



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Wellbeing in our Community

2017 - 2022



Cysylltu
Connect



Bod yn fywiog
Be active



Bod yn sylwgar
Take notice



Dal ati i ddysgu
Keep learning



Rhoi
Give

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1. Doing Different Things

- 1.1. Welcome to our wellbeing plan "Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community". In our plan, we set out what we expect from our Councillors and what we expect from the Council to achieve our Wellbeing Objectives. Since last year this has been formulised into political priorities and how this connects the local Wellbeing Objectives and Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan.
- 1.2. As a Council, we are committed to working closely with our communities to build resilience across the County Borough and bring people together. As Leader, I want to use my role to continue to build connections between people and empower community action as a way to improve wellbeing.
- 1.3. Like all public bodies, the Council is facing increasing pressures coupled with severe cuts in government funding. How we respond to these challenges can be an opportunity to do different things. Mobilising our assets within individuals and communities, to focus on what people value most, will be crucial in identifying opportunities to do different things.
- 1.4. As Councillors, we will continue to lead community development by bringing people and communities together. We will use our own knowledge, skills and experiences to promote opportunities for community involvement to achieve positive and long lasting changes.



Councillor Kevin O'Neill

Leader of the Council

"I want our Councillors to be out there in our communities, working alongside our community members to make Merthyr Tydfil better."

2. Investing in People's Wellbeing

- 2.1. Earlier this year I presented the updated Statement of Wellbeing, which set out our Wellbeing Objectives for the community taking forward to 2022.
- 2.2. On behalf of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, I am pleased to present our updated plan "Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community". This plan sets out what we will do in our communities to deliver our Wellbeing Objectives and how we will work to do this.
- 2.3. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to work better with one another and with communities to involve and take a collaborative approach. This is particularly important as we continue to experience budget reductions.
- 2.4. We must ensure the decisions we take secure sustained improvements in the cultural, economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the people who live and work in the County Borough today and in the future. In order to achieve this, I will be working to ensure the Council works differently by applying the five ways of working set out in the Act.
- 2.5. The Leader of the Council has outlined the role local Councillors play as community ambassadors. They will help empower local people to transform their community and address the issues they face through community actions.
- 2.6. Council officers have also been working together with residents to help develop a baseline understanding of wellbeing in the County Borough. This has helped shape the Wellbeing Objectives in our plan. It has enabled us to better understand how to improve wellbeing in our communities.



Gareth Chapman

Chief Executive

"Help me to help you, in ensuring the Council and its team of professional and motivated staff work with you, the communities of the County Borough, to deliver the Wellbeing Objectives set out in this plan."

3. Glossary

Five ways of working

There are five things that public bodies need to think about to show that they can work together better, avoid repeating past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing. The five things are:

1- Long-term

The importance of balancing short-term need or demand whilst safeguarding the ability to meet long-term needs.

2 - Prevention

Preventing problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies free up resources and meet their Wellbeing Objectives.

3 - Integration

Considering how a public body's Wellbeing Objectives may impact on each of the Wellbeing Goals, on their Wellbeing Objectives, or on the Wellbeing Objectives of other public bodies.

4 - Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person or different organisations that could help the public body to meet its Wellbeing Objectives.

5 - Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the Wellbeing Goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the public body serves.

Wellbeing Objective

The Wellbeing Objectives set out what we feel needs to happen locally to help improve wellbeing for the people of Merthyr Tydfil and achieve the national Wellbeing Goals.

Wellbeing Goal

The seven Wellbeing Goals show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies in Wales to work towards.

Medium Term Financial Plan

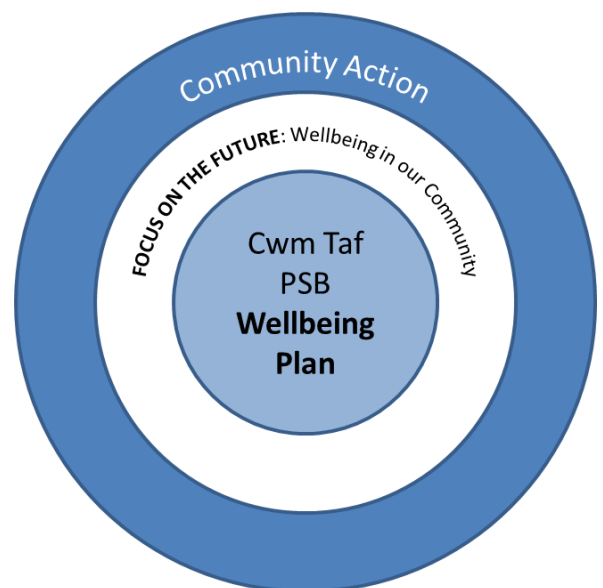
A plan to balance the financial implications of objectives and policies against constraints in resources, which provides a financial basis for decision making, to ensure financial sustainability over the medium term (five years).

4. Introduction

- 4.1. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, public bodies in Wales must work in a sustainable way to achieve the common vision to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of Wales. Therefore, we need to make sure that when we make decisions, we take into account the impact they could have on the people living their lives in Merthyr Tydfil now and in the future.
- 4.2. The Act establishes the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, whose role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the Wellbeing Goals.

Our Plan, Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community

- 4.3. In our Statement of Wellbeing, we set out the scope of each Wellbeing Objective and outline why we consider that meeting the Wellbeing Objective will maximise our contribution to the achievement of the seven Wellbeing Goals.
- 4.4. In our plan (*Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community*), we set out how we intend to achieve the Wellbeing Objectives. In addition to the everyday work carried out by the Council as business as usual, we also have key projects that are aimed to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of our communities. New projects and business as usual operations are appraised against our Wellbeing Objectives and the five ways of working.
- 4.5. We review our plan annually (this being the second year and first review), to make certain that the key projects remain relevant and clearly aligned to our Wellbeing Objectives. This documents the changes made as part of this review and the rationale for the changes. In addition, we will also publish an annual report, which will evaluate the progress we have made.
- 4.6. Opposite is a simple diagram to visualise where our plan (*Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community*) sits in relation to the regional work across Cwm Taf and within the Council.



5. Financing the Plan

- 5.1. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) outlines the budget allocation for the current year and projects future budget requirements. Our future MTFP is set out against our Wellbeing Objectives.
- 5.2. In order to align the Council's financial management to the Wellbeing Objectives, we will continue to redefine the detail within our financial reporting structure. This will add additional information that will help determine financial allocations, through service functions, to our Wellbeing Objectives. We have changed some of our internal governance arrangements to do this.
- 5.3. The work to redefine the detail within our financial reporting structure will be reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure the Council will be well informed in providing affordable services. This work will be completed in time for the announcement of the annual provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement.
- 5.4. This will enable the Council to align future Revenue and Capital Settlements to our Wellbeing Objectives in the future publications of our MTFP, these will be available in March/April of each year.

6. Involving Our Communities

- 6.1. There are eleven Electoral Divisions in Merthyr Tydfil, represented by 33 Councillors. Our Councillors play a significant leadership role as community ambassadors, helping provide community intelligence and helping empower local people to transform their community and address the issues they face.

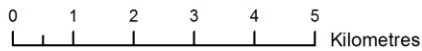
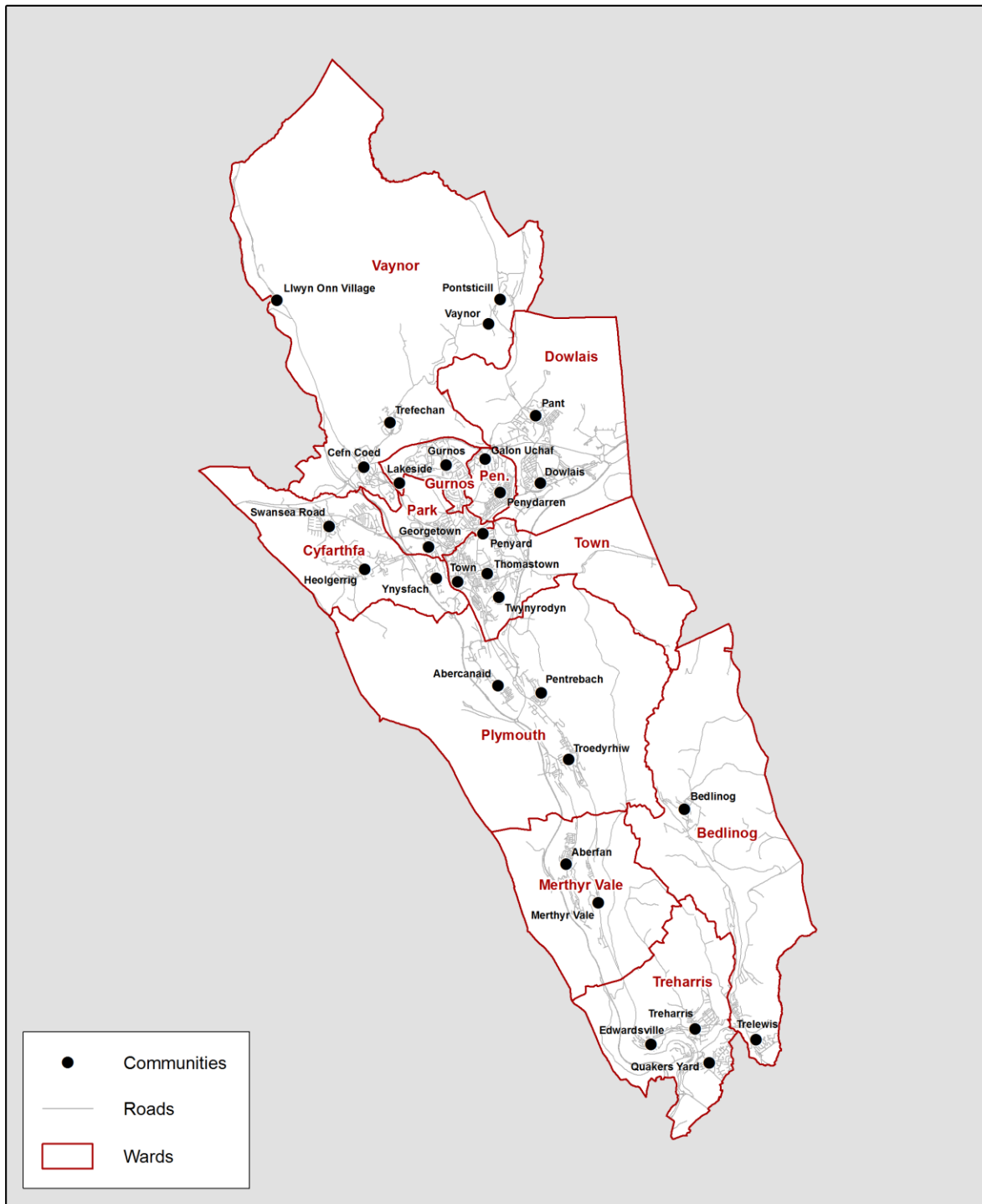
Merthyr Tydfil Electoral Divisions (Wards) – See map below

- Bedlinog
- Cyfarthfa
- Dowlais
- Gurnos
- Merthyr Vale
- Park
- Penydarren
- Plymouth
- Town
- Treharris
- Vaynor

- 6.2. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires a more 'active' level of community involvement in order to achieve outcomes. This means that we need to involve our communities in the planning and designing of services, and involve communities in the decisions that affect them.
- 6.3. In order to achieve a more 'active' level of community involvement, we trialled a Councillor led project to engage with a local community and identify what is important to them within their area. As a result Councillors engaged and involved communities in community location clear ups. This was chosen as it is a political, Council operational and community priority. This was a success and is continuing going forward. This approach will be continued and widened. It will also be considered in our governance processes such as scrutiny.

Developing Community Action

- 6.4. We will provide support to our Councillors so they can carry out action workshops in our local communities. The aim will again be to make certain communities investigate and plan to address local issues they face, then to support when required.



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	DYDDIAD / DATE: 12/06/2017		
	ADRAN / DEPARTMENT: Performance Scrutiny		
	ARLUNIWYD GAN / DRAWN BY: RB (Planning)		
TEITL / TITLE: Merthyr Tydfil Wards and Communities			

7. Wellbeing Objectives

7.1. In order to set our Wellbeing Objectives we carried out a wellbeing assessment across Cwm Taf¹. This was carried out to inform and the Wellbeing Objectives as part of the Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community document released last year for the period of 2017 to 2022. In addition, we have been working together with residents to establish a baseline understanding of wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil. In this first year we have recorded the delivery and captured lessons learnt, especially relating to the governance of the plan. This knowledge has helped shape the Wellbeing Objectives, understand potential responses to improve wellbeing and set a wellbeing score for the population. In brief, our Wellbeing Objectives² cover four themes. Learning the lessons of the first year where we have engaged with scrutiny members, we have streamlined our original nine objectives into four. These provide focus of delivery under each theme. However, it should be noted that all priorities following the original engagement remain. The four themes and objectives are:

BS Best Start to Life

BS Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals

WL Working Life

WL People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure which makes Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination

EW Environmental Wellbeing

EW Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside

LW Living Well

LW People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health

7.2. In our Statement of Wellbeing we set out the scope of each Wellbeing Objective, which provides the strategic perspective to view the services that we provide and the work we do.

¹ You can read the [population wellbeing assessments](#) and the [well-being assessments](#) on the [Our Cwm Taf](#) website.

² You can read our Statement of Wellbeing on the Council [website](#).

- 7.3. In this plan, we set out the steps that we will take to ensure that we maximise our contribution to the Wellbeing Objectives. This plan will focus on what is being done (in terms of business as usual and projects) to achieve the Wellbeing Objectives.
- 7.4. Over the last year the regional objectives for Cwm Taf have been developed. This was done with engagement and involvement with communities across Cwm Taf and involved several organisations. This has resulted in forming three regional objectives and these can be viewed in the 'Our Shared Vision' document below. Political priorities have also been formulated, being taken from the views expressed by communities of Merthyr Tydfil during the local election period.
- 7.5. Learning the lessons from the first year, the Council has also reviewed the way support services to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and indeed the Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community plan is being delivered. This has meant that the services have become more streamlined and focused on delivery. This will be challenged further as involvement with Scrutiny Members on setting the forward work programme will take place.
- 7.6. This has meant that our Chief Officers have worked with their teams and with each other to refocus their strategies to achieve their Wellbeing Objectives and be better informed when designing affordable services. Each Wellbeing Objective is the focus and key performance indicators will show how well we are delivering. The five ways of working are the basis for doing different things (and doing things differently). This creates an easy to understand strategy on a page (SOAP) for each Wellbeing Objective. This will then form the basis of the self-evaluation process going forward; in other words a means to test if we are making a difference. It is important to note that this is a live document. Should additional or different projects arise that provide a greater impact on the Wellbeing Objectives or current projects do not deliver, changes will be made.
- 7.7. In order to raise awareness, understanding and desire for change across the Council and wider we have developed a document called 'Our Shared Vision'. This connects the local Wellbeing Objectives outlined above with the Cwm Taf regional objectives and political priorities; synergy is clearly apparent. The document links this to the Wales we want and how we will achieve it (i.e. the five ways of working). Each Wellbeing Objective has a strategy on a page sitting beneath them, as explained above. This creates a clear thread from the Wales we want all the way down to strategies and then operational plans and staff appraisals in delivering this. This means that individual staff members can see how they are contributing. This explanation is used to make the connections and the 'Our Shared Vision' document used to reinforce the message. With the review of our internal staff performance appraisal process, the Wellbeing Objectives and five ways of working will be built into the process.

OUR SHARED VISION

"ACTING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"

The Wales we want:

A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A globally responsible Wales
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The shared vision for Merthyr Tydfil to get there:

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

How will Merthyr Tydfil CBC work?



Long Term



Prevention



Integration



Involvement



Collaboration

How will we work together to deliver the Our Shared Vision and achieve our goals?

Focus on the Future	PSB Wellbeing Plan	Political Priorities
<p>Best Start to Life Children and young people have the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p>	<p>Community Resilience and Wellbeing To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.</p>	<p>We will look after all our citizens by providing an affordable quality education and social care enabling everybody to lead their lives to their full potential</p>
<p>Working Life People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil as an attractive destination</p>	<p>Lifestyles, health and vulnerability To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges</p>	<p>We will encourage active lifestyles and promote wellbeing.</p>
<p>Environmental Wellbeing Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside</p>	<p>Economy and Infrastructure To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf</p>	<p>We will support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful environment and economy</p>
<p>Living Well People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>		

8. Contribution of our Wellbeing Objectives to the Wellbeing Goals

8.1. The seven Wellbeing Goals³ show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies of Wales to work towards. The chart below provides a brief summary of where our Wellbeing Objectives primarily align to the Wellbeing Goals.

Wellbeing Goal
A prosperous Wales
A resilient Wales
A healthier Wales
A more equal Wales
A Wales of cohesive communities
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
A globally responsible Wales

Wellbeing Objective	Wellbeing Goals						
Best Start to Life	Yellow		Red	Red			Light Blue
Working Life	Yellow	Orange		Red	Dark Blue	Medium Blue	Light Blue
Environmental Wellbeing	Yellow	Orange			Dark Blue	Medium Blue	Light Blue
Living Well			Red	Red	Dark Blue		Light Blue

³ You can find out more information on the Act and Wellbeing Goals in this [Guide](#).

9. **BS Objective: Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals**

Children, have a positive early experience to ensure they are ready to learn, ready for school and can develop the knowledge skills and attributes they will need to flourish in life, learning and work.

- 9.1. This objective is the integration of two separate objectives as published in our *Wellbeing Statement* (March 2017) and wellbeing plan *Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our community* (July 2017). The decision to integrate was based on the lessons learned during year 1 of the *Focus on the Future plan*. Merging the objectives provides a greater focus on the key transitions, which are milestone events for children and young people that have a definite effect on their development. We define the transition events as, early childhood, childhood and adolescence, and later adolescence and early adulthood.
- 9.2. Education is one of the clearest predictors of life outcomes, such as employment, income and social status, and is a predictor of attitudes and wellbeing. The objective integrates the complete educational journey, from the early years through to compulsory years, and post-16. The objective provides children and young people with the skills and attributes to help them improve their own lives.
- 9.3. Improving early years support is crucial in tackling the root causes of adverse childhood experiences, which we know have a detrimental impact on future health and wellbeing. We define early years as pre-birth to 7 years old. This broad definition recognises the importance of pregnancy in influencing outcomes and the transition into primary school as a critical period in children's lives. This will mean that both Best Start and Living Well will be integral in delivery.
- 9.4. From a Merthyr Tydfil perspective, the outcomes (also known as components) for Best Start to Life are:
 - Children having a nurturing and stimulating home environment;
 - Children having access to high quality pre-school and school education;
 - Improve the educational outcomes for all children and young people; and
 - Children and young people have good health and wellbeing.

So, how will we give children and young people the best start in life?

- 9.5. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has a duty to take all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet its Wellbeing Objectives. To ensure an integrated approach in achieving our outcomes the table overleaf demonstrates

how all of our functions are working together to deliver this. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive.

Our response to achieving wellbeing

Service Area Priorities (Core Business / Business as Usual)	Key Projects that help deliver this Wellbeing Objective
<p>Achieving excellence for all learners focussing on improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes • Pedagogy • Governance <p>Through the following delivery actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Provision for pupils Additional Learning Needs • EOTAS • 21st Century Schools Programme • Developing the role of Pupil Voice at all levels 	<p>Resilience</p> <p>Improving outcomes for Children Looked After</p> <p>School Holiday Enrichment Program (SHEP)</p>

9.6. Each theme will have an easy to understand strategy on a page (SOAP) that spells out the Wellbeing Objective, outcomes and key performance indicators; it also identifies the five ways of working in how we will work to achieve the objective. It is important to note that the service areas under this objective also have a lower level SOAP and operational action plans for delivery. This forms the basis of self-evaluation. There are several projects that contribute to the delivery of more than one objective. For example the 21st Century Schools project above, also contributes to the Working Life objective.

How will we know if things are getting better?

By monitoring key performance indicators, we will know things are better when:

- Outcomes and educational standards for learners and groups of learners improve;
- Early language development of children improves;
- The health and wellbeing of children and young people improves;
- The resilience among families in receipt of support improves; and
- The maternal health of mothers in receipt of support improves.

Would you like to know more?

Visit the Council's website to learn more about:

[Schools and Learning](#)

[Family Information](#)

[Employability and Adult Learning](#)

[Social Care for Children and Families](#)

10. WL Objective: People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination

People live in safe, well-connected communities where heritage, language and culture are valued and strengthened for future generations. Highly skilled and qualified people are equipped to meet the changing needs of employers. The developing infrastructure sustains and improves both the built and natural environment.

- 10.1. Following the lessons learned exercise which has been undertaken at the end of year 1 of the wellbeing plan; findings have led to this objective being broadened to encompass four of the former objectives. It is important to note that the emphasis of this objective has not been lost. We have not deviated from the outcomes of the community and stakeholder engagement sessions but become more focussed on delivery. By being more focussed the Corporate Management Team has a cross directorate dialogue in delivering the objectives which helps the Council to continue to understand how it works in delivering the Wellbeing Objectives.
- 10.2. The focus of this Wellbeing Objective will be on the work we do day to day (our 'core' business or business as usual) within our communities around skills development and employability, business support/development (including social enterprises and physical regeneration; a safe environment and plans to protect, enhance and promote our heritage, language and cultural assets across the County Borough. However there are key projects that will help us do different things in delivering our objective. These are listed in the table below in section 10.4.
- 10.3. From a Merthyr Tydfil perspective, the outcomes (also known as components) for Working Life are:
- Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: developing the workforce of the future;
 - Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish;
 - Communities protect, enhance and promote our heritage and cultural assets;
 - Developing safer communities; and
 - Supporting and accommodating those most disadvantaged in the housing market.

So, how will we develop the workforce of the future?

- 10.4. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has a duty to take all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet its Wellbeing Objectives. To ensure an integrated approach in achieving our outcomes the table overleaf demonstrates how all of our functions are working together to deliver this. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive.

Our response to achieving wellbeing

Service Area Priorities (Core Business / Business as Usual)	Key Projects that help deliver this Wellbeing Objective
Training/Skills Development/ Employability	Development of the Cyfarthfa Heritage Area
Business infrastructure and inward investment	Economic Growth Strategy
Physical Regeneration	Housing First Model in Merthyr Tydfil (homeless based project)
Business start-up support (including social enterprises)	Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station Development
Destination/Tourism Development	Townscape Heritage Programme
Community safety	YMCA redevelopment
Trading Standards / Licensing	Prevention of Doorstep Crime and Scamming
Environmental Health services	Development of a drug litter reporting App
Housing & homelessness	DIVERT 18-25
Housing adaptations	Air quality (Twynnyroddyn AQMA)
Asset mapping and management	
Third Sector Provision	

10.5. As stated above, each theme will have an easy to understand Strategy on a Page (SOAP) that spells out the Wellbeing Objective, outcomes and key performance indicators; it also identifies the five ways of working in how we will work to achieve the objective. There are projects above that contribute to the delivery of more than one objective. The cross overs will help us provide a more joined up approach to delivery and better accountability among Officers.

How will we know if things are getting better?

- 10.6. By monitoring key performance indicators, we will know things are better when:
- People in Merthyr Tydfil will have the skills to meet employers changing needs;
 - Our developing environment and infrastructure will encourage inward investment;
 - Our heritage and cultural assets will continue to be valued, protected and promoted;
 - People living working and visiting Merthyr Tydfil will feel safe and included; and
 - Those most disadvantaged in the housing market will feel connected and supported.

Would you like to know more?

Visit the Council's website to learn more about:

[Employability and Adult Learning](#)

[Parking, Roads and Travel](#)

[Planning and Building Control](#)

[Childcare](#)

[Family Information](#)

[Rural Development](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture](#)

[Welsh Language](#)

[Community Safety](#)

[Crime, Safety and Emergencies](#)

11. EW Objective: Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside

People, proud of the area's outstanding landscape, regularly spend time outdoors in good quality, accessible greenspace. Communities help improve their local areas, learning new skills, building strong social bonds and helping wildlife flourish.

- 11.1. There has been a minor change to this objective as part of the lessons learnt in year one of the wellbeing plan. We now make reference to the 'environment', which includes both the urban and natural environment, and not just the natural environment as had been stated previously.
- 11.2. The focus of this Wellbeing Objective is the work we do with our communities to protect, enhance and promote the environment and countryside. This is because research shows that a healthy natural environment and countryside provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife from improved air, water and land quality, habitat protection and enhanced biodiversity to beneficial implications for physical and mental health^{4,5}.
- 11.3. From a Merthyr Tydfil perspective, the outcomes (also known as components) for Environmental Wellbeing are:
 - Minimise environmental damage through prevention of pollution;
 - Maximise efficient use of materials and resources by means of the waste hierarchy;
 - Developing good quality, biodiverse and connected green infrastructure and open spaces; and
 - Promoting and supporting the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

So, how will we help our communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside?

- 11.4. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has a duty to take all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet its Wellbeing Objectives. To ensure an integrated approach in achieving our outcomes the table overleaf demonstrates how all of our functions are working together to deliver this. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive.

⁴ [Chief Medical Officer Annual Report 2014-15](#)

⁵ [Life Course, Greenspace and Health, 2016.](#)

Our response to achieving wellbeing

Service Area Priorities (Core Business / Business as Usual)	Key Projects that help deliver this Wellbeing Objective
Waste Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recycling • Reduce Landfill 	Waste depot redevelopment incorporating furniture reuse facility
Tackling Fly-tipping	In-house management of HWRC
Improving Street Cleansing	Pengarnddu
Air Quality Management	Green Flag status for Thomas Town Park
Carbon Management	Abercanaid School insulation
Local Development Plan	Cyfarthfa High School lighting replacement
Biodiversity	Cefn Cemetery extension
Implementing of Open Space Strategy	Cyfarthfa lake walls remedial works
Merthyr Tydfil Recovery Plan	
Maintenance of parks and green spaces	

11.5. As stated above, each theme will have an easy to understand Strategy on a Page (SOAP) that spells out the Wellbeing Objective, outcomes and key performance indicators; it also identifies the five ways of working in how we will work to achieve the objective. There are projects above that contribute to the delivery of more than one objective.

How will we know if things are getting better?

11.6. By monitoring key performance indicators, we will know things are better when:

- The air quality on Twynyrodyn Road improves;
- The local authority's CO₂ emissions reduce by 3% from its buildings (per annum);
- Reported fly-tipping incidents on Council land are cleared within five days;
- The cleanliness of our streets improve;
- Our recycling rates improve and we landfill less waste; and
- Number of Priority Open Spaces (out of 23 Priority Open Spaces) that meet or exceed the quality standard: Healthy, Safe and Secure.

Would you like to know more?

Visit the Council's website to learn more about:

[Bins and Recycling](#)

[Fly-tipping](#)

[Air Pollution](#)

12. LW Objective: People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health

People who are empowered to live independently within their communities, have the appropriate support, advice and assistance to meet their personal needs, live safely and access opportunities available to them. People, adopting health behaviours earlier in their life, are healthier, feel good and function well.

- 12.1. As a direct result from lesson learned during year one of the wellbeing plan, it was agreed to combine the three previous Living Well objectives in to one comprehensive objective. This was actioned as it is recognised there are strong relationships between good physical and mental health, safeguarding adults and children and living an independent full life. This will create one focus and avoid potential duplication.
- 12.2. People need support to live independently and well in their communities for longer; this includes the need for both good physical and mental health. Poor physical health can lead to poor mental health and vice versa. A strong and healthy mind can greatly improve our ability to cope with physical ailments. It is equally important for the wellbeing of children and adults that they are safeguarded from abuse, neglect or harm.
- 12.3. To ensure a holistic approach is met in this objective, the outcomes (also known as components) for Living Well will include:
- Safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of harm;
 - Tackling adverse childhood experiences and developing community resilience;
 - Promoting healthy behaviours and increased levels of physical activity;
 - Promote good emotional wellbeing and improved mental health;
 - Clear and accessible information and advice; and
 - Services that provide people with the ability to live in their own home.

So, how will we ensure that people are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health?

- 12.4. Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has a duty to take all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet its Wellbeing Objectives. To ensure an integrated approach in achieving our outcomes the table overleaf demonstrates how all of our functions are working together to deliver this. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive.

Our response to achieving wellbeing

Service Area Priorities (Core Business / Business as Usual)	Key Projects that help deliver this Wellbeing Objective
<p>Early Intervention and Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategy for Stability and Success • Strategy for Children Looked After Prevention • Strategy for improving Information, Advice and Assistance • Learning Disability Statement of Intent • Older Persons Strategy • Learning Disability Day Service Strategy • Strategic Review of the services provided under the Intermediate Care Fund 	<p>Valleys LIFE</p>
<p>Safeguarding Adults and Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategy for Stability and Success 	<p>Stay Well @ Home Service</p>
<p>Developing Community Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategy for Stability and Success • Cwm Taf Supporting People Regional Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 	<p>Supporting People Pricing System (Cost Calculator)</p>
<p>Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years and childcare strategy • Non maintained education • Childcare sufficiency • Integrated Children’s Centre • Play sufficiency • Youth service strategy(universal, targeted, participation) • Youth support services strategy • NEETs strategy • Adult community learning strategy • Tackling Poverty Strategy 	<p>GP Shared Welfare Service</p>
	<p>Community Zone</p>
	<p>Hidden Ambition care leavers</p>

12.5. As stated above, each theme will have an easy to understand strategy on a page (SOAP) that spells out the Wellbeing Objective, outcomes and key performance indicators; it also identifies the five ways of working in how we will work to achieve the objective. There are projects above that contribute to the delivery of more than one objective.

How will we know if things are getting better?

12.6. By monitoring key performance indicators, we will know things are better when:

- Adult protection enquiries are completed within statutory timescales;
- Fewer adults at risk of abuse or neglect are reported more than once during the year;
- There are fewer re-registrations of children on the child protection register;
- More children are supported to remain living within their family;
- More people visit our sport and leisure facilities and participate in physical activity;
- Pupil participation in sport and physical activity improves;
- More people receive the right information, advice and assistance when they needed it;
- More adult service users can live independently;
- The delayed transfers of care reduce; and
- The time to deliver adaptations using the disabled facilities grant process reduces.

Would you like to know more?

Visit the Council's website to learn more about:

[Safeguarding](#)

[Help to live at home](#)

[Social Care for Adults and Older People](#)

[Equalities](#)

[Sport and Leisure](#)

[Mental Health](#)

13. Get involved

- 13.1. There are a number of ways to get involved with the Council. One of the main ways to get involved is through your local Councillor. You can find out who your local Councillor is and how to get in touch with them by visiting the Council's [website](#).
- 13.2. We want to maintain community involvement and continue to develop our understanding of wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil. We welcome you to share your thoughts on wellbeing or your ideas on how we can improve wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil at wellbeing@merthyr.gov.uk.
- 13.3. Scrutiny Committees have arrangements to allow people who live or work in the local authority area to make representations on any matter being discussed. There are many different ways you may wish to get involved in the work of scrutiny, including:
- [suggesting a topic for scrutiny to investigate](#);
 - [attending a meeting](#) to listen to discussion and the debate;
 - [attending a meeting to speak](#) on an agenda item; or
 - [providing information and evidence as a witness](#), to inform a particular piece of review work being undertaken by a scrutiny committee.
- 13.4. [Guidance on Public speaking](#) at Scrutiny Committee meetings - Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council welcomes and encourages the active participation of its citizens whenever possible and an opportunity exists for members of the public to speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings on an item on the agenda.
- 13.5. Scrutiny Committees will consider requests to examine issues put forward from any sector of the public. To qualify, requests must: affect a group or community of people; relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake; not be an issue which scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months; not be a matter dealt with by another County Borough Council Committee (e.g. planning issues) except where the issue relates to the Council's decision-making process.

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