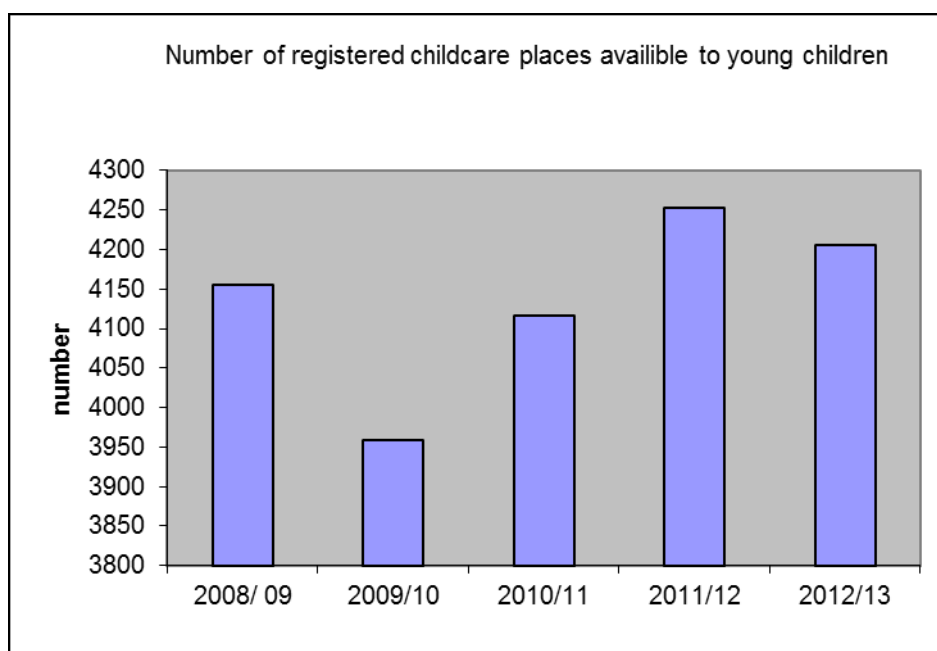
Source: Welsh Government

Research demonstrates the adverse effects of socioeconomic deprivation on birth weight and mortality during a child’s first years. Data indicates that Llantwit Major, St Athan and Cowbridge situated in the rural Vale; along with Barry have a higher overall percentage of low birth weight in babies than for Wales. As such, accessibility of preventative services and information and advice for families in rural areas needs to be considered when developing new services.

To provide early years support similar to Flying Start (available in the Barry area of the Vale) a project is being piloted in the Western rural Vale to target families with children less than four years of age.

## Early years & childcare

**Figure 7: Number of registered childcare places, 2008/09 - 2012/13**



Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council

There are a number of factors that can influence the fluctuations in the number of child care places available. These include the cost of childcare; the carer to child ratio; and the needs and requirements of the parent and child.

A full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is carried out every 3 years and refreshed annually. Overall the Vale has a good level of childcare provision; however affordability is an issue highlighted year on year. The cost of childcare depends on a number of factors including type of childcare, the age and needs of the child and hours required. There are a number of Welsh Government schemes that support working families with the cost of childcare and free part-time childcare is offered to children living in Flying Start areas. With regards to childcare:

- The average cost of a nursery place for a child in the Vale of Glamorgan for 25 hours per week is £98.25 compared to the British average of £106.38
- The average cost of a childminder looking after a child for 25 hours per week in the Vale of Glamorgan is £108.75 compared with the British average of £98.15 per week
- The average cost of an after-school club place (hours vary) is £37.80 per week in the Vale of Glamorgan, compared with the British average of £49.67

**Table 3: Changes in childcare costs in 12 months December 2011 to December 2012**

Region	Nursery 25 hours (under 2)	Nursery 25 hours (2 and over)	Childminder 25 hours (under 2)	Childminder (2 and over)	After-school club 15 hours
Wales	0%	1.3%	2.9%	3.2%	21%
Britain average	4.2%	6.6%	5.9%	5.2%	9%

Source: Daycare Trust and Family and Parenting Institute

**Table 4: Changes in childcare hourly rates, 2011-13**

Year	Out of School Club	Day Nursery	Childminder	Sessional Care
Jan 2011	£2.96	£4.00	£4.20	£2.45
March 2012	£3.31	£4.16	£4.24	£2.56
March 2013	£2.91	£4.17	£4.33	£2.68

Source: Family Information Service

The tables above demonstrate changes in childcare costs and the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2012, average earnings in real terms were at a similar level to those of 2002-3. Average real median hourly earnings for the UK were £11.24 in real terms in 2003 and were £11.21 in 2012. Therefore the rise in childcare costs means this is taking an increased proportion of parent’s income.

While childcare costs appear high, the cost of providing the appropriate child to staff ratio and cost of increased training have to be taken into consideration.

The Vale of Glamorgan’s Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which was refreshed in 2012-13 highlighted a gap in the provision of suitable care for children aged 11 to 14. Whilst the law does not set a minimum age at which children can be left at home alone it is an offence to leave a child alone when doing so puts him or her at risk. Therefore free out-of-school provision targeting this age group is being piloted in 2013/14. Currently in the Vale of Glamorgan there are 14 registered holiday care schemes, eight take children up to the age of 11; four up to the age of 14, and two up to the age of 16.

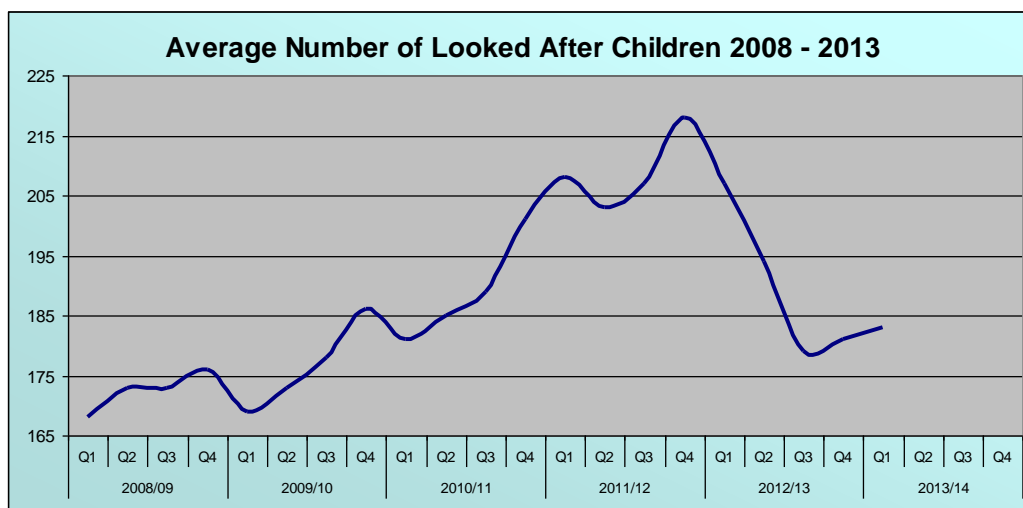
In Britain the average cost of one week’s full time (50 hours) holiday childcare in the private, voluntary and independent sector is now £109.23, in the Vale of Glamorgan this is £122.60 per week. (Source: Family and Childcare Trust)

The Welsh Government’s Building a Brighter Future: Early Years and Childcare Plan was published in August 2013 and section 4 of the document relates to high-quality early education and childcare which takes into consideration the need to improve the accessibility of early education and childcare. For some parents, inflexible opening times, a lack of holiday care, gaps in Welsh-medium and bilingual provision, and the difficulty of finding childcare for disabled children are real concerns. Therefore the Welsh Government are looking at a variety of options in relation to this including research into the needs of parents who work atypical hours, exploring different models for wrap-around care for children

including through schools and investigating an increase in the amount of Welsh-medium childcare provision available.

## Children looked after by the local authority

**Figure 8: Number of looked after Children, Vale of Glamorgan, 2008-13**

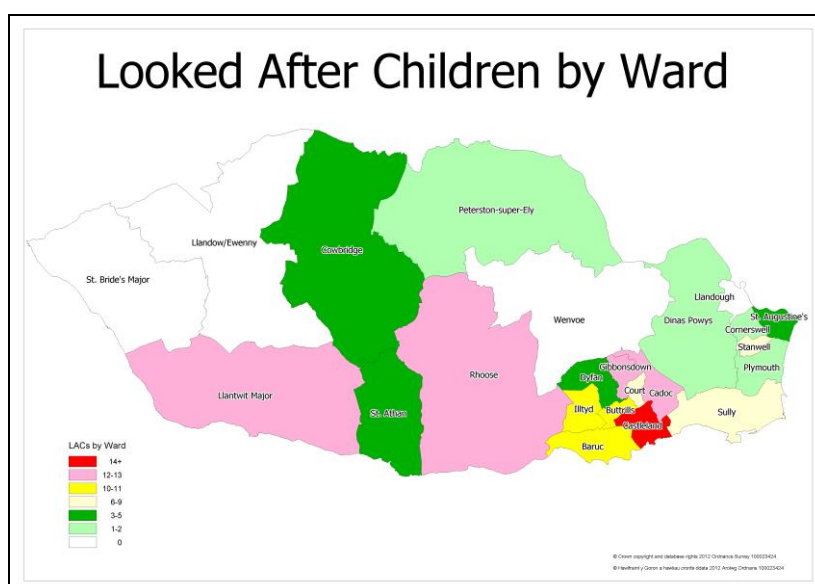


Source Vale of Glamorgan Council

Generally a child can become looked after by the Local Authority for numerous reasons. This can be about providing respite to families to enable them to stay together for longer, or to keep a child safe whilst supporting families in making necessary changes to enable the child to be returned to their care, in an appropriate timescale, when it is safe to do so. Unfortunately some children, for various reasons, do not return to their parents or carers and consequently the local authority will make permanency plans for these children, either via kinship care, long term fostering or adoption. Children can be accommodated on a voluntary basis, with agreement of parents, or via orders through the court system.

Within the Vale of Glamorgan there has been a steady decline in the number of looked after children since 2012, due to a 'Looked After Child Recovery Plan' being implemented within Children and Young People's Services. This addressed the legal status of children, through revoking Care Orders, promoting alternative Special Guardianship Orders and Residence Orders and considering alternatives to Care Orders, when instigating proceedings. All of this has contributed to the numbers of looked after children declining, whilst keeping children safe and promoting permanent placements with family and friends. Prior to this an increase in numbers had been seen from 2010, which reflected a national increase in Wales which was linked to the aftermath of the 'Baby P' legal case, an increase in the number of children and young people in society, the economic downturn, increases in domestic abuse and neglect and issues related to alcohol and substance misuse. All these factors impact on children entering the care system.

**Figure 9: Looked after children by ward**



The areas of the Vale of Glamorgan with the highest numbers of looked after children are Castleland, Gibbonsdown, Cadoc, Iltyd, Buttrills, and Baruc in the Barry area of the Vale, and in Rhoose and Llantwit Major in the rural Vale.

### 'Children in need'

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to provide a range of appropriate services for children to ensure that those 'in need' are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. Children are defined as 'in need' when they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired without the provision of services (s17, (10) of the Children Act 1989).

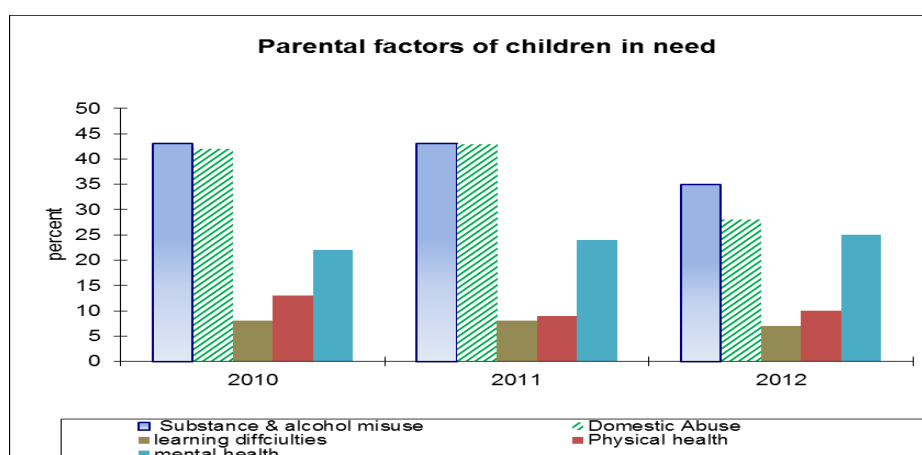
**Table 5: Predicted rates of abuse and neglect in children aged 0-17 years, 2012-30.**

	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030
Children aged 0-17 predicted to experience a serious absence of care	1675	1681	1738	1813	1816
Children aged 0-17 predicted to experience sexual abuse	1675	1681	1738	1813	1816
Children aged 0-17 predicted to experience serious physical abuse	1954	1961	2028	2115	2119

Source: Daffodil

The table above shows that there is predicted to be an increase in the numbers of children experiencing abuse and neglect in the Vale of Glamorgan and therefore an increase in demand for the appropriate intervention and prevention services.

**Figure 10: Parental factors of children in need**



Source : Welsh Government

The percentage of 'children in need' within the Vale of Glamorgan where domestic abuse was an issue for 2012 showed a reduction from the 2011 figures. This Welsh Government statistic is experimental and as such should be treated with caution. During 2012, the 'Children in Need Census' recorded 180 (28%) children as subject to domestic abuse from a total of 635 children, the highest percentage of children in need was for children whose parents were affected by substance or alcohol misuse 35% (220). The remaining children were for parental mental health 20% (125), parental physical health 10% (65), and parental learning disabilities 7% (45). The Children in Need Census data is derived from the Integrated Children's System. For this collection, local authorities were required to submit data for children whose cases were open on the census date of 31 March and had been open for the previous 3 months, i.e. the case was open on or before 1 January and remained open at 31 March of the same year. This requirement means that the total number of children in need included in the Census is less than the total number of children in need receiving services.

## Domestic abuse

Findings from an NSPCC 2011 study state that 12% of under 11's, 18% of 11 to 17 year olds and 24% of 18 to 24 year olds had been exposed to domestic abuse between adults in their homes during childhood, Adult males were perpetrators in 94% of cases where one parent had physically abused another.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, approximately two thirds of clients supported by Atal Y Fro services in 2012 focused on supporting people experiencing domestic abuse who had children under the age of 10.

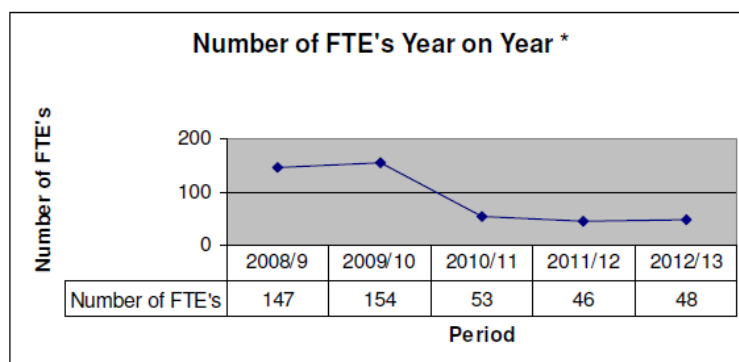
Within the Vale a number of agencies and the police offer positive relationship sessions in schools and voluntary management behaviour sessions for families and perpetrators.

Further information on domestic violence can be found under priority outcome 9.



## Youth offending

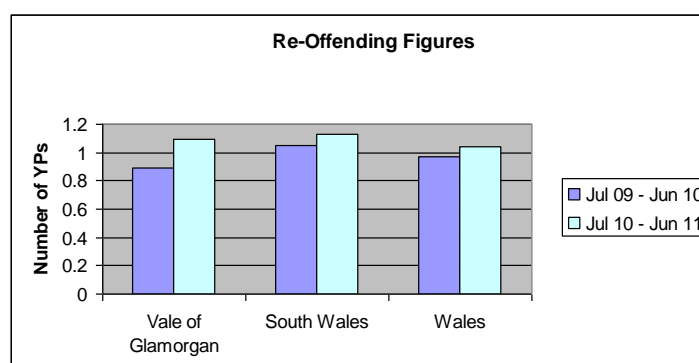
**Figure 11: Number of first time entrants into the youth justice system, 2008/09-2012/13**



Source: Youth Offending Service

In the Vale of Glamorgan first time entrants (FTEs) into the youth justice system was at an all time high in 2009/10 with 154 FTEs for the year. In that year, the Youth Offending Service (YOS), in conjunction with other partners, wrote and implemented it's first Prevention Strategy utilising monies from the Welsh Government Safer Communities Fund. Between 2009/10 and 2011/12 FTEs reduced from 154 to 46, a 70% reduction and numbers have continued to stay low for 2012/13.

**Figure 12: Rate of re-offending among young people in youth justice system**



Source: Police National Computer data

This indicator uses data from the Police National Computer and shows the 12 month re-offending rate in 2010/11 for the Vale of Glamorgan was 1.09. The cohort consists of all young people who received a pre-court or court disposal order or were released from custody between 1st July 2010 and 30th June 2011.

As the re-offending rate has increased from the 2009/10 time period, the YOS will be undertaking an analysis of its reoffending population utilising research evidence from the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The aim will be to identify whether changes are required to how young people are managed or how interventions are delivered in an attempt to reduce reoffending and custody rates as young people are now presenting with more complex needs.

Although the frequency rate of reoffending is lower than South Wales, (see graph above) the Vale has seen a higher percentage increase in the rate of reoffending

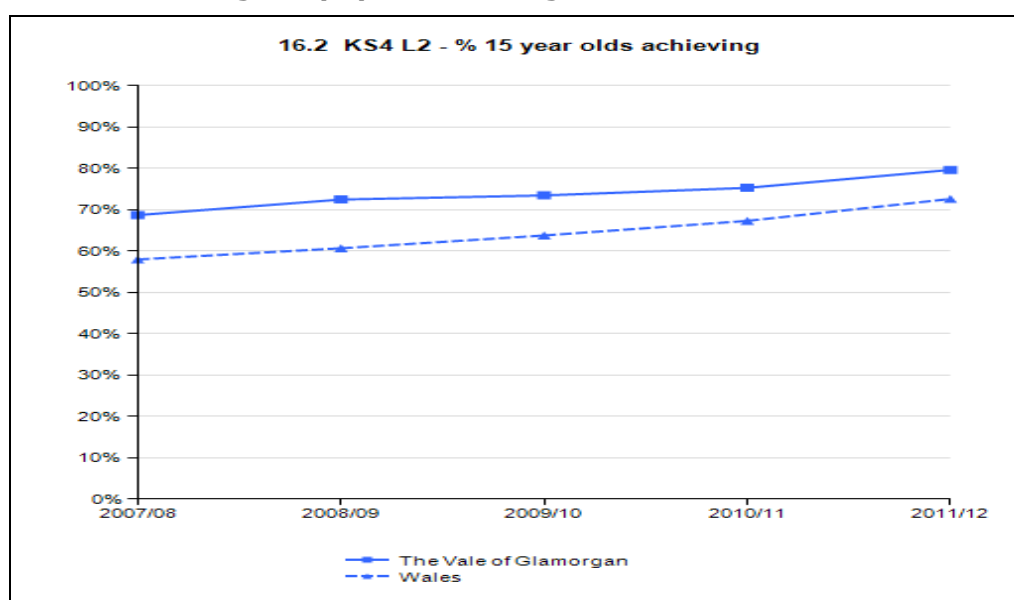
in comparison to South Wales and Wales. The Vale YOS is currently in discussions with the YJB about access to the Police National Data so that it can be analysed to identify trends to implement programmes and reduce future offending.

The Vale has seen an increase in the number of custodial sentences for young people and during the 2012/13 financial year there were 168 outcomes from court and 10 of these outcomes were for custody (6%). There are a number of young people who have received custodial sentences with complex needs and despite YOS interventions continue to reoffend, this will be looked at as part of the reoffending strategy.

Further data on crime can be found under priority outcome 9.

## Education

**Figure 13: Percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 at KS4, 2007/08 - 2011/12**



*Source Welsh Government*

With regards to educational attainment of children and young people, the Vale of Glamorgan has continued to perform above the Welsh average for both English and Mathematics in 2012. However, performance in both subjects has fallen since a peak in 2010. The gap between the Vale of Glamorgan and the rest of Wales has therefore narrowed.

Overall at Key Stage 4 (KS4) the Vale continued to perform well in 2012 compared to the rest of Wales. The Vale of Glamorgan was ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest local authority in Wales in terms of achieving the Level 2 Threshold (5 GCSE A\*-C or equivalent in a vocation qualification). The Vale has also performed well in terms of the KS4 Average Wider Points Score.

At the end of KS4 (typically pupils age 15/16) the majority of Barry LSOAs performed below the Welsh average for pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold (GCSE A\*-C) in both English and Maths. However, Barry does well in terms of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold (5 GCSE A\*-C or equivalent) and the Average Wider Point Score. This is mainly due to the fact that Barry pupils undertake significantly more vocational subjects than the rest of the Vale of Glamorgan. By far the best performing area is the Eastern Vale with very few LSOAs achieving less than the Welsh average in any indicator. Further educational attainment statistics can be found under priority outcome 6.

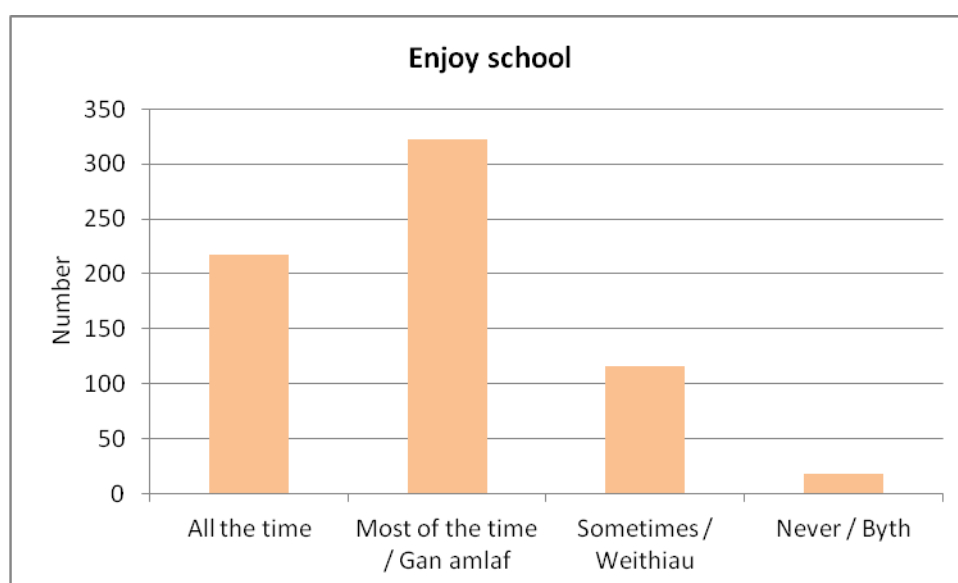
The surveys used to inform the School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013 asked pupils a range of questions regarding how they felt about school with regards to making transitions between schools, what they enjoy about school and their preferred methods of learning.

Primary school pupils were asked how they felt about starting their new school and most pupils stated that it was 'fun' or 'scary'. A high number of pupils also stated that they cannot remember and this may be because they are older pupils which make up the majority of pupils completing the survey. With regards to what had helped them settle at their new school, the most common answer for primary school pupils was that they had 'made new friends' followed by a 'teacher helped me'.

With regards to secondary school pupils, 916 (72%) pupils stated that the transition to secondary school was easy or very easy. 182 (14%) found it difficult and 79 (6%) found it very difficult. Help making new friends, visiting and being shown around the school before hand and getting to know the teachers were stated as the methods of support given during the transition from primary to secondary school and were also stated as things that would have helped to make the transition easier.

The table below shows the responses given by primary school pupils in relation to whether they enjoy school.

**Figure 14: Primary school pupils who enjoy school, School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013**



Source: School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013

Primary school pupils were also asked to state what the best and worst things about school were. Friends (including making new friends), playtime and learning new things were given as the top three best things about school and boring lessons/subjects, falling out with friends/having arguments and Maths were given as the top three worst things about school.

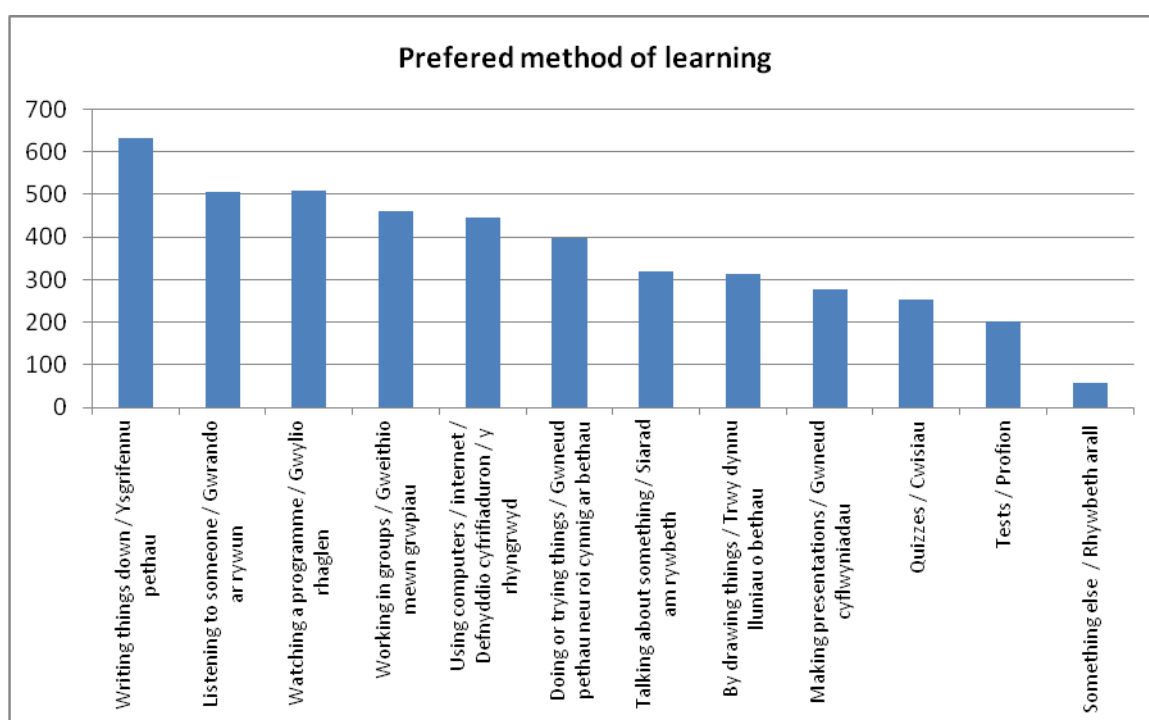
Secondary school pupils were asked about the options available to them and 733 (59%) pupils stated they were able to choose the options they wanted for learning or training, 222 (18%) had not been able to choose all the options they wanted. Regarding whether secondary school pupils were able to attend their preferred places of learning, there was an almost equal divide between those able to go to their preferred place of learning and those who were unable to.

338 pupils (27%) stated they were not doing what they wanted in terms of education training or work, while 588 (48%) stated they were mostly doing what they wanted with 309 (25%) definitely doing what they wanted.

199 pupils (16%) stated that they have don't have individual help with school training or work, 270 (22%) stated they had not much help, and 324 (26%) stated that they didn't need help.

Secondary school pupils were also asked what their preferred methods of learning were and the results are shown in the table below. 'Writing things down' and 'listening to someone' were the most common answers.

**Figure 15: Secondary school pupils – preferred methods of learning, School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013**



Source: School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013

## Children with learning difficulties

It is predicted that there will be a slight increase in the number of children with learning difficulties in the Vale of Glamorgan by 2030 which may increase demand for services.

**Table 6: Predicted numbers of pupils with learning difficulties, 2012-30**

	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030
Children aged 0-17 with a moderate learning difficulty	1,000	1,003	1,037	1,082	1,084
Children aged 0-17 with a severe learning difficulty	129	130	134	140	140
Children aged 0-17 with a profound learning difficulty	32	32	33	34	35
Children aged 5 – 17 with a learning difficulty, predicted to display challenging behaviour	9	9	9	10	10
People aged 18-24 predicted to have a learning disability	279	273	252	229	262
People aged 18-24 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	64	63	59	54	62
People aged 18-24 with a learning disability, predicted to display challenging behaviour	5	5	4	4	4

Source: Daffodil

The different levels of learning difficulties are defined as below:

**Moderate Learning Difficulties** - This includes children who have difficulties in all areas of learning. Their rate of progress is very slow but they attend mainstream schools unless they also have additional significant difficulties when they may be placed into a special school.

**Severe Learning Difficulties** - This describes children who show a global delay in all areas of physical, intellectual and social development. Their rate of progress is less than half the rate of other children of the same age. These children will have a statement of special educational need.

**Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties** - Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties have severe and complex learning needs, in addition they have other significant difficulties, such as physical disabilities or a sensory impairment. Pupils require a high level of adult support, both for their learning needs and also for personal care.

## Schools based counselling

From April 2012 to March 2013, 384 young people undertook an episode of counselling. This equated to 1,921 individual counselling sessions, with females accounting for over 60% of those accessing the service. The number of young people accessing the service appears to peak during school year 10 (ages 14-15) and approximately 40% of young people self-refer using various referral mechanisms.

Approximately 29% of service users in 2012/13 identified themselves as having special educational needs and the presiding issues for referral were often highlighted as family: stress, anger and bullying issues. Predominant issues highlighted during counselling included family, pupil self-worth and anger. The number of young people requiring referral to specialist services such as Child and

Adolescent Mental Health has been low although as a result of the service; positive links have been developed with the intake and assessment team for social services, who have received a small number of referrals as a result of child protection issues.

However it has been noted that the Vale is below the national average for looked after children accessing the counselling service and this requires further investigation.

**Table 7: Predicted number of pupils having mental health problems, 2012-30.**

	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030
Males aged 5-10 with any mental health problem	455	500	529	541	544
Females aged 5-10 with any mental health problem	247	271	283	290	291
Males aged 11-15 with any mental health problem	525	482	522	557	569
Females aged 11 -15 with any mental health problem	386	348	380	399	408
People aged 16-24 with any mental health problem	543	535	490	480	526

Source: Daffodil

The continual development of the schools based counselling service is important as it is predicted that the number of children and young people with any mental health problems will increase over the coming years. By 2016, the Vale of Glamorgan is predicted to have the sixth highest rate of children and young people aged 5 to 15 with a mental health problem per 1,000 population in Wales. Within the South Wales region it has the second highest rate, Cardiff is only slightly higher, Neath Port Talbot is predicted to have the lowest rate in the region and Gwynedd the lowest in all of Wales.

## Young carers

A young carers scoping exercise completed by Action for Children, identified that 179 (8%) of 2136 respondents considered themselves to be young carers and a further 214 (10%) who were unsure in the Vale of Glamorgan. The highest percentage of those stating they were young carers were in school year 8 (13 year olds) and year 5 (10 year olds). It is also significant that there were a high number of respondents who looked after someone in the home with a specific illness or disability who did not consider themselves to be a young carer.

The School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013 asked secondary school pupils whether they were a young carer based on the following definition:

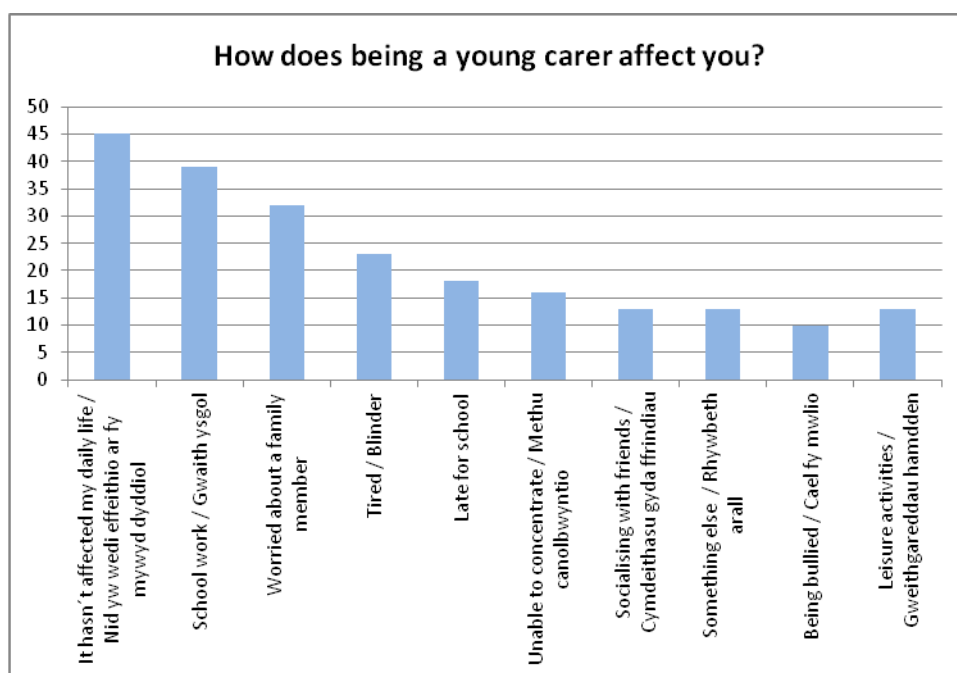
'A young carer is a young person from the age of 7 to 18 who helps look after a family member living at home who has a disability, physical or mental health issues, or has drug/alcohol problems.'

81% of respondents stated that they were not a young carer, 8% stated that they were a young carer and 2% stated that they were a young carer but did not want to be known as one. 9% of respondents did not know.

When asked who they care for on a daily basis, 41% of those who identified as a young carer stated a sibling, 36% a parent or guardian and 23% said another person.

Respondents were also asked how being a young carer affects them and the following graph shows these results.

**Figure 16: How being a young carer affects you, secondary school pupils - School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013.**



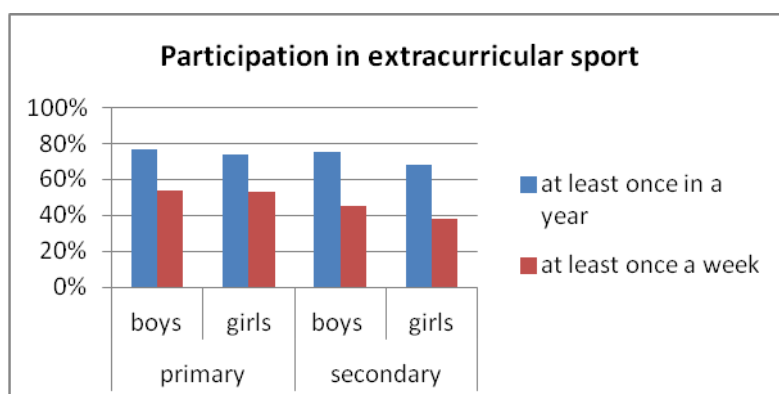
Source: School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013

## Sport and physical activity

In 'Climbing Higher', the Welsh Government set out a target for all primary and secondary schools to provide a minimum of 2 hours (120 minutes) curricular based sport and physical activity per week. Schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were surveyed and asked what extracurricular sport they provide for their pupils. On average, pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan are offered 112 minutes per week in primary schools and 105 minutes per week in secondary schools. This compares with the national average of 106 minutes for primary pupils and 95 minutes for secondary pupils.

The survey also asked a number of other questions relating to how pupils participate in sports and physical activity. 73% of Vale of Glamorgan pupils participated at least once in extracurricular sport in the 2012/13 school year. This compares with a national participation rate of 76%. 47% of pupils participated frequently (at least once a week on average), in line with the national participation rate of 47%.

**Figure 17: Participation in extracurricular sport**



Source: Sport Wales

41% of primary school pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan attended a leisure or sports centre once a week or more during the 2012/13 academic year. This compares to 28% across Wales. 44% of secondary school pupils attended a leisure centre once a week or more and this compares with 31% across Wales.

Since 2011, the School Sport Survey has captured a detailed picture of frequency of participation, allowing exploration of the number of occasions per week pupils take part in organised sport and recreation, outside of the curriculum. In Wales, 40% of secondary pupils and 40% of primary pupils take part in an organised activity other than in curriculum time (i.e. extracurricular or club sport) on three or more occasions per week. The vision for Sport in Wales refers to this as being 'hooked on sport'. In the Vale of Glamorgan, 43% of secondary and 46% of primary pupils were hooked on sport in 2013.

The survey also asked which activities, if any, pupils would be most interested in participating in. 94% of Vale of Glamorgan pupils said that they would be interested in participating in at least one sport more often. The most commonly selected sport for boys was football (44%) and swimming for girls (48%).

**Figure 18: Demand for sport by activity and gender for primary school pupils**

Latent demand for sport/ activity (%), by activity and gender for primary school pupils			
Sport/ activity	Boys	Sport / activity	Girls
Football	57%	Swimming	58%
Rugby	44%	Dance	46%
Swimming	37%	Horse riding	42%
Dodgeball	35%	Gymnastics	39%
Cycling	32%	Cycling	38%
n=2905		n=2803	

Source: Sport Wales

**Figure 19: Demand for sport by activity and gender for secondary school pupils**

Latent demand for sport/ activity (%), by activity and gender for secondary school pupils			
Sport/ activity	Boys	Sport / activity	Girls
Football	35%	Swimming	40%
Dodgeball	30%	Trampolining	33%
Rugby	28%	Dance	32%
Basketball	28%	Horse riding	32%
Tennis or short tennis	27%	Tennis or short tennis	30%
n=3882		n=3773	

Source: Sport Wales



The survey also asked pupils what the barriers are which may be preventing them from participating in more sport/ physical activity and how confident they were to try new activities. Overall in Years 3-11 (ages 8 to 16), 28% of pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan are very confident to try new activities without worrying, 43% are confident. 23% are not very confident, and 6% are not at all confident. By gender, 80% of boys are very confident/ confident, compared to 62% of girls.

Also for the Vale of Glamorgan:

73% of secondary school pupils stated that their friends believed it was important to take part in sport regularly. 32% of boys said this was always true for them compared with 22% of girls.

72% of secondary school pupils stated that they encouraged their friends to participate in sport and 64% of secondary school pupils said that they encouraged their family to participate in sport.

85% of secondary school pupils said it was important to them to take part in sport regularly. 48% of boys said this was always true for them compared with 43% of girls. 83% of secondary school pupils said they felt good about themselves when they took part in sport and 50% of boys said this was always true for them compared with 51% of girls.

The table below shows the reasons given by pupils that would encourage them to participate in more sport/physical activity, ranked from the highest to lowest scoring answers. The table shows that for both primary and secondary school pupils, having more time, having more sports that suited them and if their friends went with them were the top three answers that would help pupils to participate in more sport/physical activity.

**Figure 20: Barriers to doing more sport**

Barriers to doing more sport	
Primary pupils	Secondary pupils
I had more time	I had more time
There were more sports that suited me	My friends went with me
My friends went with me	There were more sports suited to me
It was cheaper	If I was better at sport
I already do enough sport	If it was cheaper
If the clubs were easier to get to	If I was fitter
If I was better at sport	If the clubs were easier to get to
My parents went with me	I already do enough sport
If I was fitter	If the sports facilities were better
If the kit or equipment was provided	If the kit was nicer
If the changing rooms were nicer	If the changing rooms were nicer
If the kit was nicer	If the kit or equipment was provided
If the sports facilities were better	I don't want to do more sport
I don't want to do more sport	My parents went with me

*Source: Sport Wales*

The School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013 also asked pupils a number of questions relating to participation in clubs and sport/ physical activity. 67% of primary school pupils stated that they can go to the clubs or activities they want to. For the 33% who stated that they can't attend the clubs or activities they want as much as they want to, the highest scoring reasons given were 'I need someone to take me', 'the times of day' and 'they are too expensive'. For secondary school pupils, the highest scoring reasons which stop pupils doing the activities they want were 'it's too expensive', 'I have nobody to go with' and 'it's too far or too difficult to travel'.

Primary school pupils were also asked about where they play outside. In the 'garden', the 'park' and 'the streets where I live' were the most common answers and the most important things about where pupils play were stated as 'lots of space' followed by 'my friends are there'.

Pupils were also asked about what activities they like to do in their spare time. The top three answers for primary school pupils were 'play computer games', 'watch TV, videos or DVDs' and 'have friends round to my house'. For secondary school pupils the top three answers were 'Facebook', 'visit friends' and 'team sports'.

## Housing

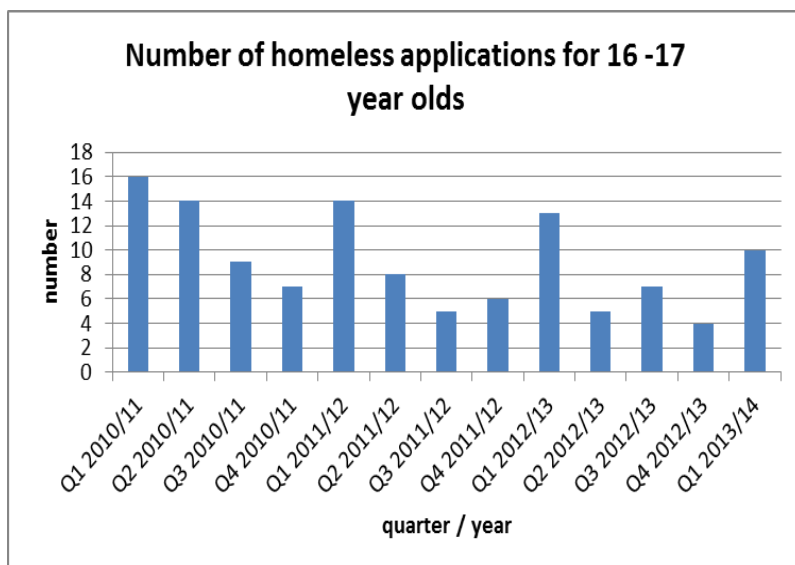
Homelessness is a distressing experience for anyone and is something that has a far reaching negative effect upon other parts of their life. It impacts on a number of other aspects of life such as education, health and the criminal justice system. However with a holistic approach and the support of all partners many households can be prevented from losing their home/tenure.

The effects of homelessness may be particularly pertinent for children and young people. The Vale of Glamorgan Council funds a Housing Advice Service and family mediation service specifically for young people via contract with Llamau Housing Ltd. which provides advice, prevention and statutory homelessness work aimed at young people aged from 16 to 25. In respect of supported accommodation for young and vulnerable clients, Llamau can provide 12 units at any one time (6 units in the safe house and 6 in Ty John Rowley). There are also a number of other specialist supported housing projects in the Vale e.g. mental health or criminal justice and some young people will be classed as homeless in their own home and have floating support to support them in the community.

There are a number of third sector providers of homelessness support operating in the Vale of Glamorgan and during 2011/12 over 150 young people who had run away from home received support and advice from Jigsaw, a housing mediation project. 106 received direct mediation leading to 63 returning home.

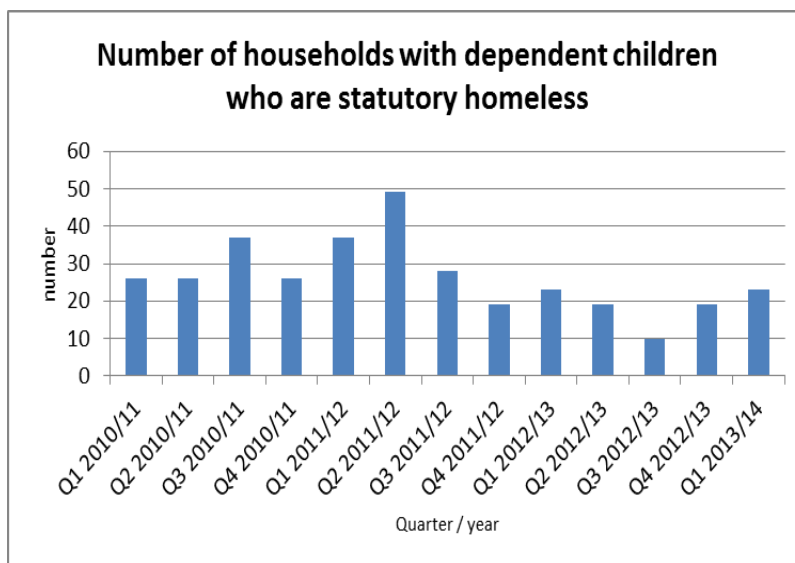
With regards to the number of children and young people classed as homeless in the Vale of Glamorgan, the graphs below show that rates for homelessness fluctuate but currently remain within the accepted level.

**Figure 21: Number of homeless applications for 16-17 year olds, 2010-13**



Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council

**Figure 22: Number of households who with dependent children who are statutory homeless**



Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council

## Access to services

Transport issues affect all age groups and the Vale of Glamorgan 'Mapping and Gapping' survey completed by young people in the Western rural Vale highlighted a number of issues faced by young people in accessing services.

The consultation revealed:

The main way of young people getting around was via lifts from their parents, who also mainly covered public transport costs, although some young people did share the public transport cost with their parents. Results of the survey also included:

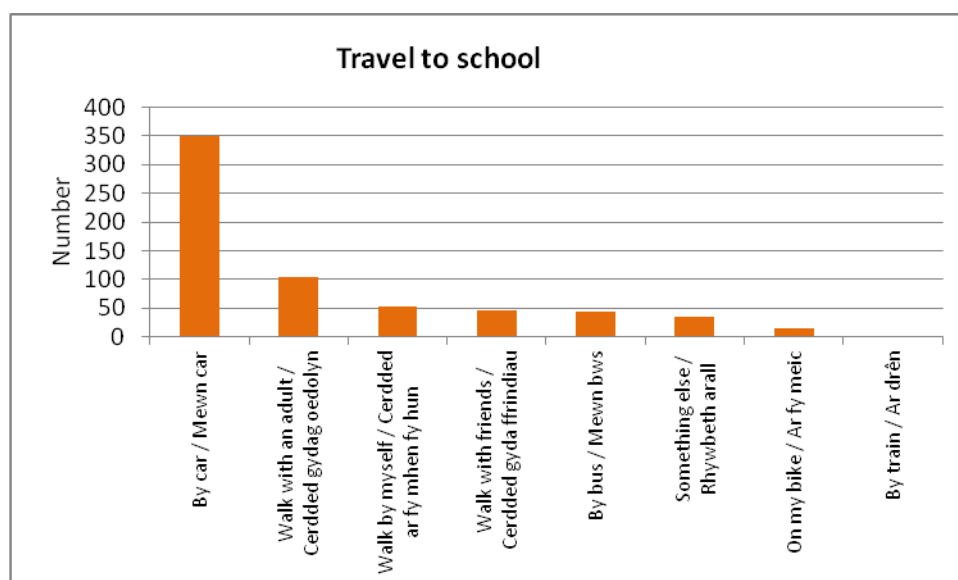
- 64% of respondents commented that public transport was too expensive;

- 77% stated that access to public transport stopped them from taking part in activities; and
- 26% stated that they were unable to access the train which is the main form of transport that most young people would like to access (48%).

The accessibility of public transport can impact on children and young people as not all families are able to own cars. This can have a number of impacts, firstly on parents and the potential to limit the areas within which they can find employment through having to rely on the use of public transport. It can also impact on children and young people travelling to and from school, and in the case of young people may also impact on whether they can access further education and employment. It can also limit access to sports activities and other leisure activities.

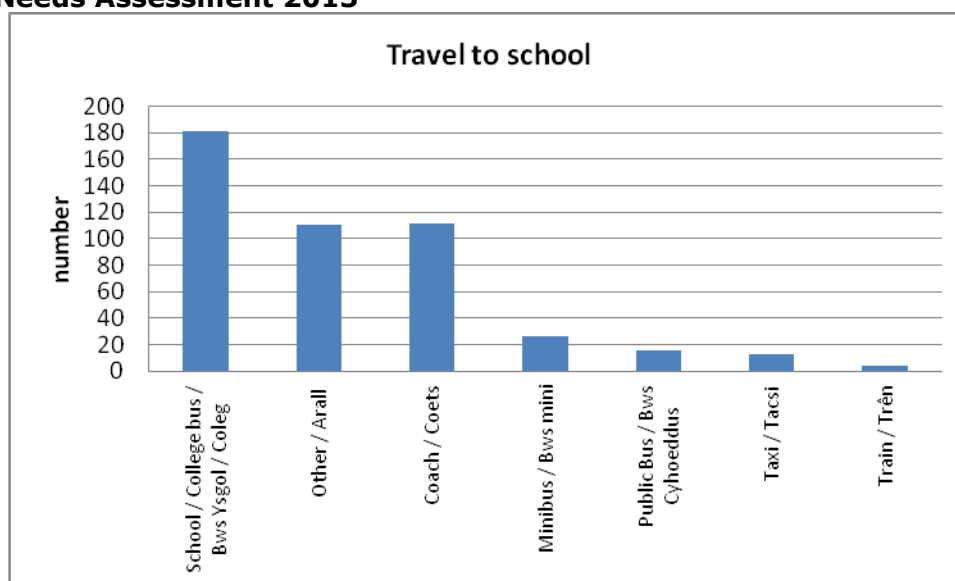
The surveys used to inform the School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013 asked pupils what their main means of travelling to school was. The following graphs show the results for primary and secondary school pupils. 80% of respondents stated that their transport taking them to school was on time either all or most of the time.

**Figure 23: Method of travelling to school – primary school pupils, School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013**



Source: School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013

**Figure 24: Method of travelling to school – secondary school pupils, School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013**



Source: School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013

With regards to access to help and advice services, the School Pupils Needs Assessment asked pupils what issues they needed help and advice for. 'School', 'feelings', 'bullying', 'death of a family member or friend' and 'sex and relationships' received the highest five response rates. With regards to the pupils preferred ways of getting information, websites, family and friends and through school received the highest responses.

## Participation and consultation

It is important to ensure the needs of young people are met and to do so it is important to engage with young people to gain their opinions on issues. 'The Point' is the Vale of Glamorgan's overall strategy for participation, and offers young people the opportunity to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing actions that might affect them, their families and friends. It provides young people with the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Vale Young Inspectors are focused on raising awareness of the 7 National Participation Standards; United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Young Inspectors receive training that enables them to inspect organisations that provide services to children and young people so that the provision can gain the National Participation Kite mark, 9 providers in the Vale of Glamorgan have received awards.

As previously stated, the Children and Young People's Partnership uses 'Viewpoint', a web based interactive survey tool to consult with children and young people aged from seven years and upwards attending primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. The primary school needs assessment and the secondary school needs assessment is refreshed every three years and are used to gather their views. Information gathered from the surveys is used to inform the development of services and provision and results from the School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013 have been included throughout this chapter.

The Viewpoint interactive survey tool also supports the Anti-bullying Survey which was used to develop the Anti-bullying Strategy and provide schools with

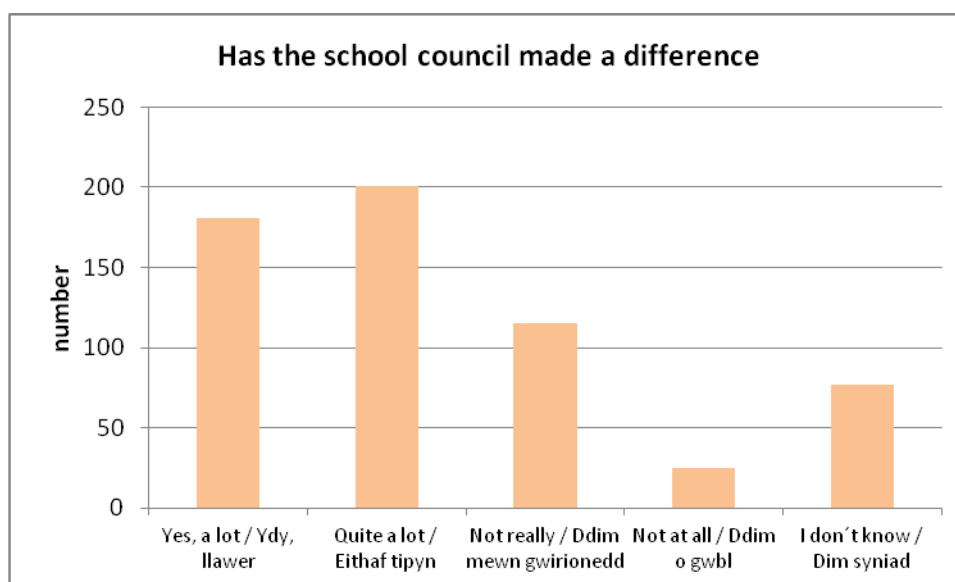
children and young people’s views regarding anti-bullying within their school to assist with school improvements. 19 schools and 2,336 pupils completed the survey during 2009 and it is hoped that the survey will be revisited in the future.

Local Democracy Week is a consultation event which encourages communication between local and national government and young people and activities are run in the Vale of Glamorgan every year.

School councils are another one of the ways that children can participate in school and their community. They give pupils the opportunity to have their opinions heard and concerns taken seriously. They also help teachers and the schools to develop and all of the Vale of Glamorgan schools have a school council. An audit of school councils conducted in 2012 (of those who responded) showed that all schools were complying with statutory guidance on having a school council and involving children and young people in the progress of the school.

The surveys used to inform the School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013 asked pupils whether having a school council has made a difference and the results for primary school pupils are shown in the following graph.

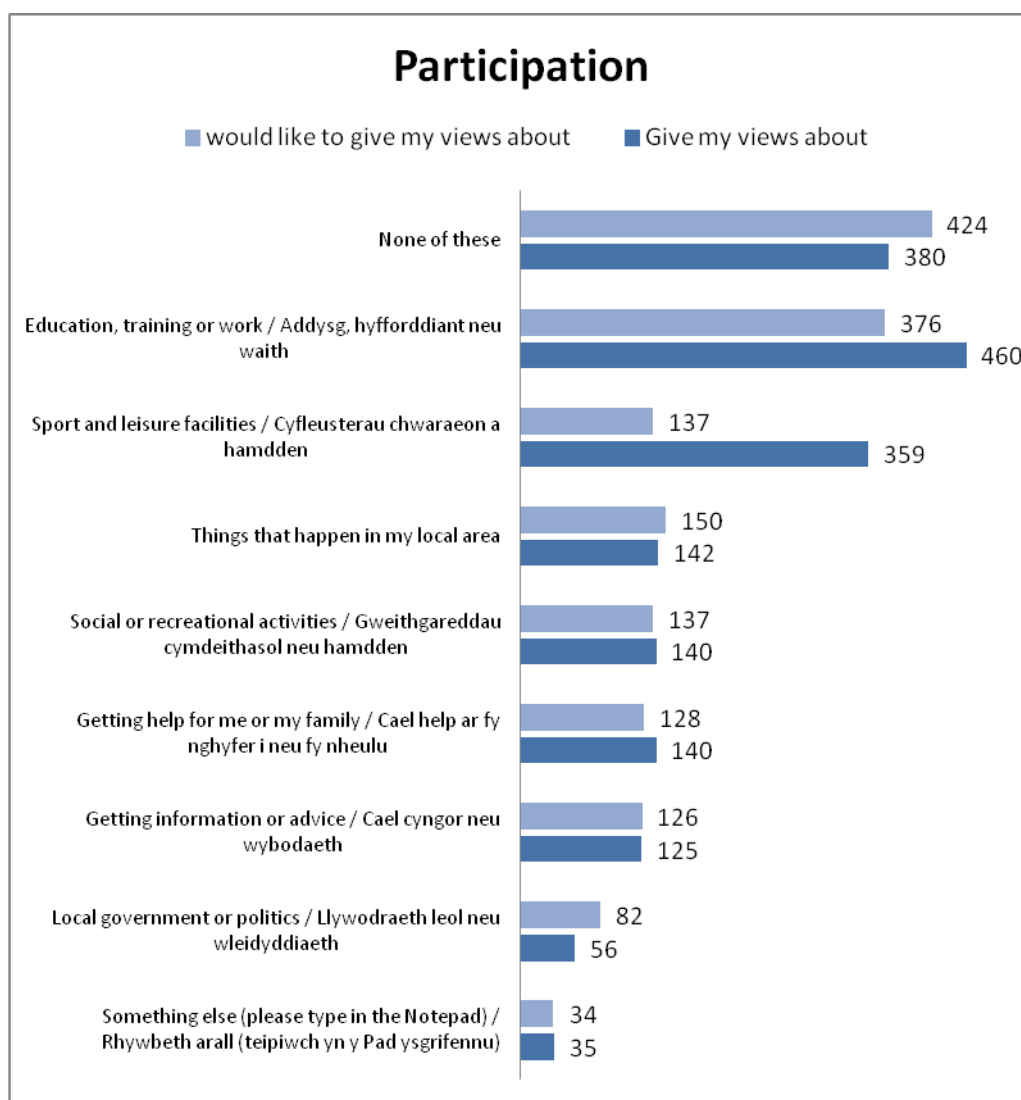
**Figure 25: Difference made by having a school council, Primary School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013**



Source: School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013

The Vale of Glamorgan also has a Youth Forum and is developing a Youth Council; their role will be to provide a voice for young people. According to the Secondary School Pupil Needs Assessment 2013, 61% of respondents were unaware there is a Youth Forum in the area. 42 respondents were members of the Youth Forum and 53% of these stated that the Forum had made a lot or quite a difference. The assessment also asked what topics secondary school pupils currently give their views about and what they would like to give their views about. The highest responses regarding what pupils would like to give their views about were ‘education, training or work’ and ‘things that happen in my local area’. The highest responses for what pupils currently give their views about were ‘education, training or work’ and ‘sport and leisure facilities’. However, the category of ‘none of these’ scored highest for what pupils would like to give their views about and second highest for what pupils currently give their views about.

**Figure 26: Secondary School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013 – Participation**



Source: School Pupils Needs Assessment 2013

The School Pupils Needs Assessment also asked secondary school respondents if they participated in volunteering. 622 pupils (47%) stated they had not volunteered, 279 (21%) stated they didn't know if they had volunteered and 416 (32%) stated they had volunteered. 'Lack of awareness of opportunities' was the highest response with regards to the reasons why pupils had not volunteered followed by being 'too busy' and 'not wanting to'. For those who had volunteered, 'learning new skills', 'having fun' and 'making new friends' were given as the some of the benefits they felt they had gained from their volunteering experience. Only 6% of pupils who volunteered stated that they felt they had not benefitted.

## Conclusions

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year estimates for 2012 estimate that there are 37,045 children and young people aged between 0- 24 years in the Vale of Glamorgan, approximately 29% of the estimated total population. Of these, 14% of children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan are living in severe poverty (50% or less of median household income) and face at least two measures of material deprivation and 16% of 0-19 year olds live in relatively low income poverty (households at or below 60% of median income). Predictions show that the number of families with dependent children in the Vale of Glamorgan will increase steadily over the next 20 years and it is also predicted that the number of disabled children in the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to increase. In addition it is predicted that by 2016 the Vale of Glamorgan will have the sixth highest rate of children and young people aged 5 to 15 with a mental health problem per 1,000 population in Wales.

Many of the data sets contained within this chapter of the needs assessment have a link to poverty and its effects and there are clear links between living in deprived areas and the impacts this has on children and young people. Although the overall percentage of children in poverty in the Vale is lower than the Welsh average; there are small pockets within wards where the poverty level is greater than the Welsh average. These include; Barac, Buttrills, Cadoxton, Court, Castleland, Gibbonsdown, Dyfan, Illtyd wards situated in the Barry Area; Cornerswell situated in Penarth; Dinas Powys; Llantwit Major and St Athan situated in the rural Vale.

Rates of teenage conceptions in the Vale vary over time, but are generally similar to or below the average rate for Wales. There are some signs of teenage conception rates falling over time in the under 18s and under 20s, but the small numbers cause random variation which makes it difficult to discern the overall pattern in the annual trend. The wards of Gibbonsdown, Castleland and Cadoc (within the most deprived in the Vale of Glamorgan) have the highest percentage of teenage pregnancies and these wards also have the highest proportion of children living in families on benefits. Data indicates that Llantwit Major, St Athan and Cowbridge situated in the rural Vale; along with Barry have a higher overall percentage of low birth weight babies than the Welsh average.

Overall the Vale has a good level of childcare provision; however affordability is an issue highlighted year on year. The average cost of a nursery place for a child in the Vale of Glamorgan for 25 hours per week is £98.25 compared to the British average of £106.38. However, in Britain the average cost of one week's full time (50 hours) holiday childcare in the private, voluntary and independent sector is now £109.23, in the Vale of Glamorgan this is £122.60 per week. The Vale of Glamorgan's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which was refreshed in 2012-13 highlighted a gap in the provision of suitable care for children aged 11 to 14. Therefore free out-of-school provision targeting this age group is being piloted in 2013/14.

Within the Vale of Glamorgan there has been a steady decline in the number of looked after children since 2012, due to a 'Looked After Child Recovery Plan' being implemented within Children and Young People's Services. The areas of the Vale of Glamorgan with the highest numbers of looked after children are Castleland, Gibbonsdown, Cadoc, Illtyd, Buttrills, and Baruc in the Barry area of the Vale, and in Rhose and Llantwit Major in the rural Vale.

In the Vale of Glamorgan the number of first time entrants (FTEs) into the youth justice system was at an all time high in 2009/10 with 154 FTEs for the year. In that year, the Youth Offending Service (YOS), in conjunction with other partners, wrote and implemented it's first Prevention Strategy utilising monies from the



Welsh Government Safer Communities Fund. Between 2009/10 and 2011/12 FTEs reduced from 154 to 46, a 70% reduction and numbers have continued to stay low for 2012/13. However the Vale of Glamorgan has a higher reoffending rate for young offenders than the South Wales and all Wales averages.

With regards to educational attainment of children and young people, the Vale of Glamorgan has continued to perform above the Welsh average for both English and Mathematics in 2012. However, performance in both subjects has fallen since a peak in 2010 and the gap between the Vale of Glamorgan and the rest of Wales has therefore narrowed. Although overall performance with regards to educational attainment is high in the Vale, again there are marked differences between the achievements of children in the most and least deprived wards.

In relation to sport and physical activity, 73% of Vale of Glamorgan pupils participated at least once in extracurricular sport in the 2012/13 school year. This compares with a national participation rate of 76%. 47% of pupils participated frequently in extracurricular sport in the Vale (at least once a week on average), which is in line with the national participation rate. 41% of primary school pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan attended a leisure or sports centre once a week or more during the 2012/13 academic year. This compares to 28% across Wales. 44% of secondary school pupils attended a leisure centre once a week or more and this compares with 31% across Wales.

With regards to access to help and advice services, the School Pupils Needs Assessment asked pupils what issues they needed help and advice for. 'School', 'feelings', 'bullying', 'death of a family member or friend' and 'sex and relationships' received the highest five response rates. With regards to the pupils preferred ways of getting information, websites, family and friends and through school received the highest responses. Transport issues affect young people especially those living in the rural Vale and limited access to transport has been shown to affect young people's ability to access services.

The assessment also asked what topics pupils currently give their views about and what they would like to give their views about. The highest responses regarding what pupils would like to give their views about were 'education, training or work' and 'things that happen in my local area'. The highest responses for what pupils currently give their views about were 'education, training or work' and 'sport and leisure facilities'. However, the category of 'none of these' scored highest for what pupils would like to give their views about and second highest for what pupils currently give their views about. This may suggest that further work should take place to encourage children and young people to engage and highlight the importance of giving their opinion.

Although on the whole the Vale performs well compared to the rest of Wales in relation to a number of indicators concerning children and young people, it is important to recognise that there are a vast range of factors at play that can impact on the life chances afforded to them. The importance of early intervention is therefore clear and Marmot review research highlights that disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates throughout life. Action to reduce all inequalities must start before birth and be followed throughout the life of the child. Only then can the close links between disadvantage and poor outcomes be broken.