



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council



# Annual Performance Report 2016/17



## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

This document is a summary performance report on the priority areas in the Corporate Plan during the 2016/17 financial year.

We welcome your thoughts on this report and the work of the Local Authority. For more information on how to get involved in consultation and engagement activities, including how you can get involved in suggesting priority areas in future years please contact us.

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### Annual Improvement Report

Our Annual Performance Report is a statutory document we publish to communicate our self-evaluation of delivery against the priority areas. The intention of this document is to provide an overall assessment of council performance during the year.

This report is organised in the following sections:

- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [External Regulation](#)
- [National Strategic Indicators](#)<sup>1</sup>

The summary evaluations are supported by additional evidence and information that can be found in the associated background papers (appendices) that are available for [download](#).

### Corporate Plan

- The Corporate Plan sets out the main priorities for the Council from 2013 to 2017. This means that our Councillors have a clear set of corporate priorities to guide their decision making and the Council has a clear plan to understand if it is succeeding over the four years.

### External Regulation

- Our work is scrutinised by external regulators to ensure that we use public money effectively to deliver benefits to our communities. This is a summary of latest published audit and inspection reports.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Strategic Indicator data collection has been discontinued. This followed a decision by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to revoke the Local Government (Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2012. The Welsh Local Government Association will continue to collect the data from local authorities on a voluntary basis, co-ordinated by the Data Unit Wales and published on [MyLocalCouncil](#).

## Revenue Budget

The Council sets a revenue budget each year. This revenue budget covers the costs of the services the Council provides, and is paid for by service users, Welsh Government Grants, Council Tax and Business Rate payers. For 2016/17, the Council's revenue budget was £114.245 million.

In 2010/11, in order to meet the reduced budget settlements forecast as part of the UK Government spending cuts to address the national debt, we began the process of identifying where we could make financial savings.

## Medium Term Financial Plan

The Medium Term Financial Plan was revised in 2016/17 to take account of reductions to the monies received from the Welsh Government. The council set its Medium Term Financial Plan to achieve the savings established in the Settlement.

The provisional revenue outturn for 2016/17 was reported to Cabinet in July 2017. The published report can be read by following the link [Cabinet Report](#).

**Table 1 the provisional revenue outturn for 2016/17 by main service area**

Revenue Outturn	£ '000
Learning	£ 43,015
Social Services	£ 28,174
Community Regeneration	£ 3,529
Neighbourhood Services	£ 10,172
Leisure Trust	£ 2,434
<i>All other Council Services</i>	<i>£ 26,921</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 114,245</b>

In June 2013, Council agreed its Corporate Plan for 2013 to 2017. The Corporate Plan set out the Council's corporate priorities and each year Council published an annual update, which was the Annual Delivery Document.

Looking backwards, we review the Annual Delivery Document and summarises how successful Council has been delivering their corporate priorities. This report will be our final Annual Performance Report for the Corporate Plan 2013 to 2017. Looking forwards, we have set out our future ambitions for wellbeing in our Statement of Wellbeing 2017 to 2022.

### **Raising Standards**

Over the period of the Corporate Plan we have had some significant improvements in the education attainment of pupils, with notable improvements in the key national indicator (the level 2 threshold including English or Welsh and mathematics). This has been helped by our approach to building capacity in schools and enabling schools to take responsibility and accountability for driving on school improvement is proving successful in raising standards.

### **Improving Wellbeing**

Over the period of the Corporate Plan the rates of children who receive social services from the Local Authority have steadily reduced in Merthyr Tydfil. This is particularly evident with improvements to children who are in the care of the Local Authority. However, we have seen a steady decline in the number of visits to sport and leisure centres, which is now below the Wales average.

### **Economic Growth**

There continued to be positive improvement within the business demography of Merthyr Tydfil, with high business births ensuring a net gain to business numbers is greater than the previous year leading to an increase in active enterprises. However, many key economic indicators remain stubbornly below the Wales average.

### **Developing a Sustainable Environment**

Waste management was a significant challenge for the Local Authority. We sent too much waste to landfill and did not reuse, recycle or compost enough of the waste produced. However, over the period of the Corporate Plan we reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 5 percent. We are extremely proud of the progress made by our residents recycling their waste, who have achieved their highest ever recycling rates.

**Gareth Chapman**  
**Chief Executive**



### Our Shared Vision

To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil's position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys, and be a place to be proud of, where:

- People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions
- People live, work, have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life
- People visit, enjoy and return

### Defining Success for 2017

The Chief Executive identified his personal aspirations for 2017, for the Local Authority to be one that is top performing, sustainable and with a good reputation for securing improvements. To determine if we are a top performing Council, we will evaluate improvements made in our priorities and identify if we are in the top half of key performance outcomes across Wales.

### Our Priorities

The summary for the delivery of the priority areas in the Corporate Plan during 2016/17 is highlighted in table 2, and includes the aggregate judgements using the published data and our self-evaluation of the projects undertaken.

**Table 2 the priority areas identified for Merthyr Tydfil**

	Judgement
<p>RAISING STANDARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 1 – Raising Standards of Attainment</a></li> </ul>	Adequate
<p>IMPROVING WELLBEING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 2 – Promoting Independence</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 3 – Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 4 – Active Lifestyles</a></li> </ul>	Adequate Adequate Adequate
<p>ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 5 – Economic Development</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 6 – Employability</a></li> </ul>	Adequate Adequate
<p>DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Priority Area 7 – A Sustainable Environment</a></li> </ul>	Good



## Self-Evaluation: Overall Summary

The overall position for the delivery of the corporate priorities in the Corporate Plan is **ADEQUATE**, where strengths outweighed areas for improvement. Of the seven corporate priorities, six have been judged as adequate and one as good.

### Key Messages

- The Local Authority's approach to building capacity in schools is proving successful in raising standards. Standards in all key stages have improved consistently over four years; however, some outcomes at key stage 4 remain low when compared across Wales ([PRIORITY AREA 1](#)).
- There were significant changes to our social services data and information system from the implementation of the national Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). The WCCIS system went live in June. Improvements to the hospital discharge process became operational on one hospital site in April 2017 and the second hospital site in May 2017, which has enhanced access to packages of care out of hours and at weekends; access to specialist district nursing staff; and access to a specialist medication assessment and support ([PRIORITY AREA 2](#)).
- The rates of children who receive social services from the Local Authority have steadily reduced in Merthyr Tydfil. This is particularly evident with improvements to children who are in the care of the Local Authority. However, the rates remain high when compared across Wales ([PRIORITY AREA 3](#)).
- The Active Merthyr Tydfil Plan saw mixed results in terms of success. Programmes such as M Girls has been very successful, seeing the development of community and school based sessions to support the transition of young women into mainstream community physical activity opportunities. However, the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust has seen a steady decline in the number of visits to sport and leisure centres, which is now below the Wales average ([PRIORITY AREA 4](#)).
- There continued to be positive improvement within the business demography of Merthyr Tydfil, with high business births ensuring a net gain to business numbers is greater than the previous year leading to an increase in active enterprises. However, many key economic indicators remain stubbornly below the Wales average ([PRIORITY AREA 5](#)).
- The population data clearly depicts a deficit in post-education qualifications levels Merthyr Tydfil. The direct impact the Local Authority can have is limited because of the numbers of people involved; however, the Local Authority is delivering a number of key European funded projects to have more direct action. These projects are seeing positive results with all European projects operational and engaging more people than anticipated. These projects should help some of those who are furthest from the labour market learn new skills and overcome some of the barriers they face ([PRIORITY AREA 6](#)).
- We continue to improve the recycling rates, with minimal amounts waste being sent to landfill. We have strengthened our response to fly-tipping and improved the effectiveness and timeliness of how we react to reported incidents. However, the cleanliness of our streets in Merthyr Tydfil remains an area of focus ([PRIORITY AREA 7](#)).

Chief Officer: Learning

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Dorothy Haines

Councillor Harvey Jones

Raising Standards

### Background

The Local Authority improvement objectives for 2013 to 2017 include the priority area Raising Standards of Attainment. This priority area seeks to prioritise effort within the wide range of activities to have a strategic focus on attainment.

The focus is on standards attained and achieved by learners. The early years are fundamental to a child's potential for learning and their future life chances. We want all children to be equipped with the skills they need to reach their academic potential, and contribute as responsible citizens to their own development and that of the wider community.

In schools, our priorities are to improve the quality of teaching and leadership, to drive improvement in standards of literacy and numeracy, and to reduce the impact of socio-economic deprivation on educational attainment.

**Outcome:** Children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil will reach their academic potential, and have the necessary skills to contribute as responsible citizens to their own development and that of the wider community

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

**ADEQUATE**

In Merthyr Tydfil (August 2016), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. Although standards in all key stages have improved consistently over four years, some outcomes at key stage 4 remain low (the Level 2 threshold inclusive<sup>2</sup> is 53.9 percent compared to the Welsh average of 60.3 percent and ranked 19<sup>th</sup>).

In addition, value added<sup>3</sup> from key stage 2 to key stage 4 is good overall but is not consistently good across all schools. The judgement for outcomes overall is no better than adequate because rates of attendance remain too low.

**Table 3**

[Performance Key](#)

Education indicators	
% of pupils who achieve the expected level in the Foundation Phase	88.1
% of pupils who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2	90.2
% of overall (half day sessions) pupil attendance in primary school	94.2
% of pupils who leave compulsory education without an approved qualification	0.17
% of pupils who achieve the L2 threshold (English/Welsh & maths)	53.9
% of FSM eligible pupils who achieve the L2 threshold (English/Welsh & maths)	41.2
% of pupils who achieve the level 2 threshold including vocational equivalents	84.5
The average capped points score	346
% of overall (half day sessions) pupil attendance in secondary school	93.4

**Table 4**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	
Basic Skills Strategy	Green
Level 2 Inclusive Strategy	Green
Improving outcomes for pupils working at the expected level +1	Green

For additional information see [Appendix 1](#)

<sup>2</sup> Equivalent to 5 GCSEs A\* - C including English/Welsh and mathematics.

<sup>3</sup> Value added is the measurement of the progress made by pupils between stages of education.

Chief Officer: Social Services

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Lisa Curtis-Jones

Councillor Linda Matthews

Improving Wellbeing

### Background

The Local Authority improvement objectives for 2013 to 2017 include the priority areas:

- Promoting Independence
- Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children
- Active Lifestyles

These priority areas seek to prioritise effort within the wide range of activities to have a strategic focus on enabling services, early intervention, prevention, and short-term services, which avoid and prevent the persistence of poor health outcomes from one generation to the next. This includes participation in physical activity and bridging the equalities gap to include disability, women and girls opportunities.

We have been working with families who are most in need to identify constructive solutions to the problems they face, so that the entire family unit can enjoy positive, meaningful lives and become resilient and independent.

**Outcome:** People in Merthyr Tydfil will be able to lead independent and fulfilled lives

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

**ADEQUATE**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. There were significant changes to our social services data and information system with the implementation of the national Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). These changes meant that most data is new, with some data unavailable or only available for a portion of the year.

The implementation of Information, Advice and Assistance services as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 has seen the DEWIS directory updated and the Council's website updated to reflect the new requirements.

Improvements to the hospital discharge process became operational on one hospital site in April 2017 and the second hospital site in May 2017, which has enhanced access to packages of care out of hours and at weekends; access to specialist district nursing staff; and access to a specialist medication assessment and support.

**Table 5**

[Performance Key](#)

Population indicators	
% of the adult population (aged 18 and over) who can live independently	-
% of the adult population (aged 18 and over) who cannot live independently	-
Rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons	<b>1.48<sup>4</sup></b>
Average age of adults entering residential care homes (years)	<b>82.7<sup>5</sup></b>
% of adults who have had the right information or advice when needed	<b>82.7<sup>5</sup></b>
% of adults who received IAA support and have not contacted the service again	<b>62.4<sup>4</sup></b>

**Table 6**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	
Review progress against the Implementation of the SSWB (Wales) Act 2014	<b>Good</b>
Retender Direct Payments Support Service	<b>Good</b>
Improve the Hospital Discharge Process	<b>Good</b>

For additional information see [Appendix 2](#)

<sup>4</sup> Data from April 2016 to September 2016

<sup>5</sup> Data from April 2016 to December 2016

**Outcome:** Vulnerable children in Merthyr Tydfil live healthy, safe and fulfilled lives

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. The latest published data shows that rates of children who receive social services from the Local Authority have steadily reduced in Merthyr Tydfil. This is particularly evident with improvements to children who are in the care of the Local Authority. However, the judgement for outcomes overall is no better than adequate because rates of children who receive social services remain high when compared across Wales. The Local Authority will continue to focus significant effort on resolving the underlying issues that generate the need for children to require care and support.

**Table 7**

[Performance Key](#)

Population indicators	
Rate of Children in Need	410
Rate of children on the Child Protection Register	82
Rate of children looked after by the local authority	113
% of children looked after with three or more placements during the year	13.4 <sup>6</sup>
% of re-registrations of children on local authority Child Protection Registers	0.00 <sup>6</sup>
% of children reporting they had the right information or advice when required	84.1 <sup>7</sup>
% of parents who report they felt involved in decisions about their child's care	69.4 <sup>7</sup>

**Table 8**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	
Improve practitioner tools for use when children are at risk of abuse or neglect	Green
Information, Advice and Assistance Service for children and their families	Green
Further develop and expand the Enhanced Children in Need (ECIN) Service	Green
Looked After Children Preventative Strategy	Amber

For additional information see [Appendix 3](#)

<sup>6</sup> The latest information for these indicators is only local and available up to December 2016.

<sup>7</sup> The survey ran from September 2016 to November 2016.

**Outcome:** People in Merthyr Tydfil to be physically active and as a result have improved health

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

**ADEQUATE**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. Although the Active Merthyr Tydfil Plan has been completed and has delivered what was set out in the document. During the year we saw mixed results in terms of success.

Programmes such as M Girls has been very successful this year, seeing the development of community based sessions in addition to the school based sessions support the transition of young women into main stream community physical activity opportunities.

However, the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust has seen a steady decline in the number of visits to sport and leisure centres, which is now below the Wales average. In addition, although comparably favourable, the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust failed to achieve most of its set targets against the Welsh Government Free Swimming Programme.

**Table 9**

[Performance Key](#)

Population indicators	
% of children (boys and girls) who are "Hooked on Sport"	Next survey 2019
% of adults (men and women) who are "Hooked on Sport"	Next Survey 2018
% of children (year 11) who can swim (Pass National Curriculum Swimming Test)	-
% of adults reported as being overweight or obese	<b>58.5</b>
Number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres per 1000 population	<b>8,137</b>
Rate of participations in free public swims by those aged 60 and over	<b>1,056</b>
Rate of participations in free public swims by those aged 16 and under	<b>375</b>

**Table 10**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	
Active Merthyr Tydfil Plan	<b>Yellow</b>
Achievement of Disability Sport Wales Insport Silver Standard	<b>Green</b>

For additional information see [Appendix 4](#)

Chief Officer: Community Regeneration

Alyn Owen

Lead Member

Councillor Chris Barry

Strategic Focus

Economic Growth

### Background

The Local Authority improvement objectives for 2013 to 2017 include the priority areas:

- Economic Development
- Employability

These priority areas seek to prioritise effort within the wide range of activities to have a strategic focus on the economy and infrastructure, to improve the economic position in Merthyr Tydfil through supporting business development, in particular targeted development of the tourism and retail economy. On the labour market and skills, to embed a collaborative culture to tackling unemployment, whereby programmes and interventions are coordinated and focused across a range of organisations to support adults and young people (16 plus) develop their skills for work and support them to both gain and sustain employment.



**Outcome:** A growing and sustainable economy for Merthyr Tydfil, delivering a diverse range of quality job opportunities

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

**ADEQUATE**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. There continued to be positive improvement within the business demography of Merthyr Tydfil, with an increase in active enterprises from 306 (2012) to 354 (2015). Merthyr Tydfil continues to have high business births and deaths; with the net gain to business numbers is greater than the previous year. However, many key economic indicators remain stubbornly below the Wales average.

The median weekly earnings shows an increase in Merthyr Tydfil and the percentage of the working age population claiming jobseekers allowance in Merthyr Tydfil has remained consistent between 2.6 percent and 3.0 percent; however, the key message is that from March 2012 to March 2017 performance has improved.

**Table 11**

[Performance Key](#)

<b>Population indicators</b>	
% of the working age population claiming Jobseekers Allowance	<b>3.00</b>
The median weekly pay (gross) for full time workers (£)	<b>454</b>
% survivability (3 years) of newly born enterprises	<b>57.7</b>
The year's supply of housing land (Joint Housing Land Availability Study)	<b>1.60</b>
The number of new business births / deaths in the area	<b>230 / 150</b>
The active business rate per 10,000 working age population	<b>354</b>

**Table 12**

[Activity Key](#)

<b>Improvement activity</b>	
Vibrant and Viable Places Programme	<b>Good</b>
Social Enterprise Strategy and Programme Development	<b>Adequate</b>
Destination Management Plan	<b>Adequate</b>

For additional information see [Appendix 5](#)

**Outcome:** We want to support adults and young people (aged 16 and over) to develop their skills for work and both gain and sustain employment

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:**

**ADEQUATE**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. The population data clearly depicts a deficit in post-education qualifications levels Merthyr Tydfil. The direct impact the Local Authority can have is limited because of the numbers of people involved; however, the Local Authority is delivering a number of key European funded projects to have more direct action. These projects are seeing positive results with all European projects operational and engaging more people than anticipated. These projects should help some of those who are furthest from the labour market learn new skills and overcome some of the barriers they face.

In addition, we have seen continued success reducing the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

**Table 13**

[Performance Key](#)

Population indicators	2016
% of the working age population in employment	69.0
% of the working age population who are qualified to NVQ level 2 and above	68.2
% of the working age population with no qualifications	15.5
% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training	1.00
% of care leavers in education, training or employment at 12 months	37.5 <sup>8</sup>
% of care leavers in education, training or employment at 24 months	60.0 <sup>8</sup>

**Table 14**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	Status
Bridges into Work 2	Yellow
Working Skills for Adults 2	Yellow
Inspire to Achieve	Green
Inspire to Work	Amber

For additional information see [Appendix 6](#)

<sup>8</sup> The latest information for these indicators is only local and available up to December 2016.

Chief Officer: Neighbourhood Services

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Cherylle Evans

Councillor David Jones

Developing a Sustainable Environment

### **Background**

The Local Authority improvement objectives for 2013 to 2017 include the priority area 'A Sustainable Environment'. This priority area seeks to prioritise effort within the wide range of activities to have a strategic focus on waste management and cleanliness activities.

Priority Area 7 will focus on our contribution to the overarching waste strategy 'Wales Towards Zero Waste', which sets out how waste is to be dealt with in Wales in order to produce benefits for not only the environment, but also for our economy and social wellbeing.

**Outcome:** People in Merthyr Tydfil will live in communities that are sustainable, clean, and energy efficient

**Our evaluation says this outcome is:** **GOOD**

In Merthyr Tydfil (March 2017), the annual judgement for outcomes is good. The provisional recycling data indicates that we have continued to achieve significant improvements to the recycling rates, with minimal amounts waste being sent to landfill.

We have strengthened our response to fly-tipping and improved the effectiveness and timeliness of how we react to reported incidents of fly tipping waste. However, the Cleanliness Index indicates comparably poor cleanliness of our streets in Merthyr Tydfil. This is an area that requires continued focus.

Following the completion of the Street Lighting Project, the first full year's data shows a 78 percent reduction in energy consumption from the peak in 2012/13. The reduction in energy consumption directly correlates with a reduction in carbon emissions from street lighting.

**Table 15**

[Performance Key](#)

Population indicators	
% of municipal waste reused, recycled, or composted	65.1
% of municipal waste sent to landfill	3.66
Average score for the Cleanliness Index	66.5
% of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 working days	100
% of empty homes returned to occupation	6.86
% of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	97.0
Average annual energy consumption from Street Lighting (GWh)	0.83

**Table 16**

[Activity Key](#)

Improvement activity	
Fly-Tipping	Green
Waste Management	Green
Riverside Project	Yellow

For additional information see [Appendix 7](#)

Like all councils in Wales, our work is scrutinised by external regulators to ensure that we use public money effectively to deliver benefits to our communities. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) has an annual programme of audit and assessment work which it undertakes in the council, and the conclusions from all this work are brought together in an Annual Improvement Report. Other regulators undertake work relating to specific service areas. The other primary regulators are Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales (Estyn) and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW).

### WALES AUDIT OFFICE

Each year, the Wales Audit Office reports on how well each council is planning for improvement and delivering their services. The latest [Annual Improvement Report](#) for Merthyr Tydfil incorporates the Corporate Assessment and was issued in July 2017. The report concluded that, during 2016/17 **the Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement.**

During the course of the year, the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations. However, a number of proposals for improvement have been made to help direct the Local Authority to strengthen its governance arrangements and financial planning arrangements.

- Publishing a Cabinet forward work programme that includes details of forthcoming service change proposals to be determined;
- Ensuring that scrutiny committees have the opportunity to determine if they wish to scrutinise proposed service changes, including allowing for sufficient time in decision making processes to enable meaningful consideration of proposals; and
- Providing more details of planned savings proposals when setting the annual budget to improve the transparency of decision-making.

### HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN WALES (ESTYN)

All education and training providers in Wales are inspected against the Common Inspection Framework. The latest published documentation from Estyn on the Local Authority and its schools can be found on the Estyn [website](#).

Estyn is currently reviewing the framework for the inspection of local authorities that they will pilot in 2017/18 and implement in 2018/19.

### CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES (CSSIW)

Each year, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales reports on the key areas of progress and areas for improvement in local authority Social Services. The most recent national inspection focused on the care and support for people with learning disabilities, which involved Merthyr Tydfil as one of six local authorities visited by CSSIW. The report is available at [www.cssiw.org.uk](http://www.cssiw.org.uk).

A key recommendation was for the development of a formal vision and overall strategy for service development, based on an analysis of need, which can take into account the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

**The following contains information that will help you to understand the analysis of our progress, particularly in relation to our priority areas.**

Each priority area has one an associated outcome, which describe the benefits we aim to deliver for our communities. An outcome is not in itself measureable, so in order to be accountable and to assess whether we are achieving the desired benefits we use indicators and improvement activity. This enables the council to quantify achievement and understand its impact on outcomes.

**Evaluation**

Our aggregate evaluation (judgement) for each priority area is formed by considering:

- the **current position** of the indicators, and
- the **rate of improvement** of the indicators, and
- the **delivery confidence** for the key projects

The use of these components will allow for an informed judgement, which will be guided by the following definitions:

- **Excellent**, many strengths where we have a highly ranked comparative position, with positive rates of improvement and/or evidence of significant positive impact on change to outcomes
- **Good**, many strengths where our comparative position is above the Wales median, with positive rates of improvement and/or evidence of positive impact on change to outcomes
- **Adequate**, some strengths where our comparative position is lower median, with some rates of improvement and/or evidence of some positive impact on change to outcomes
- **Unsatisfactory**, there are important areas for improvement where we have a low ranked comparative position, with little or negative rates of improvement and/or no impact of change to outcomes

## Current Position

Our indicators are evaluated based on our ranked position when compared to the other Welsh local authorities. The purpose of using comparative data is to enable us to understand our relative performance across Wales.

By default, the status colour for each measure relates to our ranked position (the quartile range) within Wales. In some cases we are unable to compare that measure with other local authorities in Wales. In these instances the indicators are compared against Local Authority targets.

**Table 17 indicator status definitions**

Performance definition	Quarter	Rank	Status
The current position is excellent	1 (upper)	1-6	Excellent
The current position is good	2 (upper middle)	7-11	Good
The current position is adequate	3 (lower middle)	12-16	Adequate
The current position is unsatisfactory	4 (lower)	17-22	Unsatisfactory
There is no comparable information, only local data	Not applicable	Not applicable	

## Rate of Improvement

In addition, our aggregate evaluation will consider the rate of improvement. This is the level of change measured within an indicator against the expected level necessary to meet our ambition or specific milestone. Our evaluation based on the rate of improvement will focus on the change and direction of travel:

- Is improvement in line with our ambition/milestone
- Are we closing the gap between specific groups

## Delivery Confidence

Each improvement activity, which is either a project or an action, will have a delivery confidence. This provides an understanding of how confident we are that the project and action will be delivered successfully. The table below highlights the definitions used to depict the "delivery confidence" of projects and actions.

**Table 18 improvement activity status definitions**

Improvement activity definition	Status
Successful delivery appears likely with no major outstanding issues to threaten delivery	Green
Successful delivery appears probable but issues exist requiring management attention	Yellow
Successful delivery is in doubt with major risks or issues in a number of key areas	Amber
Successful delivery appears to be unachievable	Red
Project successfully completed	



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council