



## **Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment**

### **Evidence Report**

#### **Being Part of Safe and Inclusive Communities**

## **Note**

The evidence reports produced to accompany the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment are intended to be used as ongoing working documents rather than public and as such are not edited in a final format.

The Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment is comprised of a number of components as outlined below. We recognise that this is a large document and it is intended to form the evidence base for the Well-being Assessment which is published as an overview document. This document provides a place to set out the evidence used in the main assessment rather than to provide comprehensive interpretation and analysis.

It should be noted that sources of the information included can be found in the evidence and research directory that forms part of the package of documents that comprise the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment. The directory can be used to find further information in relation to the evidence presented here where it has not been included i.e. for other time periods, comparisons to other areas and the metadata that accompanies the dataset.

## **Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment Components**

In order to ensure the information produced is useable by a variety of audiences the Vale of Glamorgan assessment is comprised of a range of constituent parts to form a package of information as below:

- **An overview document** – This acts as the main document and is what the PSB considers to be the Well-being Assessment. It forms a summary of findings across the various sections of the assessment and makes links between them. This document also summarises potential areas for further ‘response’ analysis to inform the Well-being Plan in 2018, as determined by the PSB.
- **A detailed evidence report for each of the four sections**– These are longer more detailed documents bringing together a range of the data and information used to inform the main overview document and are intended to set out the evidence base used to inform the assessment rather than provide a comprehensive analysis.
- **An evidence and research directory** – A directory of links to the various resources used to inform the assessment should users wish to access even more information and raw data on a topic. This document should be used to find the source of information used in the detailed evidence reports. The Common Data Set and National Indicators have also been incorporated into this directory.
- **‘Let’s Talk’ Engagement Findings Report** – A detailed analysis report of the findings from the ‘Let’s Talk’ engagement exercise.
- **Three community area based reports** on each of the community areas used within the assessment – Barry, Eastern Vale and Western Vale.

## Being Part of Safe and Inclusive Communities Key Findings

This section of the assessment focuses on housing, community safety, volunteering and resilient communities. By ensuring residents of the Vale of Glamorgan are part of safe and inclusive communities the Vale PSB will maximise our contribution towards achieving the following national well-being goals: a Prosperous Wales, a More Equal Wales, a Wales of Cohesive Communities, a Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language, a Healthier Wales and a Globally Responsible Wales.

Evidence within this section can also be considered in relation to other findings within this assessment and links are found between range of other aspects of having good well-being such as the affects of living in safe communities on mental, physical and economic well-being and the foundations that can be provided from good quality and affordable housing.

The links between the various sections of this assessment are perhaps best demonstrated through Dahlgren and Whitehead's model referenced earlier in this assessment which highlights a causal relationship between individual lifestyle factors, social networks, working and living conditions and economic, political and environmental factors, globally, nationally and locally.

### **Community Involvement**

- In general the Vale of Glamorgan has higher than average voter turnout rates.
- The level of political engagement varies markedly within the Vale of Glamorgan and suggests that there are geographical communities within the Vale of Glamorgan that are less engaged than others. Figures suggest that those in the most deprived LSOAs within the Vale of Glamorgan, are less likely to be engaged in the political process than those in the least deprived areas.
- The Let's Talk survey showed that having a say in decisions is very important to Vale residents which may explain why voter turnout rates are high, despite this few reported believing that they are actually able to influence decisions.
- The percentage of people who report volunteering formally in the Vale of Glamorgan is broadly in line with the Welsh average. However, when considering those who report volunteering informally the Vale showed one of the highest percentages across Wales.
- Residents in the Western Vale were more likely to volunteer followed by the Eastern Vale. Those from Barry were much less likely to undertake voluntary or community work.

- Of those who don't already volunteer, people aged 55+ were least likely to consider volunteering or community work but it could be suggested that those aged 55+ are more likely to undertake informal work e.g. providing childcare and helping neighbours and therefore do not have time available for more structured volunteering opportunities.
- Loneliness and isolation are cross-cutting issues that seriously impact on the health and wellbeing of people of all ages in Wales.
- A significantly higher number of females aged 65+ are predicted to be living alone than males. By 2035 it is predicted that approximately double the number of females aged 65+ will be living alone in the Vale of Glamorgan compared to males.

### **Safe and Cohesive Communities**

- 73% of Vale residents agreed people from different backgrounds got on well together, below the 79.6% Welsh average and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in Wales.
- 82% of Vale residents agree people in the local area treat each other with respect and consideration, above the Welsh average 80%.
- At a Wales level, those belonging to ethnic minority groups were slightly more likely to agree that people from different backgrounds got on well together and people in the local area treat each other with respect compare to White British people.
- When considering internal migration the Vale has a negative net migration balance.
- The impact of the EU referendum results is at present unknown and data does not yet exist at a Vale level in order to establish the impact the results may have had on the above.
- There is a significant Armed Forces community within the Vale of Glamorgan with 2011 Census data showing there were 1143 members of the Armed Forces in the Vale. This is 16.6% of the total Armed Forces population in Wales
- The Population Needs Assessment as required by the Social Services and Well-being Act found that there are around 11.96 veterans per 1000 residents in the Vale of Glamorgan, above the Wales average of 6.24.

- The Let's Talk Survey results showed that 38% of respondents to the question "How do you think your social well-being will change over the next 5 years?" answered that it would stay the same. 21% felt their social well-being would decrease compared to 16% who felt it would increase. The remaining 25% answered that they don't know.
- The overall rate of offences in the Vale has consistently been below the Welsh average.
- The Vale is below the Welsh average across a range of offences with the exception of fraud where the Vale is slightly above Welsh average based on the latest data published (2012-13).
- 7 LSOAs in the Vale of Glamorgan are in the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales according to the WIMD 2014 Community Safety Domain. With the exception of the physical environment, this is the domain where the Vale of Glamorgan has most LSOAs in the 10% most deprived in Wales.
- In the Barry area, Castleland 2G observed the highest rates of crime across a number of indicators including rates of violent crime, criminal damage and ASB. This LSOA ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> most deprived LSOA in Wales for the WIMD 2014 Community Safety Domain. This area includes Holton Road and is the location of many shops, cafes, Barry leisure centre, the Council Civic Offices and areas of open space.
- In the Eastern Vale St. Augustine's 3 has the highest rates of crime observed across a range of offences.
- In the Western Vale, Peterston-Super-Ely experiences the highest rates of burglary and theft but Llantwit Major 2 experiences the highest rates of violent crime, ASB and criminal damage.
- The rate of violence against the person offences has increased in recent years in the Vale although a similar trend is also observed in other areas of Wales. Large increases have particularly been observed in areas of Barry such as Dyfan (a 72% increase in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14). In addition there has also been an increase in possession of weapons offences in this area and some other parts of Barry, although overall numbers remain small.
- The highest rates of Anti-Social Behaviour are found around Barry.

- The percentage of children in need where domestic abuse is a parenting factor in the Vale of Glamorgan was the highest in Wales (51%) at March 2015. The lowest percentage was recorded in Caerphilly at 9% and further research would be needed to understand the reasons for this.
- The death rate due to road traffic accidents in the Cardiff and Vale health board area is the lowest in Wales, with the highest rate observed in Powys.
- Total fire incidents slightly increased in the Vale between 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- The number of deliberate vehicle fires in the Vale is low and slightly decreased between 2014/15 and 2015/16 as opposed to an increase observed at a Wales level.
- In general residents of the Vale of Glamorgan reported that they felt safe in everyday life although as would be expected people felt less safe after dark.

### **Housing**

- The Vale has an estimated 53,505 dwellings. The majority of households, 72.5%, own their own home, 11.9% rent from a social landlord and 15.7% from a private landlord. The percentage of households who own their own home (with or without a mortgage) in the Vale is higher than the Welsh average, whilst the percentage of households living in the private rented and social rented sectors are lower than the Welsh average.
- The average house price in the Vale of Glamorgan is one of the highest in Wales. The average price of a two bedroom house in the Castleland ward in Barry costs on average £108,742 compared to a two bedroom house in Cowbridge which costs on average £273,143.
- The number of households renting privately in the Vale has risen with the number of households renting privately more than doubling from 4,033 households in 1991 to 8,379 in 2011.
- The 2011 Census showed that for the first time in 30 years the private rented sector has grown larger than the social rented sector in the Vale of Glamorgan. This may be explained by an increasing number of younger people who cannot afford to buy and rent privately instead. The Council are also now able to discharge their homelessness duty to the private rented sector.

- The headline annual net need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan is 559 units per annum in order to meet demand.
- In the Vale of Glamorgan, the percentage of overcrowded households is 3.86%, which is lower than Wales at 5.53%. However, across the Vale of Glamorgan there is a wide range between the lowest (0.0% in 'Illtyd 1') and the highest (12.2% in 'Gibbonsdown 2') LSOAs.
- The findings of the Let's Talk Survey showed that the majority of respondents were either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the quality of their homes.
- Housing was not an issue which featured significantly in the responses to the well-being survey or through the engagement activities.
- The majority of households over the age of 65 in the Vale of Glamorgan are owner occupiers (82%) or living in social housing, a minority of people aged over 65 live in the private rented sector.
- The estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in the Vale of Glamorgan for the whole Development Plan period is 20 additional pitches.
- In the Vale of Glamorgan, the number of households affected by the spare room subsidy has been steadily decreasing since the 2012 welfare reforms were first introduced. However a data gap exists in terms of capturing the reasons for households no longer being affected by the subsidy – whether this is due to households moving to smaller properties, whether households have been evicted due to likely rent arrears or whether for instance they have found employment and no longer claim housing benefit.
- The rate of households presenting and determined to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need has increased in the Vale of Glamorgan in recent years as opposed to the decreasing national trend. However the Vale of Glamorgan has a higher than average percentage of cases where homelessness has been prevented due to positive action.

## Being Part of Safe and Inclusive Communities – Where we need to increase our evidence base?

The well-being assessment must be seen as an ongoing process of better understanding our communities in order to improve our resident's well-being and contribute to achieving the national well-being goals. The PSB will consider how it can ensure our evidence base can be kept 'live' and become a dynamic resource for everyone.

We will also continue to enhance the findings presented in this section of the assessment and recognise that further information is needed in relation to the following, either because robust data is unavailable at the present time or because analysis is still ongoing.

- Data in relation to incidents of hate crime and feeling within the community since the results of the EU referendum
- Evidence in relation to younger people who may be suffering from social isolation
- In order to engage with all of our community we recognise new 'digital communities' now exist which should be tapped into in order to reach those who are traditionally not engaged
- Data in relation to outcomes for those who are no longer affected by the spare room subsidy – whether this is attributed to gaining employment and no longer receiving Housing Benefit, due to downsizing the property or due to eviction.
- In depth analysis of commuter patterns – which are explored in the 'Maximising Opportunities and Attainment' section of this assessment – would help identify areas where a high proportion of the community may be commuting elsewhere during the day, thus leaving 'ghost towns' and areas where there is a low sense of community belonging.
- Data and evidence in relation to reoffending rates in the Vale of Glamorgan
- Further evidence in relation to domestic violence



## **Our Findings**

### **Community Involvement – Our Findings**

In 2015/16, ONS personal well-being statistics showed Vale residents to have a fairly high level of life satisfaction. Residents were asked to rate how satisfied they are with life overall on a scale of 0-10, the average rating in the Vale of Glamorgan was 7.83 which is the joint highest in Wales and above both the Welsh and UK averages. In addition, data from the National Survey for Wales 2014/15 highlighted that 81% of Vale residents felt a sense of belonging to the local area compared to the Welsh average of 83%.

Despite these findings, through our engagement campaign, residents were generally very positive about life in the Vale and about their life satisfaction in general. Many people highlighted their friends and neighbours as the best thing about where they lived, especially those in the Barry area compared to other parts of the Vale. A sense of community in these areas was apparent with people commenting that these networks were vital for their well-being.

The PSB therefore recognises the importance of ensuring our residents are engaged with and feel part of safe and inclusive communities in order to increase their sense of belonging to the local area and satisfaction with life in general.

Increased community resilience is often shown at times of crisis and the PSB recognises the need to build resilient communities which can adapt to future events. For instance, the impacts of climate change pose a risk to our communities and working to build inclusive, resilient and adaptable communities now will ensure that our communities are ready to respond at times of need in the future.

As above, throughout our engagement campaign friends and neighbours within the immediate community was often highlighted as one the best things about living in the Vale, with people commenting that they have good networks in place and people to rely on should things go wrong. However it was noticeable that many people who made such comments were from the more urban areas particularly Barry compared to the Western Vale.

Climate change and adverse weather events pose a risk to all of our communities and it could be suggested that those in more rural areas are at greater risk when such events occur. For example flooding can cut off transport networks, electricity and other infrastructure as well as damaging homes. The effects of such an event can be devastating for a person but having a strong community network who 'rally around' can make a big difference in such situations. Areas of Dinas Powys and Barry, in addition to Cowbridge and Llantwit Major in the rural Vale are areas that are most at risk of flooding in the Vale.

Our findings show that in general people in the Vale of Glamorgan are relatively involved in community life.

According to research conducted by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), the percentage of people who report volunteering formally in the Vale of Glamorgan is broadly in line with the Welsh average. However, when considering those who report volunteering informally the Vale showed one of the highest percentages across Wales.

The most common types of help given are doing errands, caring for children, keeping in touch with a housebound person, providing transport and giving advice. At least half a million people in Wales do one of these activities in a year.

The WCVA report on volunteering in Wales 2015<sup>1</sup> highlights that “the overall level of informal volunteering should reflect general changes in the needs of people in communities in Wales. It might be expected that as the population ages that more people will be involved in helping their neighbours.” As the Vale has an ageing population this could explain why the Vale of Glamorgan has a much higher percentage of people who volunteer informally than formally.

The Vale of Glamorgan Public Opinion Survey 2014 asked respondents about volunteering and found little differences observed between age and gender in relation to whether a person volunteered. However the biggest differences were observed between area and social grade.

Residents in the Western Vale were more likely to volunteer followed by the Eastern Vale. Those from Barry were much less likely to undertake voluntary or community work. It could be suggested that those in more rural areas have less services readily accessible compared to Barry and could be more likely to undertake community work. Those in managerial and professional occupations were also more likely to volunteer than those in unskilled or manual jobs.

The importance of volunteering should not be underestimated, with figures from Glamorgan Voluntary Service estimating that the monetary value of volunteering in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2015/16 was £36,903,499 and demonstrates the significant contribution that volunteers make to their local communities. It is also important to consider that this figure only captures volunteer hours undertaken through more formal channels and does not capture the vast amount of informal volunteering undertaken in the Vale.

The effects of volunteering on a person’s well-being cannot be underestimated in terms of improving mental well-being and providing a sense of purpose. In addition volunteering can help provide people with a huge variety of skills which can enhance career prospects. The PSB therefore recognise an opportunity with regards to increasing volunteering in the more

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/3504589/final\\_volunteering\\_in\\_wales\\_2015\\_-\\_english\\_july\\_2016.pdf](http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/3504589/final_volunteering_in_wales_2015_-_english_july_2016.pdf)

deprived areas of Barry and promoting volunteering as a gateway to employment in areas where a higher proportion of the population are not in work. The PSB have also posed the question of how we, as employers, can help our staff become more involved within their own communities as volunteers.

If we can improve how we engage with our communities through more innovative methods we may be able to have a greater influence in improving the well-being of our residents and reducing the inequalities we have found throughout our assessment. The PSB has also recognised that communities do not only exist in a geographical sense and 'digital communities' now exist in online spaces. Being able to tap into these networks could help reach some of those who have traditionally been disengaged.

Voter turnout rates can be used to demonstrate the variations in involvement within the Vale of Glamorgan. The turnout in the 2012 local government election in the Cadoc ward in Barry was 29.7% and in the St Athan ward it was just 29.6%, both almost 10% below the Vale of Glamorgan average of 38.9%. Conversely the turnout within Dinas Powys was 51.4%.

The Let's Talk Survey asked Vale residents how important a range of topics were to them. In terms of what was very important to our residents 'having a say in decisions that affect me' was the most important aspect to people in the Vale, however more people strongly disagreed they could influence decisions than tended to agree suggesting we need to improve how we engage with our communities.

The PSB recognises that ensuring people from a wide cross sector of our society are actively involved in community life can help in the redesign and delivery of services. A good example of this is changes to the Council's library services. Through the Council's Reshaping Services Programme, three libraries across the Vale have already been transferred to community ownership ensuring not only that the service remains available to these communities but that they deliver what the community wants from them. The new management committees for these libraries also receive on-going support from the Council in the form of IT access, book stock, other library resources and professional advice.

There is a risk of certain sections of the community becoming socially isolated which can have a significant effect on an individual's well-being.

Through our 'Let's Talk' survey it was highlighted that a high proportion of residents rarely or never felt lonely, however it must be recognised that those residents who are likely to participate in the survey are likely to be more actively involved in community life. A high proportion of responses to the survey were received online, and again it is recognised that

new digital communities now exist and could act to prevent people who could be geographically isolated or have limited mobility from feeling lonely.

Although social isolation is not only limited to older people, the PSB recognises that the Vale has an ageing population particularly in rural areas who may be more at risk of becoming isolated and feeling lonely. It has been recognised that further evidence is needed to better understand this in relation to the Vale of Glamorgan and how issues regarding social isolation are not only limited to older people.

The Older People's Commissioner highlights that:

“loneliness and isolation are cross-cutting issues that seriously impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales. It is imperative that loneliness is measured and that the social capital of relationships and connectivity are understood and addressed in terms of building a resilient Wales and a community of cohesive communities.

Loneliness and isolation have been shown to damage health, are the basis for social exclusion and are a significant and pressing problem in Wales that crosses all boundaries of social class, race, gender identification, sexual orientation, financial status and geography.

Research demonstrates that loneliness has an effect on mortality that is similar in size to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It is associated with poor mental health and conditions such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and dementia. Loneliness also has a much wider public health impact too, as it is associated with a number of negative health outcomes including mortality, morbidity, depression and suicide as well as health service use.

Loneliness can be felt by people of all ages, but as we get older, risk factors that might lead to loneliness begin to increase and converge. Such risk factors include poor health, lack of public transport, sensory loss, bereavement, fear of crime, retirement and technological changes.

Statistics show that loneliness and isolation impact many older people across Wales; however, in rural areas, a unique set of circumstances exacerbate the social isolation of older residents further, leading to poor health, loss of independence and lower quality of life.”

The Vale of Glamorgan has a relatively high percentage of people aged 65+ living alone, with Census 2011 data showing that 13.2% of households in the Vale were comprised of one person aged 65+. Social isolation may be an issue in the Vale and a Wyn Campaign Equality Assessment found that one of the top 6 requirements residents felt they should gain from the campaign was not feeling lonely.

Projected figures show that the number of people aged 65+ living alone in the Vale are expected to increase by over a quarter from 10,520 in 2010 to 13,390 in 2020, and by over half to 16,400 in 2030.

Differences can be observed by gender with a significantly higher number of females aged 65+ predicted to be living alone than males. By 2035 it is predicted that approximately double the number of females aged 65+ will be living alone compared to males. This may be attributed to the differences between male and female life expectancy observed in the Vale with females living longer on average.

In 2014 the Friendly AdvantAGE project was established to reduce social isolation and loneliness and to increase confidence in older people. The volunteer project recruited 175 volunteers, who provided over 11,500 hours of volunteering to support older people, reducing loneliness and social isolation. The project was highly successful with 60% of beneficiaries agreeing that their social interaction or well-being had increased and 76% agreeing that their confidence had been positively affected. The project ended in March 2016 when funding ceased.

An evaluation report on the project by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care: University of South Wales showed that when participating in the project scores increased for people who agreed that they felt lonely less often than they used to and scores again increased when people were asked three months into the project showing that the project had been positive in reducing loneliness in the medium term. However scores had decreased three months after participation in the project had ended, for agreement with statements such as “I am confident dealing with others everyday” which may suggest that work needs to take place to tackle social isolation in the long term.

## **Community Involvement – Our Evidence**

### **Community Belonging**

Results of the 2014 Vale of Glamorgan Public Opinion Survey showed that when asked to what extent they identified themselves with the Vale, a majority of residents appear to have a relatively strong affiliation with the area. 7 in 10 describe themselves as either feeling a strong connection to the Vale / particular part of the Vale (27%) or as primarily a Vale resident (42%). Only 1 in 10 felt no connection to the Vale with the remainder seeing themselves as part of a larger community beyond just the Vale.

Those living in the Western area of the Vale were most likely to have stronger affiliation with the Vale whereas for those in East Vale this association was slightly weaker.

9 in 10 residents agreed that they felt proud to live in the Vale. Older residents, aged 55+ also had a stronger feeling of pride in the area – 51% *strongly agreeing* that *I am proud to live in the Vale of Glamorgan*, compared with 36% among under 55s.

A feeling that the Vale had a unique identity was felt more keenly in Western Vale. In this area 63% felt that this was the case compared with an average of 52%.

The 2016 Let's Talk survey results also emphasised these findings with 47.1% of respondents answering that they "tend to agree" that they belong to their community and only 2% answering that they "strongly disagree" that they belong to their communities.

However area differences are observed and in Barry 13.2% "tend to disagree" and 6.1% "strongly disagree" that they belong to their area which is higher than levels observed for the Western and Eastern Vale.

### **Life Satisfaction**

In 2015/16, ONS personal well-being statistics showed Vale residents to have a fairly high level of life satisfaction. Residents were asked to rate how satisfied they are with life overall on a scale of 0-10, the average rating in the Vale of Glamorgan was 7.83 which is the joint highest in Wales and above both the Welsh and UK averages.

The National Survey for Wales 2014/15 showed 81% of residents felt a sense of belonging to their local area in the Vale, slightly lower than the Welsh average of 83%. National level analysis shows that feeling of belonging increases with age and no real differences are seen between levels of deprivation..

The 2016 Let's Talk Survey showed that of the 784 answers to the question of satisfaction with the Vale of Glamorgan as a place to live, of respondents answered that they were either "very" or "fairly satisfied" with the Vale. 325 (41.5%) of respondents answered that they were "very satisfied", while 392 (50%) of respondents answered that that they were

“fairly satisfied” with the Vale of Glamorgan as a place to live. Only 26 (3.3%) respondents answered that they were “fairly dissatisfied” with the Vale of Glamorgan as a place to live and 11 (1.4%) that they were “very dissatisfied”.

Barry was the area where least respondents said they were very satisfied although no differences for other categories

### **Voter Turnout**

UK evidence suggests that young people, people from some ethnic minorities and people from lower socioeconomic groups were less likely to register to vote than others (Electoral Commission, 2011).

In general the Vale of Glamorgan has higher than average voter turnout rates.

At a local authority level, for the parliamentary election on May 5 2010, the Vale of Glamorgan had a turnout of 69.48%. This compared favourably with the national turnout figure of 64.75%.

For the local government elections in 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan had a turnout of 39.26%. This compares with a Welsh average turnout of 38.1%.

For the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2012 the turnout in the Vale of Glamorgan was 19.62% compared with an average of 15.16% across the South Wales Police Force Area. The Vale of Glamorgan had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest turnout rate in Wales for the 2016 PCC elections.

The turn-out rate for the EU referendum in the Vale of Glamorgan was 76%, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Wales. The Let’s Talk Survey results showed that this issue was one that Vale residents felt strongly about with a number of respondents referencing the EU referendum in their answers to a range of questions particularly around economic well-being.

The Vale had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest turn out rate across Wales for the National Assembly Elections 2016 – 53.1%

Despite high overall turn out rates differences can be observed within the Vale of Glamorgan. With residents in some areas being more engaged in than others.

Voter turnout rates can be used to demonstrate the variations in involvement within the Vale of Glamorgan. The turnout in the 2012 local government election in the Cadoc ward in Barry was 29.7% and in the St Athan ward it was just 29.6%, both almost 10% below the Vale of Glamorgan average of 38.9%. Conversely the turnout within Dinas Powys was 51.4%.

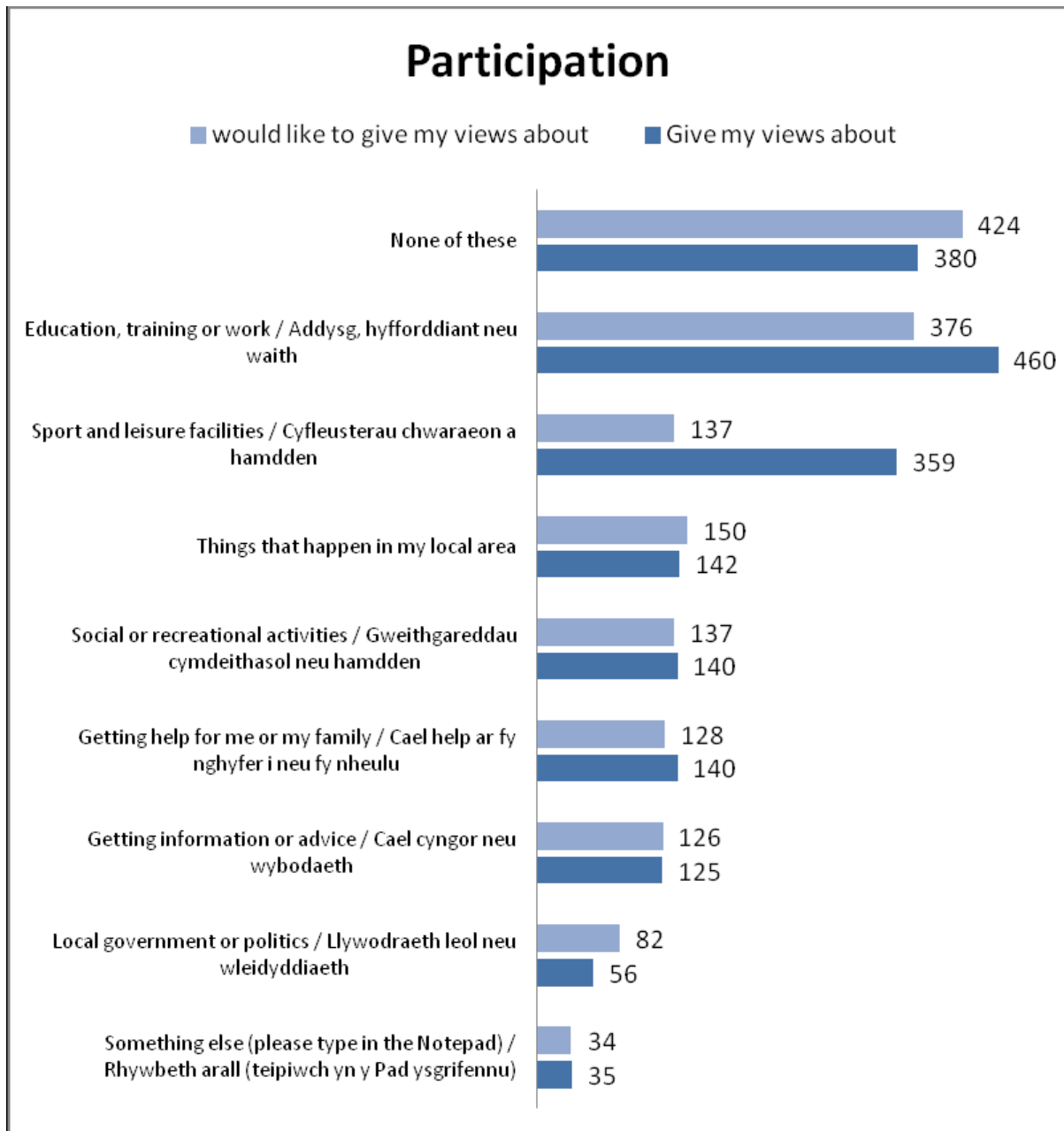
The variation within the turnout figures demonstrates that the level of political engagement varies markedly within the Vale of Glamorgan and suggests that there are geographical communities within the Vale of Glamorgan that are less engaged than others. It can also be

suggested that those in the most deprived LSOAs within the Vale of Glamorgan, are less likely to be engaged in the political process than those in the least deprived areas.

### **Participation of Children and Young People**

The 2013 School Pupil Needs Assessment 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'. It is likely that these are the topics pupils are asked about in school when they represent a 'captive audience' as opposed to giving their views outside of a school setting. 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 demonstrate that children and young people are not regularly engaged but do not have a huge desire to be. It is also important to consider that pupils may not always recognise when they are providing their views on a topic.





The Vale of Glamorgan has a Youth Forum, Mayor and Cabinet and runs a local democracy week each year.

## Influencing Decisions

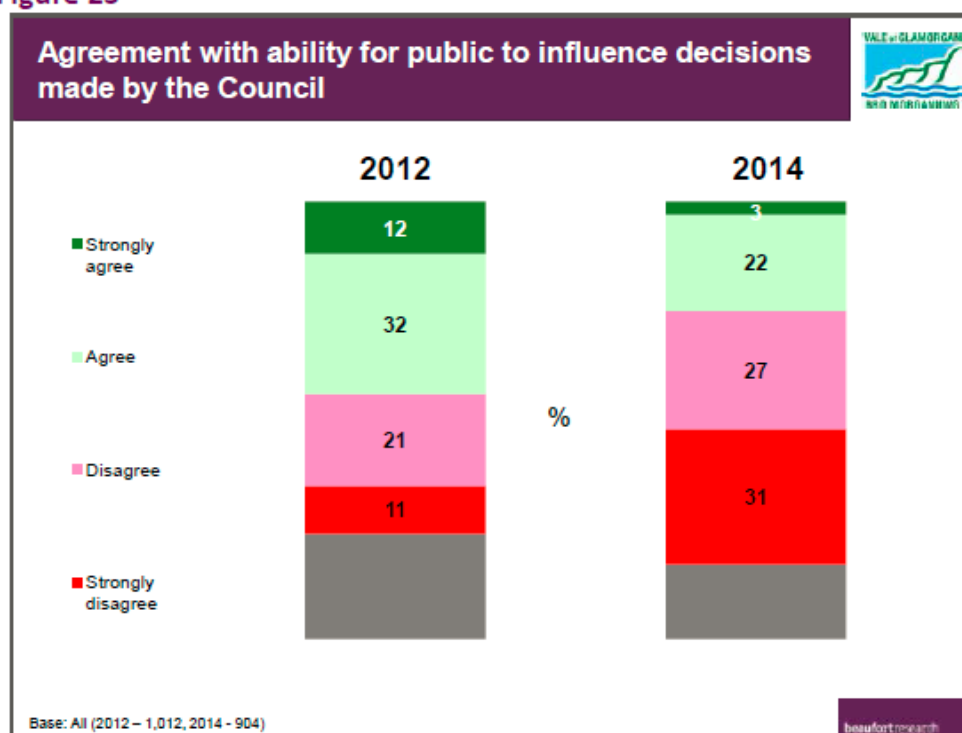
The National Survey for Wales 2014/15 showed that 18% of Vale residents tend to agree they can influence decisions, in line with Welsh average 17.6%.

24% strongly disagreed that they could influence decisions, again in line with the Welsh average of 24.6%.

Although the Vale has higher than average levels of voter turnout rates, and some of the highest in Wales, the Vale is in line with the Welsh average for the number of people who agree they can influence decisions, suggesting that although more Vale residents are inclined to use their vote than average this may not be for reasons that they believe they can influence decisions being made. More residents strongly disagreed they could influence decisions than tended to agree.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Public Opinion Survey asked residents whether they agree the public can influence decisions made by the Council. The chart below demonstrates that the numbers who agree they can influence Council decisions has declined in recent years with more people now disagreeing with this statement.

Figure 23

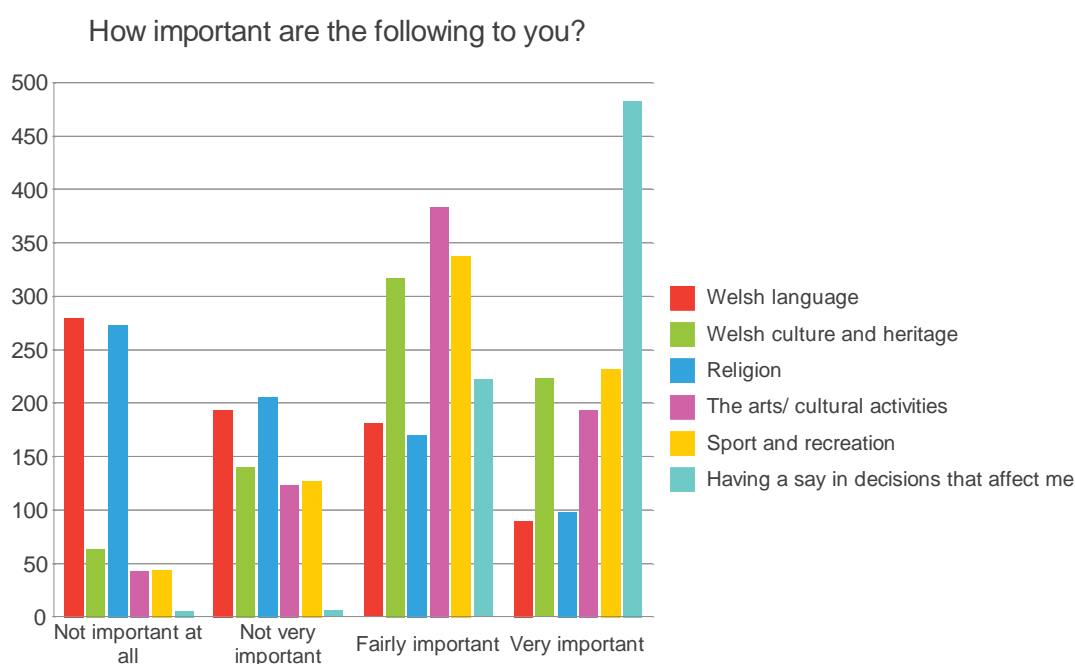


In Wales less than one in four people feel that they are able to influence decisions affecting their local area. Older people (aged 75 and over), disabled people and women feel less able to influence decisions than some other groups.

In relation to the how Vale residents feel they can influence decisions 'Contact my local councillor' was the most likely mechanism to be used.

The Let's Talk Survey asked Vale residents how important a range of topics were to them. In terms of what was very important to our residents 'Having a say in decisions that affect me' was clearly the most important aspect to people in the Vale as shown below.

It could be suggested that this explains why the Vale has high voter turnout rates, as having a say in decisions is very important to Vale residents, despite this few believe that they are able to influence decisions made as shown earlier.



A 2014 study of local councillors in England showed that they are overwhelmingly White (only 4% are from an ethnic minority) (Kettlewell and Phillips, 2014). In Britain, only two councillors are known to have a Gypsy and Traveller background. A survey of Welsh councillors in 2012 found that 99.4% of elected councillors were White (Welsh Government, 2012). In Wales, a 2014 report published by the Expert Group on Diversity in Local Government made recommendations to help improve the numbers of people from ethnic minorities standing for election to local government (Welsh Government, 2014a). The Welsh Government also launched a programme in 2015 in which councillors mentor people from diverse backgrounds who are interested in becoming involved in public life (EHRC, 2015).

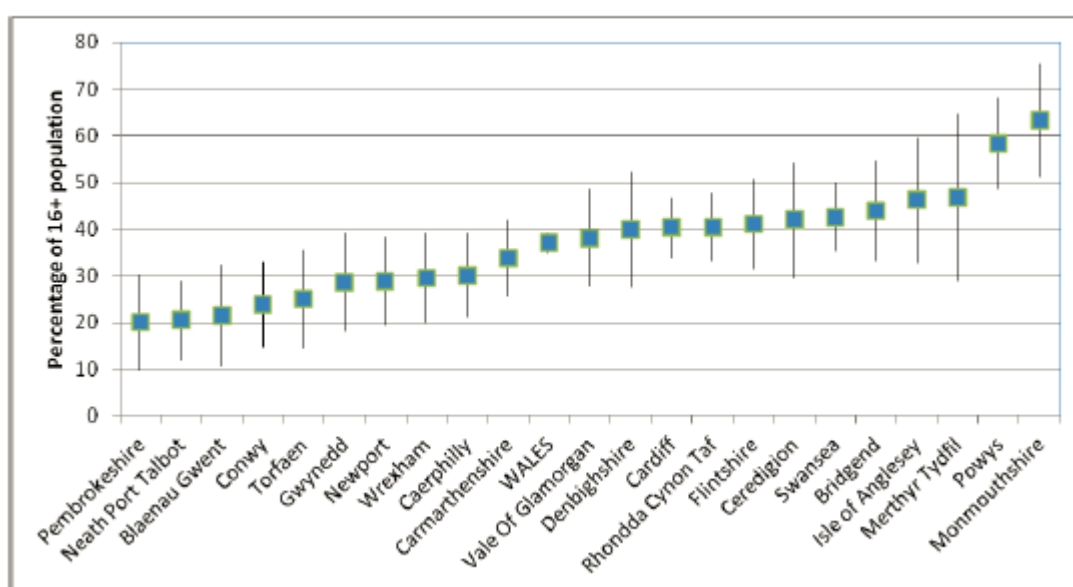
## Volunteering

A household survey of adults in Wales carried out in March 2014 and March 2015 by Beaufort Research for the WCVA showed that at a Wales level 37% of adults reported formally volunteering.

Respondents who spoke Welsh were significantly more likely to volunteer (44.6% compared to 34.1%). Whilst the percentage reporting volunteering in most activities was higher for Welsh speakers, it was only significant for sports / exercise volunteering (9.2% compared to 5.2%) and community groups (8.6% compared to 5.0%)

There is a group of activities that are more common, including volunteering in children's activities within and outside school, sports and exercise, health and social care, community groups and faith based groups. There are at least 130,000 formal volunteers involved in each of these activities. Between a quarter and a half of the volunteers in these groups concentrate on just that activity.

**Figure 4: Percentage of the adult population who volunteer formally, by local authority**

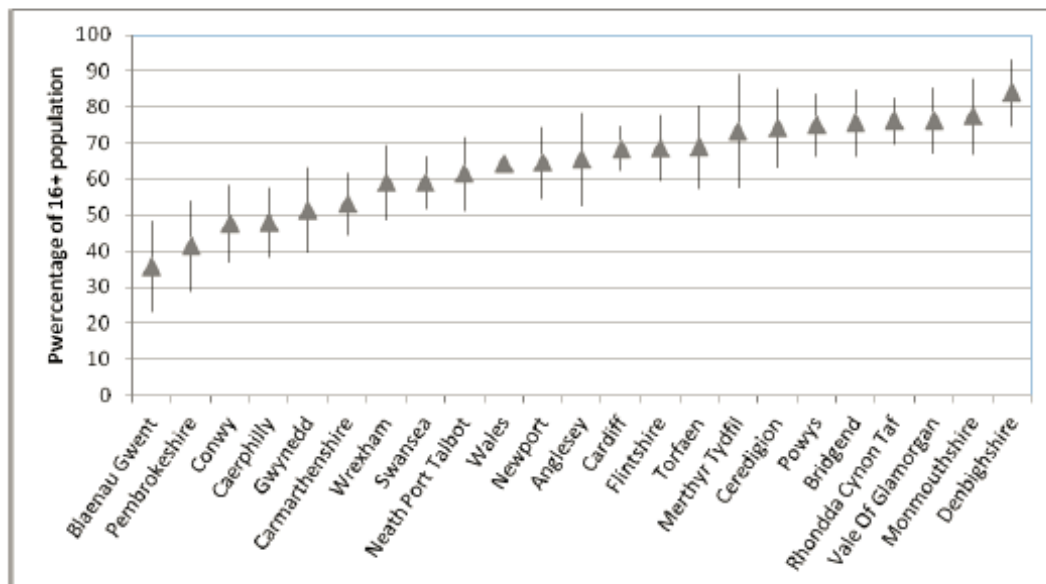


As shown in the above chart the percentage of people who report volunteering formally in the Vale of Glamorgan is broadly in line with the Welsh average. However, when considering those who report volunteering informally the Vale showed one of the highest percentages across Wales.

The most common types of help given are doing errands, caring for children, keeping in touch with a housebound person, providing transport and giving advice. At least half a million people in Wales do one of these activities in a year.

The WCVA report highlights “the overall level of informal volunteering should reflect general changes in the needs of people in communities in Wales. It might be expected that as the population ages that more people will be involved in helping their neighbours.” As the Vale has an ageing population this could explain why the Vale has a much higher percentage of people who volunteer informally than formally.

**Figure 9: Percentage of 16+ population that volunteer informally**

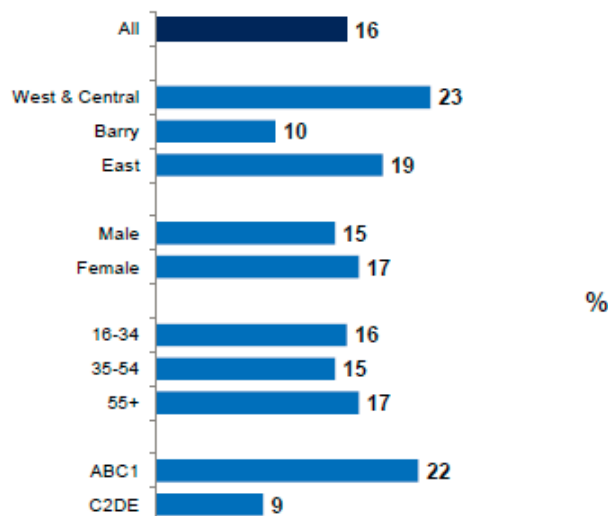


The Vale of Glamorgan Public Opinion Survey 2014 asked respondents about volunteering and found little differences observed between age and gender in relation to whether a person volunteered. However the biggest differences were observed between area and social grade.

Residents in the Western Vale were more likely to volunteer followed by the Eastern Vale. Those from Barry were much less likely to undertake voluntary or community work. It could be suggested that those in more rural areas have less services readily accessible compare to Barry and could be more likely to undertake community work.

The results also showed differences in the undertaking voluntary work based on social grade with 22% of those with a social grade classification A, B or C1 reporting to undertake voluntary work compared to 9% of those with a social grade classification C2, D or E.

## Currently undertake voluntary or community work



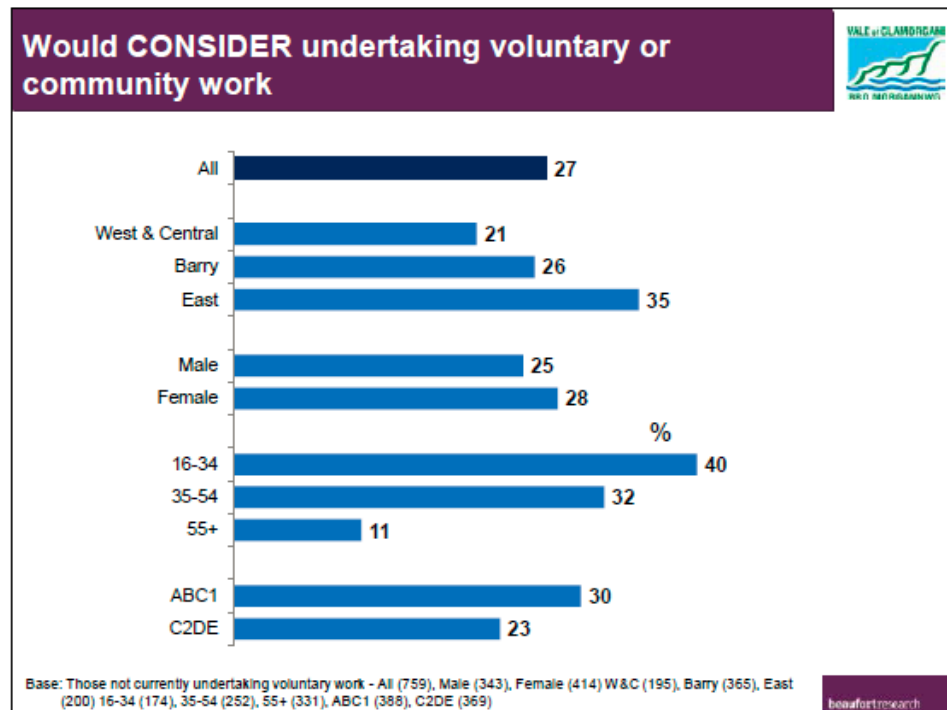
Base: All (904), Male (407), Female (497) W&C (257), Barry (399), East (248) 16-34 (207), 35-54 (298), 55+ (398), ABC1 (498), C2DE (406)

Source: Research

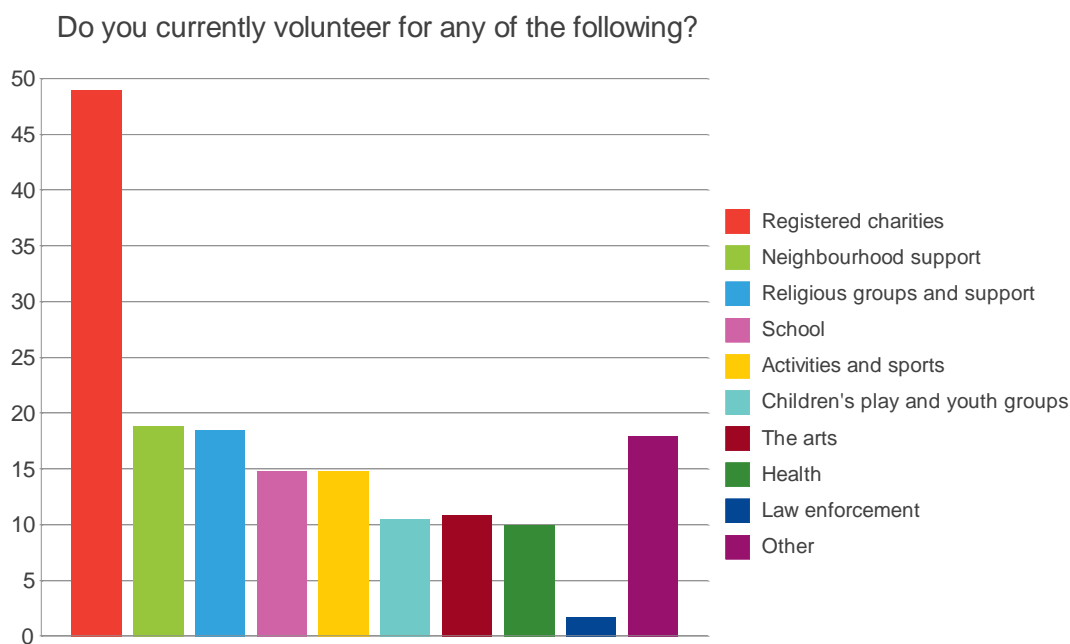
Social Grade	Occupation
A	higher managerial, administrative or professional
B	intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	supervisory or clerical, junior managerial, administrative or professional
C2	skilled manual workers
D	semi and unskilled manual workers
E	state pensioners or widows (no other earner), casual or lowest grade workers

Differences were also observed when asking respondents whether they would consider volunteering with those in the Eastern Vale the most likely to say they would. Although only 10% of respondents from Barry reported volunteering, 26% said they would consider doing so. Residents from the Western Vale were less likely to consider volunteering although more residents in this area already do so suggesting that those who already volunteer do not have time to consider providing more time, or that those who wish to volunteer are already doing so which may not be the case in other areas. Those in younger age groups were also more likely to consider volunteering. It is interesting to note that those age 55+ were least likely to consider volunteering or community work, when it could also be suggested that those in this age group are more likely to be retired. It could be suggested that those aged 55+ are more likely to undertake informal voluntary work and therefore do not have time available e.g. providing childcare and helping neighbours.

Again those classified as social grade A, B or C1 were more likely to consider volunteering although there was less difference observed between social grades when asking whether respondents would consider volunteering compared to whether they currently did.



The 2016 Let's Talk survey also asked respondents about volunteering and the type of volunteering undertaken. The results showed that registered charities were the most common form of volunteering followed by 'providing neighbourhood support'. Analysis of those who responded to the Let's Talk Survey showed that a high number of respondents were from the Western Vale area and aged over 55. This may support the earlier findings that older residents of the Western Vale carry out a large amount of informal volunteering by helping family and neighbours and by 'providing neighbourhood support' they are less likely to have time to consider formal volunteering opportunities. It may also explain differences observed earlier between levels of formal and informal volunteering in the Vale as observed by the WCVA report.



The 2013 School Pupils Needs Assessment also asked secondary school respondents if they participated in volunteering. 47% stated they had not volunteered, 21% stated they didn't know if they had volunteered and 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 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.

The importance of volunteering should not be underestimated with figures from Glamorgan Voluntary Service estimating that the monetary value of volunteering in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2015/16 was £36,903,499 and demonstrates the significant contribution that volunteers make to their local communities. It is also important to consider that this figure only captures volunteer hours undertaken through more formal channels and does not capture the vast amount of informal volunteering undertaken in the Vale.



## Social Isolation

As stated by the Older People's Commissioner;

"Loneliness and isolation are cross-cutting issues that seriously impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales. It is imperative that loneliness is measured and that the social capital of relationships and connectivity are understood and addressed in terms of building a resilient Wales and a community of cohesive communities.

Loneliness and isolation have been shown to damage health, are the basis for social exclusion and are a significant and pressing problem in Wales that crosses all boundaries of social class, race, gender identification, sexual orientation, financial status and geography.

Research demonstrates that loneliness has an effect on mortality that is similar in size to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It is associated with poor mental health and conditions such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and dementia. Loneliness also has a much wider public health impact too, as it is associated with a number of negative health outcomes including mortality, morbidity, depression and suicide as well as health service use.

Loneliness can be felt by people of all ages, but as we get older, risk factors that might lead to loneliness begin to increase and converge. Such risk factors include poor health, lack of public transport, sensory loss, bereavement, fear of crime, retirement and technological changes.

Given the budgetary reductions to community and public services, often seen as "lifelines", older people are at an increased risk of loneliness and isolation.

Without the means to leave their homes, or with fewer visits from community workers and service providers, an increasing number of older people will feel lonely and isolated resulting in damaging effects to their mental health.

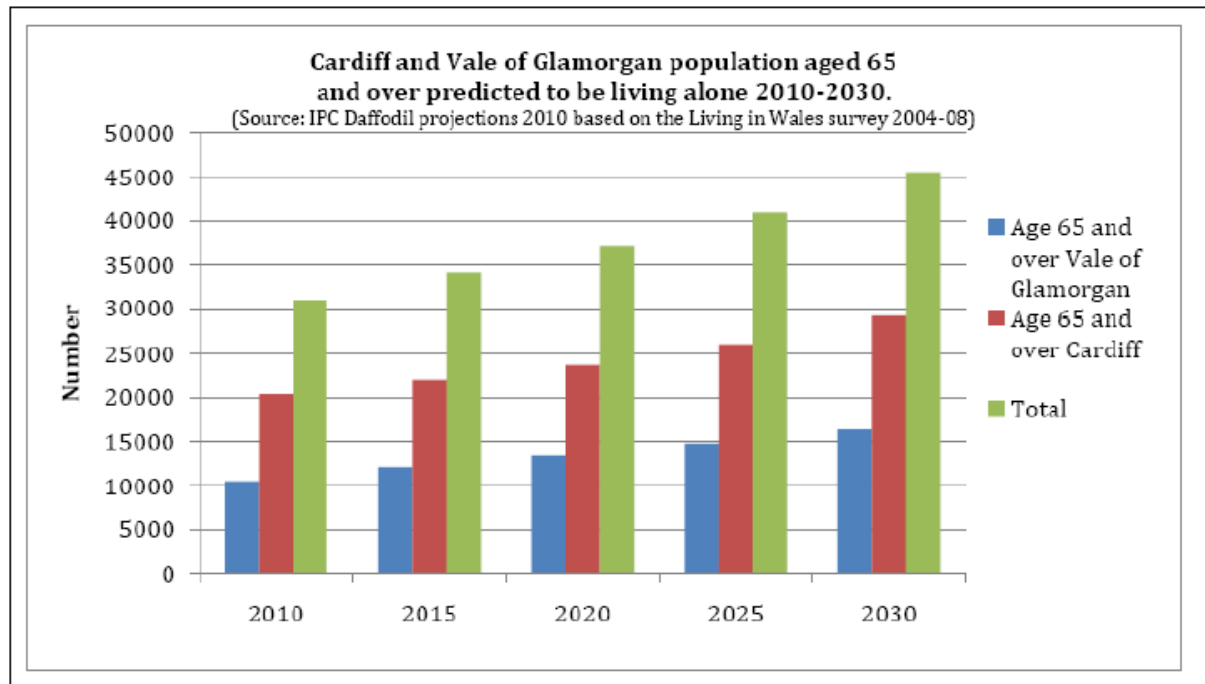
Statistics show that loneliness and isolation impact many older people across Wales; however, in rural areas, a unique set of circumstances exacerbate the social isolation of older residents further, leading to poor health, loss of independence and lower quality of life."

As part of the Let's Talk engagement campaign residents were asked what is good about where they live. Many younger people in more urban areas such as Barry highlighted the networks of friends and neighbours as one of the best things about where they live. This was not a common answer provided by older residents at events in rural areas such as the Vale Show.

The Vale of Glamorgan has a relatively high percentage of people aged 65+ living alone, at the Census 2011, 13.2% of households in the Vale were comprised of one person aged 65+. Social isolation may be an issue in the Vale and a Wyn Campaign Equality Assessment found that one of the top 6 requirements residents felt they should gain from the campaign was not feeling lonely.

The graph below shows that the numbers of people aged 65+ living alone in the Vale are expected to increase by over a quarter from 10,520 in 2010 to 13,390 in 2020, and by over half to 16,400 in 2030.

**Figure 26: Predicted number of people aged 65+ years living alone, 2010-30.**



*Source: Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team assessment of the future health and social care needs of older people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan 2010-2030.*

Differences can also be observed by gender as shown in the following table with a significantly higher number of females aged 65+ predicted to be living alone than males. By 2035 it is predicted that approximately double the number of females aged 65+ will be living alone compared to males. This may be attributed to the differences observed between male and female life expectancy observed in the Vale with females living longer on average.

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Males aged 16-18 predicted to be living alone	583	506	579	564	556
Males aged 19-64 predicted to be living alone	8,353	8,313	8,141	7,996	7,926
Males aged 65 and over predicted to be living alone	4,019	4,499	4,991	5,520	5,839
<b>Total males aged 16 and over predicted to be living alone</b>	<b>12,955</b>	<b>13,319</b>	<b>13,711</b>	<b>14,080</b>	<b>14,320</b>
Females aged 16-18 predicted to be living alone	281	244	275	265	260
Females aged 19-64 predicted to be living alone	6,180	6,264	6,244	6,027	5,797
Females aged 65 and over predicted to be living alone	7,852	8,674	9,615	10,642	11,444
<b>Total females aged 16 and over predicted to be living alone</b>	<b>14,314</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>16,134</b>	<b>16,934</b>	<b>17,502</b>

Source: Daffodil Cymru

It is important to consider that loneliness and isolation and the associated negative impacts on well-being are not only limited to affected older people. However at present there are evidence gaps in relation to understanding social isolation and issues of loneliness across all age ranges.

### Case Study – Friendly Advantage Project.

In 2014 the Friendly AdvantAGE project was established to reduce social isolation and loneliness and to increase confidence in older people. The volunteer project recruited 175 volunteers, who provided over 11,500 hours of volunteering to support older people, reducing loneliness and social isolation. The project was highly successful with 60% of beneficiaries agreeing that their social interaction or well-being had increased and 76% agreeing that their confidence had been positively affected. The project ended in March 2016 when funding ceased.

An evaluation report on the project by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care: University of South Wales showed that when participating in the project scores increased for people who agreed that they felt lonely less often than they used to and scores again increased when people were asked three months into the project showing that the project had been positive in reducing loneliness in the medium term. However scores had decreased three months after participation in the project had ended, for agreement with statements such as “I am confident dealing with others everyday” which may suggest that work needs to take place to tackle social isolation in the long term.

## **Safe and Cohesive Communities – Our Findings**

In order to improve the well-being of our residents and contribute to the national well-being goals it is important that our communities are both safe and cohesive for all residents.

The National Survey for Wales 2014/15 found that 73% of Vale residents agreed people from different backgrounds got on well together, below the 79.6% Welsh average with only Flintshire and Torfaen having a lower percentage of residents agreeing with the statement.

National level data shows that those in more deprived areas are less likely to agree, with 68% in the most deprived areas agreeing with this statement compared to 87% in the least deprived areas.

The survey also found that 82% of Vale residents agree people in the local area treat each other with respect and consideration, this is above the Welsh average of 80%.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission Report ‘Healing a Divided Britain’<sup>2</sup> highlights that people from an ethnic minority background are more likely to experience discrimination, harassment or abuse in Britain than White people. In Scotland, they were four times more likely and in Wales almost three times more likely.

The report found that “in Wales, people from ethnic minorities were almost three times as likely as White people to report discrimination, harassment or abuse (19.5% compared with 6.8%). Those with a minority religion were more likely to report this compared with those with no religion (20.8% compared with 8.2%).”

However it is interesting to note that findings for the National Survey for Wales 2012 to 2015 combined results showed no significant differences in feeling of whether people in the local area treat each other with respect between those of White British or Irish ethnicity and all other ethnic groups.

It would be interesting to observe how answers to this question may change following the results of the EU referendum should data become available.

Within the Vale of Glamorgan the number of non-UK born residents was 5,000 in 2004, this increased to 7,000 in 2010 but had decreased again to 6,000 in 2014. As expected, the majority of non-born UK residents in Wales are found in cities – Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham, followed by areas surrounding them such as the Vale of Glamorgan and Flintshire.

When considering the percentage of an authorities migrant population that arrived after 2004, the Vale has one of the lowest percentages in Wales, suggesting that the migrants

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/healing-divided-britain-need-comprehensive-race-equality-strategy>

who reside in the Vale tend to have been in the area longer than observed in other parts of Wales. This may explain the trends observed that show the Vale of Glamorgan as having the highest percentage of non-UK born residents who own their own house compared to other areas of Wales.

As above, the impact of events such as the EU referendum result on such issues is at present unknown although data shows that hate crime incidents have been increasing in recent years with the conversion rate between incidents and those that are classified as crimes also increasing.

Throughout our engagement campaign, many people commented that a low crime rate was one of the most positive things about living in the Vale. This is supported by data that shows the overall rate of criminal offences in the Vale has consistently been below the Welsh average

However as has been the case throughout our assessment, there are clear inequalities within the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to community safety. The WIMD 2014 community safety domain takes into account a range of underlying indicators including incidents of a number of different crime types. The index shows the most deprived areas in relation to the community safety domain are located mostly in the Barry area.

The LSOA Castleland 2G in the Barry area observed the highest rates of crime within the Vale across a number of indicators including rates of violent crime and criminal damage in addition to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). This LSOA ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> most deprived LSOA in Wales for the WIMD 2014 Community Safety Domain. This area includes Holton Road and is the location of many shops, cafes, Barry leisure centre, the Council Civic Offices, Drug and Alcohol Services and areas of open space. There is also a concentration of CCTV cameras located here.

Although there is a concentration of higher crime rates around the Barry area, when considering types of offences differences can be observed across the Vale of Glamorgan. For example although rates of violent crime are highest within areas of Barry, a different pattern emerges when considering the rate of burglaries. This highlights how although less deprived areas of the Vale have low crime rates, people in this area may be targeted as victims of burglary due to their perceived affluence. Becoming a victim of crime can have a huge negative effect on a person's well-being, not only in an economic sense where valuable possessions may be taken but more so on mental well-being. It can also be suggested that despite low crime rates, when the small number of offences that do take place in less deprived areas, the effects on a person's mental well-being may be even greater than those who live in areas where crime is a more common occurrence.

Despite a higher rate of burglary and similar types of offences in the less deprived areas of the Vale when compared to offences such as violent crime or criminal damage, data also shows that some of the most deprived parts of Barry still have a high rate of burglary offences when compared to other parts of the Vale. The effects of this type of crime on people in deprived areas could be even more damaging as it could be suggested that victims are less likely to have insurance policies in place or the support and finances needed to rebuild.

Although the Vale of Glamorgan has relatively low crime rates, the rate of violence against the person offences has increased in recent years although a similar trend is also observed in other areas of Wales. Large increases have particularly been observed in areas of Barry such as Dyfan (a 72% increase in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14). In addition there has also been an increase in possession of weapons offences in this area and some other parts of Barry, although overall numbers remain very small.

Through our Let's Talk Survey we asked residents to consider a range of issues and whether they were an issue in their area and whether they felt safe in the Vale of Glamorgan in a number of different situations. In general, people felt safe in a number of scenarios although, as could be expected, people felt less safe after dark. The situation where most people reported feeling very unsafe was when cycling both in daylight and even more so after dark. The health and environmental benefits of promoting active travel are clear and it is therefore an area where more could be done to ensure people are confident to use cycling as a means of travel.

Perception of crime can often differ from reality although a perceived high level of crime, whether this is the case or not, can significantly impact on a person's well-being. The South Wales Police Community Perception and Satisfaction Survey asked a range of questions to gather information on public perception and experience of crime & anti-social behaviour, views on the local police, awareness and engagement. Results from the 2013/14 survey showed that in St. Augustine's in Penarth a high proportion of respondents said that there was more Anti-Social Behaviour in their local area when compared to the previous year. In reality force figures showed that ASB had dropped by approximately a third that calendar year in comparison to last calendar year.

Anti-Social Behaviour is an issue where there is a clear concentration of higher incidents in the Barry area. This was reflected during our engagement campaign with Barry residents commenting on ASB being an issue where they lived. Those attending events in the Eastern and Western Vale did not raise this generally with the exception of a small number of older people. Our survey also asked residents to consider whether a range of issues including graffiti, people using drugs, noisy neighbours, people being drunk in public, doorstep callers and littering/fly tipping were an issue where they lived. Although still small numbers,

littering/ fly tipping was the issue most people reported as being a serious problem, with many saying other issues listed were not a problem or a very rare occurrence.

ACEs are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly hurt a child (e.g. maltreatment) or affect them through the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence). Being exposed to domestic violence or being a victim of domestic violence can have a serious impact on a child's future life chances, this is classed as an Adverse Childhood Experience.

The Public Health Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences Study<sup>3</sup> highlights that;

“ACEs can continue to harm the health of children throughout their life. Evidence demonstrates that chronic traumatic stress in early life alters how a child's brain develops and can fundamentally alter nervous, hormonal and immunological system development. This can result in individuals whose systems are ‘locked’ into a higher state of alertness; permanently prepared for further trauma. Such physiological changes increase the wear and tear (allostatic load) on their body; increasing risks of premature ill health such as cancer, heart disease and mental illness.

During school years, the same individuals may display a heightened emotional state of anxiety (ready to fight or always prepared to run away) and consequently be distracted from educational pursuits, resulting in poor educational attainments. Children raised in environments where violence, assault and abuse are common are more likely to develop such traits themselves as these behaviours are seen as normal (i.e. normalised); leaving them more likely to both commit violent acts and/or be the victim of such acts in adulthood. Furthermore, the psychological problems associated with exposure to ACEs can leave individuals with feelings of low self-worth and a propensity for behaviours offering short-term relief at the expense of longer-term health. This combination leaves affected individuals prone to adopting harmful behaviours such as smoking, harmful alcohol consumption, poor diets and even early sexual activity.

The strong associations between exposure to ACEs and vulnerability to harms including substance use, unintended teenage pregnancy, violence, mental illness and physical health problems, mean the children of those affected by ACEs are at increased risk of exposing their own children to ACEs. This is often referred to as the ‘cycle of violence’. Consequently, preventing ACEs in a single generation or reducing

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<sup>3</sup>[http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/PRIDDocs.nsf/7c21215d6d0c613e80256f490030c05a/d488a3852491bc1d80257f370038919e/\\$FILE/ACE%20Report%20FINAL%20\(E\).pdf](http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/PRIDDocs.nsf/7c21215d6d0c613e80256f490030c05a/d488a3852491bc1d80257f370038919e/$FILE/ACE%20Report%20FINAL%20(E).pdf)

their impact on children can benefit not only those individuals but also future generations across Wales.”

Data shows that incidents of domestic abuse have remained fairly steady within the Vale of Glamorgan in recent years with the same trend observed for repeat offences. Measuring incidents of domestic violence can be difficult to interpret. It is important to remember that although Safer Vale, our Community Safety Partnership, would like to see an increase in victims being confident to come forward and report incidents; the ultimate aim is to reduce domestic violence.

The percentage of children in need where domestic abuse is a parenting factor includes children looked after, children on the child protection register and other children in need (including unborn children) who may not be looked after or on the child protection register where domestic abuse is a contributory factor to that child being in need.

The Welsh Government Children in Need Census showed that the Vale of Glamorgan had the highest percentage of children in need where domestic abuse is a parenting factor in Wales (51%) at March 2015. Further research would be needed to understand the reasons for this figure.

At a national level over the past five years there has been an overall reduction in the number of fire incidents in Wales. However the total number of deaths and injuries arising from all fires has increased from 57 to 85. This represents a sharp increase against what had been a steady decrease. The total number of deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires has increased from 47 to 77.

There are four fire stations in the Vale of Glamorgan – Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge with crews from the Barry station attending the highest number of incidents. In the Vale of Glamorgan there was a very slight increase in total fire incidents from the 2014/15 to 2015/16 financial year with an increase in the number of accidental fires. The number of malicious false alarms over the same period reduced from 35 to 12 in the Vale of Glamorgan. Ward level statistics show that the Cadoc ward in Barry has the highest number of deaths and injuries from fire during the 2015/16 financial year although numbers were very small (5).



## **Safe and Cohesive Communities – Our Evidence**

### **Community Cohesion**

The National Survey for Wales 2014/15 found that 73% of Vale residents agreed people from different backgrounds got on well together below the 79.6% Welsh average.

At a National level those in more deprived areas are less likely to agree, with 68% in the most deprived areas agreeing, compared to 87% in the least.

The survey also found that 82% of Vale residents agree people in the local area treat each other with respect and consideration, above the Welsh average of 80%.

Research by the equality commission found that ethnic minorities are more likely to experience discrimination, harassment or abuse in Britain than White people. In Scotland, they were four times more likely and in Wales almost three times more likely.

In Wales, people from ethnic minorities were almost three times as likely as White people to report discrimination, harassment or abuse (19.5% compared with 6.8%). Those with a minority religion were more likely to report this compared with those with no religion (20.8% compared with 8.2%).

However it is interesting to note that findings for the National Survey for Wales 2012 to 2015 combined results showed no significant differences in feeling of whether people in the local area treat each other with respect between those of White British or Irish ethnicity and all other ethnic groups.

It would be interesting to observe how answers to this question may change following the results of the EU referendum.

### **Armed Forces Community**

There is a significant Armed Forces community within the Vale of Glamorgan with 2011 Census data showing there were 1143 members of the Armed Forces in the Vale. This is 16.6% of the total Armed Forces population in Wales (6875) and can be attributed to the MOD base located at St Athan in the Western Vale. Of the Armed Forces community, 630 live in managed communal establishments (where full or part time supervision is present) and 513 live in households.

The Royal British Legion highlight that as in the general population members of the Armed Forces community can require support in key areas such as housing, access to healthcare, employment and education. However, the Armed Forces community may have experienced unique circumstances which can lead to them being disadvantaged when seeking to access support. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have signed the Armed Forces Covenant which is

designed to ensure such disadvantage is avoided and it is essential that Public Services Boards take account of the Armed Forces community in planning service delivery.

In addition to a high number of serving members of the Armed Forces community compared to other parts of Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan has a higher than average number of veterans in the area.

The Population Needs Assessment as required by the Social Services and Well-being Act found that there are around 11.96 veterans per 1000 residents in the Vale of Glamorgan, above the Wales average of 6.24.

The Office for National Statistics and the Ministry of Defence have estimated via the Annual Population Survey that in 2015 there were 149,000 veterans (not including dependents) living in Wales. Although the complete breakdown of the total population is not possible from currently published datasets, the Ministry of Defence publishes annual data on the location of those members of the community in receipt of an Armed Forces pension or compensation scheme payments. Data at April 2016 showed the Vale of Glamorgan to have the highest number of Armed Forces Pension Scheme recipients and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme recipients of all Local Authority areas in Wales.

The ex-Service community can have a range of specific needs with the Royal British Legion highlighting that:

- Around half of the ex-Service population are over 75 (46%)
- Nearly two thirds are aged over 65 (64%)
- Those aged 65+ are less likely than the general population to have a long term illness that limits their activities (41% vs 50%)
- Veterans of working age (16-64) are more likely to report a long term illness that limits their activities (24% vs 13%)
- There are higher reported levels of caring responsibility amongst the ex-Service community of working age compared to the general population (23% vs 12%)
- Working age members of the ex-Service community are less likely to be employed than the general population (60% vs 72%), are more likely to be unemployed (8% vs 5%) and more likely to be economically inactive (32% vs 22%)

Details of any connection with the Armed Forces Community is routinely collected by the Council's Contact Centre for all callers. Latest data shows that the Occupational Therapy is the most popular Wellbeing related service accessed by the Armed Forces Community in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Recording callers connection with the armed forces community is allowing the Vale of Glamorgan Council to build up a comprehensive picture of where the community is related and to gather specific contact information. This information will be used to undertake a consultation exercise in 2017 designed to ascertain the specific needs of the community in order that opportunities to meet these needs can be identified in collaboration with health, military and third sector partners.

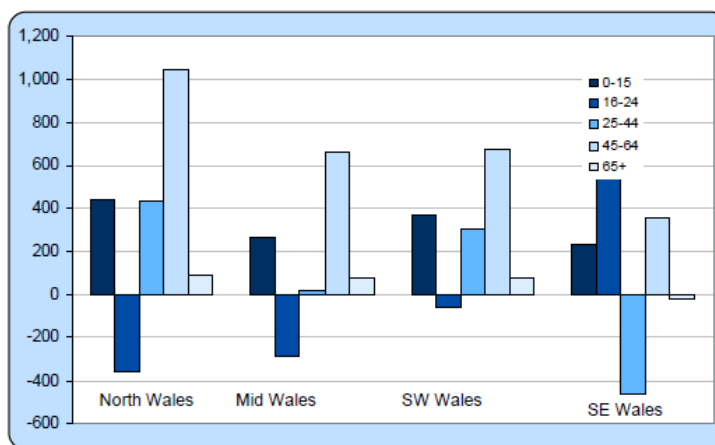
The Council is also launching an email based newsletter for the Armed Forces Community to help keep in contact with new and existing services. The service currently has circa 700 subscribers.

## Migration

The Understanding Wales' future report highlights that Wales is attractive to in-migrants (mainly from rest of UK) who raise the educational and earnings base.

### There are net inflows into all major Welsh regions from rest of UK

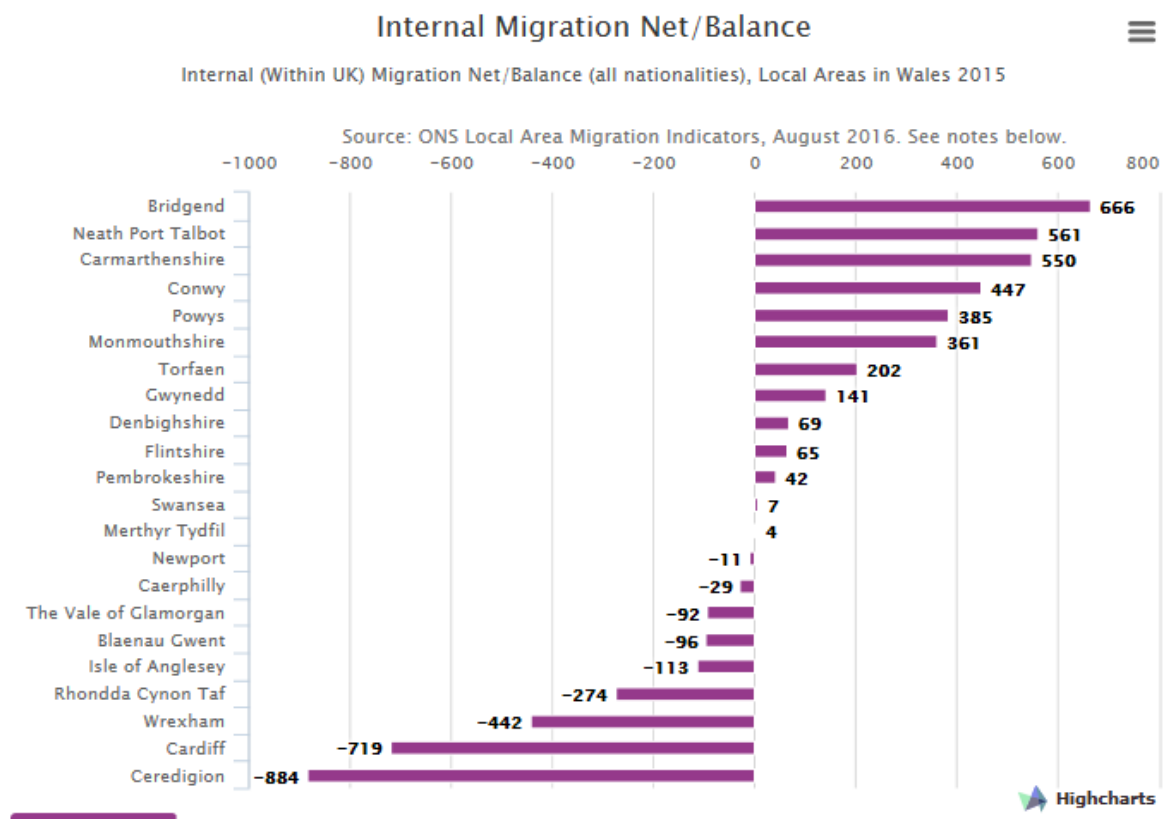
Average net migration flows per year with rest of UK by age group, based on estimates between mid 2006 to mid 2010



Source: ONS (NHS Records)

When considering internal migration the Vale has a negative net migration balance as shown below.

Figure 8



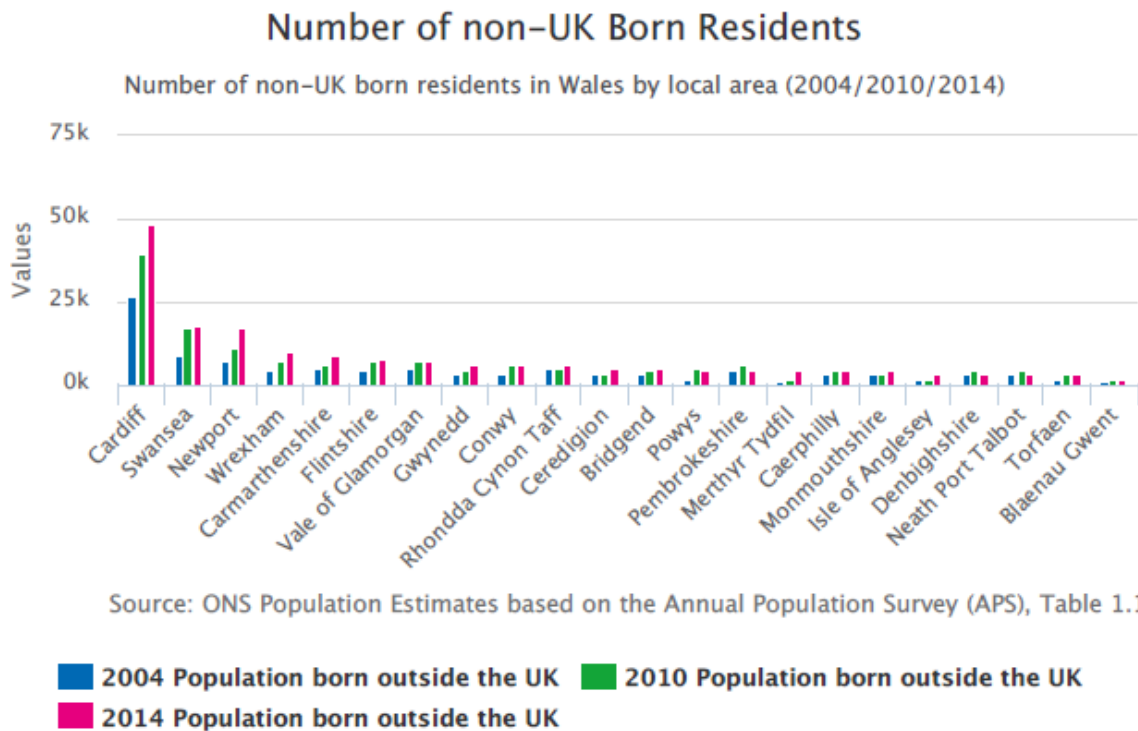
A Welsh refugee council migration trends report found that in 2004, an estimated 100,000 residents in Wales were born outside the UK. This stood at 121,000 in 2006, 148,000 in 2009, and 180,000 in 2014.

In the Vale of Glamorgan the number of non-UK born residents was 5,000 in 2004, this increased to 7,000 in 2010 but had decreased again to 6,000 in 2014.

As expected, the majority of non-born UK residents in Wales are found in cities – Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham, followed by areas surrounding them such as the Vale and Flintshire.

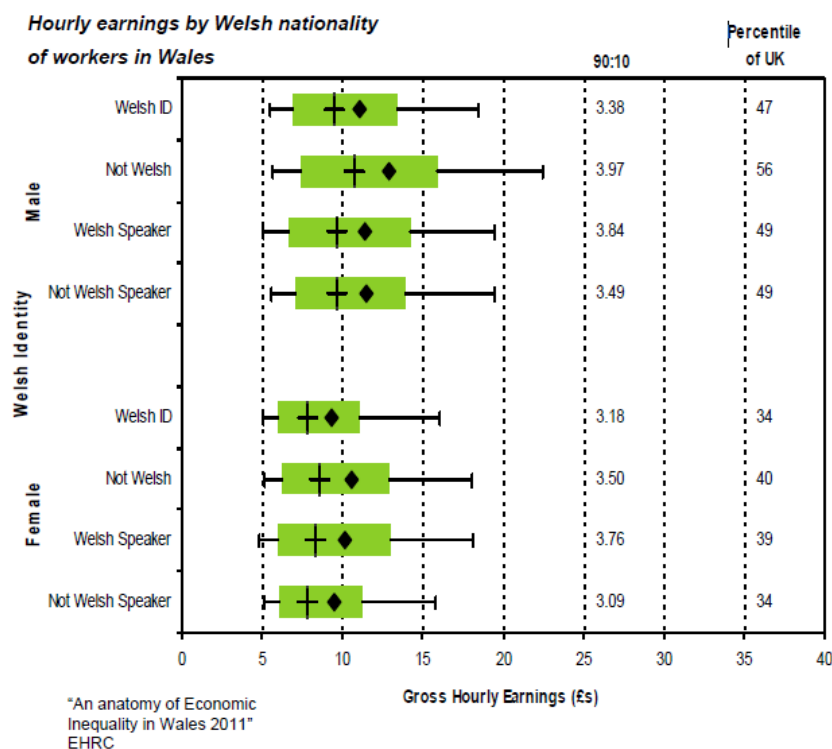
A higher percentage of residents in these cities agreed that people from different backgrounds got on well together than in the Vale (as shown earlier Vale is below the Welsh average, National Survey for Wales). However these areas were not the highest in Wales with rural areas such as Powys and Ceredigion having the highest percentage agree.

Figure 6



The Understanding Wales' Future report highlights how migrants economically out-perform those with a Welsh identity.

## Migrants economically out-perform those with a Welsh identity



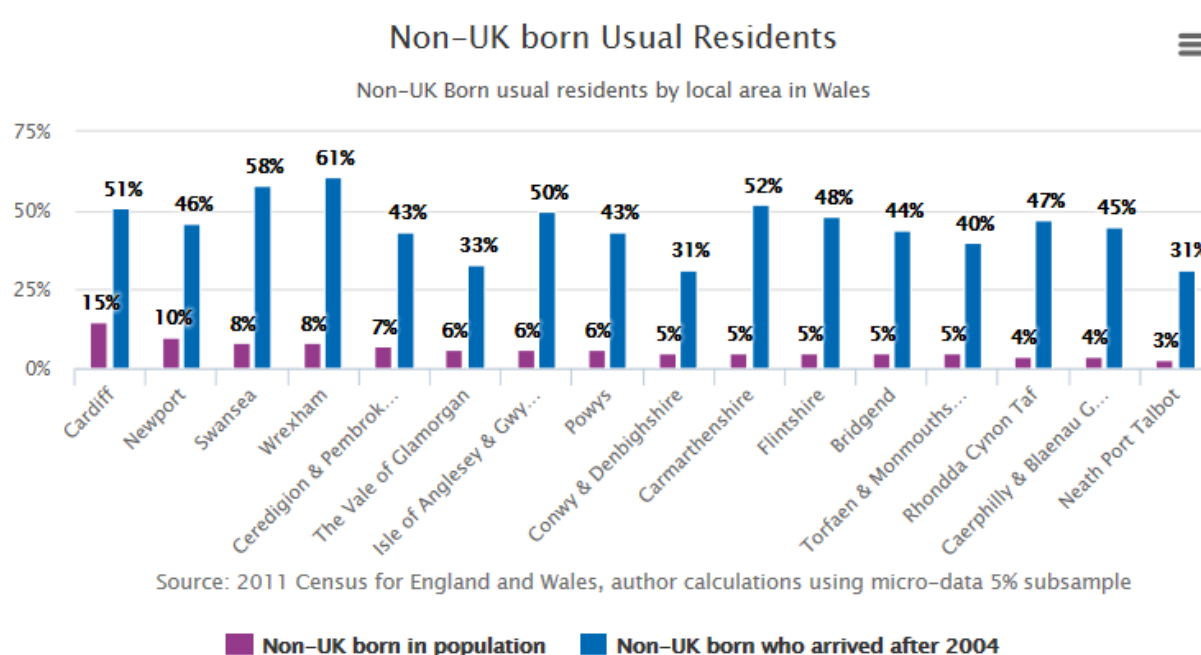
Migrants from other parts of the UK as well as from outside of the UK, are more likely to be well-qualified.

Migrants tend to be far younger on average than the Welsh-born population.

Compared to England a higher proportion of Wales' migrants arrived after 2004 following EU accession.

It is interesting to note the earlier findings that a lower than average percentage of residents in the Vale agree that people from different backgrounds tend to get on well, as shown below when considering the percentage of an authorities migrants that arrived after 2004, the Vale has one of the lowest percentages in Wales., suggesting that the migrants who reside in the Vale tend to have been in the area longer than observed in other parts of Wales.

Figure 1



As migrants in the Vale tend to have resided in the area longer this may explain the trends observed as below that shows that the Vale has the highest percentage of non-UK born residents who own their own house compared to other areas of Wales.

## Home Ownership



Home ownership by local area and non-UK born/UK born (2011 Census)



Highcharts

The impact of the EU referendum results is at present unknown. The impact could particularly affect migrants who move to the UK for academic purposes. In 2011 of those non-UK born people in Wales resident in some form of institutional or non-private accommodation, the majority (80%) were living in an establishment that caters to university students and school children.

**Table 1 – Non-UK born people living in non-private accommodation and communal establishments in Wales**

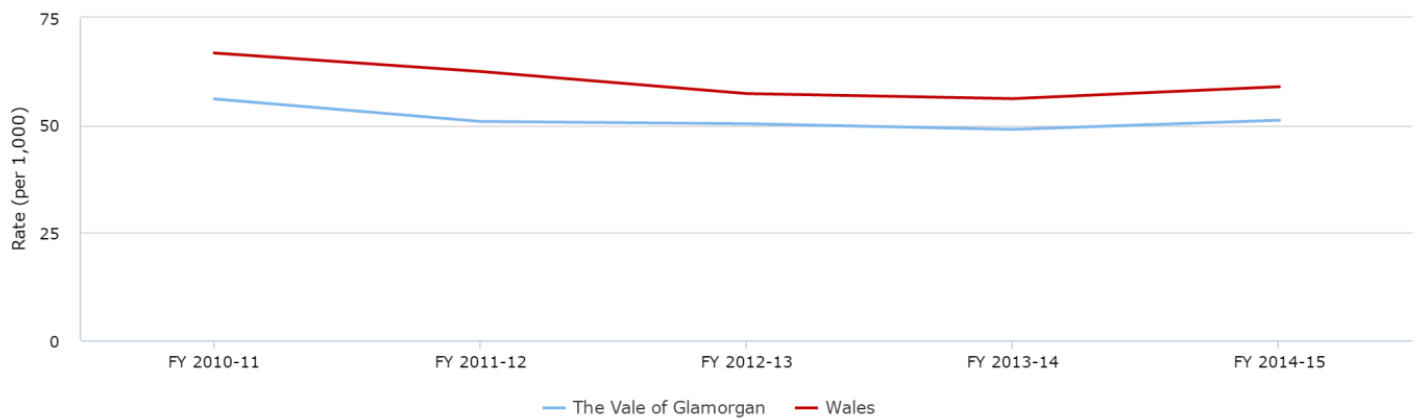
Usual residents in communal establishments	% Non-UK born	% Total who are non-UK born
% Living in a communal establishment	4%	15%
<b>Nature of establishment</b>		
Medical establishment	~%	3%
Other care establishment	7%	3%
Educational establishment	81%	29%
Detention	2%	8%
Travel or temporary accommodation	5%	13%
Staff accommodation, including religious and defence	3%	12%
Other	1%	16%

2011 Census for England and Wales, author calculations using micro-data 5% subsample

## Community Safety

The Vale of Glamorgan has a consistently lower than average crime rate and lower than average rates across a range of crime types as shown in the following charts.

Rate of all offences per 1,000 population



	The Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
FY 2010-11	56.11	66.79
FY 2011-12	50.87	62.49
FY 2012-13	50.34	57.35
FY 2013-14	49.03	56.18
FY 2014-15	51.16	58.95

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

### Crime (FY 2015-16)

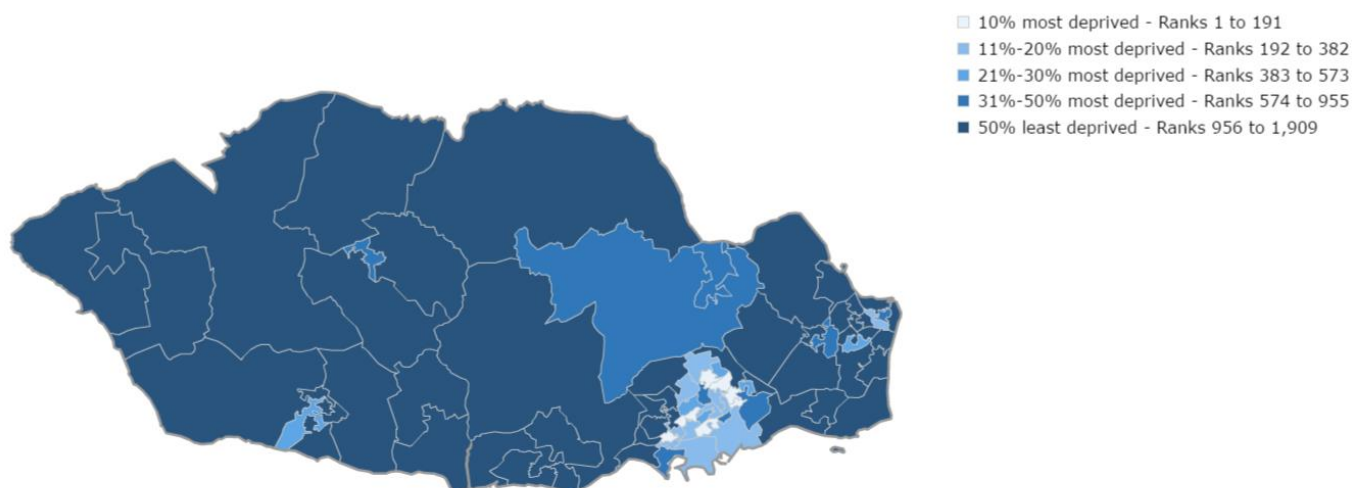
	The Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
Rate of criminal damage and arson per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	9.07	10.19
Rate of drug offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	2.01	3.09
Rate of fraud offences per 1,000 population (FY 2012-13)	1.22	1.15
Rate of miscellaneous crimes against society per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	1.05	1.17
Rate of possession of weapons offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	0.24	0.31
Rate of public order offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	2.98	3.45
Rate of robbery per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	0.19	0.24
Rate of sexual offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	1.6	1.69
Rate of theft offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	19.65	24.17
Rate of violence against the person per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	14.9	16.84
Rate of all offences per 1,000 population (FY 2015-16)	51.69	61.16

Source: Home Office



However as with a range of indicators considered throughout this assessment, clear inequalities exist in the Vale and the WIMD 2014 Community Safety Domain can be used to demonstrate this.

Community Safety, 2014



Vale of Glamorgan, Lower Super Output Area

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Source: Welsh Government (WG)

Of the 0-10 % most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the Community Safety Domain 7 are within the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority which accounts for 8.9% of those in the Local Authority and 0.4% of those in Wales

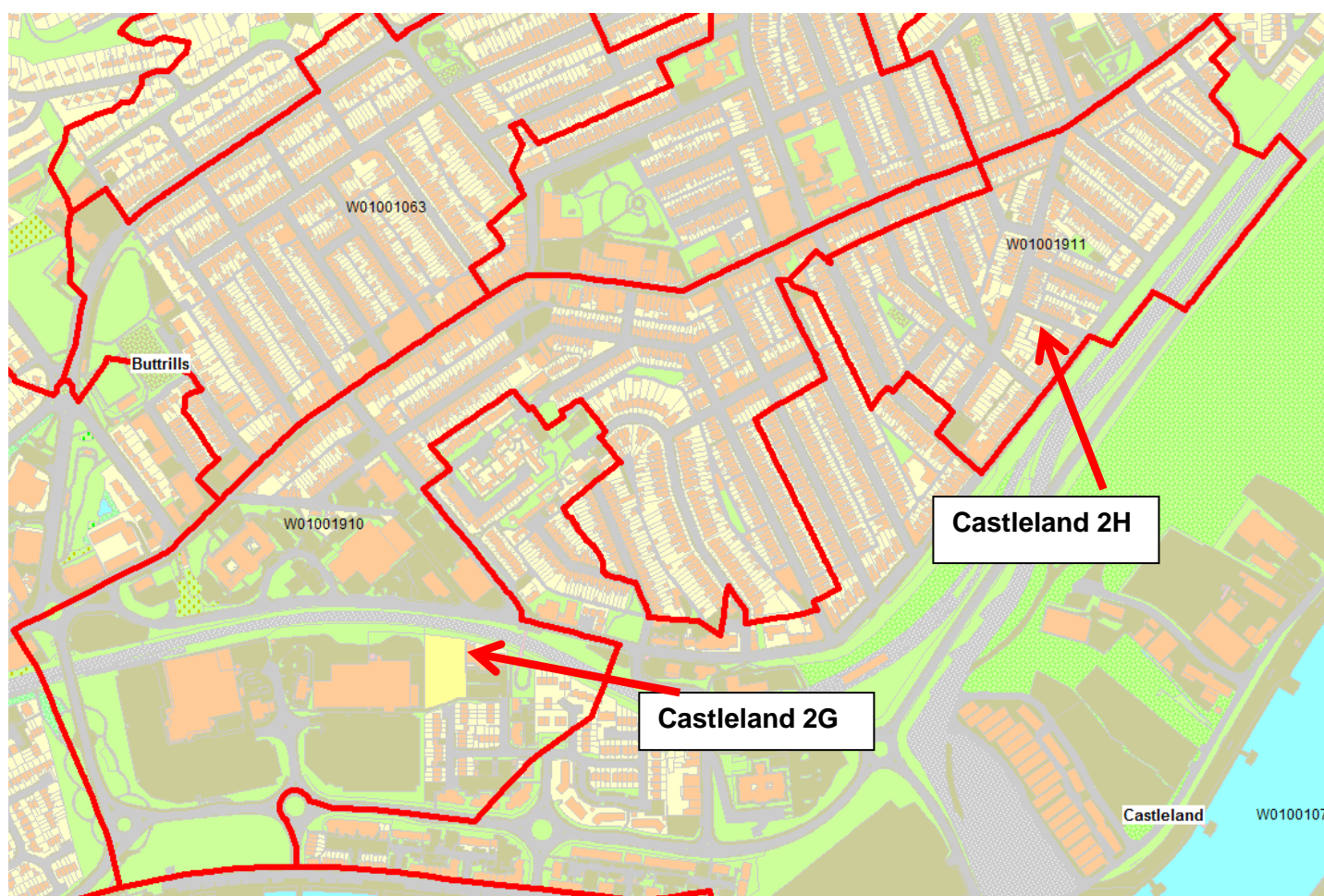
Name	Code	LA Rank (of 79)	Wales rank (of 1909)
Castleland 2G	W01001910	1	29
Cadoc 4	W01001070	2	44
Cadoc 3	W01001069	3	47
Gibbonsdown 2	W01001095	4	147
Illtyd 5	W01001102	5	184
Court 3	W01001081	6	185
Buttrills 2	W01001064	7	188

Except physical environment this is the domain where the Vale of Glamorgan has most LSOAs in 10% most deprived.

It is interesting to observe the differences between neighbouring LSOAS with the Castleland Ward being a good example.

Castleland 2G is ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> most deprived of all LSOAs in Wales, but Castleland 2H ranks 697. The Castleland area includes areas around Barry Town Centre and Holton Road, and Castleland 2G is the LSOA which has the lowest WIMD ranking for the Vale across any of the domains despite there being numerous CCTV cameras located here.

Differences between the areas may be explained as Castleland 2H is built up with houses, whereas Castleland 2G includes more open space areas, and is where buildings such as the leisure centre and civic offices are found and Holton Road high street with shops etc. E-DAS (Drug and Alcohol Services) is also located here.



The WIMD 2014 Community Safety Domain is made up of a range of underlying indicators, the below tables show this indicator data for each LSOA in the Vale grouped into the three community areas used within this assessment.

### Barry

	police recorded burglary (rate per 100)	police recorded violent crime (rate per 100)	police recorded theft (rate per 100)	police recorded criminal damage (rate per 100)	fire incidences (rate per 100)	anti social behaviour (ASB) (rate per 100)
	.	.	.	.	.	.
Baruc 1	*	0.89	0.47	0.92	0	3.34
Baruc 2	*	0.68	*	0.43	0.07	1.98
Baruc 3	1.13	2.24	0.97	1.39	0.16	4.4
Baruc 4	*	3.84	0.88	1.76	0.11	3.19
Buttrills 1	2.33	2.22	0.72	1.33	0.23	2.32
Buttrills 2	2.8	2.62	1.47	1.55	0.24	5.68
Buttrills 3	2.11	1.78	0.9	2	0.22	2.76
Buttrills 4	1.59	1.6	0.47	1.93	0.19	3.21
Cadoc 1	1.04	1.72	0.74	1.17	0.14	3.08
Cadoc 2	1.21	0.84	0.41	0.55	0.28	1.69
Cadoc 3	1.97	3.25	1.7	3.96	0.2	6.24
Cadoc 4	2.32	4.59	1.03	3.04	0.21	8.93
Cadoc 5	1.39	1.38	0.71	1.12	0.19	3.34
Cadoc 6	1.65	0.8	0.85	0.96	0.02	1.61
Castleland 1	1.14	2.07	0.84	1.57	0.13	6.37
Court 1	1.86	2.61	0.93	1.7	0.12	3.29
Court 2	1.55	1.97	0.78	1.96	0.13	2.47
Court 3	4.28	1.85	0.92	2.3	0.13	4.45
Dyfan 1	0.78	*	*	0.47	0.03	1.77
Dyfan 2	*	1.86	0.68	1.65	0.15	4.27
Dyfan 3	1.68	1.5	1.21	1.47	0.17	3.71
Gibbonsdown 1	1.15	1.4	0.67	1.94	0.23	2.81
Gibbonsdown 2	1.57	2.29	0.61	2.72	0.13	4.63
Gibbonsdown 3	1.06	1.25	1.07	1.32	0.15	2.4
Gibbonsdown 4	1.45	2.38	0.71	1.37	0.18	4.01
Illtyd 1	1.65	*	0.63	0.67	0.14	0.97
Illtyd 2	0.95	0.66	*	0.85	0.11	1.07
Illtyd 3	*	*	*	0.48	0.07	0.38
Illtyd 4	1.63	2.54	0.47	1.9	0.2	3.37
Illtyd 5	1.16	2.7	1.03	2.23	0.1	3.78
Illtyd 6	*	1.04	0.42	0.5	0.12	1.43
Castleland 2G	3.61	5.3	1.73	3.28	0.15	9.05
Castleland 2H	1.52	1.52	*	1.25	0.08	1.68

## Eastern Vale

	police recorded burglary (rate per 100)	police recorded violent crime (rate per 100)	police recorded theft (rate per 100)	police recorded criminal damage (rate per 100)	fire incidences (rate &#10;(per 100))	anti social behaviour (ASB) (rate per 100)
	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cornerswell 1	1.11	*	*	0.6	0	0.59
Cornerswell 2	0.98	1.14	0.56	0.55	0.17	1.87
Cornerswell 3	1.44	1.3	0.48	0.4	0.11	1.29
Cornerswell 4	1	0.61	*	0.89	0.04	1.07
Dinas Powys 1	1.41	0.38	0.42	0.58	0.13	1.27
Dinas Powys 2	1.08	*	*	0.76	0.16	1.91
Dinas Powys 3	1.91	0.98	*	0.89	0.08	2.74
Dinas Powys 4	*	*	*	*	0.07	0.8
Dinas Powys 5	1.38	0.57	*	0.72	0.14	1.13
Llandough	2.55	1.13	0.96	0.55	0.33	0.98
Plymouth (The Vale of Glamorgan) 1	1.44	*	0.59	*	0	0.35
Plymouth (The Vale of Glamorgan) 2	1.1	0.23	0.24	0.44	0.05	0.66
Plymouth (The Vale of Glamorgan) 3	1.14	*	0.3	0.56	0.17	0.82
St. Augustine's 1	1.07	0.76	0.42	0.51	0.03	1.5
St. Augustine's 2	1.4	1.06	0.54	0.78	0.1	1.79
St. Augustine's 3	3.05	3.2	0.99	1.18	0.03	3.89
St. Augustine's 4	0.54	0.95	0.84	0.54	0.18	2.07
Stanwell 1	0.98	0.75	0.42	0.41	0.11	2.4
Stanwell 2	2.62	0.64	0.44	0.83	0.12	1.32
Stanwell 3	1.19	1.62	*	1.36	0.08	2.97
Sully 1	1.23	*	*	*	0.04	*
Sully 2	0.85	0.36	0.51	0.48	0.1	0.34
Sully 3	1.21	0.53	0.45	*	0.13	1.04

## Western Vale

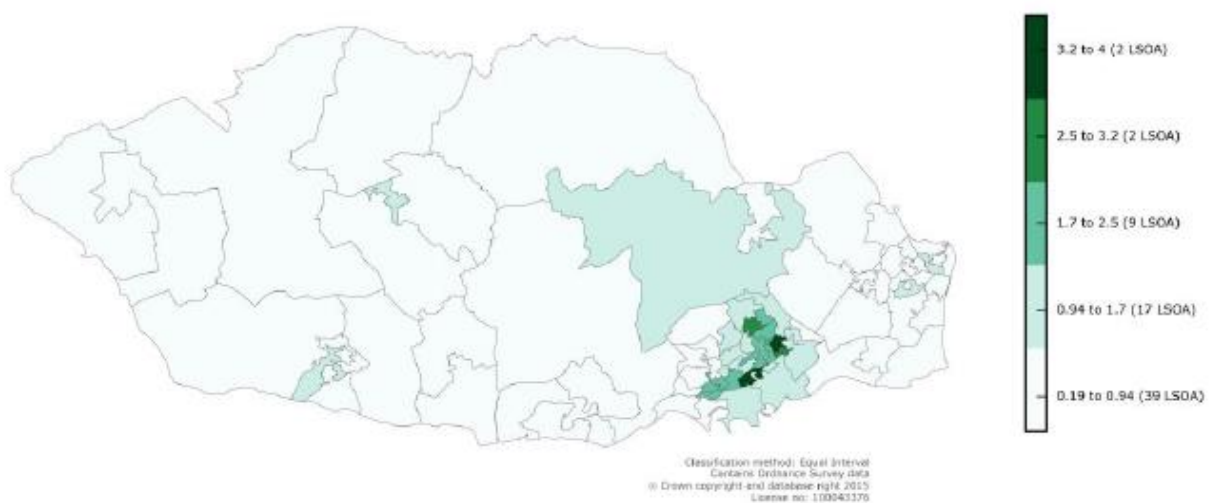
	police recorded burglary (rate per 100)	police recorded violent crime (rate per 100)	police recorded theft (rate per 100)	police recorded criminal damage (rate per 100)	fire incidences (rate &#10;(per 100))	anti social behaviour (ASB) (rate per 100)
Cowbridge 1	1.75	1.04	0.56	1.08	0.07	1.25
Cowbridge 2	0.77	*	*	*	0.16	0.35
Cowbridge 3	*	1.29	0.44	0.53	0.06	1.56
Cowbridge 4	2.32	0.45	*	*	0	0.39
Llandow/Eweny	1.19	0.35	0.23	0.19	0.15	0.94
Llantwit Major 1	*	0.66	*	0.94	0.1	1.69
Llantwit Major 2	1.08	1.79	0.54	1.45	0.13	2.81
Llantwit Major 3	*	0.95	0.43	0.66	0	1.13
Llantwit Major 4	*	*	*	*	0.03	0.54
Llantwit Major 5	2.36	0.78	0.39	0.91	0.16	1.1
Llantwit Major 6	*	1.01	*	0.73	0.1	2.53
Llantwit Major 7	*	*	*	*	0.14	1.2
Peterston-super- Ely	2.38	0.73	1.14	0.5	0.19	0.86
Rhose 1	0.87	0.59	0.49	0.41	0.07	1.67
Rhose 2	*	0.67	0.36	0.48	0.02	1.87
Rhose 3	2.32	0.7	*	0.73	0.09	1.01
Rhose 4	*	0.59	*	0.37	0.11	1.05
St. Athan 1	*	0.95	*	0.51	0.1	1.56
St. Athan 2	1.78	0.79	*	0.56	0.11	1.12
St. Bride's Major 1	1.61	0.76	*	*	0.12	1.55
St. Bride's Major 2	*	0.43	*	*	0.03	0.64
Wenvoe 1	2.29	0.9	1.19	1.13	0.27	1.45
Wenvoe 2	1.21	0.86	0.69	0.86	0.4	1.77

## Crime by type

As already shown above although the Vale has relatively low overall crime rates, the maps below show that there is an increased rate of crime and criminal activity in those areas of the Vale of Glamorgan that have the highest levels of deprivation and poverty.

For instance, the rate of recorded criminal damage per 100 resident population in Wales is 1.03. In the Vale of Glamorgan, four LSOAs have rates of over 2.5 and 13 with rates over 1.7, all of which are LSOAs that also display characteristics of poverty and deprivation.

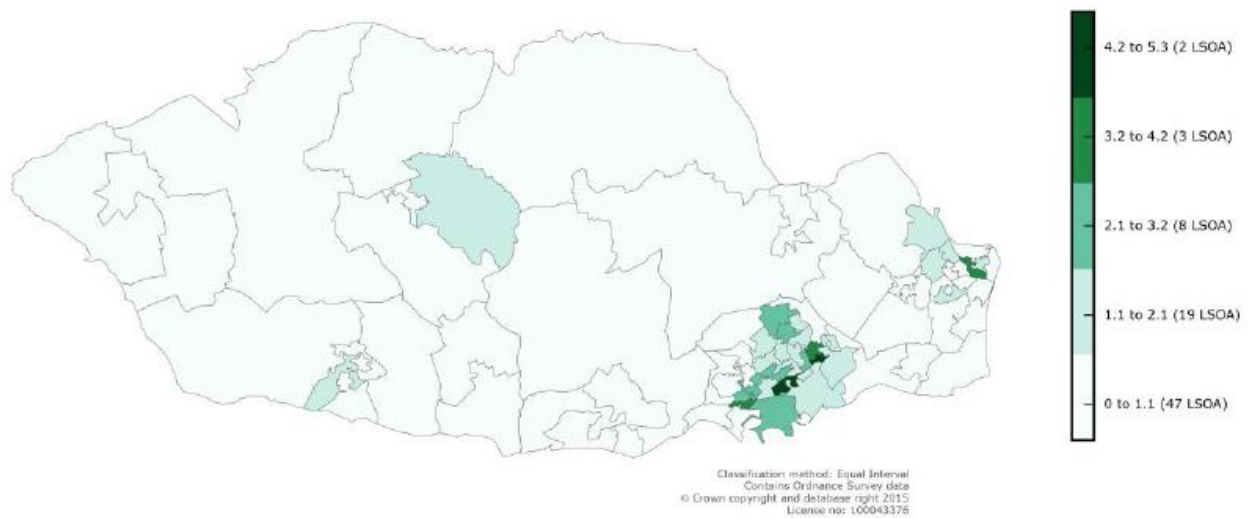
**Figure 22: Rate of recorded criminal damage per 100 resident population in the Vale of Glamorgan (2012 – 2014)**



Source: WIMD 2014

A clear geographic distribution appears, with the highest crime rates being consistently located in areas in and around Barry town centre.

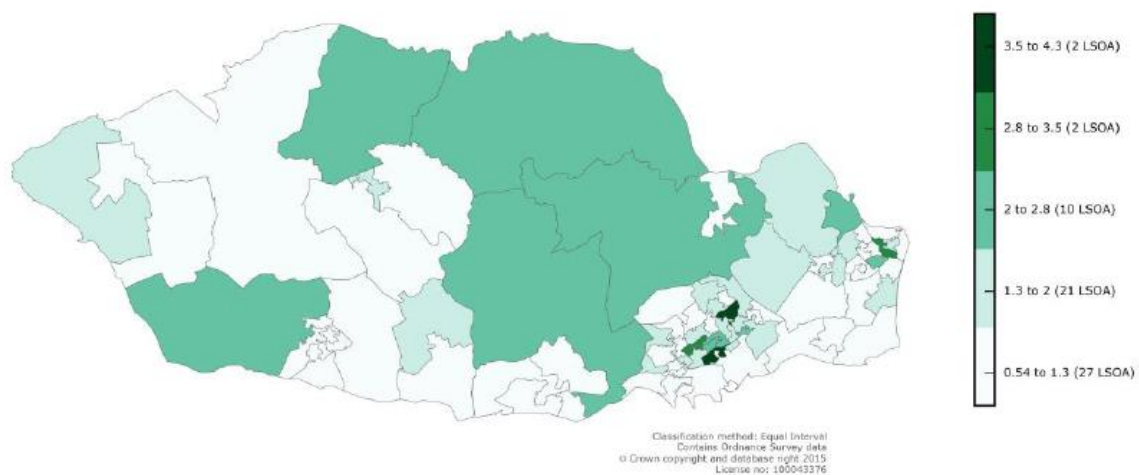
**Figure 25: Rate of recorded violent crime per 100 usual resident population in the Vale of Glamorgan (2012 – 2014)**



Source: WIMD 2014

As can be seen below, one indicator within this section that does not fit with the overall geographic distribution of crime is the rate of burglaries per 100 dwellings and business addresses. It is difficult to determine the reason behind this without further research, as there are likely to be a number of different factors influencing this trend.

**Figure 26: Rate of recorded burglaries per 100 dwellings and business addresses in the Vale of Glamorgan (2012 – 2014)**



Source: WIMD 2014



To further demonstrate the differences that exist between areas in the Vale, the Safer Vale partnership have begun to develop community profiles for each ward. These profiles will show a range of crime statistics in addition to other information and intelligence about the area. The following tables have been taken from these profiles and it should be noted that they are currently a work in progress and do not exist for all wards at the present time. It should also be noted that some currently contain more recent data than others and are in the process of being updated.

<b>Gibbonsdown</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	106	130	24	22.6
<b>Sexual offences</b>	12	11	-1	-8.3
<b>Robbery</b>	1	1	0	0
<b>Theft offences</b>	107	85	-22	-20.6
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	92	71	21	-22.8
<b>Drug offences</b>	21	27	6	28.60%
<b>Possession of weapons offences</b>	0	5	5	500%

<b>Baruc</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	106	164	58	54.7%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	6	14	8	133.3%
<b>Robbery</b>	1	1	0	0.0%
<b>Theft offences</b>	133	167	34	25.6%
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	83	101	18	21.7%
<b>Drug offences</b>	20	25	5	25.0%

<b>Buttrills</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	114	198	84	73.70%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	10	9	-1	-10%
<b>Robbery</b>	3	3	0	0
<b>Theft offences</b>	256	238	-18	-7%
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	101	105	4	4%
<b>Drug offences</b>	18	12	-6	-33.30%



Dyfan	13/14	14/15	Difference	% Change
Violence against the person	58	100	42	72%
Sexual offences	1	9	8	800%
Robbery	1	1	0	0
Theft offences	135	201	66	48.90%
Criminal damage and arson	51	100	49	96%
Drug offences	18	15	-3	-16%
Possession of weapons offences	0	3	3	300%

Llandough	13/14	14/15	Difference	% Change
Violence against the person	20	29	+9	45%
Sexual offences	8	2	-6	-75%
Theft offences	62	69	+7	11.30%
Criminal damage and arson	8	11	+3	37.50%
Drug offences	9	12	+3	33.00%
Possession of weapons offences	0	1	+1	100%

Stanwell	14/15	15/16	Difference	% Change
Violence against the person	49	70	21	42.90%
Sexual offences	4	5	1	25%
Robbery	1	0	1	-100%
Theft offences	57	47	-10	-17.50%
Criminal damage and arson	42	33	-9	-21.40%
Drug offences	10	6	-4	-40%

Sully	13/14	14/15	Difference	% Change
Violence against the person	28	28	0	0%
Sexual offences	2	3	1	50%
Theft offences	39	34	-5	-12%
Criminal damage and arson	12	7	-5	-41.70%
Drug offences	3	10	7	233%

<b>Cornerswell</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	50	63	13	26%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	6	2	-4	-66%
<b>Theft offences</b>	57	72	15	26.30%
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	25	11	-14	-56%
<b>Drug offences</b>	8	2	-6	-75%

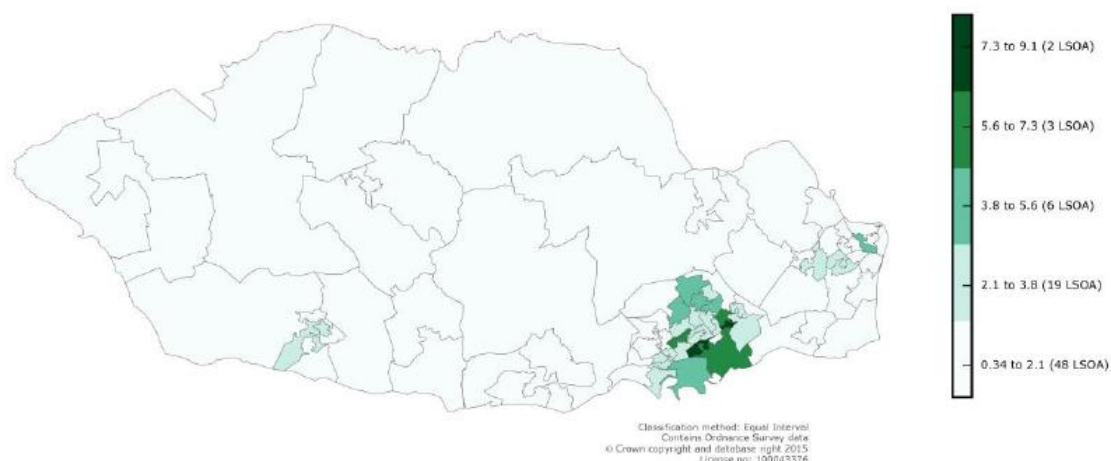
<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	114	138	24	21.10%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	10	12	2	20%
<b>Theft offences</b>	280	277	-3	-1.10%
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	50	83	33	66%
<b>Drug offences</b>	12	19	7	58.30%

<b>St Augustine</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	114	138	24	21.10%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	10	12	2	20%
<b>Theft offences</b>	280	277	-3	-1.10%
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	50	83	33	66%
<b>Drug offences</b>	12	25	13	108.30%

## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Within the Vale of Glamorgan 52 LSOAs, almost all of which are outside Barry, have a rate of less than 3 recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour per 100 resident population, whereas the 8 LSOAs with the highest rates are all located in Barry.

**Figure 24: Rate of recorded anti-social behaviour per 100 resident population in the Vale of Glamorgan (2012 – 14)**



Source: WIMD 2014

## Let's Talk Survey - How much of a problem are the following in your area?

	Not a problem		A small problem/rare occurrence		A problem/frequent occurrence		A serious problem/everyday occurrence		I don't know	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Vandalism/graffiti	247	32.4	411	53.9	76	10	7	0.9	21	2.8
People using drugs	243	32	221	29.1	85	11.2	43	5.7	162	22
People dealing drugs	291	38.6	155	20.6	64	8.5	37	4.9	206	27.4
People being rowdy or drunk in public	248	32.8	341	45.1	97	12.8	36	4.8	34	4.5
Deliberate fires	494	65.6	140	18.6	20	2.7	7	0.9	92	12.2
Noisy neighbours	427	56	230	30.2	63	8.3	30	3.9	12	1.6
Doorstep selling/unwanted callers	174	22.8	406	53.2	147	19.3	28	3.7	8	1
Littering/ Fly tipping	137	17.9	290	38	217	28.4	97	12.7	23	3

The 2016 Let's Talk survey asked respondents how much a problem a range of anti-social behaviours were in their area. Littering was the issue where most people responded that this was a serious problem/ everyday occurrence in their area. Littering and doorstep callers

were also shown to be a frequent occurrence. After these answers, people being drunk in public was the next most likely to be a frequent occurrence.

## **Domestic Violence**

The percentage of children in need where domestic abuse is a parenting factor (at March 2015) was 51% in the Vale. This is the highest in Wales although discussions with a range of stakeholders suggest that this is due to recording differences and further work would be needed to fully understand the reason for this.

The percentage of children in need where domestic abuse is a parenting factor includes children looked after, children on the child protection register and other children in need (including unborn children) who may not be looked after or on the child protection register.

Being exposed to domestic violence or being a victim of domestic violence can have a serious impact on a child's future life chances, this is classed as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

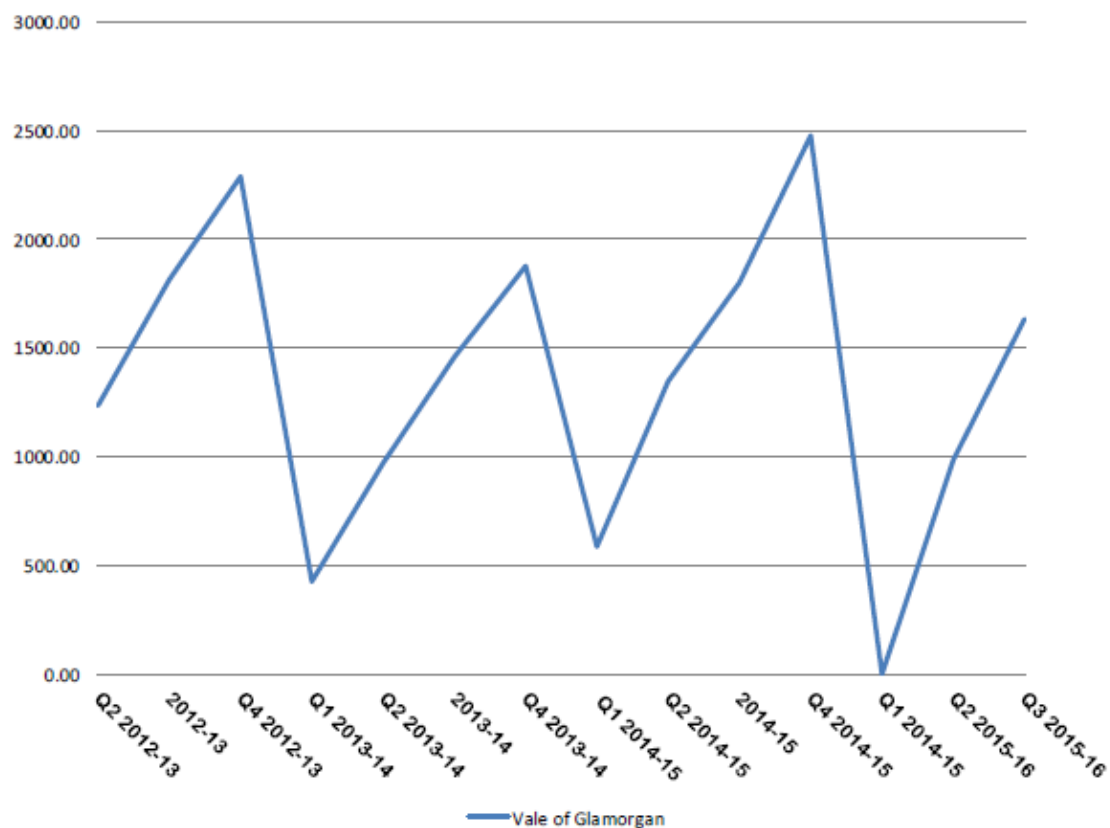
ACEs are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly hurt a child (e.g. maltreatment) or affect them through the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence). ACEs can continue to harm the health of children throughout their life. Evidence demonstrates that chronic traumatic stress in early life alters how a child's brain develops and can fundamentally alter nervous, hormonal and immunological system development. This can result in individuals whose systems are 'locked' into a higher state of alertness; permanently prepared for further trauma. Such physiological changes increase the wear and tear (allostatic load) on their body; increasing risks of premature ill health such as cancer, heart disease and mental illness

During school years, the same individuals may display a heightened emotional state of anxiety (ready to fight or always prepared to run away) and consequently be distracted from educational pursuits, resulting in poor educational attainments. Children raised in environments where violence, assault and abuse are common are more likely to develop such traits themselves as these behaviours are seen as normal (i.e. normalised); leaving them more likely to both commit violent acts and/or be the victim of such acts in adulthood. Furthermore, the psychological problems associated with exposure to ACEs can leave individuals with feelings of low self-worth and a propensity for behaviours offering short-term relief at the expense of longer-term health. This combination leaves affected individuals prone to adopting harmful behaviours such as smoking, harmful alcohol consumption, poor diets and even early sexual activity.

The strong associations between exposure to ACEs and vulnerability to harms including substance use, unintended teenage pregnancy, violence, mental illness and physical health problems, mean the children of those affected by ACEs are at increased risk of exposing their own children to ACEs. This is often referred to as the 'cycle of violence'. Consequently, preventing ACEs in a single generation or reducing their impact on children can benefit not only those individuals but also future generations across Wales.

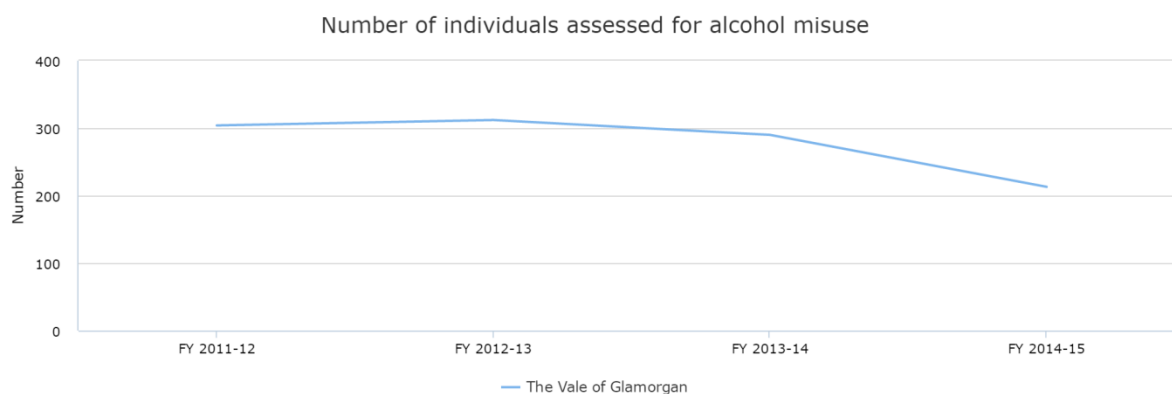
The number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded in the Vale of Glamorgan is shown in the chart below. Data collection issues experienced during Q1 of 2015/16 mean that data was not released by South Wales Police. An increase in incidents may indicate more confidence in reporting incidents, however the Safer Vale Partnership would like to see a decrease in incidents despite better awareness. The Q2 and Q3 data available for 2015/16 shows a decrease since the corresponding quarters in 2014/15.

### Incidents of Domestic Abuse



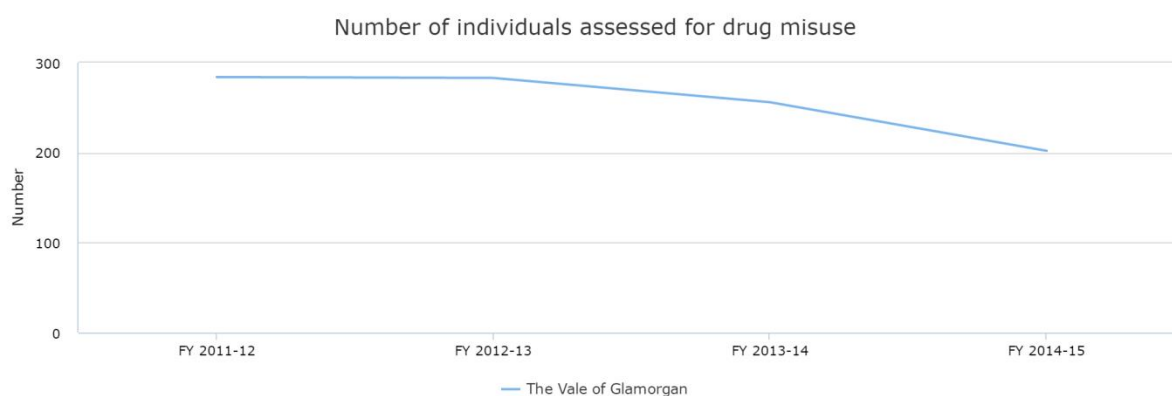
## Substance Misuse

The following charts show the number of individuals assessed for alcohol misuse and drug misuse in the Vale of Glamorgan. The 'Having a Healthy and Active Future' Evidence Report contains a wealth of information relating to substance misuse and should be referred to for more information.



	The Vale of Glamorgan
FY 2011-12	304
FY 2012-13	312
FY 2013-14	290
FY 2014-15	213

Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service



	The Vale of Glamorgan
FY 2011-12	284
FY 2012-13	283
FY 2013-14	256
FY 2014-15	202

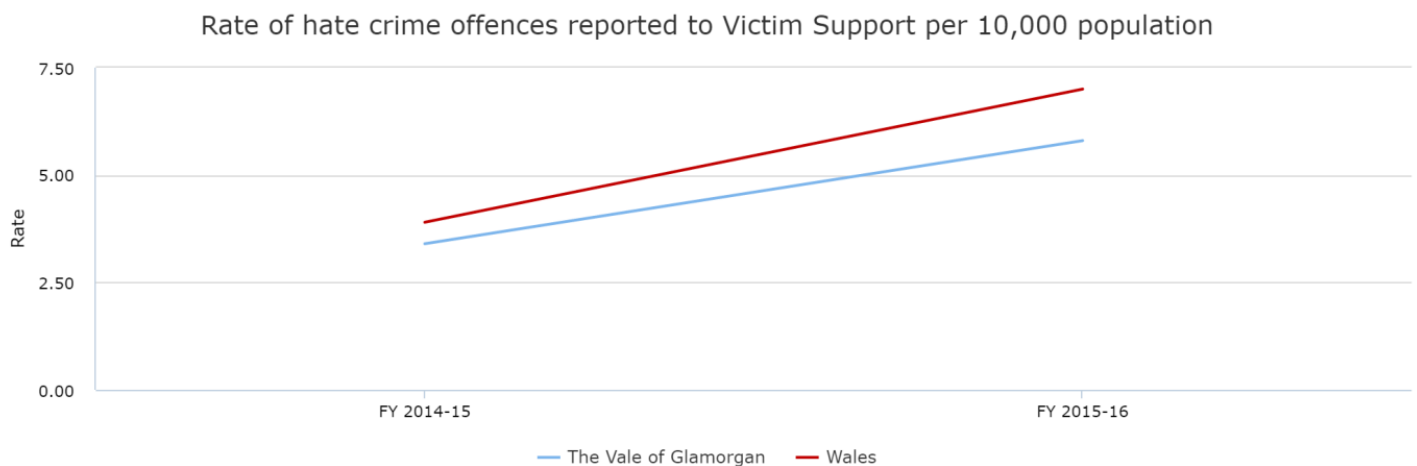
Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service

## Hate Crime

A hate crime is one which is motivated by racial, sexual, or other prejudice and is typically one that involves violence.

Race remains the most commonly recorded motivation for hate crime in England and Wales, at 82% of recorded motivations. In Wales, just over three-quarters of hate crimes reported to the Welsh police forces were racially motivated, with Black people most likely to be the victim.

The chart below shows that the rate of hate crime offences in the Vale of Glamorgan is below the Welsh average although as is the trend at a national level it is increasing.

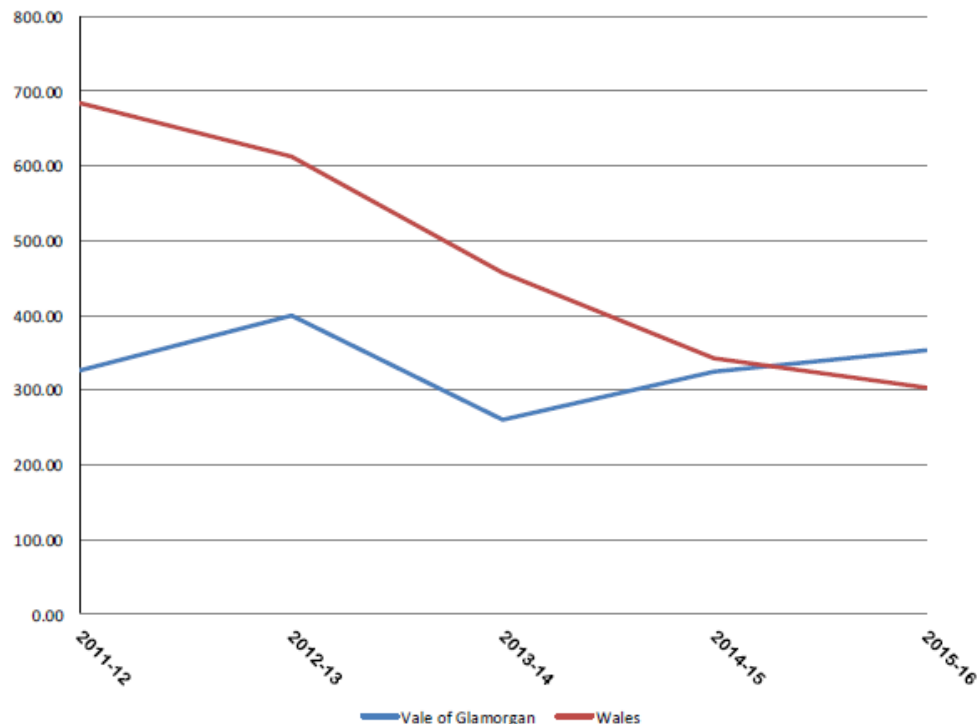


	The Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
FY 2014-15	3.4	3.9
FY 2015-16	5.8	7.0

Source: Victim Support

## Youth Justice

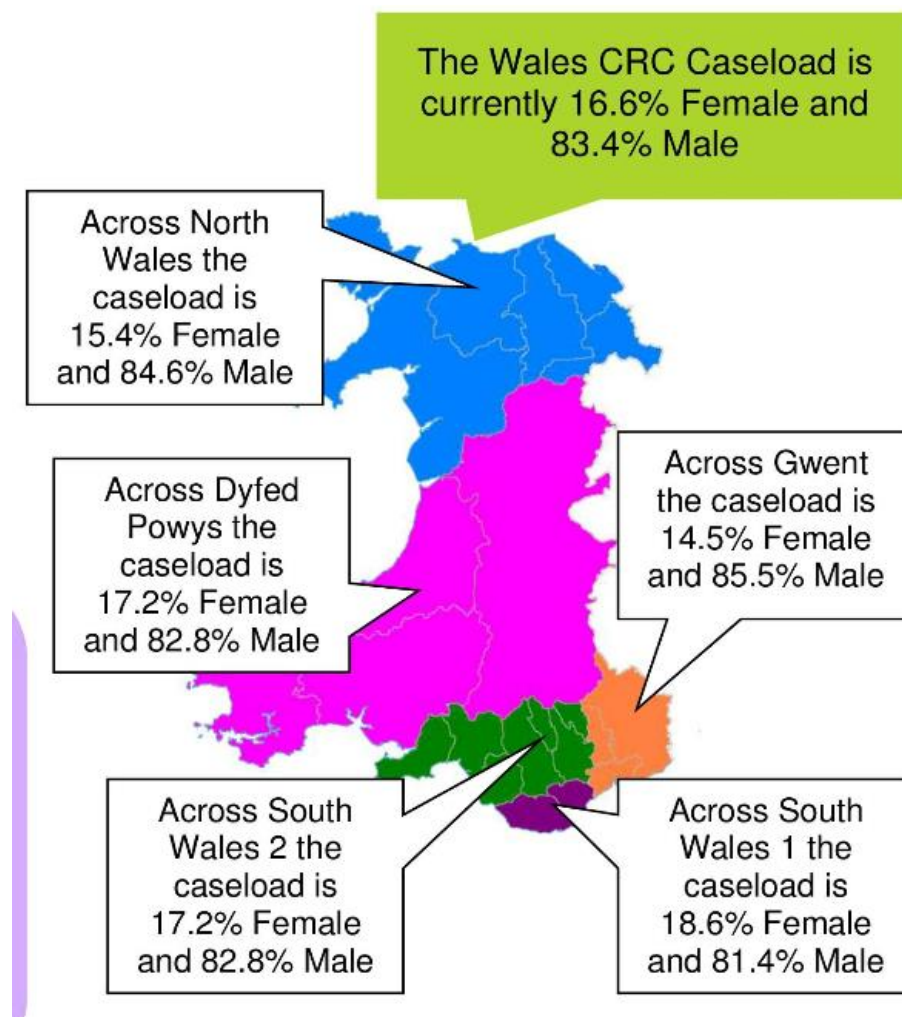
Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 population



With regards to the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system in the Vale of Glamorgan, a 7.5% increase was observed in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2015 compared to 2014. A slight decrease was observed at a South Wales level for 2015 and an 11.8% decrease was observed at a Wales level for this time period. The 2015 rate per 100,000 in the Vale was 353, compared to 299 across South Wales and 303 at a Wales level. The actual number of first time entrants in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2015 was 43. Although there has been a 7.5% increase in the number of first time entrants this equates to only 3 young people and has to be considered in the context of large reductions in previous years. Performance against this indicator has fluctuated consistently around the 30-40 mark for the last 8 reporting periods.



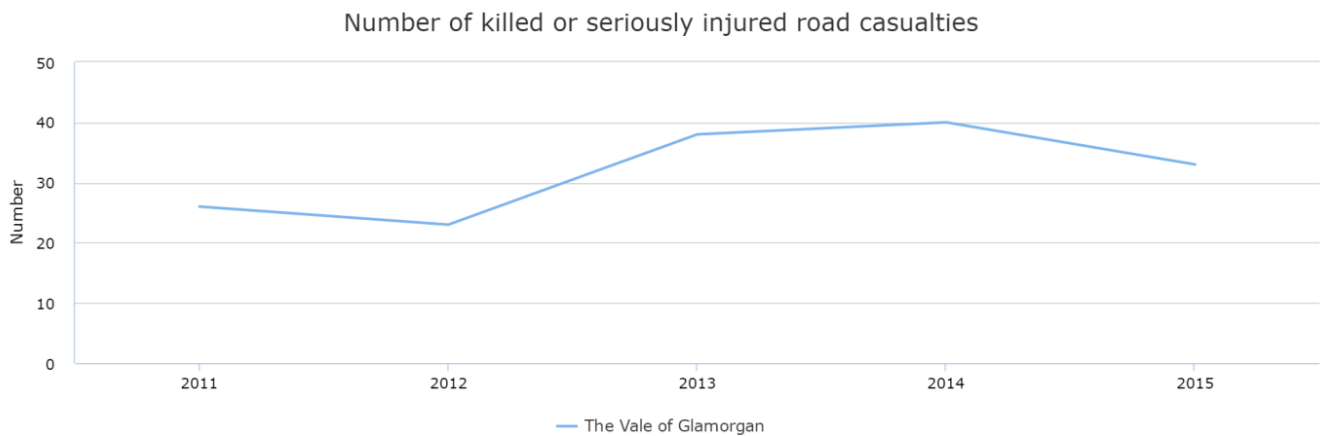
## Re-offending



The Community Rehabilitation Company case load statistics show that the South Wales 1 region - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan – has a slightly higher percentage of females than other areas.

Ministry of Justice statistics on reoffending (last reported in 2013 due to changes to probation services) shows that although in 2013 Vale showed a reduction in reoffending against the baseline set it was not statistically significant.

## Road Safety



	The Vale of Glamorgan
2011	26
2012	23
2013	38
2014	40
2015	33

Source: Welsh Government (WG)

Source: Health Maps Wales

The following table shows that the Vale of Glamorgan has one the lowest rates for emergency admissions resulting from a road traffic accident for both females and males.

Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs)			
Local Authority		Emergency Admission Rates (Age-Standardised) per 100,000 population, Females – 3 Yr rolling average (FY 13/14 – 15/16)	Emergency Admission Rates (Age-Standardised) per 100,000 population, Males – 3 Yr rolling average (FY 13/14 – 15/16)
⬆		ⓘ x ⬆	ⓘ x ⬆
Isle of Anglesey ⓘ		85.3	164.7
Gwynedd ⓘ		89.1	164.3
Conwy ⓘ		53.9	144.5
Denbighshire ⓘ		72.4	146.0
Flintshire ⓘ		63.8	129.5
Wrexham ⓘ		56.2	143.1
Powys ⓘ		99.4	198.4
Ceredigion ⓘ		99.9	149.8
Pembrokeshire ⓘ		81.3	134.3
Carmarthenshire ⓘ		66.6	140.3
Swansea ⓘ		55.4	113.3
Neath Port Talbot ⓘ		51.8	145.2
Bridgend ⓘ		39.0	114.1
The Vale of Glamorgan ⓘ		55.8	93.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf ⓘ		75.8	129.3
Merthyr Tydfil ⓘ		56.1	161.9
Caerphilly ⓘ		59.1	142.0
Blaenau Gwent ⓘ		51.0	143.4
Torfaen ⓘ		71.4	121.0
Monmouthshire ⓘ		70.0	147.7
Newport ⓘ		82.7	128.1
Cardiff ⓘ		43.6	82.2
Wales ⓘ		64.4	130.4
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board ⓘ		68.8	147.5
Hywel Dda University Health Board ⓘ		77.6	139.1
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board ⓘ		49.5	121.5
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board ⓘ		46.8	85.4
Cwm Taf University Health Board ⓘ		71.9	136.0
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board ⓘ		67.5	136.1
Powys Teaching Health Board ⓘ		99.4	199.0

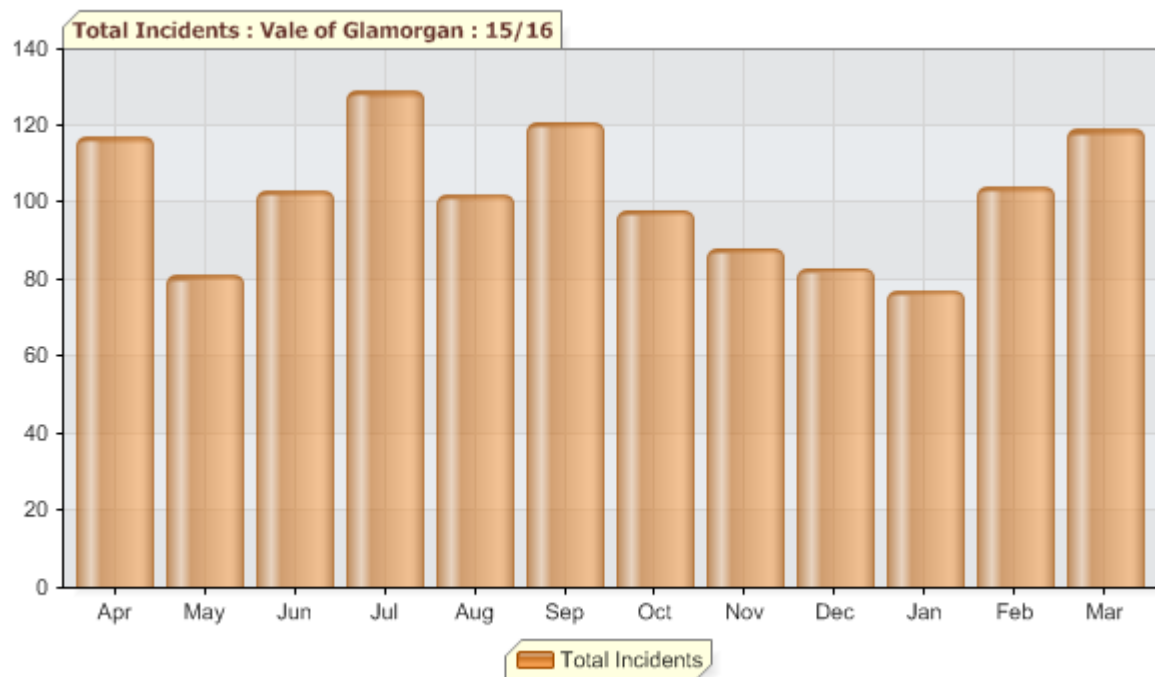
## Fire Safety

With regards to fire safety, South Wales level trends identified by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service show that

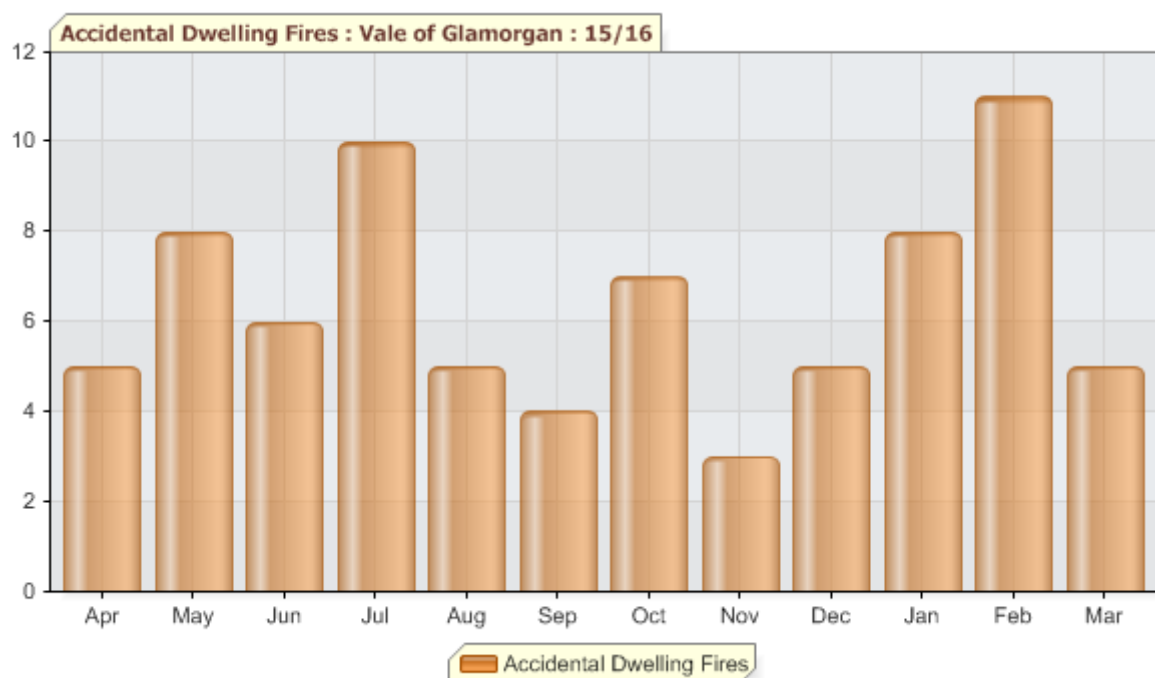
- The total number of fires attended has increased from 5916 to 6578. However, over the last five years the trend has seen an overall reduction. This is explored further as part of our aim to “reduce risk” throughout this document.
- The total number of false alarms attended has increased from 8196 to 8323. This continues the overall trend of a steady increase.
- The total number of road traffic collisions attended has increased from 1283 to 1322. This continues the overall trend of a continued increase.
- The total other special service calls attended has increased from 2005 to 2101. This continues the overall trend of a gradual increase.
- The total number of deaths and injuries arising from all fires has increased from 57 to 85. This represents a sharp increase against what had been a steady decrease. This is explored further as part of our aim to “reduce risk” throughout this document.
- The total number of deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires has increased from 47 to 77. This represents a sharp increase against what had been a steady decrease. This is explored further as part of our aim to “reduce risk” throughout this document.
- The percentage of dwelling fires which were contained in the room in which they originated has decreased slightly from 84.7% to 84.6% This remains fairly consistent over time.

The following graphs show data at a Vale of Glamorgan level.

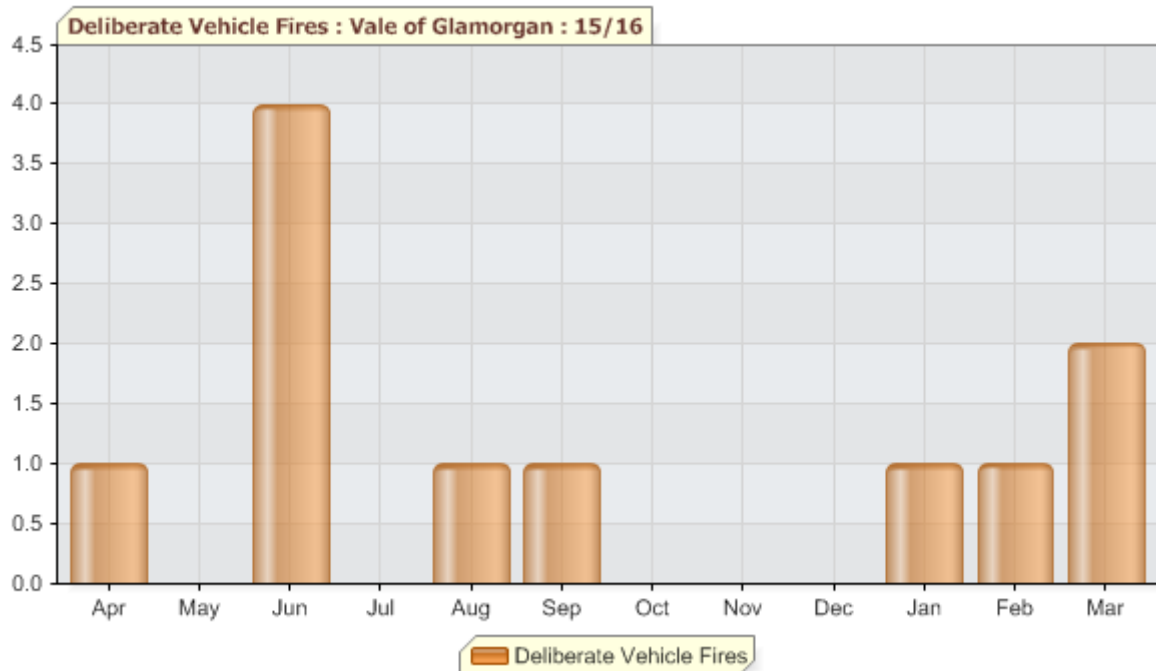
This graph shows the total number of incidents that the Fire and Rescue Service attended.



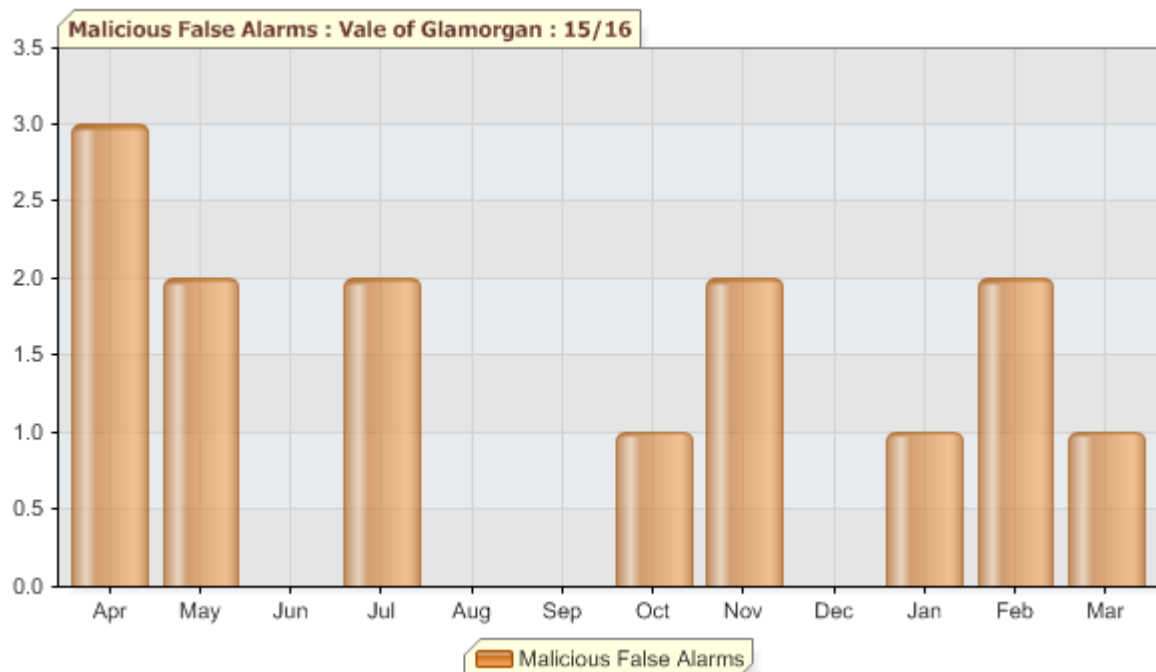
This graph shows how many accidental dwelling fires that the Fire and Rescue Service attended each month in this particular area. The Fire Service aim to reduce these fires, and the best way to try and achieve this is to carry out a free home fire safety check in homes.



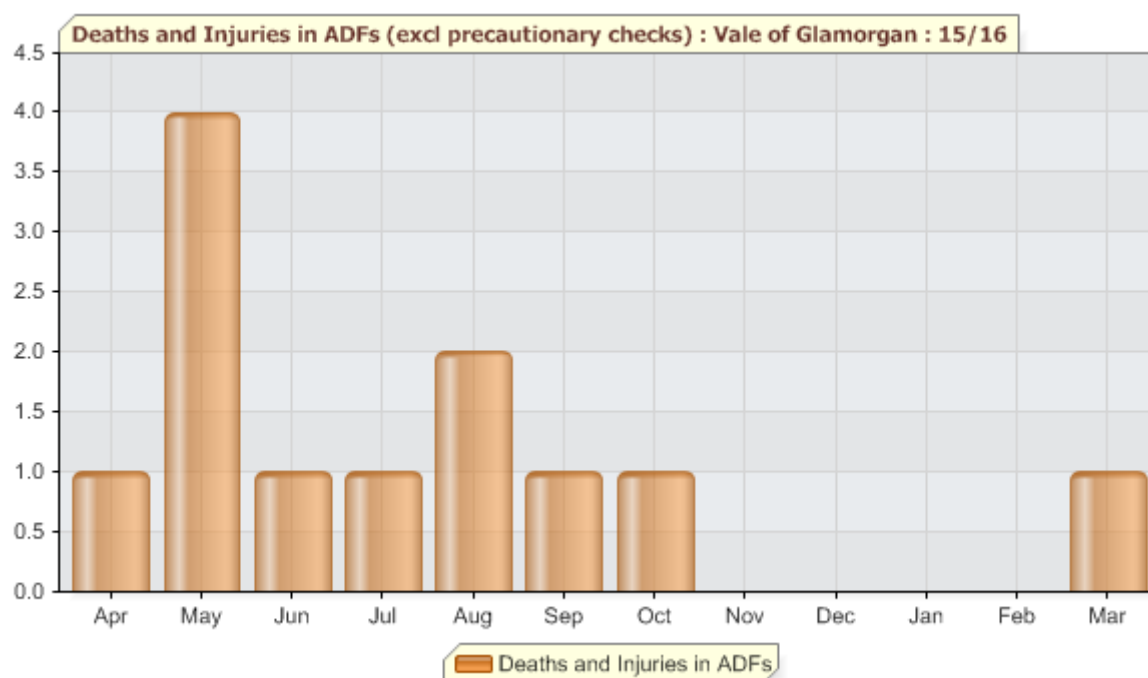
This graph shows the number of vehicle fires which were deliberately set that the Fire and Rescue Service attended each month in this particular area.



This graph shows the number of malicious false alarm incidents that the Fire and Rescue Service attended each month in this particular area. These incidents are a waste of resources, and can tie up valuable resources which could be needed for serious incidents such as house fires, or special service calls involving people.



This graph shows the number of people who have unfortunately been injured or have died as a result of a fire. Over the last 5 years, these figures have decreased, however, the aim is for these figures to be as low as possible.



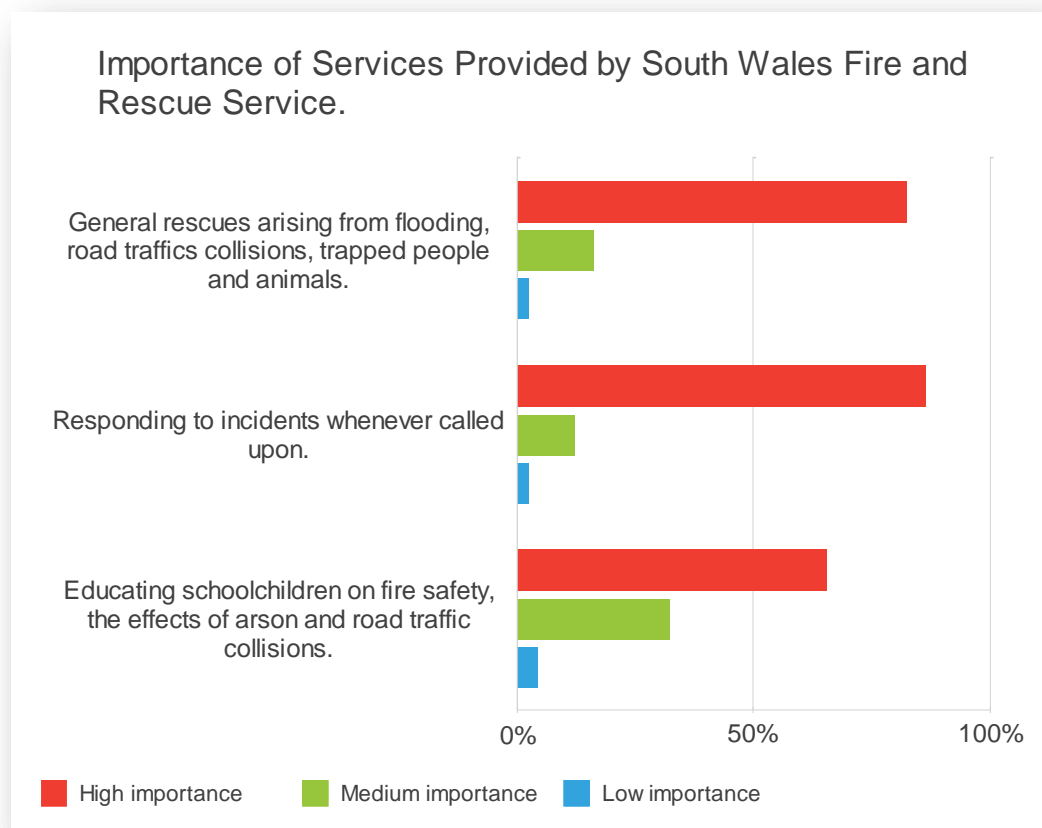
Fires in the home are the main cause of fire deaths. Getting a smoke alarm, regularly testing and maintaining it, as well as planning an escape route in the event of a fire can dramatically decrease the risk of death or serious injury. Although the SWFRS campaign targets the most vulnerable people throughout the South Wales area first and foremost, any resident who requests a free home fire safety check can have one.

The Vale Viewpoint Summer 2014 survey asked respondents two questions about South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Firstly, they were asked how important they think various services are. These included:

- planning for dealing with incidents of terrorism;
- general rescues arising from flooding, road traffics collisions, trapped people and animals;
- educating schoolchildren on fire safety, the effects of arson and road traffic collisions;
- assessing commercial and business premises in terms of fire safety, including means of escape;
- preparing for and dealing with major national issues, such as fuel strikes, major flooding, wildfires or pandemics;

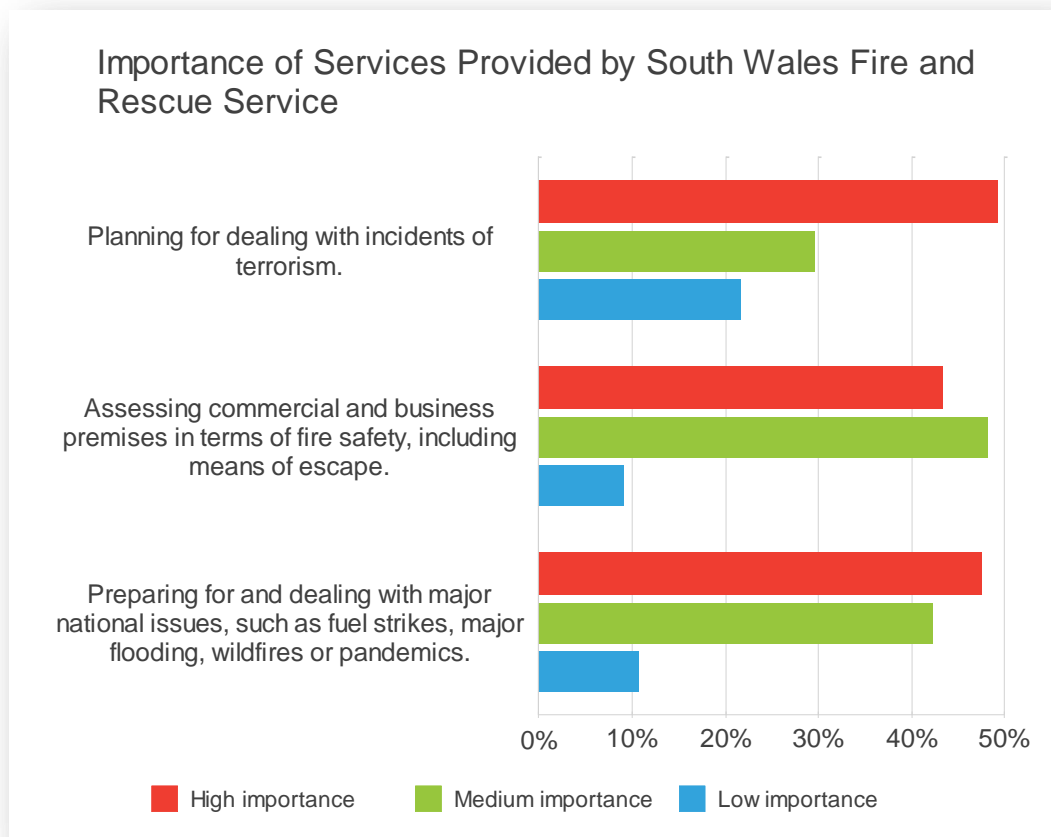
- providing advice to individuals, businesses and groups to help keep them safe;
- providing Building Regulations advice with regard to Fire Risk for all new buildings;
- providing search and rescue teams with specially trained staff to combat the effects of worldwide natural disasters such as earthquakes;
- carrying out Home Fire Safety Inspections and providing advice and the necessary equipment to keep occupiers safe in their homes;
- encouraging positive citizenship amongst young people using various projects such as the Young Firefighters' Scheme;
- responding to incidents whenever called upon;
- developing road safety schemes for young drivers and motorbike riders;
- providing advice about and dealing with chemical incidents; and
- providing specific arson reduction projects and a programme of diversionary activity aimed at young people

Three key services stood out as highly important amongst responses. 82% of respondents rated general rescues ... as highly important. 86% of respondents rated responding to incidents whenever called upon as highly important and 65% of respondents rated educating school children... as highly important.





Further examples of how respondents rated the services provided by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are shown below.

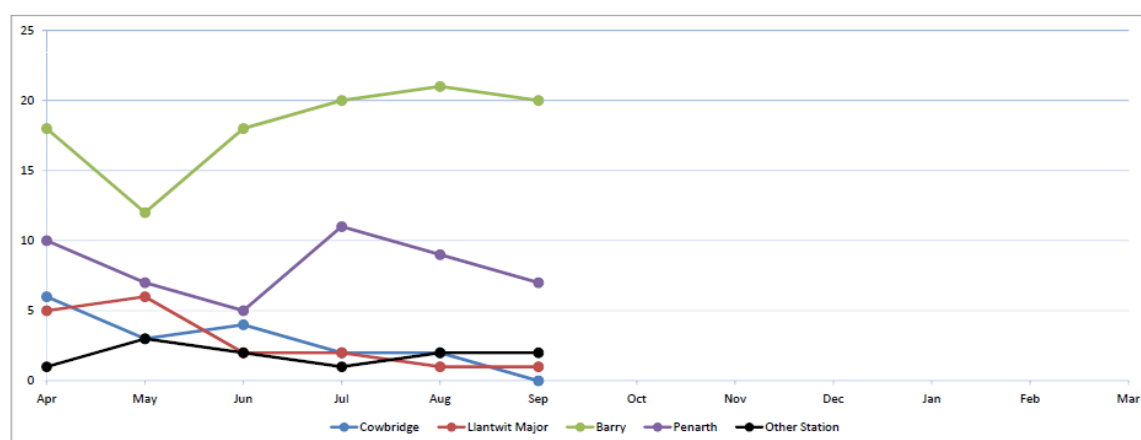


## Fires by area

The following charts display information relating to fire safety by each of the fire stations located in the Vale of Glamorgan – Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge. As may be expected, incidents are higher in the Barry area.

### 1. Total Fires (Primary and Secondary)

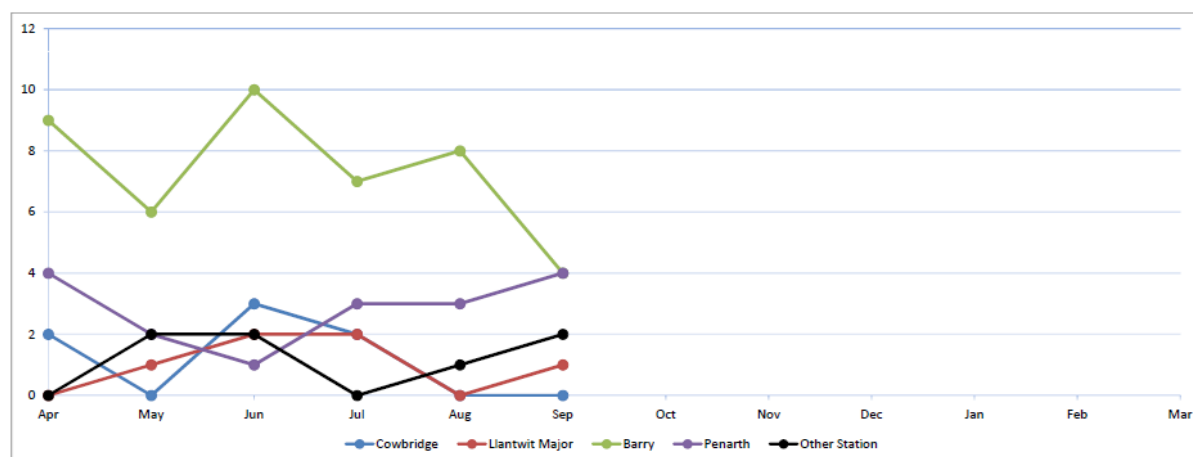
Station	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17												2016/17
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Cowbridge	30	47	6	3	4	2	2	0							17
Llantwit Major	19	21	5	6	2	2	1	1							17
Barry	141	144	18	12	18	20	21	20							109
Penarth	76	71	10	7	5	11	9	7							49
Other Station	17	21	1	3	2	1	2	2							11
Vale of Glamorgan Total	283	304	40	31	31	36	35	30							203
Total: other UA	5634	6274	606	575	496	461	492	340							2970



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### 8. Accidental Fires (Primary and Secondary)

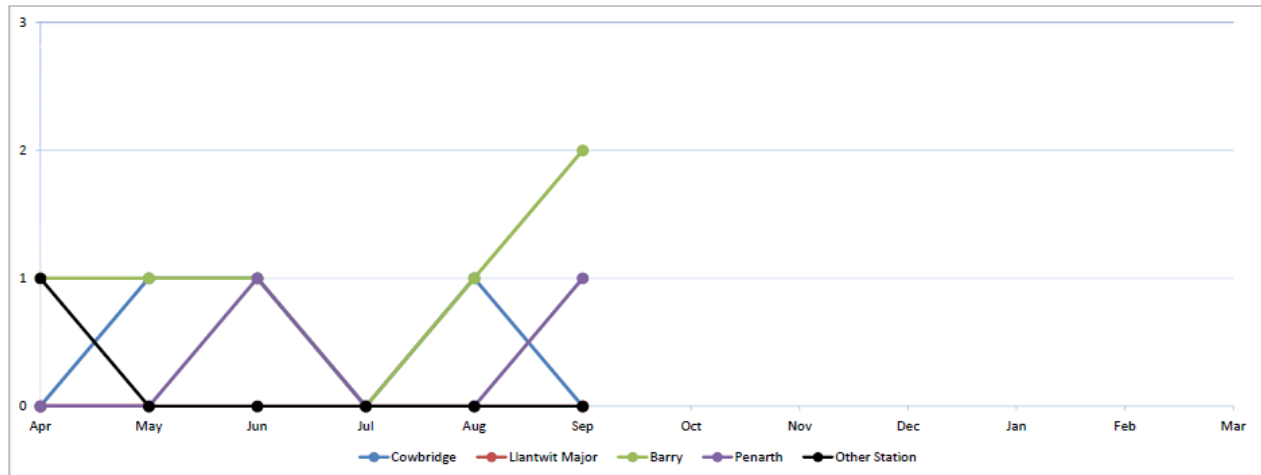
Station	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17												2016/17
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Cowbridge	19	13	2	0	3	2	0	0							7
Llantwit Major	13	15	0	1	2	2	0	1							6
Barry	66	84	9	6	10	7	8	4							44
Penarth	43	35	4	2	1	3	3	4							17
Other Station	7	13	0	2	2	0	1	2							7
Vale of Glamorgan Total	148	160	15	11	18	14	12	11							81
Total: other UA's	1612	1606	144	131	123	141	140	103							782



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### 5. Deliberate Vehicle Fires (Primary and Secondary)

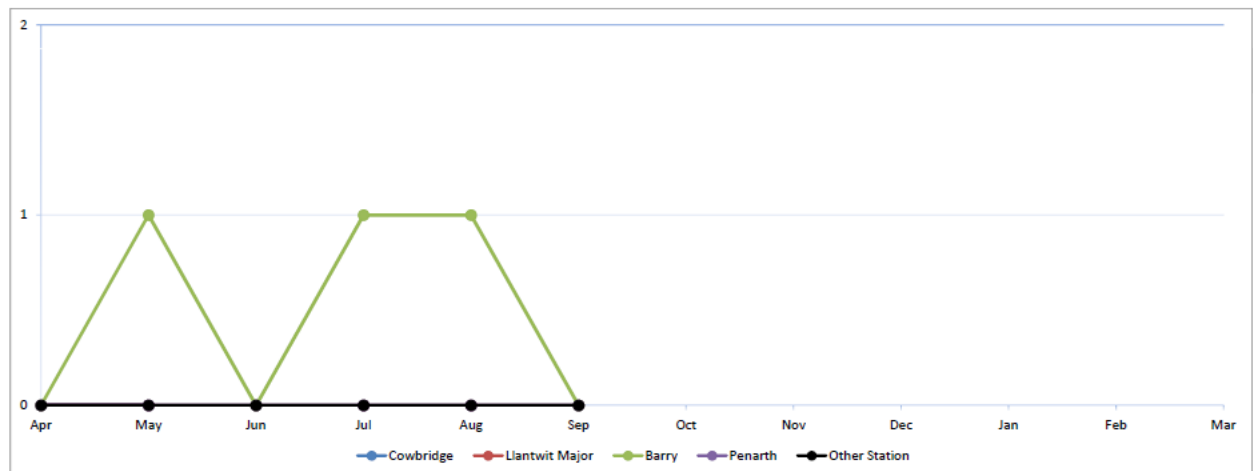
Station	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17												2016/17 Total
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Cowbridge	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	0							3
Llantwit Major	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Barry	10	5	1	1	1	0	1	2							6
Penarth	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	1							2
Other Station	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0							1
Vale of Glamorgan Total	17	13	2	2	3	0	2	3							12
Total: other UA's	360	479	44	48	66	55	45	52							310



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### 16. Malicious False Alarms

Station	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17												2016/17 Total
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Cowbridge	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Llantwit Major	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Barry	19	7	0	1	0	1	1	0							3
Penarth	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other Station	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Vale of Glamorgan Total	35	12	0	1	0	1	1	0							3
Total: other UA's	385	378	35	28	25	19	21	25							153



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## Feeling Safe/ Crime Perception

The South Wales Police Community Perception and Satisfaction Survey aims to gather information on public perception and experience of crime & anti-social behaviour, views on the local police, awareness and engagement. The latest survey was carried out in 2013-14.

The Survey was hand delivered by PCSO's to randomly selected addresses within the wards they serve. This approach eliminates outbound postage costs whilst maintaining visibility.

In the Vale 2,760 surveys were distributed (120 in each of the 23 wards) and 729 were returned equalling a 26.4% response rate. Plymouth ward had the best response rate with 36.7% and Court had the least number of responses with 9.2%.

Results from the 2013-14 Survey showed that 59% of Vale of Glamorgan residents thought local police did a good/excellent job.

Just under 3 out of 10 (29.2%) respondents said there is no ASB in their local area with a further 11.0% stating that ASB levels have fallen in the area. 9.3% of respondents did state that there has been an increase in ASB in their local area (an increase of 1.8% in comparison to the previous year's survey results).

St Augustine's ward had the highest proportion of respondents to say that there is more ASB in their local area indicating that vandalism and graffiti are a problem together with rubbish and litter, dog fouling and parking. In reality force figures show that ASB had dropped by approximately a third that calendar year in comparison to last calendar year.

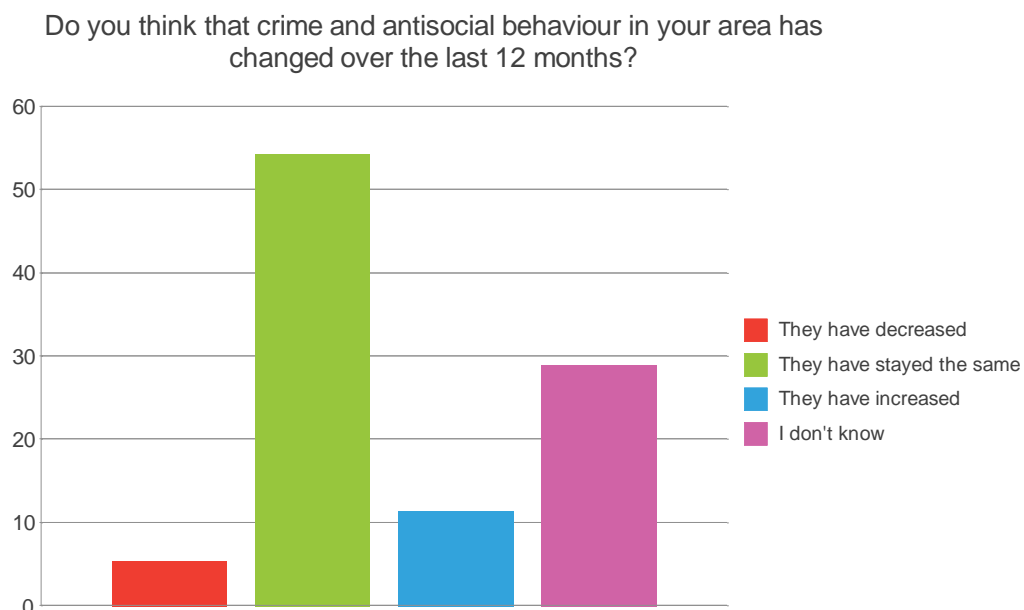
The Let's Talk Survey 2016 asked respondents how safe or unsafe they felt in a range of situations.

	Very unsafe		Unsafe		Safe		Very Safe	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In everyday life in the Vale of Glamorgan	8	1	19	2.5	428	56.2	307	40.3
At home in the daylight	8	1	5	0.7	297	38.7	457	59.6
At home after dark	15	2	53	6.9	405	52.9	293	38.3
When walking alone in your town/village in the daylight	10	1.3	24	3.4	377	49.2	355	46.3
When walking alone in your town/village after dark	35	4.6	189	25	417	55.2	114	15.1
When travelling by bus in daylight	5	0.7	17	2.5	337	50	315	46.7
When travelling by bus after dark	20	3.2	144	23	226	47.3	68	14.2
Cycling in the Vale of Glamorgan during the day	40	8.4	144	30.1	226	47.3	68	14.2
Cycling in the Vale of Glamorgan after dark	128	27.5	192	41.3	122	26.2	23	4.9
When travelling by train during the day	4	0.6	14	2.1	340	51.1	307	46.2
When travelling by train after dark	29	4.6	164	26	318	50.4	120	19
On roads as a driver in the day	13	1.8	32	4.5	408	56.7	266	37
On roads as a driver after dark	18	2.5	71	10	424	59.6	198	27.8

When asked to assess how safe or unsafe they felt in certain situations respondents were on the whole positive about safety in the Vale of Glamorgan. When asked if they felt safe in “everyday life in the Vale of Glamorgan”, 428 (56.2%), answered that they felt “safe”, and 307 (40.3%) that they felt “very safe”.

Although it is clear from the table above that most respondents selected “Safe” or “Very Safe” in answer to the questions, there are a number of answers that should be highlighted. When asked if they felt safe cycling during the day, a significant number of respondents, 144 (30.1%) answered that they felt “unsafe”. This answer was echoed by respondents answering the question of cycling in the dark. Respondents also noted feeling “unsafe” when travelling by train after dark, 164 (26% of) respondents answering this question felt unsafe.

## Let's Talk Survey 2016 - Do you think that crime and antisocial behaviour in your area has changed over the last 12 months



The survey also asked respondents about anti-social behaviour and whether they thought it had increased, decreased or stayed the same in their area in the last 12 months. Of the 762 respondents who answered this question on crime and antisocial behaviour, the highest proportion, 414 (54.3%), answered that crime and antisocial behaviour “have stayed the same”. While 220 (28.9% of) respondents answered that they did not know if crime and antisocial behaviour has changed, 87 (11.4%) answered that they thought crime and antisocial behaviour had increased. Only 41 (5.4%) of respondents answered that they thought that crime and antisocial behaviour had decreased in their area.

Although levels of ASB differ by area within the Vale of Glamorgan, as a whole levels of ASB reduced in 2015/16 compared to previous years. This may be attributed to the fact that some types of ASB are now classified and recorded as a crime incident instead.

## **Housing – Our Findings**

In order to further consider whether the communities in the Vale of Glamorgan are safe and inclusive we have considered a range of evidence in relation to housing. Housing is the bedrock of communities; it drives the demand for local services, shops and facilities. A good quality, affordable and suitable home can be the catalyst a household needs to prosper. Instability in accommodation can act as a barrier to securing work or training, make accessing key services, such as health or social care more difficult, disrupt education and negatively affect physical and mental health.

We considered a range of data and evidence in relation to housing within the Vale of Glamorgan with a number of key findings emerging.

The Vale has an estimated 53,505 dwellings. The majority of households, 72.5%, own their own home, 11.9% rent from a social landlord and 15.7% from a private landlord. The percentage of households who own their own home (with or without a mortgage) in the Vale is higher than the Welsh average, whilst the percentage of households living in the private rented and social rented sectors are lower than the Welsh average.

The average house price in the Vale of Glamorgan is one of the highest in Wales. However there are also significant differences between areas within the Vale, in particular between Barry, Penarth and rural communities in the Western Vale; for example the average price of a two bedroom house in Castleland in Barry costs on average £108,742 compared to a two bedroom house in Cowbridge which costs on average £273,143.

Tenure status varies by area with Barry having a lower percentage of owner occupiers than other areas and the largest percentage of social rented households. St. Athan, with an MOD base has the highest percentage of private rented households and the lowest percentage of owner occupied properties.

The 2011 Census showed that for the first time in 30 years the private rented sector has grown larger than the social rented sector in the Vale of Glamorgan.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the percentage of overcrowded households is 3.86%, which is lower than Wales at 5.53%. However, across the Vale of Glamorgan there is a wide range between the lowest (0.0% in 'Illtyd 1') and the highest (12.2% in 'Gibbonsdown 2') LSOAs.

The findings of the Let's Talk Survey showed that the majority of respondents were either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the quality of their homes.

Based upon the evidence presented in the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in the Vale

of Glamorgan for the whole Local Development Plan period is 20 additional pitches. There is no additional need for the Vale of Glamorgan to consider for Travelling Showpeople.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the number of households affected by the spare room subsidy has been steadily decreasing since the reforms were first introduced. However a data gap exists in terms of capturing the reasons why households are no longer being affected by the subsidy – whether this is due to households moving to smaller properties, due to evictions or whether for instance they have found employment and no longer claim housing benefit.

The rate of households decided to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need has increased in the Vale of Glamorgan in recent years as opposed to the decreasing national trend. However, the Vale of Glamorgan has a higher than average percentage of cases where homelessness has been prevented due to positive action.

In assessing the housing market as a whole, the 2015 Local Housing Market Assessment calculates the net need for affordable housing, including social rented housing and intermediate housing products, over the next five years. The headline annual net need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan is 559 units per annum.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Empty Homes Strategy highlights how empty properties represent a wasted resource and lost opportunity. Despite the significant housing need, there are significant numbers of empty homes across the county which could be brought back into use and provide a home to an individual or family in need. The impacts of empty homes can be wide ranging from the impact on Council services such as Environmental Health; the economic impact to the property owner as leaving the property empty can cost more; the impact on neighbours as empty homes can become unsightly and cause structural problems to adjoining properties; the impact on communities as they attract crime, vandalism and anti social behaviour further impacting on community safety services and environmental well-being impacts. The demand for housing could result in the need to develop greenfield sites causing a loss to biodiversity and degradation of habitats when it would be much more efficient and sustainable to make best use of the homes that we already have.

At the end of the 2015/16 financial year there were 79 empty properties in the Vale. A range of services and support is in place to bring empty homes back into use across the Vale of Glamorgan including financial assistance.



## **Housing – Our Evidence**

The evidence presented here is taken from the Local Housing Strategy 2015-2020 and the Local Housing Market Assessment 2015.

Housing is the bedrock of communities; it drives the demand for local services, shops and facilities. A good quality, affordable and suitable home can be the catalyst a household needs to prosper.

A report published by the Social Exclusion Unit (2004) found that instability in accommodation could:

- act as a barrier to securing work or training
- make accessing key services, such as health or social care, more difficult
- disrupt education
- and negatively affect physical and mental health.

Some of the findings of this report which demonstrate how instable housing causes the above are outlined below (UK level).

- One in three of the households who moved at least three times in the past year were not in work.
- Relationship breakdown is a major cause of homelessness: 13 per cent of statutory cases involve domestic violence.
- 30 per cent of young homeless people are estimated to have been in care.
- Shortage of site provision for Gypsies and Travellers is a major cause of frequent moving for these groups – between 1996 and 2003 there was a total net loss of 596 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers while the size of the Traveller population grew.
- There are significant gaps in achievement between mobile and non-mobile pupils.
- 9 per cent of households accepted as homeless are in priority need because of a mental health problem.
- An estimated 40 per cent of single homeless people have multiple needs, e.g. a mental health problem and one or more issues such as drug or alcohol misuse.

## **Housing Tenure**

The Vale has an estimated 53,505 dwellings. The majority of households, 72.5%, own their own home, 11.9% rent from a social landlord and 15.7% from a private landlord. The percentage of households who own their own home (with or without a mortgage) in the Vale is higher than the Welsh average, whilst the percentage of households living in the private rented and social rented sectors are lower than the Welsh average.

Most properties in the Vale of Glamorgan are houses, 84.2% of which are semi-detached properties. 15.2% of properties are flats, including maisonettes and those in both purpose built and converted blocks. There are also a small percentage, 0.6% of residential caravans and mobile homes.

Figure 7 - Households by Tenure in the Vale of Glamorgan<sup>7</sup>

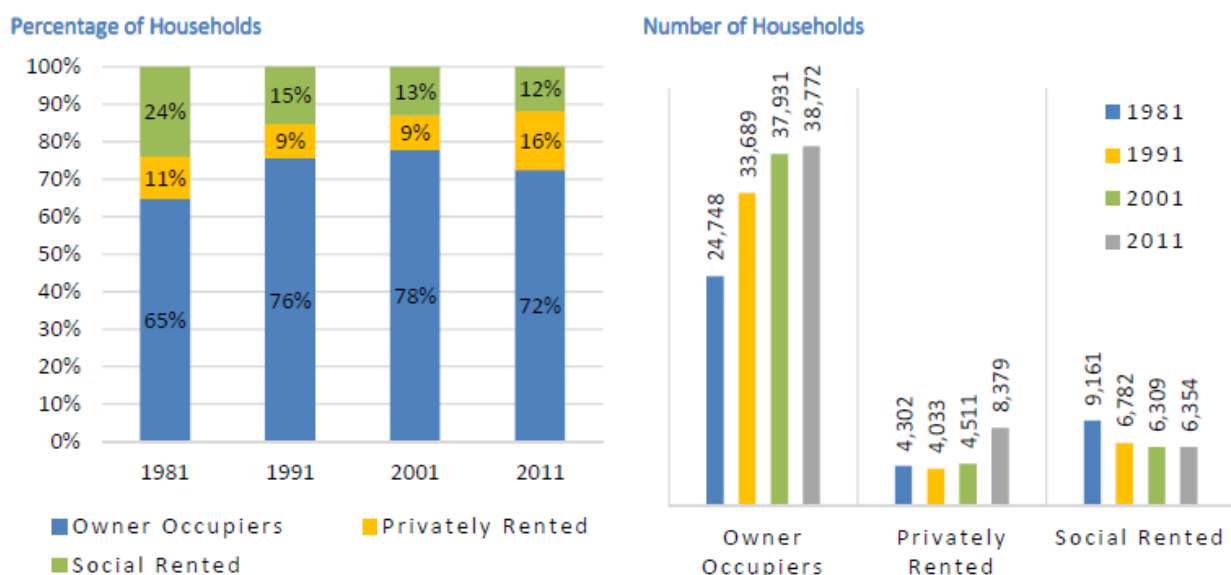
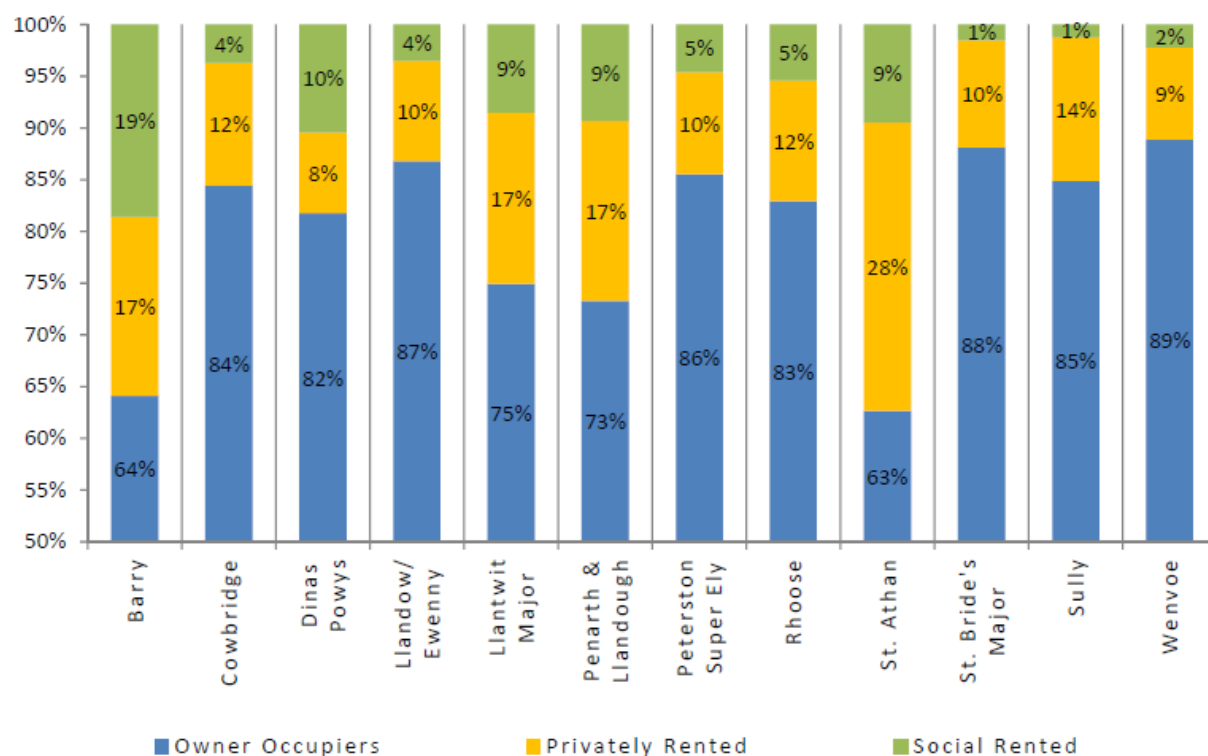


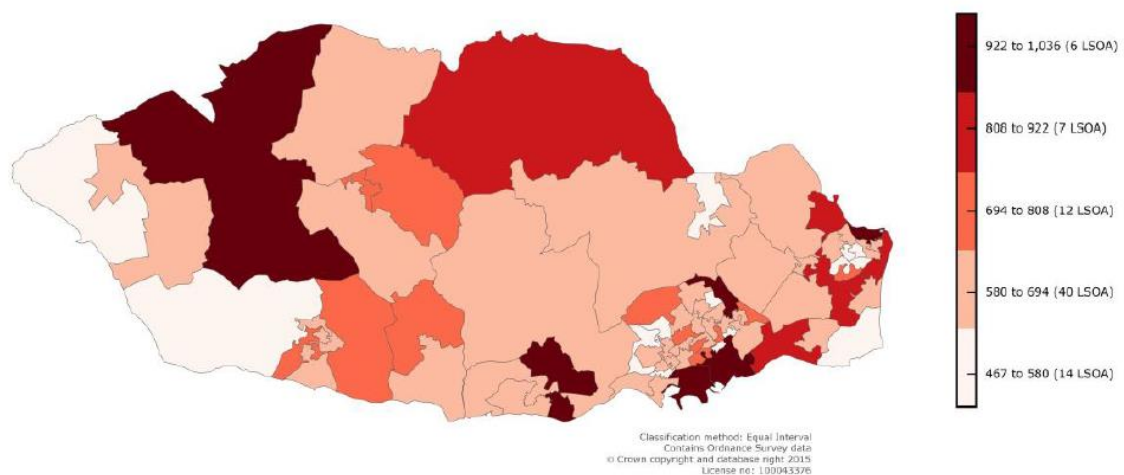
Figure 8 – Household Tenure by Area (2011)



Tenure status varies by area with Barry having a lower percentage of Owner Occupiers than other areas and the largest percentage of social rented households. St. Athan, with an RAF base has the highest percentage of private rented households and the lowest percentage of owner occupied properties. The differences in type of tenure can be further examined at LSOA level as below.

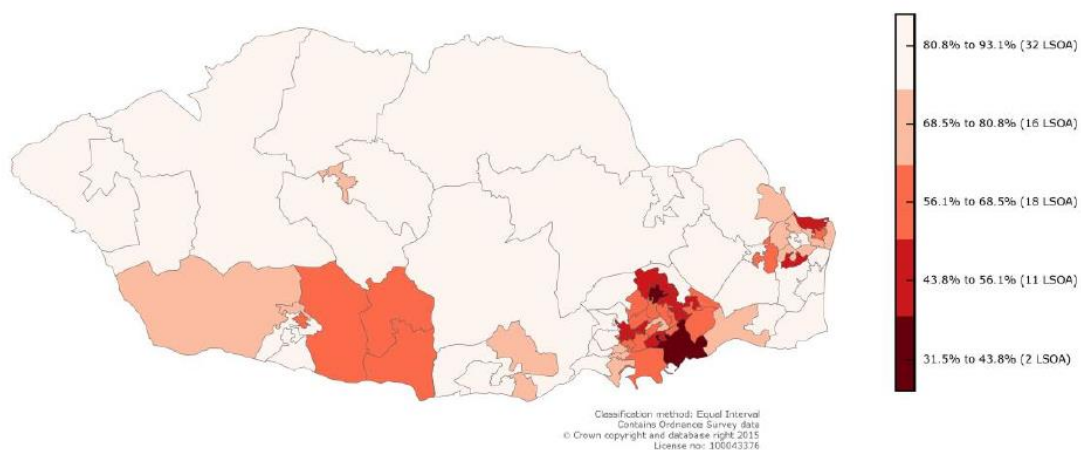
The number of households within individual LSOAs in the Vale of Glamorgan ranges from 467 in 'Illtyd 1' to 1,036 in 'St. Augustine's 4'.

**Figure 4 : Number of households in the Vale of Glamorgan**



Source: Census 2011, ONS

**Figure 5: Percentage of households owned either with a mortgage or outright in the Vale of Glamorgan**

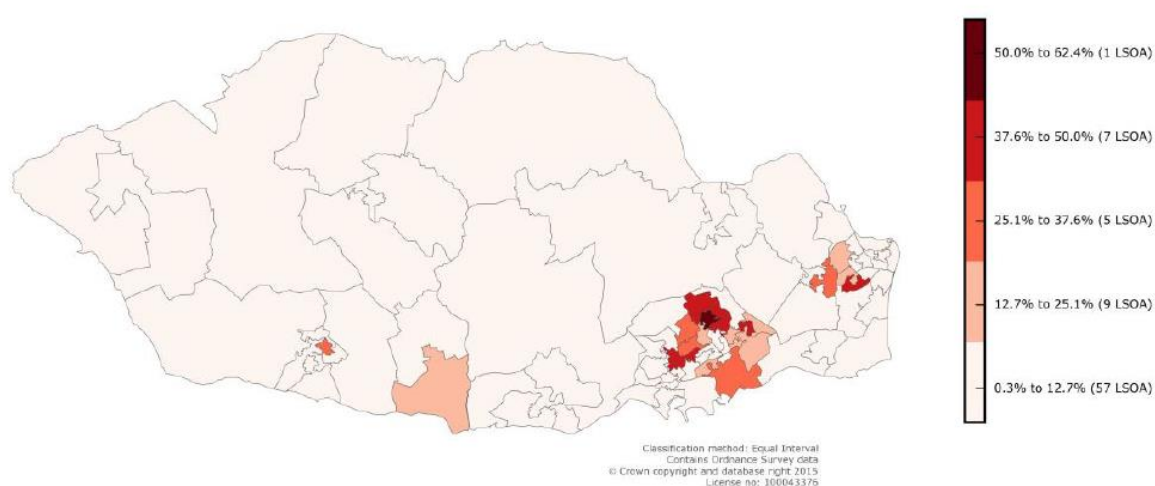


Source: Census 2011, ONS

There is a clear geographic disparity in the percentage of households that are owned between the more rural north, west and central Vale compared to the areas of Llantwit Major, Barry and northern Penarth. This ranged from 31.5% in 'Gibbonsdown 2' to 93.1% in 'Dyfan 1'; the Welsh average is 67.4%.

The LSOAs with the highest percentages of socially rented households are largely isolated to the northern parts of Barry. Within this area, the Gibbonsdown 2 LSOA has a particularly high percentage of socially rented housing (62.4%). This is higher than the Vale of Glamorgan and Wales rates at 11.9% and 16.5% respectively.

**Figure 6: Percentage of households that are socially rented in the Vale of Glamorgan**



Source: Census 2011, ONS

Tenure status can have a range of implications, for example owner-occupied properties were reported to be more able to keep the property warm in winter, followed by private rented then social rented.

Owner Occupied properties were also found to be highly likely to have contents insurance, only around half of those in rented accommodation do, of the half who don't around half say they cannot afford it and half the do not want it.

### House Prices and Rental Costs

The average house price in the Vale of Glamorgan is one of the highest in Wales. However there are also significant differences between areas within the Vale, in particular between Barry, Penarth and rural communities in the Western Vale; for example the average price of

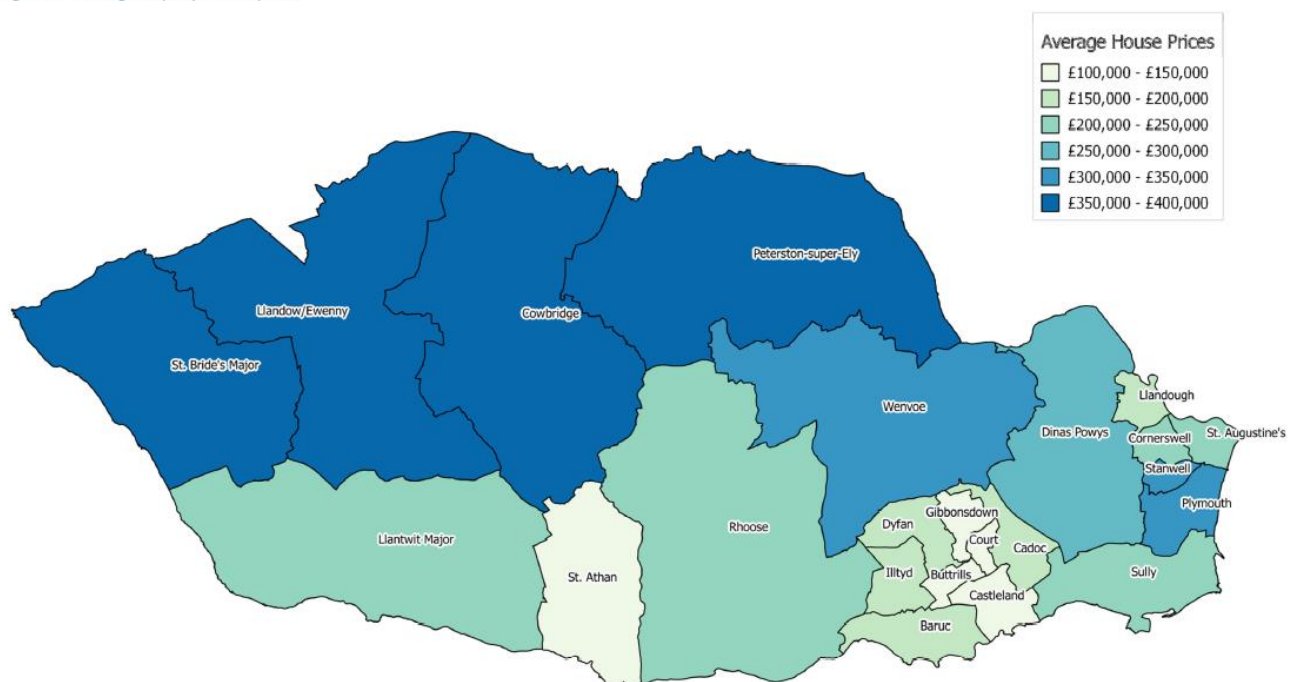
a two bedroom house in Castleland in Barry costs on average £108,742 compared to a two bedroom house in Cowbridge which costs on average £273,143. Rental prices vary similarly; the average rent for a two bedroom house in Castleland in Barry is £ 546 per calendar month, compared to £693 per month in St Brides Major in the rural Vale.

Household incomes vary across the Vale, with higher incomes evident in the rural Vale and the lowest incomes present in Barry. However income levels do not vary as much as house prices', meaning that affordability is considerably different depending on where a household need or want to live.

Table 4 - Average Rental Prices in the Vale of Glamorgan for a 2-bedroom House

Ward	Castleland, Barry	Baruc, Barry	St Brides Major	Cowbridge	Plymouth, Penarth	Cornerswell, Penarth
Average Monthly Rent -	£546.00	£570.00	£637.00	£693.00	£671.66	£650.00

Figure 12 - Average Property Prices by Area<sup>10</sup>



## Housing Market Trends

The percentage of households renting privately in the Vale has risen over the last 20 years; from 9% of households in 1991 to 16% in 2011. Whilst the percentage increase may not appear too significant, the actual number of households renting privately has more than doubled, from 4,033 households in 1991 to 8,379 in 2011. The majority of this private rented sector growth has occurred on the southern edges of the county; St Athan, Rhoose, Barry, Sully and areas of Penarth. These are also areas located along the main train line, therefore with good links to Cardiff and Bridgend. These are also areas where housing demand is highest.

The 2011 Census showed that for the first time in 30 years private rented sector has grown larger than the social rented sector in the Vale of Glamorgan. There has been a substantial growth of the private rented sector in each area of the Vale, but most notably in Sully, Barry and Rhoose which have seen growth of over 100%.

Broadly speaking, across the Vale of Glamorgan the private rented sector is dominated by two and three bedroom properties, which make up 38% and 36% of the market respectively. One and four bedroomed private rented properties represent the smallest sections of the market, representing 16% and 10% of the market respectively.

Unlike the private rented sector, the social rented sector hasn't changed considerably in net size or nature over the last decade, although if you look further back the number of households residing in the social rented sector has declined more considerably, from over 9,000 households in 1981 to 6,354 in 2011, a decline of over 30%. In terms of the makeup of the whole housing market in the Vale the percentage of social housing has declined. Barry has the highest number of social rented properties with 4,126 properties; this is followed by Penarth and Llandough which has 974 and Llantwit Major with 372. This is unsurprising as these are the largest towns in the Vale of Glamorgan. The areas with the lowest numbers of social rented properties are the smaller settlements, including Peterston-Super-Ely, Llandow/Ewenny, Sully and Wenvoe which all have fewer than 50 social rented properties each.

As in the private rented sector, the social rented sector is dominated by three bedroom properties. The prevalence of three bedroom social rented properties is reflective of the overall housing market, for the purposes of comparison, three bedroom properties account for 44% of all homes within the Vale of Glamorgan.

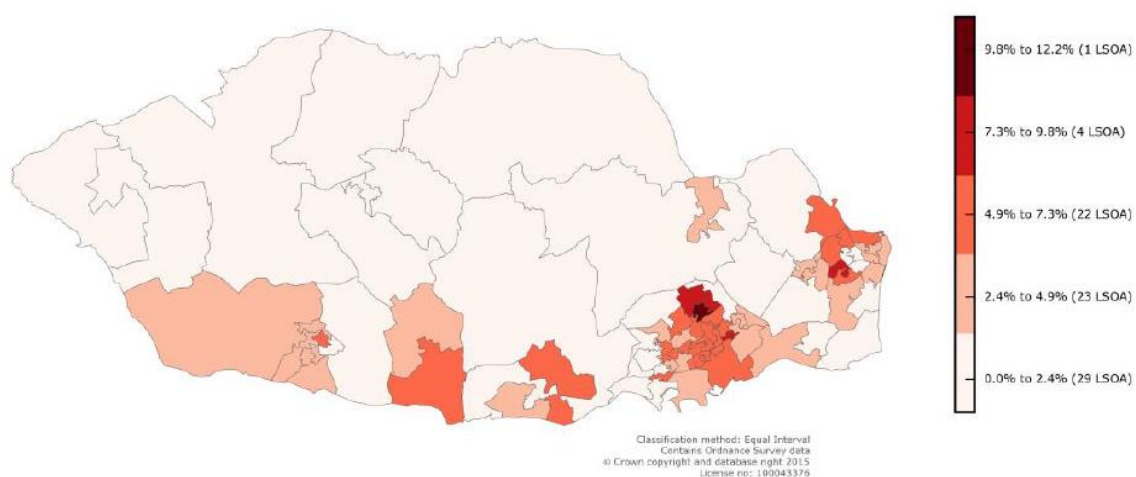
There is also considerable variance when analysing the one and two bed social rented properties, which represent 29% of the sector each in the Vale. The highest percentage of two bedroom social rented properties are located in Rhoose with 50% of the available stock, compared to Llandow/Ewenny where only 11% of the social rented stock are 2-bedroom properties. In terms of one bedroom social housing stock, the highest percentage is the 36% in Cowbridge, followed by 32% in Barry. Whilst overall 57% of the social rented stock available in the Vale of Glamorgan has one or two bedroom, it is worth noting that 40% of this stock is designated as older persons accommodation or accessible homes for individuals with a mobility issue or disability.

There is a need for more 1 and 2 bedroom properties due to Welfare Reforms, analysis shows that Cowbridge has highest percentage of one bedroom social housing stock but this is due to designated older people's accommodation.

### Housing Quality

Overcrowding in households has been shown to be one of the key factors that can contribute to negative outcomes for a child that is experiencing poverty. Also, a child that experiences overcrowding is more likely to go on to experience poverty and deprivation as an adult. The measure of overcrowded households is derived from Census 2011 data; it provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded (based on the number of bedrooms).

**Figure 8: Percentage of people living in overcrowded households in the Vale of Glamorgan**

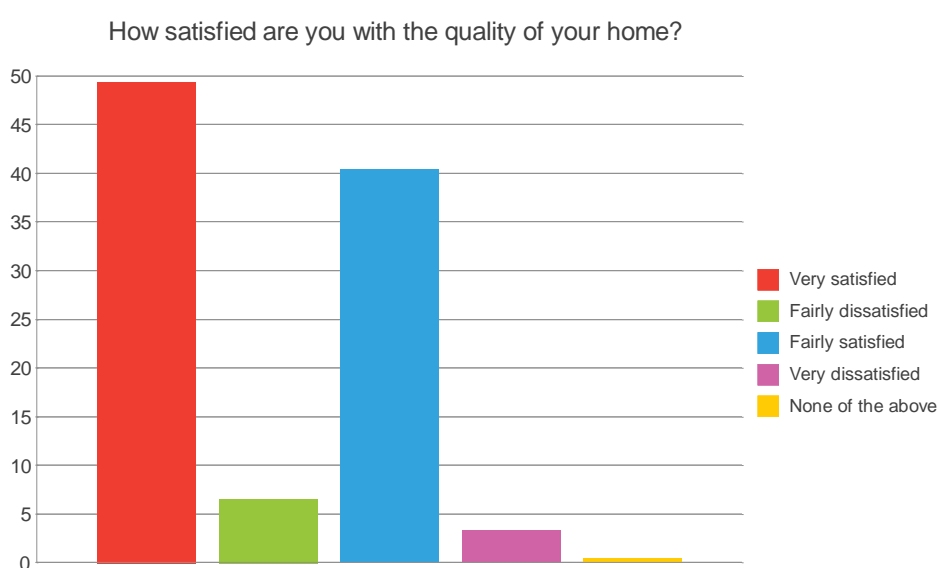


Source: Census 2011, ONS



For the Vale of Glamorgan, the percentage of overcrowded households is 3.86%, which is lower than Wales at 5.53%. However, across the Vale of Glamorgan there is a wide range between the lowest (0.0% in 'Illtyd 1') and the highest (12.2% in 'Gibbonsdown 2') LSOAs.

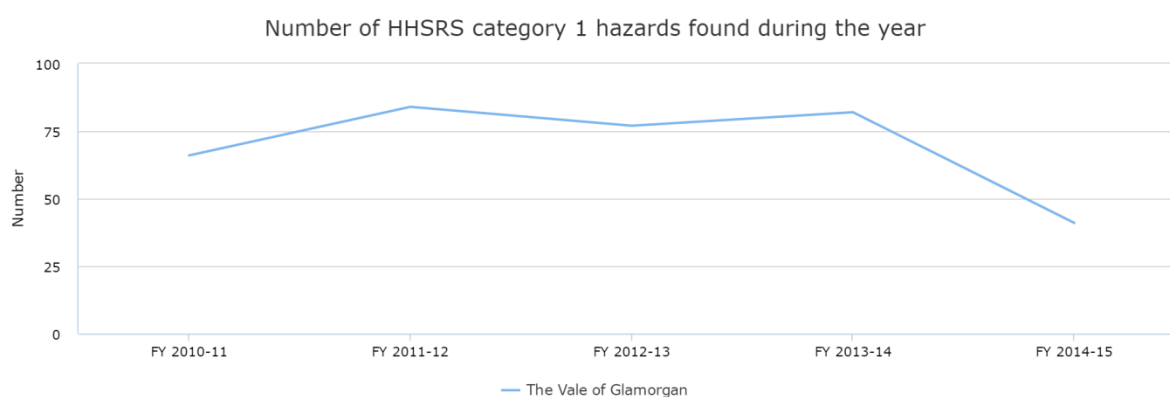
With regards to the quality of housing, the percentage of properties where external works to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard were completed was 79% at July 2016. At April 2016 there were 1515 WHQS external failures identified within the WHQS external program to be completed by the end of the financial year and at July 2016 589 had been completed (38.9%). 94.6% of internal works had been completed and will continue to be picked up as and when properties become void or tenants who had refused WHQS internal works previously or those who have changed their mind.



The 2016 Let's Talk survey asked respondents about the quality of their homes. Of the 755 respondents who answered this question on satisfaction with the quality of homes, the highest proportion, 373 (49.4%), answered that they were "very satisfied" with the quality of their homes. 305, (40.4%) respondents answered that they were "fairly satisfied" with the quality of their homes. In contrast, only 48 (6.5%) of respondents answered that they were "fairly dissatisfied" and 25 (3.3%) that they were "very dissatisfied" with the quality of their homes.

When this data is disaggregated by housing tenure there is little discrepancy, whether "owned outright" or "Rented from a housing association" the majority of households in the Vale of Glamorgan are either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the quality of their homes.





	The Vale of Glamorgan
FY 2010-11	66
FY 2011-12	84
FY 2012-13	77
FY 2013-14	82
FY 2014-15	41

Source: Welsh Government (WG)

## Energy Efficiency

Wales is not immune from the effects of climate change and must play its part in tackling it. Housing is a significant source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but many other elements of housing can impact on the environment, including the materials used to build homes and the transport involved.

New housing stock is developed to specific energy efficiency standards; market housing is required to meet Building Regulations and level 3 of the Code for Sustainable homes. New affordable housing is expected to be constructed to Welsh Quality Housing Standard as a minimum and include measures for managing the reduction of energy use through construction and occupation.

Existing older housing stock is more likely to experience poor energy efficiency; in the Vale of Glamorgan 12.3% of the existing housing stock is considered to be unfit or be in disrepair, which is a significant contributor to poor energy efficiency. 19% of properties in the Vale of Glamorgan have a 'poor' energy rating (SAP under 39 Band F&G) and 57% of unfit properties experience a category 1 hazard for excess cold. Excess cold is predominantly with older harder to heat dwellings. Poor energy efficiency and excess cold contribute to fuel poverty; fuel poverty is when a household spends 10% or more of their income on energy costs. 33.3% of households in the Vale of Glamorgan are at risk of fuel poverty and they are often the most vulnerable people in our communities.

There has been significant investment to improve the energy efficiency of the private housing stock. The approaches taken by the Council to improve the energy efficiency of housing stock are detailed in the Private Sector Renewal Policy 2014 and include:

- Area renewal
- Energy Efficiency and Home Safety Grants
- Energy efficiency assistance, including facilitating the delivery of the Green Deal, the Health Through Warmth scheme, Carbon Emission Reduction Target funding, ARBED and NEST

### Housing Needs

The 2014 Public Opinion Survey showed that almost 9 in 10 residents said that their home currently met the requirements of themselves and their family (89%), with less than 1 in 5 saying they planned to move home in the next 3 years (18%).

Of those who planned to move, the main reasons given were related to:

- Wanting to own a property
- Size of property – either smaller or larger / family home
- Moving area – different or close to work /family & friends

Residents were asked whether their housing needs were fulfilled within the community in which they live. A large majority of almost 8 in 10 (77%) stated that ‘yes’, they were *adequately housed and don’t intend to move*. A further 14% stated that there were *housing options available to meet their needs/aspirations of which they would be able to afford*. A small minority (4%) said they felt that there was *no suitable/affordable accommodation on offer in their community*.

It is important to recognise that different sectors of the community have different housing needs and these are outlined in the following sections.

### Older People

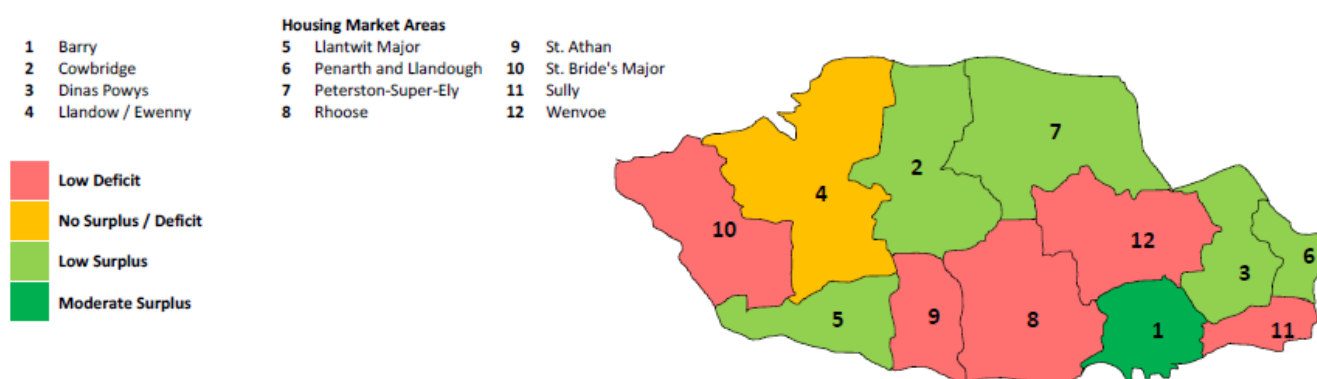
- 28% of older people say that they will need their home adapting as they get older
- 6% of older people say damp is a problem in their home
- 4% of older people say they do not keep their home adequately warm
- 33% of older people live in one room to reduce heating costs

The Welsh Government’s Future Trends Report states that, “current rates of house building are not keeping pace with growth in the number of households, and on current trends this gap will widen, contributing to further house price inflation in the long term. The growth of single person households poses an affordability challenge, in a market which has been

driven by dual income households. This is likely to result in pressure on the rented market, in particular on social renting for older people.”

The majority of households over the age of 65 in the Vale of Glamorgan are owner occupiers (82%) or living in social housing (11.9%), a minority of people aged over 65 live in the private rented sector (4.1%). Most older people live in ‘ordinary’ accommodation, a minority live in ‘specialist forms of housing such as sheltered housing, retirement housing or age exclusive housing available to older people.

‘Ageing in place’ and remaining at home are often stated as being the best solution for remaining independent and whilst many people will wish to remain at home, there are also factors which motivate an older person to move home, for example; moving to a more manageable, smaller or supported property may improve a person’s ability to live independently. There is a need to develop advice services to assist older people to proactively plan for their future housing needs.



There is an annual surplus of older person’s social rented accommodation per annum across the Vale of Glamorgan which has impacted directly on the headline affordable housing need figure. This essentially means that there are more let’s being made to older person’s accommodation per annum than there are households on the waiting list in need of such accommodation.

There are moderate and low surpluses of older person’s accommodation in Barry, Penarth and Llandough, Dinas Powys, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major as shown in the map above. These areas are also the locations of the majority of the sheltered housing accommodation available. Where there are existing sheltered schemes and evidence of small levels of housing need, the demand is unlikely to be large enough to justify construction of new older

person's accommodation. Instead, this could point to the need for refurbishment or rebranding of existing schemes.

Whilst there is an overall surplus of older persons accommodation, a number of areas; Rhose St Athan, St Brides Major, Sully and Wenvoe, exhibit small deficits. These are also the areas which have low levels of general need social rented accommodation.

Sheltered housing and ExtraCare are the only tailored options available to older persons within the Vale of Glamorgan in the social rented sector and access to the ExtraCare is unlikely to be widely available due to the need to prioritise applicants with care needs. This presents a lack of options for older persons.

Privately developed older persons accommodation may help to enhance choice for older people who are able to afford these options.

There is currently a limited supply of older person's specialist housing available to privately rent or own, especially considering the percentage of older people who rent privately or own their own home. This shortfall is reflected in the profile of older people who apply for social housing; over 50% of Homes4U applicants over the age of 50 do not currently live in the social rented sector and 15% are homeowners.

#### **Specialist Older Persons Housing: Golau Caredig ExtraCare Scheme, Barry developed by Hafod Housing Association**

The need for an ExtraCare housing scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan was identified as a key priority by Supporting People to meet the housing and support needs of older people aged 55 and over. ExtraCare housing includes self-contained properties with different levels of care and support available on site.

Hafod Housing Association, in partnership with the Council and with funding from the Welsh Government developed the Golau Caredig ExtraCare scheme in Barry. The development includes;

- 42 self-contained one and two bedroom flats, a roof top dining room, communal areas, a hairdressers and community café.
- Care services are available onsite and a support service is available to residents and older people in the community.

On the site of the former Theatre Royal, construction began in 2011 and residents began to move in in September 2014. Allocations to properties were considered by a Project Group made up of Housing and Social Services; a balanced community was achieved by ensuring a mix of residents based on their, support and care needs of residents.



### **Younger People**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation examined what the housing system will be like for young people in 2020, this included analysis of the options for owner occupation on a national

basis. In 2008 young people were found to generally enter home ownership in one of the following pathways:

1. Remain in the family home into their early 30's in order to save to pay the deposit on a mortgage.
2. Leave home and enter shared accommodation in the private rented sector before forming a couple and entering owner-occupation.
3. Family formation and home ownership before the age of 30.

However, the option to move into home ownership now and in the future is changing. Recent economic, social and political change has resulted in greater uncertainty in the housing options of young people in the UK. The recession has highlighted challenges such as high youth unemployment and a lack of available credit.

In 2020 young people are likely to stay at home for longer and parents will play an important role in facilitating access to owner-occupation. The number of young people nationally owning their own properties in 2020 is expected to decrease by around 1.1 million, from 2.4 to 1.3 million in 2020. The number of young people living with parents in owner-occupied accommodation will increase by approximately 550,000 to 3.7 million in 2020.

Although this is a national picture, the experience of young people trying to become first time buyers in the Vale of Glamorgan is likely to follow a similar trend.

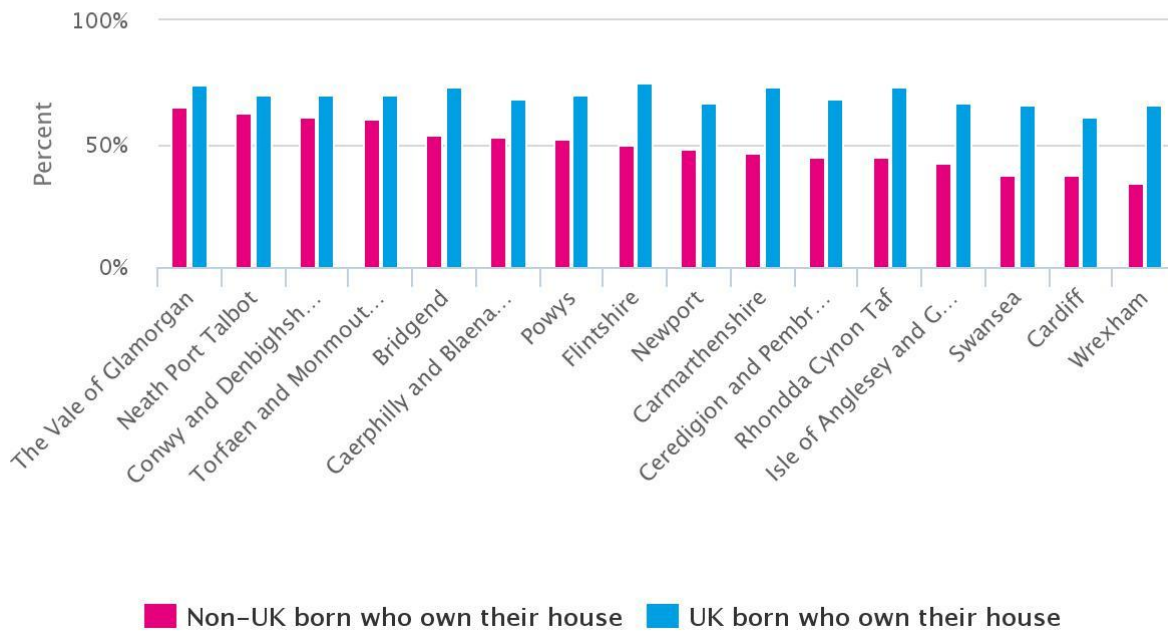
### **Migrants**

The Welsh Refugee Council Migration Trends Report showed that home ownership among migrants in Wales varied by local area in 2011. In Cardiff, Swansea, and Wrexham, 34% to 37% of non-UK born residents owned their house either outright or with a mortgage. In the Vale of Glamorgan and Neath Port Talbot, it was 63% to 65%.

In the Vale 65% non UK born owned their own home, compared to 74% UK born

## Home Ownership

Home ownership by local area and non-UK born/UK born (2011 Census)



## Gypsy Travellers

The definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' within section 108 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.is:

“Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:

persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and

members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and

all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.”

Based upon the evidence presented in the Vale’s Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment study, the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in the Vale of Glamorgan for the 5 years of the GTAA and for the next 5 years of the Development Plan period is for 2 additional pitches, and for the remainder of the Development Plan period to 2026 is for a further 18 additional pitches. This gives a total need for the whole Development Plan period of 20 additional pitches. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area.

There is no additional need for the Vale of Glamorgan to consider for Travelling Showpeople.

Other findings from the study include:

- There are no Gypsy and Traveller households aged 65 and over, and that all Gypsy and Irish Traveller households are families.
- A significantly lower proportion of Gypsies or Irish Travellers are living in detached properties and a much higher proportion living in flats, maisonettes or apartments, or mobile/temporary accommodation (or potentially on Traveller sites).
- There is a lower proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households that are owned outright, higher proportion owned with a mortgage or through shared ownership, and none living in private rented accommodation.

Another source of published information on the Gypsy and Traveller population is the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in Wales on a specific date in January and July of each year, and reported to Welsh Government. This is a physical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across Wales.

As this count is of caravans *and not* households, it makes it very difficult to interpret and use for a study such as this because it does not count pitches, resident households or household demographics. The count is merely a ‘snapshot in time’ conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates are not recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. The count also does not seek to determine the ethnic status of the occupiers of caravans.

However the data captured in the Caravan Count does give an indication of the number of sites, and authorised and unauthorised caravans in each local authority, and can be useful in supporting the determination of any transit needs, and identifying year on year trends to support an assessment of need.

Between 2006 and 2015 there has been a gradual increase in the number of unauthorised caravans in the Vale. The vast majority of these in recent years have been those located on the now tolerated unauthorised site in Sully.

In the Vale of Glamorgan there are no public sites – although the previous GTAA did identify a need for this type of provision. There are 2 small private sites both with a single pitch.

There are currently 2 unauthorised sites, both of which are located on land owned by the Council. One is a small family site in Llangan that has been occupied for over 20 years, and the other is a large site off Hayes Road, Sully, occupied by a mixture of New Age Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. At the time of drafting the Council was writing to the occupiers of the Hayes Road site to provide them with the assurance that no planning enforcement action will be pursued against the site within the subsequent 5 year period from the date of the letter.

### **Victims of Domestic Violence**

The Sanctuary Scheme, a target hardening project, firmly supports the principles of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. Target hardening aims to strengthen home security for domestic violence victims through the installation of additional safety features.

It is offered to those who are receiving some form of support from Atal Y Fro, Supporting People, FACT or South Wales Police as part of a support plan. The scheme reduces the reliance on the more costly and scant resource of refuge accommodation or second stage housing i.e. an intermediate housing option used as step down accommodation from a refuge or for those families wanting more independence prior to securing a more permanent housing option.

Local statistics reveal that victims of domestic abuse are often women from a family environment. For example the number of women who have been in refuge or 'second stage' with Atal Y Fro support in 2014/15 is 68, with a further 69 children accompanying them.

Overall, target hardening measures reduce repeat victimisation and also increase women's confidence and sense of safety. It is important that target hardening measures are offered within a wider framework of support and alongside regular risk assessments.

Refuge and second stage accommodation can be very unsettling for a family. Waiting times for local refuges and second stage housing are often too long and victims may need to be placed in a refuge some distance from family and friends. This can increase social isolation for the victim and their family with children being forced to leave their current school. Research suggests that the best possible outcome for victims of domestic abuse and their families is to stay in their own home.

### **LGBT Community**

The Local Housing Strategy recognises that LGBT people may be at risk of instable housing due to experiencing issues such as harassment from neighbours. It is also recognised that they may experience issues in terms of acceptance from Landlords when making tenancy applications in the private sector.



The Rainbow Mark is an equality mark sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government and supported by the Welsh Local Government Association and Tai Pawb – a signifier of good practice, commitment and knowledge of the specific needs, issues and barriers facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wales.

In order to gain a Rainbow Mark, the LGBT Excellence Centre provide assessment criteria to work from and on-going guidance and advice to help collect evidence and develop good practice, including support services (where required) with rewording forms, policies and procedures.

By achieving the Rainbow Mark the Vale of Glamorgan Council will demonstrate that it is:

- Working in line with statutory requirements and promoting best practice in engaging with the LGBT community.
- Identifying and addressing the difficulties the Council might face in addressing the needs of the LGBT community;
- Making services accessible to the LGBT community;
- Raising awareness among staff with regard to the particular issues that affect LGBT people in housing need;
- Beginning to monitor services in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Raising awareness of particular issues in addressing the needs of LGBT people through good management practice;
- Benefiting from existing models of effective working practice and development of our own;
- Identifying innovative new ways of working to meet the needs of LGBT people;
- Fully aware of all legislative frameworks which impact on service delivery;
- Reviewing existing policies and procedures on a regular basis so that they are in line with statutory requirements and promote best practice

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Public Sector Housing department is currently working towards achieving the Rainbow Mark.

### **Rural Areas**

On average rural house prices are 40% higher than urban areas and whilst household earnings are also higher, many households are still unable to afford a home of their own on the open market. As a result in the rural Vale, households with children are most likely to be in housing need, in contrast to the urban Vale where the households most likely to be in housing need are pensioners and lone parents.

Households that are unable to afford market housing in the rural Vale could move to more affordable areas, however there are also benefits to enabling people who grew up, work in and contribute to rural communities to remain part of these communities:

People working in rural areas often have to move away to find a family home. As they have to commute back to the area for work, the next generation of children grow up away from their roots and heritage.

People commuting from urban to rural areas for work is also less sustainable than and convenient to employers than people living locally.

Communities are affected as they no longer retain younger people and young families. Schools may be threatened with closure, services may be withdrawn, businesses may close, and employers may have difficulty finding reliable long term workers.

Enabling people to remain or return to living where they grew up, where they have family and a connection too enables communities to support each other by providing care, support and childcare to family members

However there are obstacles to developing new housing in the rural Vale: lack of understanding, funding, land availability and land suitability. The key is building just enough new homes to meet local need and not concreting over the rural Vale.

The council has an Affordable Housing Enabler who works in partnership with rural Community Councils, and residents to raise awareness of housing issues and developments.

When considering applications for low cost home ownership schemes, priority is given to those with a local connection to the area.

In order to provide advice and assistance, the Council are able to provide roadshow style advice surgeries with residents being able to request these to visit their area.

### **Residents impacted by Welfare Reforms**

Much of the need for affordable housing consists of smaller one and two bedroom units for social rent across many parts the Vale of Glamorgan. There can sometimes be a misconception that this need has merely been created by the removal of the Spare Room Subsidy and that delivery of such units is a short term, reactive response to this policy change. However, in reality, this need reflects societal trends in household composition and the high prevalence of single person households and households comprising of couples with no children. It is thus paramount that smaller units are prioritised for delivery in an affordable housing context.

However there has been a range of implications arising from welfare reforms as outlined below.

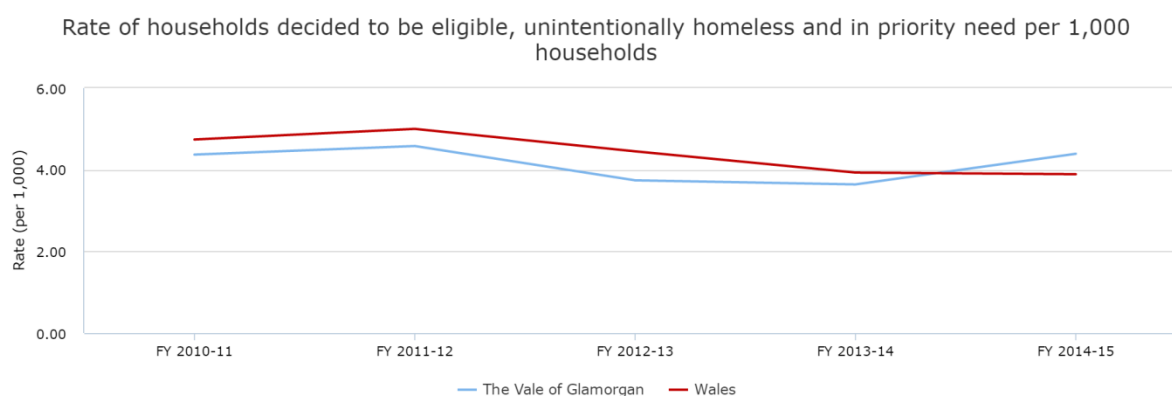
Impact on Tenants	Impact on Social Landlords
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The introduction of the household benefit cap and the bedroom tax will result in many households seeing a reduction in their income.</li> <li>▪ Households may need support to budget effectively.</li> <li>▪ Tenants who choose to remain in their home may struggle financially.</li> <li>▪ Moving to a smaller home may be difficult or impossible due to the shortage of smaller homes.</li> <li>▪ Under Universal Credit households will receive one single monthly payment which may be more difficult to manage.</li> <li>▪ Direct rent payments to landlords, which gave many tenants reassurance, will be removed. There is likely to be a need to increase the training available in financial and digital inclusion.</li> <li>▪ Universal Credit will be administered online by the DWP, reducing the availability of face to face advice and assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Universal Credit pilot areas landlords have seen significant increases in rent arrears<sup>10</sup>.</li> <li>▪ Landlords received around 50% of their rental income from direct payments, providing a guaranteed element of income to fund essential services<sup>11</sup>. Direct payments will be removed, putting income at risk.</li> <li>▪ Maintaining core business (collecting rent, arrears) will be increasingly important.</li> <li>▪ Providing additional services to support tenants<sup>12</sup> will increase landlord costs.</li> <li>▪ Landlords are likely to see an increase in demand for smaller properties from new and existing tenants in order to downsize<sup>13</sup>.</li> <li>▪ Conversely it may also make some properties hard to let, increasing void times and loss of rent.</li> <li>▪ Landlords may need to consider the use of their stock, reconfiguration and changing allocations policies.</li> </ul>

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the number of households affected by the spare room subsidy has been steadily decreasing since the reforms were first introduced. However a data gap exists in terms of capturing the reasons for households no longer being affected by the subsidy – whether this is due to households moving to smaller properties or whether for instance they have found employment and no longer claim housing benefit.

## Homelessness

Some households will experience homelessness. Rough sleeping is a very visible form of homelessness, however homelessness does not mean living on the streets and many people's experiences of homelessness are out of view. Homelessness applies to those who, for many different reasons, suddenly lose their home or are forced out of their home through personal or domestic circumstances and 'hidden homelessness' can refer to people who have no choice but to share their family or friend's accommodation, which is often unsuitable and unsustainable.

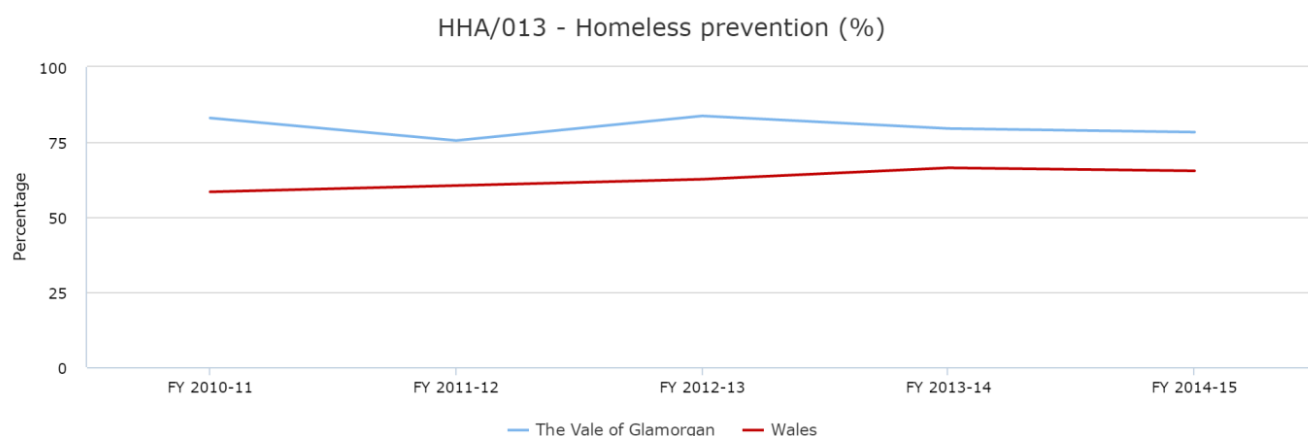
There will always be instances of homelessness which result from crises such as fire or flood, but more commonly, structural factors, such as the housing market and poverty affect the ability of individuals to avoid homelessness and to find their own solutions. Homelessness is also often linked to some other aspect of personal crisis.



	The Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
FY 2010-11	4.37	4.74
FY 2011-12	4.58	5.00
FY 2012-13	3.74	4.45
FY 2013-14	3.64	3.93
FY 2014-15	4.39	3.89

Source: Welsh Government (WG)

The rate of households decided to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need has increased in the Vale of Glamorgan in recent years as opposed to the decreasing national trend.



	The Vale of Glamorgan	Wales
FY 2010-11	83.0	58.4
FY 2011-12	75.5	60.5
FY 2012-13	83.7	62.6
FY 2013-14	79.5	66.4
FY 2014-15	78.3	65.4

Source: Welsh Government (WG)

However the Vale of Glamorgan has a higher than average percentage of cases where homelessness has been prevented. In 2015/16, there were 200 cases where positive action succeeded in preventing or relieving homelessness, the most common being housing the client in social or private housing, or them being able to remain in existing home for a variety of reasons.

There is a lack of data around ethnic origin of those presenting as homeless

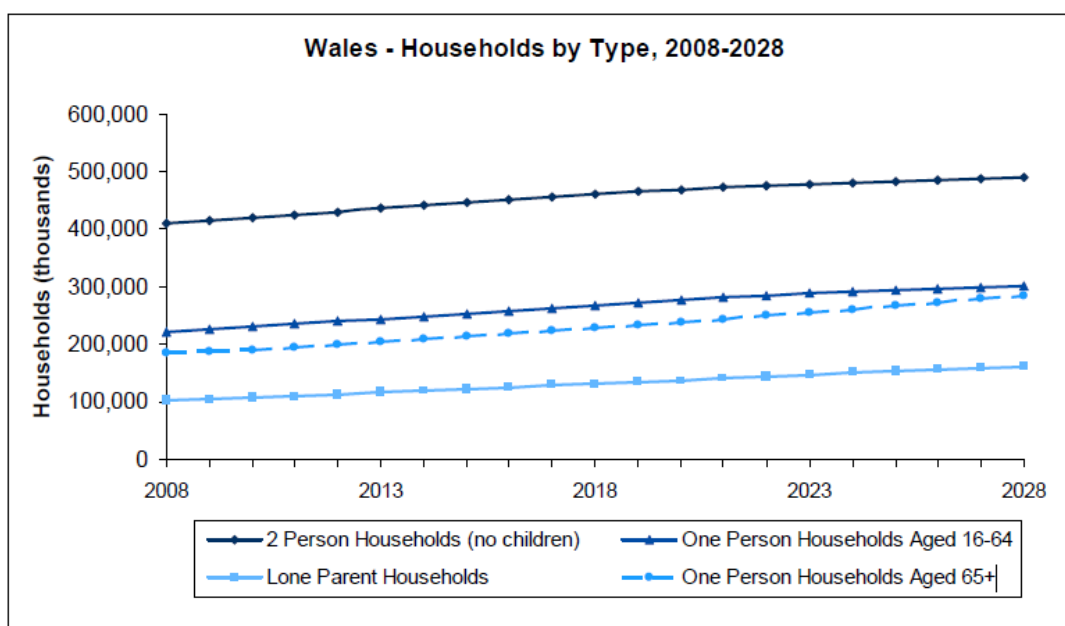
There is also a lack of data around rough sleepers, with the estimate of 82 across the whole of Wales likely to be inaccurate.

## Future Needs

The Welsh Government Understanding Wales' Future Report identifies that the number of households in Wales is growing.

### The number of households in Wales will grow significantly, particularly single person households

#### Household type projections



Source: Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government, 2007

B.3

This is also the case at a local level where current rates of house building are not keeping pace with the growth in the number of households, and on current trends this gap will widen, contributing to further house price inflation in the long term.

- The growth of single person households poses an affordability challenge, in a market which has been driven by dual income households.
- This is likely to result in pressure on the rented market, in particular on social renting for older people.
- Levels of insulation need to increase greatly in all sectors of housing. Owner-occupiers will need to bear the cost in privately owned houses but there is also much more to do in social housing.

In assessing the housing market as a whole, the 2015 LHMA calculates the net need for affordable housing, including social rented housing and intermediate housing products, over the next five years. The headline annual net need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan is 559 units per annum, comprising:

- 331 units of social rented accommodation and
- 228 units of intermediate housing.

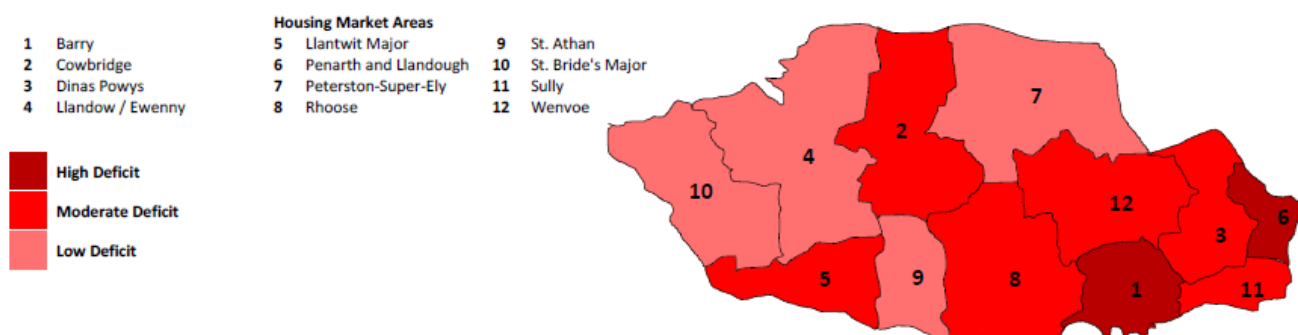
The intermediate housing required across the county is 50% low cost home ownership and 50% intermediate rented accommodation.

It is important to consider that the need for social rented accommodation is masked by accommodation which is either considered to be surplus or has a relatively high turnover rate, due to the nature of the LHMA calculation. Consequently, even if the headline net social housing need of 331 units was delivered every year in the Vale of Glamorgan, this would by no means meet the actual need present in many of the housing market areas.

The LHMA will inform the Local Development Plan and provide evidence for the need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan. Operationally, it also provides a tool to negotiate affordable housing provision on planning applications, allocate Social Housing Grant and inform strategic housing priorities at the local level.

Future need varies across the county as explained below.

**Figure 91 - Net Need for General Need Housing - Social Rented**



The need for general needs social rented accommodation is highest in the Barry and Penarth and Llandough housing market areas, followed by the urban settlements along the south of the county boundary. There are also pockets of moderate need in the rural north; especially around principal settlements. What is most notable is that all areas demonstrate a deficit of general needs social housing of some level.

In terms of the properties needed, the most significant trend is the considerable net need for smaller units, one and two bedroom properties, across all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. Some parts of the Vale have elements of surplus of general needs social rented accommodation of certain sizes, most significantly two bedroom accommodation in Barry and three bedroom accommodation in Barry, Llantwit Major and Penarth and Llandough. Put succinctly, there is an oversupply of three bedroom properties and a distinct lack of smaller properties across the local authority area.

The net need for intermediate housing is 228 units per year in the Vale of Glamorgan, of which there is a need for 114.36 units of Low Cost Home Ownership and 113.19 of intermediate rented accommodation.

The demand for 114.36 units of LCHO per annum is greatest amongst the newly arising need which represents new households who are unable to afford to buy a property on the open market, but could afford to purchase a subsidised property. This reflects the growing difficulties that first time buyers face in accessing a mortgage on the open market; due to higher deposits and tighter lending criteria. Demand for LCHO products is highest in the Barry and Penarth and Llandough housing market areas. As one would perhaps expect, given that these are the largest towns in the Vale of Glamorgan. All housing market areas on the Vale of Glamorgan have a net need for LCHO properties, except Wenvoe which has a small surplus.

In addition to the need for LCHO there is an almost identical need for 113.19 units per annum for intermediate rent which has been identified; particularly in the Barry, Penarth and Llandough housing market areas.

Actual implementation of an intermediate rent model in the current market is however hampered by the significant gap between Local Housing Allowance and lower private rent levels in many areas.

The net need for adapted and accessible social rented accommodation is 0.27 units per year in the Vale of Glamorgan. This includes the need for level access properties with minor adaptations and those with acute needs which are most likely to require a purpose built adapted property. Therefore, whilst the net annual need for adapted accommodation



appears small, the needs of such households are in many cases so acute that they will not be met by the existing housing stock turning over. Whilst no particular 'hot spots' of adapted housing need were identified in any particular part of the county, there is a need for some form of adapted accommodation in most of the housing market areas.

It should be acknowledged that the majority of purpose built accommodation will be built by social landlords and not by market developers. This is due to the space requirements needed for these properties and also the relatively high cost of developing such accommodation. Securing new accessible and adapted social rented accommodation is likely to be through the development of suitably adapted ground floor accommodation. In addition, on affordable housing developments led by social landlords, efforts are made to include a minimum of two accessible homes to meet the needs of a household with higher needs.

## **Being Part of Safe and Inclusive Communities – A Summary**

Findings of our engagement campaign showed that people were generally very positive about life in the Vale and feel they have strong networks of friends and neighbours to rely on. In general people are engaged in community life although those in the most deprived areas, who it can be suggested we need to engage with more, were less likely to participate with lower levels of volunteering and voter turn out rates in these areas. People in the Vale were also less likely to agree that people from different backgrounds got on well together than the average across Wales. Hate crime incidents have steadily increased and the further impact on community cohesion from events such as the EU referendum result and resettlement of Syrian refugees are as yet unknown.

Communities no longer exist only geographically but digitally and we need to consider new ways of reaching these communities to ensure we engage with all sectors of our society to increase our evidence base. New innovative methods will also help avoid consultation fatigue.

Low crime rates were seen as a positive aspect of life in the Vale although area differences can be observed with higher crime rates in more deprived areas. Although many areas of the Vale experience low crime rates, the effects when incidents do occur on the well-being of those in the area cannot be underestimated.

Members of the PSB were concerned with the affordability of housing and the need to ensure local people, especially young people, are not priced out of the communities within which they grew up. They recognised the potential of unsatisfactory/ overcrowded housing on a range of factors such as health and educational attainment.

The PSB has identified that the key question to reflect on is what will communities look like in the future and how do we act now to ensure they are resilient?