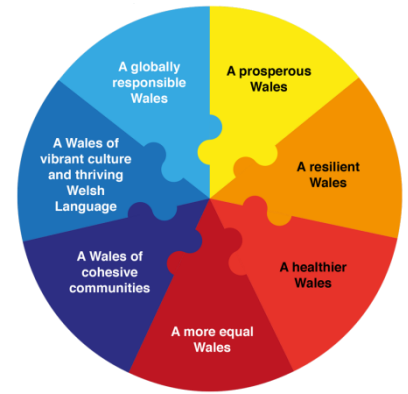


# Tackling Inequalities

- linked to deprivation, focusing on a range of issues which are more acute in some of our more deprived communities.

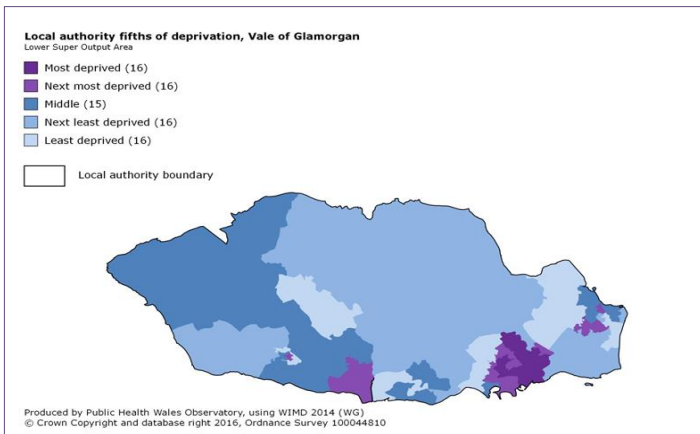
## Why is this an area of focus for the PSB?

When the evidence presented within the Vale's well-being assessment is considered at a local authority level, it can be considered that the Vale of Glamorgan and its residents have a good level of social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being. Overall the Vale of Glamorgan is comparatively wealthy and many residents enjoy a high standard of living in a safe and attractive environment. However, there are areas in the Vale of Glamorgan which suffer from significant disadvantage, including high unemployment, reduced healthy life expectancy, low educational achievement and higher levels of crime. Across these various different factors it is consistently the same areas of the Vale, particularly in the eastern area of Barry, that suffer. In order to achieve the national well-being goals for Wales it is important to reduce the inequalities that exist between our communities. The focus of the PSB's work for the 2014-18 period has been on tackling poverty and findings of the assessment have emphasised that this is still an area which needs addressing in the Vale of Glamorgan.



To help determine the areas of focus for the PSB we have considered the well-being assessment in detail at a number of PSB workshops, consulted on the four areas and undertaken a prioritisation matrix exercise. The exercise was undertaken to consider the findings of the assessment both in terms of the data/ research indicating a need and what our residents told us, alongside how tackling the issue would contribute towards achieving the well-being goals, whether there was a significant policy driver around the issue and whether the issue was one that required a collaborative approach from the PSB. The issue of life expectancy scored highly through the exercise in addition to other issues where large inequalities exist in the Vale such as skills, employment and healthy behaviours.

## Findings from the assessment

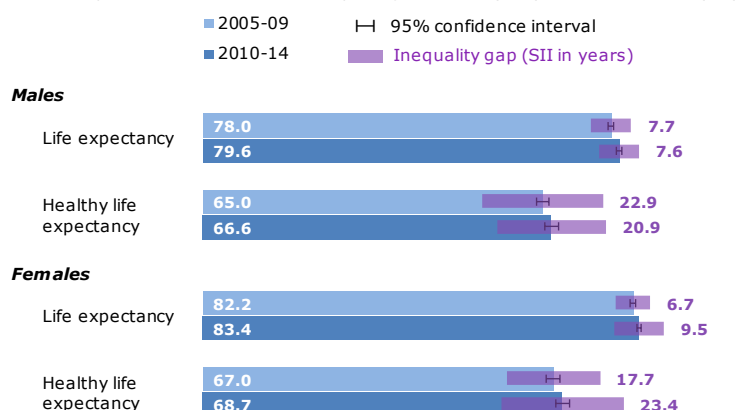


As shown the most deprived areas in the Vale of Glamorgan are found in the eastern area of Barry, there are also pockets of deprivation in areas of Penarth and St. Athan. It is important to remember that not all households in these areas will be in deprivation and not all people who are living in deprivation are found in these same areas.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are influenced by wide range of factors and the assessment showed that inequalities exist in the Vale not only linked to healthy lifestyles but across a wide range of indicators that impact upon life expectancy and an individual's well-being.

### Comparison of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth, with Slope Index of Inequality (SII), Vale of Glamorgan, 2005-09 and 2010-14

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using PHM & MYE (ONS), WHS & WIMD 2014 (WG)



The inequality gap in healthy life expectancy is a cause for concern for the PSB with the Vale having the largest inequality gap in Wales for healthy life expectancy for females. Areas with the lowest healthy life expectancy correlate to those that are most deprived as identified through WIMD 2014 and are predominantly located in areas within the eastern part of Barry such as Gibbonsdown, Castleland and Buttrills. These areas also have higher levels of obesity, higher smoking levels and higher alcohol-specific mortality rates.

- There are **higher crime rates** in more deprived areas. 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 – all are located in Barry
- Those in the most deprived areas are less likely to volunteer and **voter turn out** rates are lowest in these areas
- There are clear areas in the Eastern part of Barry where **educational attainment is lower** and this can be linked to lower incomes and levels of employment.
- **Levels of smoking** are far higher in the East of Barry than other areas of the Vale.
- The more deprived LSOAs around Barry display a higher number of adults who are **overweight or obese**. This is also true for children.
- The Vale has a lower than average percentage of **households that are overcrowded**, however areas in the east of Barry show the highest rates of overcrowded households and are more than double the Welsh average in some LSOAs.
- Median **household incomes** in Barry are significantly lower than areas of the Eastern and Western Vale.
- Across Wales 17% of the population are experiencing **income deprivation** compared to 14% in the Vale. At LSOA level Dinas Powys 1 had the lowest percentage experiencing income deprivation (4%), compared to Gibbonsdown 2 with the highest at 41% - more than double the Wales figure.
- The highest percentages of working age **people claiming JSA** can be found in Barry and in St. Athan in the Western Vale.
- **Air emission scores** are much higher in the south and east of the county, including Barry, where population densities, traffic volumes and proximity to heavy industry are higher than in the more rural areas of the county. Higher levels of emissions within deprived areas can exacerbate already high levels of health inequality by increasing levels of respiratory disease and other illnesses.

### Example links to our other areas of focus

- A high quality **environment** can help improve mental well-being in deprived areas and encourage people to spend time outdoors and be physically active.
- Giving all children a **good start in life** in the early years is fundamental to ensure they have the best opportunities to prevent poverty.
- Ensuring we **engage** with those in deprived areas who are traditionally harder to reach can ensure people have access to the services they need and we respond to the needs of these communities

### What our self-assessment told us?

PSB partners are undertaking a self-assessment exercise to consider each organisation's current position against each of the four areas of focus with regards to policy, leadership, activities, resources and impact. The aim is to help identify where we can work together more effectively, learn from best practice and identify where gaps and duplication may exist. The assessment can also be used as a baseline assessment to monitor progress during the course of the Well-being Plan alongside other performance management arrangements. For the tackling inequalities theme it was recognised that there is a range of activity taking place focused on deprived communities. However it was found that there is a lack of strategic overview with tackling inequality not necessarily forming a key driver in decision making. Low scores were also given for impact and monitoring with performance frameworks mainly focusing on individual service performance monitoring rather than population outcomes.