



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Well-being in our Community

Annual Performance Report

2017 - 2018

HAVE YOUR SAY

This document is a summary performance report on the priority areas in the Corporate Well-being Plan during the 2017/18 financial year.

We welcome your thoughts on this report and the work of the Council. You can contact us using the details below.

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Annual Improvement Report

Our Annual Performance Report is a statutory document (a document that we, as a Council, are required to publish in line with our regulations). We publish the Annual Performance Report to communicate our self-evaluation of delivery against our well-being objectives. The intention of this document is to provide an overall assessment of Council performance during the year. This document relates to the year April 2017 to March 2018.

This report includes the following section:

- [Section 1: Quantitative Data](#)
- [Section 2: Qualitative Data](#)
- [External Regulators](#)

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

Corporate Well-being Plan - Focus on the Future: Well-being in our communities

- Focus on the Future sets out the Council's well-being objectives from 2017 to 2022. The plan represents the Council's contribution to achieving the seven national well-being goals, and sets out the main priorities over the five years. Having a clear set of corporate priorities ensures our Councillors have a robust framework to guide their decision making and monitor our plan to ensure it is succeeding.

External Regulators

- Our work is scrutinised by external regulators to ensure that we use public money effectively to deliver benefits to our communities. A summary of latest published audit and inspection reports can be found in the ['External Regulators'](#) section.

Seven well-being goals

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Wales. For the first time in law, public bodies are working towards the same purpose. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which represent the shared vision for Wales and makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals and not just one or two. This is shown in the figure below:

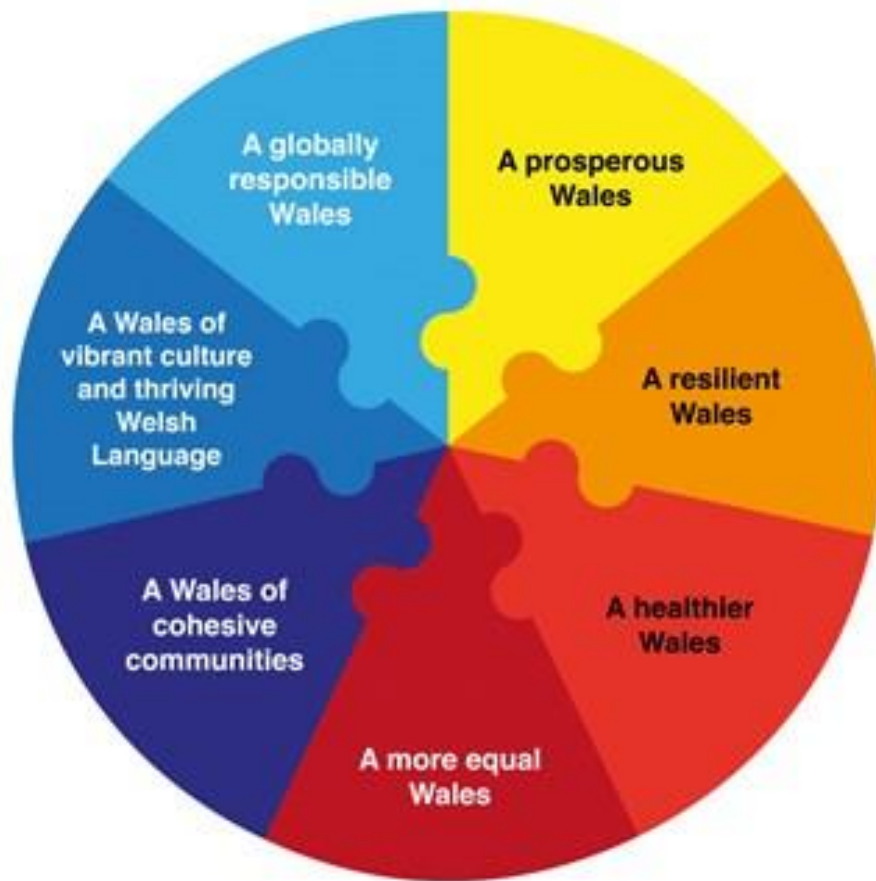


Figure 1 – Seven Well-being Goals for Wales. (Please see [Appendix 1](#) for a list of their definitions.)

The Act places a legal duty on public bodies to adopt sustainable development as the central organising principle when setting well-being objectives and in taking steps to meet those objectives. In the Act, sustainable development is exemplified by the five ways of working.

Sustainable Development

The Act confirms that sustainable development is the central organising principle that public bodies must apply when making decisions and taking steps to achieve their well-being objectives. Put simply: *“public bodies in Wales must think about the long term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.”* (Future Generations Commissioner: Sophie Howe).

There are five ways of working that public bodies must adopt to evidence how they have used sustainable development as their central organising principle. Following these ways of working offers a huge opportunity to make long-lasting, positive change to current and future generations.



Long term

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.



Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.



Integration

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.



Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

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 2017-18, the Council's revenue budget was £114.795 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 was reported to Cabinet in July 2018. The published report can be read by following the link [Cabinet Report](#).

Table 1: the provisional revenue outturn for 2017/18 by main service area

Revenue Outturn	£ '000
Learning (including schools)	44,200
Social Services	29,027
Community Regeneration	3,337
Neighbourhood Services	10,613
Leisure Trust	2,403
<i>All other Council Services (including Corporate Centre Costs)</i>	<i>25,142</i>
Total	114,722

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2017, Council approved its first **Statement of Well-being** which established the rationale for our proposed well-being objectives and the steps to achieve them.

In April 2017, Council agreed its new Corporate Well-being Plan – **Focus on the Future: Well-being in our Community** for 2017 to 2022. The plan signifies the next step in the journey to embed sustainable development across the council, and is our first plan that looks to achieve improvements across the four pillars of well-being, namely economic, social, cultural and environment.

To ensure our well-being planning remains relevant to the needs of people living and working in Merthyr Tydfil, our annual Well-being Statement will assess whether our well-being objectives are appropriate and identify ways to maximise our contribution to achieving the seven well-being goals. Looking forward, we have set out our future ambitions for well-being in our Statement of Well-being 2018 to 2022.

In 2017-18 we had nine well-being objectives, organised within four well-being themes:

Best Start to Life

At the end of the academic year 2017, outcomes were **adequate** and need improvement because although overall attainment at the average level in foundation phase and key stage 2 were good; they were adequate in key stage 3 and, at key stage 4, the performance was unsatisfactory in nearly all key indicators. Overall attainment at the above average levels was adequate in foundation phase, unsatisfactory in key stage 2, and good in key stage 3. Improving attendance remains an area for further improvement as does the need to reduce exclusion rates particularly at key stage 4.

Working Life

Over the period of 2017-18 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. We have therefore judged our performance to be **adequate** and in need of improvement.

Environmental Well-being

Reducing the amount of waste that we produce and recycling as much as possible brings economic as well as environmental benefits. During the period of 2017-18 the outcomes were **good** in Merthyr Tydfil; the amount of waste sent to landfill reduced further and the amount of waste recycled, reused and composted by residents once again exceeded the Welsh Government's target. However, in order to meet Welsh Governments ambitious target to recycle 70 per cent of all waste by 2025 and be 'zero waste' by 2050, we need to do even more. To that end, we would encourage all of our residents to prevent waste wherever possible and recycle everything that can be recycled. Furthermore, heritage and culture is a strong and important feature in the identity and welling of our community. It is important that we continue to innovate in the development our heritage and cultural assets which also have substantial economic value to Merthyr Tydfil in the short and long term.

Living Well

During the period 2017-18, social services have continued to work hard to safeguard Adults and Children. We have also improved our preventative agenda and this is evidenced with more people receiving the right information and advice when they need it, and an increase in support being provided under the supporting people programme. Sadly, we have again seen a decline in the number of visits to sports and leisure centre, which is something we will need to consider for 2018-19. Taking the above into consideration, we have therefore judged our performance as **adequate**.

Based on the judgements identified in the four well-being themes above, our overall judgement is **adequate**.



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

Please see the Council's [‘Our Shared Vision’](#) for further information.

Measuring well-being

To help understand our performance by considering well-being and to encourage us to consider the benefits of working in different ways, the performance information in this report will be organised in two sections. The first section uses quantitative data to measure the success of each well-being theme, and the second section utilises qualitative evidence to demonstrate impact from the perspective of community members.

This report looks back over our performance during 2017-18, and acknowledges that how we deliver is just as important as what we deliver. In order to make a real difference to people's lives, and the greatest possible contribution to the seven well-being goals, we need to do different things. This report therefore, will evaluate impact using two types of data:

- Quantitative data (population indicators, and local performance indicators)
- Qualitative data (case studies and people voice)

Defining Success

The Chief Executive identified his personal aspirations 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 priority areas and compare outcomes of performance across Wales where this information is available.

Our priority areas by theme are:

Best start to life – Improve the educational outcomes for all children and young people

Working Life – Developing the environment / infrastructure for business to flourish

Environmental Well-being – Maximise efficient use of materials and resources by means of the waste hierarchy

Living Well – Safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of harm

Self-Evaluation: Overall Summary

The overall position for the delivery of the well-being objectives in the Corporate Well-being Plan is **Adequate**, where this means: ‘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’. Of the four well-being themes: 0 has been judged unsatisfactory; 3 have been judged adequate and 1 has been judged good.

Our Well-being Objectives: summary of performance

Table 2 provides a summary position for the nine well-being objectives, and the aggregate judgement for each of the four well-being themes.

Table 2: the well-being objectives identified for Merthyr Tydfil

BEST START TO LIFE

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

Judgement

Adequate

WORKING LIFE

- Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: developing the workforce of the future
- Developing the environment and infrastructure for businesses to flourish

Adequate

ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

- Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside
- Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets

Good

LIVING WELL

- Developing safer communities
- People have good physical and mental health
- People live independently

Adequate

Chief Officer: Learning

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Sue Walker

Councillor Lisa Mytton

Raising Standards

Background

Raising standards of attainment is a priority for the Council. Well-being is strongly linked to attainment. Pupils with better health and well-being are more likely to be ready to learn and achieve better academically.

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 drive improvement in standards of literacy and numeracy, through improving the quality of teaching and leadership, and to reduce the impact of socio-economic deprivation on educational attainment.

Objectives:

BS 1: Children get the best start to life

BS 2: Children and young people are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals

Our evaluation says this well-being theme is:**Adequate**

The annual position of outcomes (August 2017) is adequate and needs improvement because although overall attainment at the average level in foundation phase and key stage 2 is good, it is adequate in key stage 3 and at key stage 4 the performance is unsatisfactory in nearly all key indicators. Overall attainment at the above average levels is adequate in foundation phase, unsatisfactory in key stage 2, and good in key stage 3. Attendance remains an area for further improvement.

Table 3[Performance Key](#)

Key Performance Indicators	2017
% of pupils who achieve the Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator	89.1
% of Flying Start children achieving Outcome 1 in all 4 areas within the Foundation Phase Compact on exit from childcare settings age	50
% of pupils who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2	89.2
% of overall (half day sessions) pupil attendance in primary school	94.3
% of pupils who achieve the Level 1 threshold	95
% of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold (English/Welsh & maths)	42.4
% of FSM eligible pupils who achieve the L2 threshold (English/Welsh & maths)	23.5
% of overall (half day sessions) pupil attendance in secondary school	93
% of pupils looked after who achieve the L2 inclusive (English/Welsh & maths)	9.1

Table 4[Activity Key](#)

Well-being projects	
Emotional and physical well-being	GREEN
Achieving excellence in schools	GREEN
Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners	RED

For additional information see [Appendix 3](#)

?	89% of the childcare providers across Merthyr Tydfil are eligible to support Flying Start places through implementing flying start quality frameworks, thereby ensuring all children get the best possible start to their education
?	The new childcare offer will come into being in January 2019 enabling eligible parents to access up to 30 hours of free childcare in a registered childcare setting . For further information on the free childcare scheme, please visit https://gov.wales/docs/dsijg/publications/cyp/180702-early-implementer-september-2018-en.pdf
?	That Merthyr Tydfil Youth Support Service was awarded a quality mark for its work with a range of partners who deliver services to over 2,200 young people each year. This includes providing opportunities for young people to achieve qualifications that contribute to their formal achievements in education.
?	Pen y Dre High School , was the most successful English medium secondary school in Wales at the 2018 Urdd Eisteddfod for the on-stage competition.
?	Pupils from Pantyscallog school worked with Merthyr Valleys Home on a project about flytipping and how it negatively impacts on the future of young people. A video with the hashtag #dontwasteourfuture was produced using a news room format and included a rap written by the pupils. The video, filmed by local photographer MLA photography, can be viewed by clicking on this link Dontwasteourfuture

“Did You Know”

?	That young people in Merthyr Tydfil who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) can access 1:1 support during years 10 and 11, and that transition plans are agreed with each young person to support their move into adulthood. Last year, only 7 young people of all those leaving school becoming NEET .
?	Almost 3700 pupils from 14 schools in Merthyr Tydfil take part in The Daily Mile to help boost their physical and emotional well-being. It is also an opportunity for pupils to socialise, have fun and make friends. The Daily Mile takes 15 minutes per day but can increase attainment by up to 25%. Within 4 weeks, children who do The Daily Mile become fit.
?	23 schools in Merthyr Tydfil have a Green Flag award. 4 of those schools have achieved Platinum status , demonstrating their long-term commitment to environmental education, student involvement and sustainability. Platinum schools are ranked among the best in the world on the Eco-Schools programme.
?	Half of our schools are engaged in the Rights Respecting Schools programme , which seeks to promote an ethos of mutual respect so that staff and pupils feel listened to and valued. Two schools, Heolgerrig Primary and Trelewis Primary have had an improvement in attendance and a reduction in exclusions since becoming a Rights Respecting School.
?	Just over 1000 children were taught by the Music Service Peripatetic Music staff during the academic year 2017-18. On a weekly basis, 12 music tutors visit Merthyr Tydfil schools to pass on their musical skills and knowledge. The service organises 2 music centres for ensemble music activities so pupils can socialise while learning



That **almost 2,500 young people** voted in the **Youth Mayor elections across Merthyr Tydfil in 2018** and that **young people sit on Merthyr Tydfil CBC scrutiny committees**. The work of the forum resulted in a Mental Health DVD which **won the High Sheriffs award** and alongside a toolkit is now used to discuss mental health with other young people across the borough. For more information on the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF), please visit <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/mayoral/youth-mayor/mtbwyf/>

Chief Officer: Social Services

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Lisa Curtis-Jones

Councillor David Hughes

Improving Well-being

Background

The theme Living Well includes three well-being objectives:

- Developing safer communities
- People have good physical and mental health
- People live independently

These objectives seek to prioritise activities which focus on early intervention and prevention. The priority is to deliver services that support people to lead healthy independent lives in a safe environment. We want to motivate and support people to develop positive physical and mental health behaviours, build resilient communities where people live free from harm and have a good quality of life.

Objectives:

LW 1: Developing safer communities

LW 2: People have good physical and mental health

LW 3: People live independently

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

In Merthyr Tydfil, the annual judgement for outcomes is adequate. We have continued to embed the national Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) this year, which has impacted on the timeliness of data being available.

In Table 5 below, five of the key performance indicators have shown improvement, and three have shown no significant changes since last year. However; two of the indicators have shown a decline in performance; this is in relation to the number of school moves for children looked after, and the number of visits to local authority leisure facilities. These are areas we will need to address in future and look to improve. In general performance can be categorised as adequate as most areas have improved or remained stable.

Table 5[Performance Key](#)**Key Performance Indicators¹**

% of re-registrations of children on local authority child protection registers	4.67
% of adult protection enquires completed within 7 days	89.1
% of people that received the right information or advice when they needed it	68.7
% of the adult population who can live independently	95.85
% of adults who completed a period of reablement and have a reduced package of care and support 6 months later	16.02
% of people in receipt of specialist domestic violence support reporting an improvement in quality of life	88.0
% of children supported to remain living within their family	77.6
% of children looked after who have experienced one or more changes of school which were not due to transitional arrangements	10.0
Number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres per 1,000 population	7,808

¹ There is no comparable information to the other Welsh local authorities for the social care measures, as this information has not been published to date.

Table 6

[Activity Key](#)

Well-being Projects	
Community Safety	GREEN
Physical and Mental Health	GREEN
Living Independently	GREEN

For additional information see [Appendix 4](#)

?	Merthyr Tydfil is ranked the number 1 local authority in Wales for 16 and Under Structured Swimming sessions per 1000 population. To find out more about Free Swimming in Merthyr visit http://www.merthyrleisure.co.uk/
?	That 2,018 secondary school aged children were physically active in their spare time during school hours last school year. If you are interested in getting Physically Active in Merthyr Tydfil, please contact 01685 727493 or email activemerthyrttydfil@merthyr.gov.uk
?	That £73,776 was spent in Merthyr Tydfil last year to set up brand new physical activity sessions within the borough. This money was spent on 24 different sports/physical activities and 60 different applications were supported to access the money by the Active Merthyr Tydfil Sports Development Team.
?	That 2,716 children aged between 7-16 across 27 schools gave their thoughts on sport and physical activity in the School Sport Survey. The results of the sport survey will help improve physical activity within the borough.
?	On average, 85% of clients receiving assistance from Care and Repair stated that their services had improved their independence and well-being / quality of life.

“Did You Know”

?	The Supporting People Programme in Merthyr Tydfil supported 965 people last year in helping people live as independently as possible and continues working to prevent homelessness. Over 26% of these people presenting had mental health issues as their lead support need. If you, or someone you know requires further information on the Supporting People Programme, please contact the Supporting People Team on: 01685 724690 or email SupportingPeople@merthyr.gov.uk
?	Through grant monies, 56 young carers attended a fully inclusive activity centre (PGL Liddington), for two nights, which provided them with a well-earned break from their caring responsibilities. It enabled them to try new activities and build their confidence and team spirit, while sharing rooms helped them to establish new friendship groups and shared experience; it also allowed them to have some well-deserved ‘me time’.
?	That 125 Year 6 children were recruited and trained up as Young Leaders in Merthyr Tydfil last school year. They brought Physical Activity onto their playgrounds in school and gave even more children the opportunity to be physically active in school. To find out more about how to become a young leader, visit https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/leisure-parks-and-culture/active-merthyr-tydfil/school-sport/leadership/
?	Over the past 6 months the Supporting People Programme in Merthyr Tydfil has helped 784 people achieve positive steps in outcomes including; living independently, feeling safe, being part of the community and managing money. If you require further information on the Supporting People Programme, please visit https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/social-services-and-well-being/adult-social-care/help-to-live-at-home-independently/supporting-people/

Chief Officer: Community Regeneration

Alyn Owen

Lead Member

Councillor Geraint Thomas

Strategic Focus

Environment and infrastructure for business

Background

The Working Life theme within the Corporate Well-being Plan focused on 2 key areas: development of skills to support increased employability and the further development of the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish.

These work 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.

Objectives:

WL 1: Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: Developing the workforce of the future

WL 2: Developing the environment and infrastructure for businesses to flourish

Our evaluation says this well-being theme is:**Adequate**

A judgement of adequate has been reached following consideration of the following factors. Employment statistics for Merthyr Tydfil show the County Borough is above the Welsh average; however, the gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Merthyr Tydfil remains below the Welsh average. Merthyr Tydfil continues to demonstrate an increase in business births: with the number of business deaths decreasing slightly; the net gain to business numbers is greater than the previous year.

The reduction in the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training has also been sustained, with Merthyr Tydfil ranked joint first nationally.

Continued progress has been made to link targeted employment opportunities for economically inactive residents to new employment growth in the County Borough; this has continued to help develop the local work force. However, the direct impact the Council has had on the overall post-16 education qualifications is limited because of the numbers of people we engage with. We will continue to deliver a number of key European-funded projects with ambitious engagement targets.

During 2017-2018, further progress was made to join up the critical service areas that impact on the supply and demand side of the local economy. Creating targeted pathways for local residents to gain skills to take advantage of new employment opportunities has created a missing link between the demand and supply in Merthyr Tydfil. The development during this period has been underpinned by the ongoing progress made by the local Economic Growth Partnership and the creation of a new Economic Growth Strategy.

Table 7[Performance Key](#)

Key Performance Indicators	2017
% of working age population in employment (Year ending Mar 2018)	74
% of working age population who are qualified to NVQ level 2 and above	66.2
% of population with no qualification	16.4
% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training	1.0
Number of business births	255
Number of business deaths	165
% of participants in employment upon leaving the EU funded programmes	12.8% (70/549)
% of participants who gain a qualification on completion of an 'out of	28.4% (156/549)

work’ training programme

% of participants who gain a qualification on completion of an ‘in work’ training programme 81.9% (281/343)

[Activity Key](#)

Table 8

Well-being projects	
Skills Development	YELLOW
Developing business infrastructure and environment	AMBER

For additional information see [Appendix 5](#)

?	91.2% of working people taking part in the Council's free training projects have gained a qualification . To find out more on the courses offered by the Council, call the Neighbourhood Learning Centre on 01685 727099.
?	In 2017-18, Merthyr Tydfil Council's Community Regeneration team helped 25 social enterprises / third sector organisations access funding. To find out more about the support available for social enterprises, please visit https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/business/social-economy/
?	In early 2018, the Council introduced a new Common Allocations Policy for social housing and launched its new housing website – www.livingmerthyrtydfil.org.uk
?	Over half of all households who come to the Council for help when at risk of homelessness have their crisis resolved and remain living in their home. The earlier people seek help with a housing issue, the greater the chance of a positive outcome.
?	The latest available data shows the average business birth rate (business start-ups) for Wales is 12.3% ; the latest available data also shows the rate in Merthyr Tydfil was 17.9% . To find out more about the support available to people looking to start their own business, please visit https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/business-advice/

“Did You Know”

Chief Officer: Neighbourhood Services

Lead Member

Strategic Focus

Cherylle Evans

Councillor Howard Barrett

Waste

Background

The focus of this theme is on protecting our natural and cultural assets as a way to improve well-being, the two objectives under Environmental Well-being are:

- Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside
- Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural asset

The priority is to work towards achieving the national vision of Wales becoming a Zero Waste country by 2050 and taking steps to ensure the Welsh public sector becomes carbon neutral by 2030.

In addition to protecting our natural environment, this theme seeks to deliver services and support activities that harness the potential of our heritage and use our natural environment in a sustainable way to support greater social and economic well-being.

Objectives:

EW 1: Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside

EW 2: Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets

Our evaluation says this well-being theme is:**Good**

The quality of the local environment is important to people. Over the period of 2017-18 in Merthyr Tydfil, the amount of waste sent to landfill reduced further and the amount of waste recycled, reused and composted by residents once again exceeded the Welsh Government's target. However, whilst significant improvement has been made in this area over recent years we recognise that we need to do even more in order to meet Welsh Government's ambitious target. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, 100 per cent of all fly tipping incidents were cleared within 5 days, ranking us the top performing Authority in Wales. Also, there has been a slight improvement in the cleanliness of our highways in 2017-18, taking us to 97 per cent. In addition, the total carbon dioxide emission from energy consumed by Council buildings has reduced from 15808 in 2016-17 to 11758. Whilst good improvement has been made in this area, it is recognised that further work needs to be done to ensure that our buildings are as energy efficient as possible.

During this plan period the Council piloted a radically new approach to developing its heritage and culture assets in a new co-production model. In October 2017 at Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr Tydfil, the Design Commission for Wales and the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University convened a multi-disciplinary team to scope the possibilities within the town and surrounding landscape in a bold visioning exercise that sought ways of making of Merthyr Tydfil's heritage assets something greater than the sum of its parts, underlining its true international significance. This one-day charrette, or design day, brought together over 60 creative minds – architects, landscape architects, planners, heritage specialists and artists – to examine and appraise the potential around Cyfarthfa, in the wider town and landscape so as to shape a vision for the future. This has resulted in a strategic report that will form the Authorities strategic direction in relation to Heritage, Culture and tourism over the next 5 years.

Table 9[Performance Key](#)**Key Performance Indicators²**

% of fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 days	100
% of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	97.2
% of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	1.93
% of municipal waste reused, recycled, or composted	62.74
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumed by Council buildings	11758
Number of participants attending sessions delivered by the Urdd Apprentice	150

² There is no comparable information to the other Welsh local authorities for the waste measures, as this information has not been published to date.

Table 10

[Activity Key](#)

Well-being Projects	
Local Environmental Quality	Yellow
Heritage and Culture	Amber

For additional information see [Appendix 6](#)

?	That in 2017-18 each person in Merthyr Tydfil produced approximately 188 kg of residual (wheeled bin) waste . By recycling more of our cans, plastics, glass, card, paper and food from the wheeled bin we can reduce waste to energy and landfill and help protect the environment's resources.
?	That by recycling just 3 deodorant containers we can save enough energy to power an average shower for 8 minutes . For further information on recycling, please contact Wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725000.
?	That when you recycle aluminium cans , the whole process from putting the cans into your recycling container, to process, and put back on shop shelves takes only 6 weeks . For further information on recycling, please contact Wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725000.
?	That residents and businesses in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough recycled over 2,500 tonnes of food waste in 2017-18, producing approximately 1,200 MWh of renewable energy. This is enough energy to power up to 225 homes for a year , according to the World Energy Council .
?	That by squashing cartons before recycling them will reduce their volume by a 3rd making the recycling process more efficient and reducing the amount of vehicles required to haul the materials. For further information please contact Wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725000.

“Did You Know”

?	That average number of disposable nappies a baby gets through during the first couple of years weighs the same as a family car . (WRAP Cymru .)
?	The 9 Solar PV installations across the borough generate 254,772 kWh in 2017-18. That's enough energy to power at least 2 primary schools in the area for a year . For further information on energy efficiency or renewable technology, please visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk .
?	In 2017-18, the 'Visit Merthyr' website received 45,481 'hits'!! To find out more about all the things you can see and do around Merthyr Tydfil, as well as information on places to stay, please visit www.visitmerthyr.co.uk
?	That 607,427 people visited Merthyr Tydfil's key tourist attractions during 2017-18. To find out more about all the things you can see and do around Merthyr Tydfil, as well as information on places to stay, visit www.visitmerthyr.co.uk
?	If all of the plastic containers produced in 1 year were placed end to end they would circle the earth 4 times . By recycling more of this valuable resource we would reduce environmental pollution and be able turn some of this waste plastic into many other things such as jumpers, coats and trousers. For further information please contact www.Wasteservices.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725000.

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 **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 11 indicator status definitions

Performance definition	Rank	Status
The current position is excellent	1-6	Excellent
The current position is good	7-11	Good
The current position is adequate	12-16	Adequate
The current position is unsatisfactory	17-22	Unsatisfactory
There is no comparable information or only local data	Not applicable	

Descriptor for each status

EXCELLENT	Very strong, sustained performance and practice
GOOD	Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
ADEQUATE and needs improvement	Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
UNSATISFACTORY and needs urgent improvement	Important weaknesses outweigh strengths

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 12 well-being projects status definitions

Well-being projects definition	Status
Project successfully completed	Blue
Successful delivery appears likely with no major outstanding issues to threaten delivery	Green
Successful delivery appears probable but issues exists 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

Steps taken to achieve the 7 well-being goals

As a public body the Council must take all necessary steps to demonstrate its contribution to achieving all seven of the well-being goals. Over the last 12 months there has been an array of services and activities that support improving the well-being of our communities. The way in which we demonstrate the impact of this work requires a mixed-methods approach, i.e. quantitative and qualitative data.

This section of the report utilises case studies to demonstrate how we are working towards to the 7 well-being goals. Qualitative data can elicit a rich account of the complexities involved in supporting well-being and provides a rich understanding of the context within which our services exist.

The data captured by the case studies uses the Outcome STAR³ approach to demonstrate the positive outcomes for individuals and communities.

What is included in this section?

There is a selection of case studies; each one assessed for their contribution to the 7 well-being goals based on the official descriptors as outlined in the WFG Act. A case study that impacts on a well-being goal will keep that goal coloured, and the other goals grey scaled out.

³ STAR, is any acronym for Situation, Task, Action and Result

Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Run Buggy Run*

As a mother, 'B' had already experienced the barriers of having very little, or no childcare. Run Buggy Run was formed from the idea of creating an opportunity pathway for parents who wanted to begin running after having a baby, and to consider the use of an appropriate running buggy to train with.

'B' first piloted the idea with the help of Active Merthyr Tydfil. 'B' used 2 buggies of her own, while Active Merthyr supported her to purchase a third. Sessions were run a couple of times a week, building up from walking around the park to a run.



After a few sessions, it was apparent that the use of the buggy outside the group session was key to maintaining the momentum the coached session provides, as this was allowing them to get active at a time that suited them, as well as joining my session.

As a result of the pilot, Active Merthyr then supported me by funding four more buggies so I could reach wider participant numbers. We have now had a number of women who previously were not active at all engage in the programme. Not only are they coming to my sessions they are now getting active with the buggies on their own time.

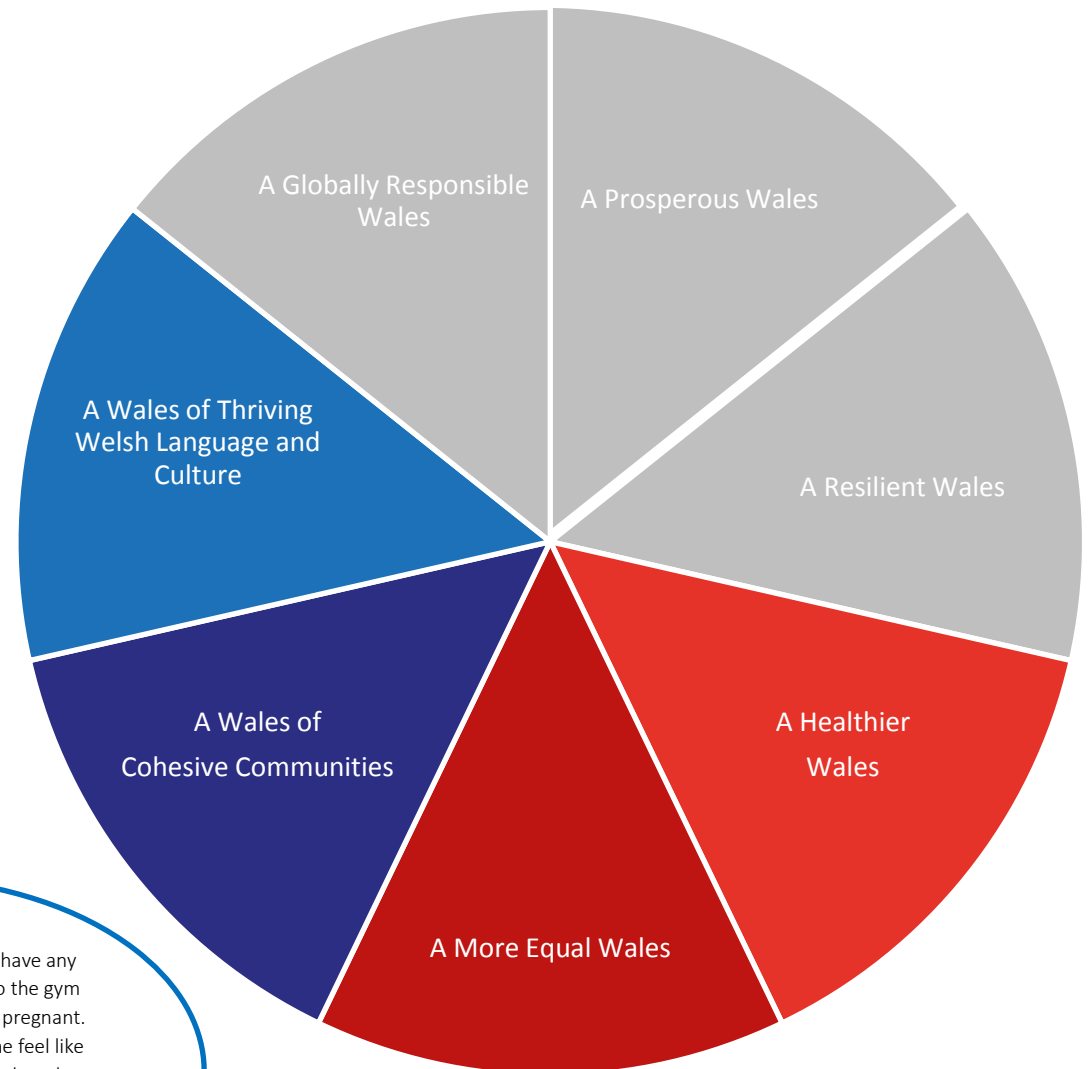
Two of them now take part in Parkrun also, something they never did before.

In Merthyr Tydfil, we are looking to upskill a new leader who will help run the sessions. This will allow more opportunities for people to 'buggy run'.

"Having the buggy gives me the option to get out and run at any time I want, without having to rely on others to supply childcare. It gives me that bit more freedom to get in a bit of exercise which I benefit from both physically and mentally. Rory enjoys being out and about in the fresh air, and generally takes a nap when we get home! Added bonus!"
Becca Jones

"I joined Run Buggy Run as I don't have any childcare, meaning I hadn't been to the gym or any classes since I was 7 months pregnant. Coming to Run Buggy Run makes me feel like I'm having a bit of 'me time' even though Meg's with me as I'm doing something for myself - something I don't get to do often anymore"
Kirsty Evans

2017 - 2018



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: ADREF – Eviction Prevention

Jane was referred to Adref Floating Support via the local housing association as she was in rent arrears and the house was in disrepair. Jane is a single parent with two young children one is of school age the other preschool.

Jane was encouraged to liaise with Social Services, Merthyr Valley Homes and Adref floating support, to prevent eviction. Her tenancy support officer assisted Jane to budget more effectively and set up a cleaning rota to support with weekly and daily cleaning activities. Once arrears and cleaning rotas were sustainable Jane started to focus on her education. With Adref's help, Jane enrolled in college. Her Tenancy Support Officer assisted Jane to obtain a child care space in the college nursery to enable her to enrol on a course. Jane completed one year in college and is planning on returning to complete the second year. Jane's goal in life was to become a lawyer to benefit her and the two children and be able to stand on her own two feet.

Jane was assisted to research educational courses and to enrol in college. She has since excelled in her course, and continues to do well. She was also assisted to look into and secure child care for her two children.

Jane is now in the third year of her course, and her future aspirations are to pass her course and go into the legal profession, possibly as a lawyer.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: Aiming to improve air quality

Air quality indicates how healthy the air we breathe is. Air pollution leads to poor air quality. This can affect human, animal and plant health and the environment.

Air pollution is caused by natural and man-made pollutants. The pollutants of concern are: carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide and particles.

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared covering Twynyrodyn Road from the roundabout at the western end (Tesco) to the crossroads between Gilfach-Cynon and Arfryn Place. It was necessary to declare an AQMA as nitrogen dioxide levels exceeded the National Air Quality Objective at a number of monitoring locations along this stretch of road.



After declaring an AQMA, the Council was required to consider methods of improving the air quality in the affected area and to consult the public on its findings.

A wide range of measures were considered but only three of these were considered to be capable of improving the air quality without causing significant adverse effects elsewhere.

These measures provided advantages and disadvantages to residents, traders and others living in both the affected and nearby areas.

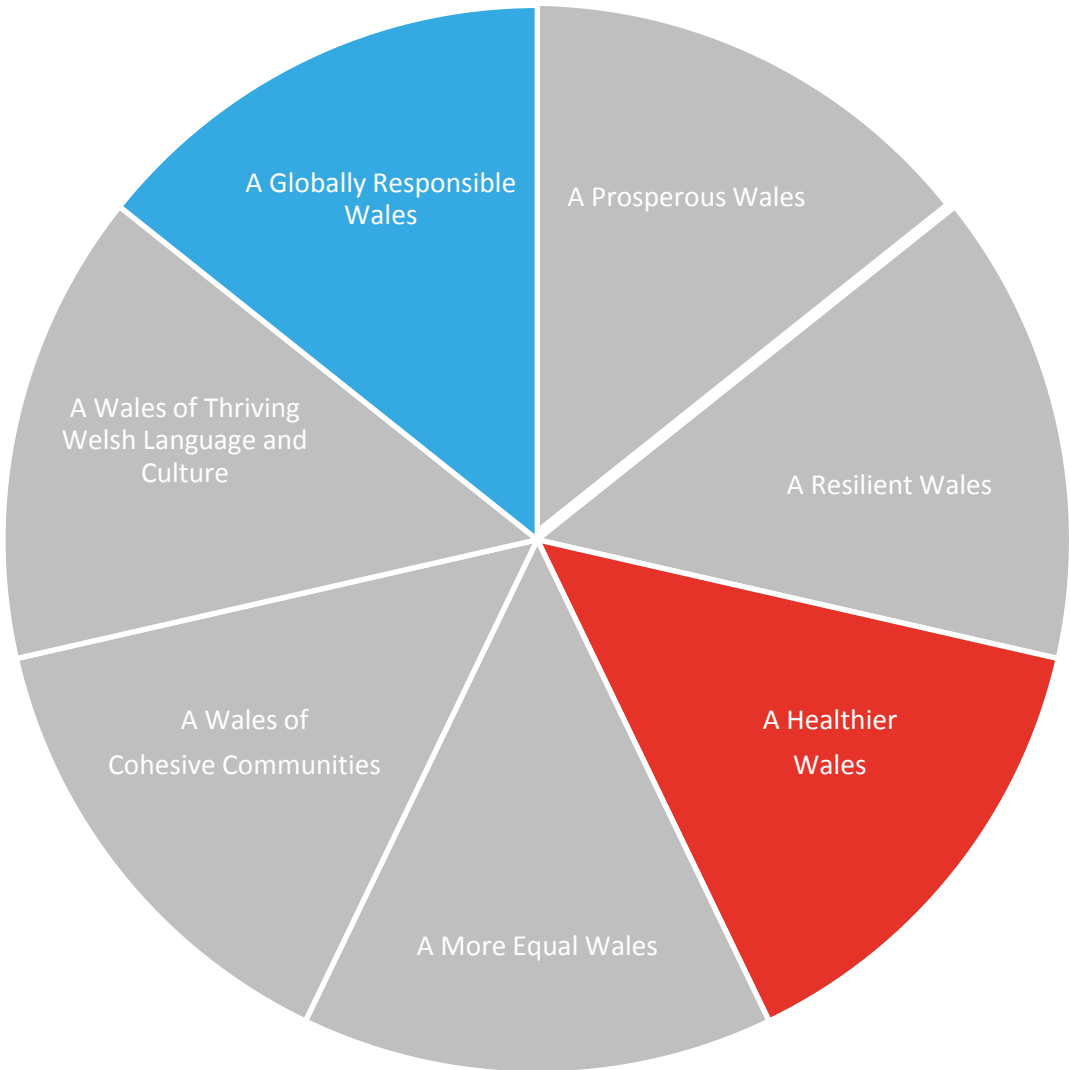
A formal public consultation on these proposals and on the Council's draft Air Quality Action Plan in general was undertaken. Members of the public were able to access the consultation documents, vote for their preferred option and submit their comments online. We also held a number of informal drop-in sessions and a social media consultation event, where members of the public could also ask questions and make comments.

Details of all of these proposals, and of the Council's draft Air Quality Action Plan in general, are available below. Answers to frequently asked questions, which were updated as the consultation progressed to address any common concerns, are also given below.

Of the responses received 94% favoured the option of reducing traffic on Twynyrodyn Road as a whole.

All responses received during the twelve week consultation period have been considered and The Air Quality Action Plan has been finalised for submission to Welsh Government.

The Air Quality Action Plan has now been submitted to Welsh Government for approval. Once approved, a Traffic Regulation Order will be put in place for 6 months and providing no objections are received, physical works will begin shortly thereafter.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Comets and Rockets project*

Kelly (not real name) age 6, was referred by Safer Merthyr Tydfil IDVA Service (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) as they were already supporting mum. Kelly's parents had separated due to physical and emotional abuse within their relationship: she was living with mum and had no contact with dad.

Due to Kelly's experiences, she was unable to attend the group workshops as her behaviour towards other children was unpredictable and aggressive. Initially she would not attend play therapy sessions alone; therefore mum had to be present. Kelly was extremely anxious and impulsive, often throwing items and lashing out towards mum and the play therapist. Kelly was unable to understand her emotions, had very few coping strategies and communicated on a physical level rather than being able to verbalise her feelings.



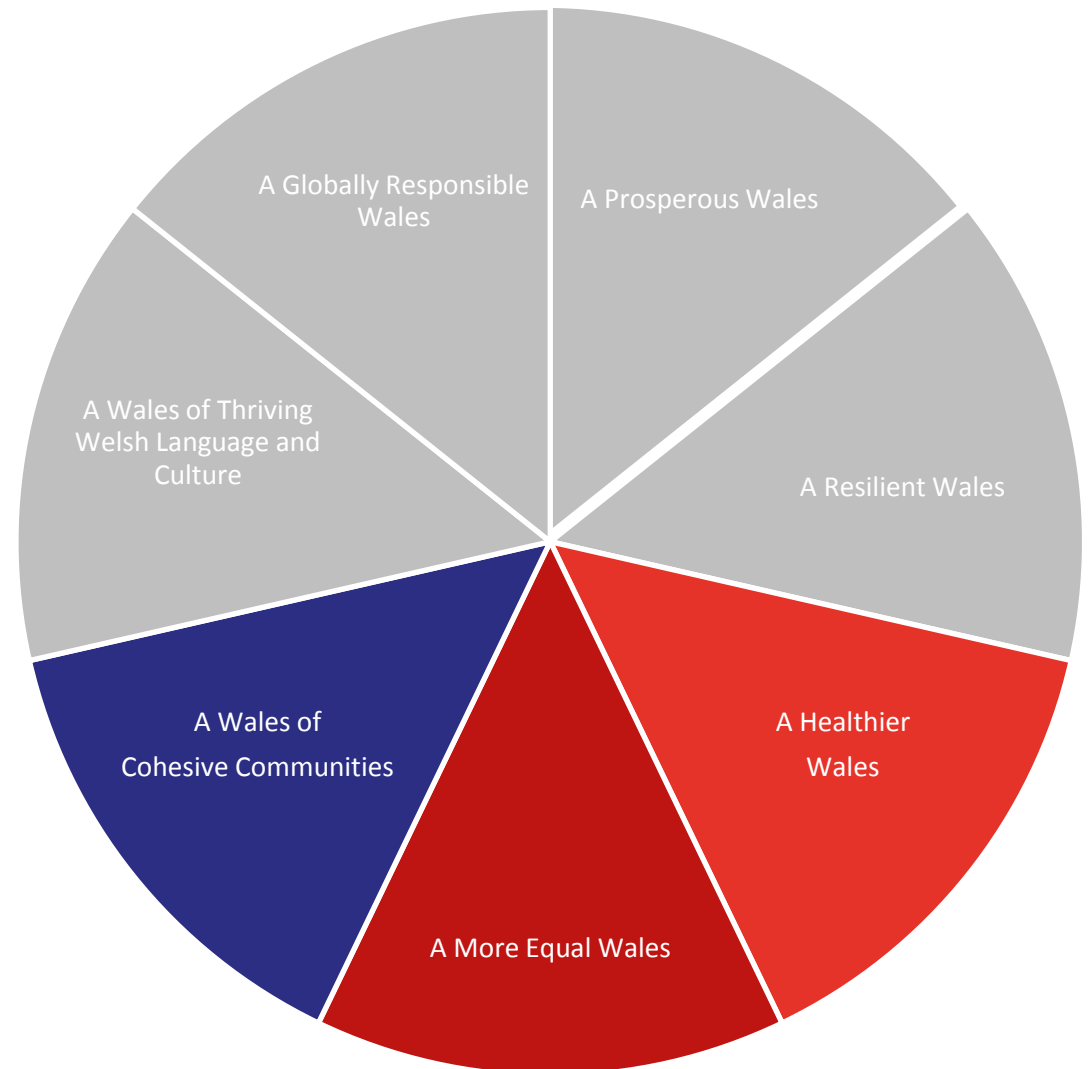
Mum struggled to manage Kelly's behaviour and concerns were voiced over her ability to parent Kelly and her young brother. Kelly struggled at school; however, the staff were very supportive and adapted to help Kelly. Due to her behaviour, she was isolated and had no friendship circle.

Kelly was placed in foster care, her presentation during play therapy was very mixed, highlighting the changes she had experienced moving away from mum. She would use her sessions to play out moving and going on journeys, she also explored her feelings of loss and there was always a monster figure she referred to who stood in the shadows.

The court decided that Kelly would stay in foster care, unfortunately the siblings would not be able to stay together. This upheaval and change again impacted Kelly's emotional well-being; it was the consistent relationship with the play therapist that Kelly relied on especially as Kelly experienced multiple moves whilst in foster care.

Kelly again played out her new experiences and her play regressed. This was a positive sign as she had a gap in her emotional development and this became evident in her play. Kelly's play became less chaotic and more appropriate for her age.

Kelly can now use coping strategies, she is able to express her emotions more positively but still has the occasional outburst, especially around Christmas time, which Kelly has difficult memories of. She is now able to recognise her behaviours and take some responsibility, which is a huge positive step for her. Kelly is able to say how she feels and can ask for help. She is learning to let adults look after her and her controlling behaviours have reduced.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: Cyfarthfa Heritage Area

Once an industrial powerhouse, Merthyr Tydfil was fundamental to the birth of the Industrial Revolution and is home to Grade I listed and internationally significant Cyfarthfa Castle.

In October 2017 at Cyfarthfa Castle, the Design Commission for Wales and the Welsh School of Architecture based at Cardiff University convened a multi-disciplinary team to scope possibilities within the town and surrounding landscape in a bold visioning exercise that sought ways of making Merthyr's heritage assets something greater, underlining its true international significance. The Charrette brought together over 60 creative minds to examine and appraise the potential around Cyfarthfa, in the wider town and landscape so as to shape a vision for the future.

Work in the pipeline for outside Cyfarthfa Castle – in its Grade II listed 65-hectare park – will complement any future plans for the building that arise from the Charrette. Having belonged to the people of Merthyr since the early 20th century, providing the town's main green space, Cyfarthfa Park will be given a new lease of life with the development of themed trails, promotional leaflets and online resources.



These projects will conserve the historic character of our buildings while giving them a new lease of life, renewing people's pride in their town, attracting visitors and investment to help boost the local economy."

A Volunteering Programme is being developed as part of the Stage 1 Development of the Cyfarthfa Parks for People 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application. This project aims to develop a comprehensive and inclusive volunteering programme that reflects the needs of the local community.

The programme will be based primarily in Cyfarthfa Park but will aim to identify and deliver opportunities in the wider Cyfarthfa Heritage Area.

A volunteering programme is an important component of the Heritage Lottery Funded Parks for People programme. Volunteering can help:

- raise the profile of Cyfarthfa
- create a positive and accurate vision of Cyfarthfa
- influence people to support our mission.
- influence organisations and decision-makers
- encourage people to support us directly through volunteering

The project will build on the successes and the lessons learned from the Cyfarthfa Parks for People 1 Programme. The Programme will both enhance and complement the Volunteering Policy of the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Cyfarthfa Park Lake*

Eels are swimming in Merthyr Tydfil's Cyfarthfa Lake for the first time in more than 100 years, after being reintroduced as part of a South Wales-wide biodiversity plan. Talks between the South East Wales Rivers Trust, the County Borough Council and Natural Resources Wales have led to the eels' release into the popular fishing lake following an invasion of American Signal Crayfish, an alien species.

The crayfish are not only causing a nuisance for the anglers by eating young fish and destroying their habitat, but also burrowing into the lake's masonry and causing leaks. European Eels are a natural predator to young crayfish. As they grow, the hope is that the eels will feed on the smallest crayfish, reducing their population and helping play a part in maintaining the lake's ecological balance. The Rivers Trust has been working to highlight the decline of the eel to schoolchildren and the wider public. As part of the regional project, Trelewis Primary School pupils have been feeding and looking after the eels in Merthyr Tydfil.



Merthyr Angling Club member and South East Wales Rivers Association Chair Tony Rees MBE said: "This is part of a huge programme of work which is underway across Europe to help re-establish eel populations by restoring wetlands and removing barriers to the eels' traditional migration route.

"It's been a delicate operation but if successful, will also play a massive part in restoring the ecological balance of waterways across Wales."

Mayor Cllr Clive Tovey, the Council's Biodiversity Champion Cllr Malcolm Colbran and Merthyr and Rhymney AM Dawn Bowden - along with 10-year-old Finley Williams of Troedyrhiw - helped release the eels into Cyfarthfa Lake. Cllr Tovey said: "The Council is delighted to be a part of this positive project that will impact on the future biodiversity of the lake and assist with its sustainability and long-term maintenance."

Dawn Bowden was recently made European Eel Champion as part of the Species Champion project run by Wales Environment Link (WEL). WEL members – including Salmon & Trout Conservation Cymru and the Sustainable Eel Group – paired up a group of 37 AMs with endangered species in Wales so they can help recover and safeguard them.

- Young eels (called elvers) hatch from eggs in the Sargasso Sea - a deep part of the western Atlantic Ocean. They migrate 3,000 miles back across the Atlantic towards the coast of the UK, gather in large river mouths like the Severn Estuary, and then head upriver in search of a new freshwater habitat.

The journey takes around two years and by the time they arrive, the eels are about 5cm long. Male eels then spend around seven years and females up to 20 years in our ponds, rivers, ditches and other areas of water getting bigger all the time and reaching lengths of up to 60-80cm long. They are then mature enough to breed and return to the sea and begin the long journey back to their breeding grounds, the Sargasso Sea, where they lay their eggs and die. They are also the only fish commonly found all over Europe and unlike spawning salmon, are all from one population.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Dai's Autos steered towards success by enterprise experts*

A Merthyr Tydfil father who left a job that prevented him seeing his children has avoided the benefits route by setting up a mobile car repair and maintenance service. Rather than requiring the car be taken to the repair shop, Gellideg's Dai's Autos is taking the mechanic to the car.

From the initial idea to the launch of the business, David was supported along every step of his journey by a team of local training and employment specialists. The Gellideg Foundation Group, where his wife Laura was a volunteer and mentioned his ambition to be self-employed, directed him towards the Effect Merthyr Tydfil project.

The Welsh Government-funded County Borough Council-managed initiative comprises a network of local professionals from the private, public and voluntary sectors - with skills ranging from accountancy to marketing - who helped David develop his business plan.

"We then referred David to Merthyr Tydfil's Communities for Work Programme to see if any support could be offered, as he had hit a brick wall in terms of accessing small scale finance for equipment," said Effect Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Facilitator Jared Green.



Effect then drew in further support from Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Centre (MTEC), the Bridges into Work project and the County Borough Council Procurement Team.

MTEC staff helped David with the basics of drawing up a business plan, which he and Laura – who has a foundation degree in business – produced together. "After exhausting all the available finance options for start-ups, he needed a robust business plan and financial

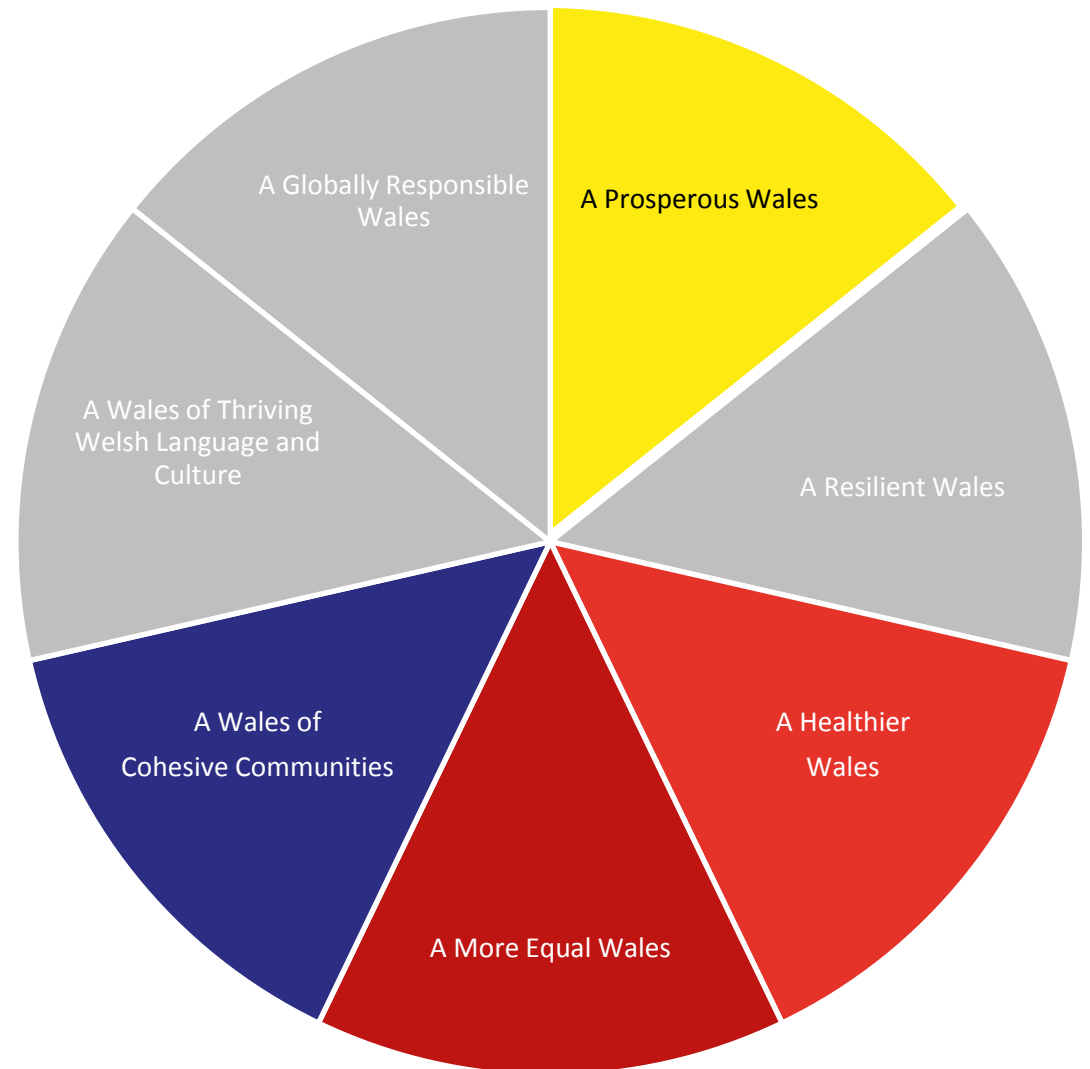
forecasts in order to get funding," said Jared. After paying for his van and insurance himself, David was given a vital contribution of £700 from the Communities for Work programme for equipment including tyre pressure gauge and inflator and oil change tools.

In his previous job as a security guard, he was working 12-hour shifts five to six days a week. The resulting unhealthy work/life balance meant he didn't see much of the couple's four children, aged from 14 years to 15 months old.

Not wanting to be 'the typical family on benefits', David decided to further develop his lifelong interest in cars and embarked on a college vehicle maintenance course. He decided to make his business a mobile one due to a surfeit of established garages in the area.

Since launching earlier in the spring, Dai's Autos has already seen a steady stream of customers, with work taking him as far afield as Bristol. "The service offers car owners the convenience of having their car fixed while at home or the office rather than having to take time off to go to a garage," said Jared Green.

"And the prices are more competitive because he doesn't have the overhead costs of maintaining a shop to stay in business."



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Get Me Fit*

'A' was a 58 year old male who lacked confidence and was very reserved; he had a sedentary lifestyle and was severely obese. 'A' was on sickness absence from work and had experienced mental health issues.

Following encouragement from his family, he attended the 'Get Me Fit' men's programme. When 'A' joined the project, he weighed 26 stone (165.10kg). On joining, he had no rapport with other members of the group.

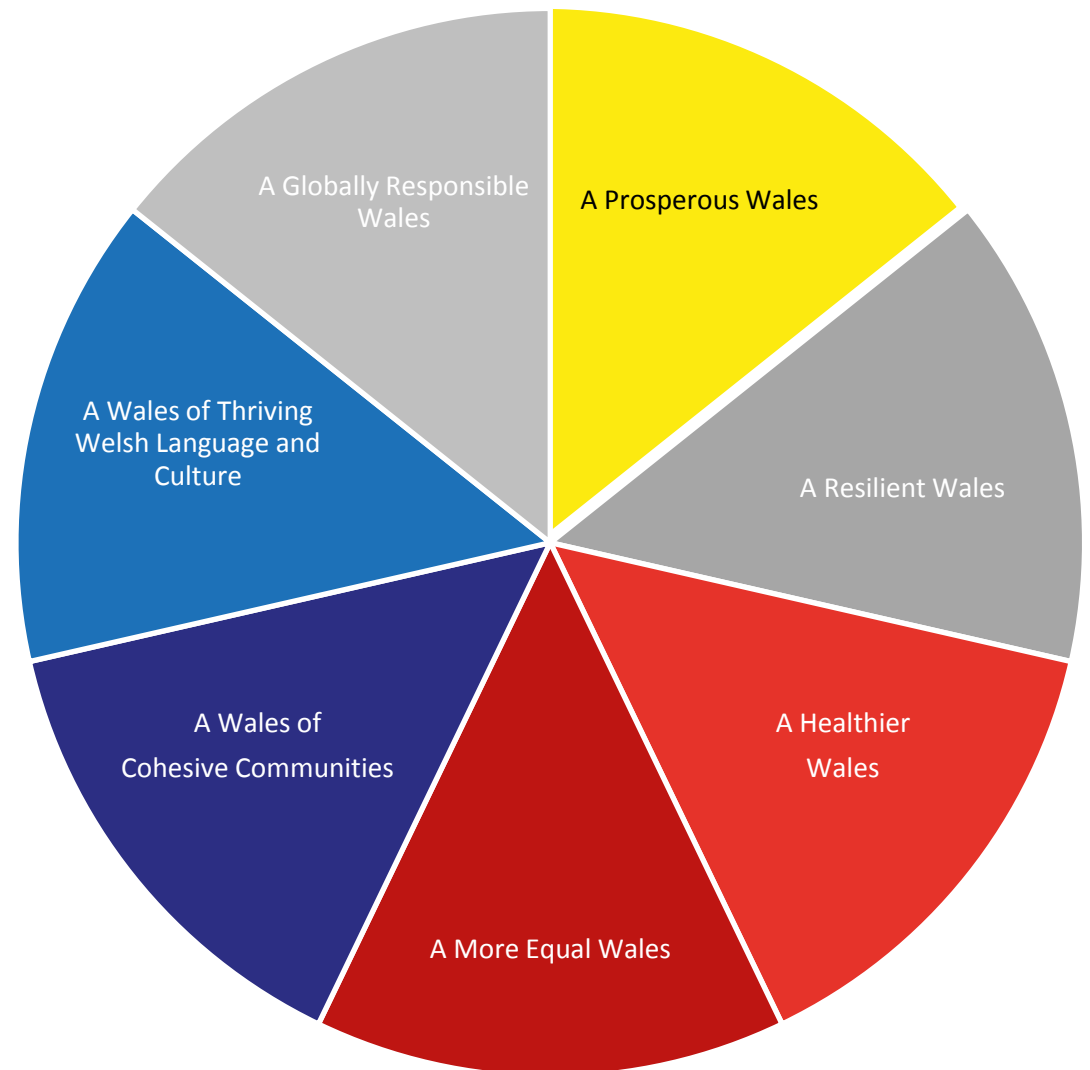
His goal was to have a fitter, healthier lifestyle for his family and his children. He stated he would like to join a jujitsu club and identified the fact that he needed support from the project on both his fitness and his confidence for this to happen.

Following some time, 'A' made a new social group of 'fitness' friends. With the support of the group leader and group members, 'A' increased his fitness levels and also experienced decreased health problems. To date, 'A' has lost 4 stone (25.4kg) and has joined other fitness sessions; he is now accessing PT sessions.

'A' has returned to work, having increased confidence and improved mental health. He also enjoys a better, positive relationship with his family.

"This has saved my life. I can finally walk with my dog and my children and I can fit into my old shirt from when I was 21!"

'A'



Steps to achieve well-being...

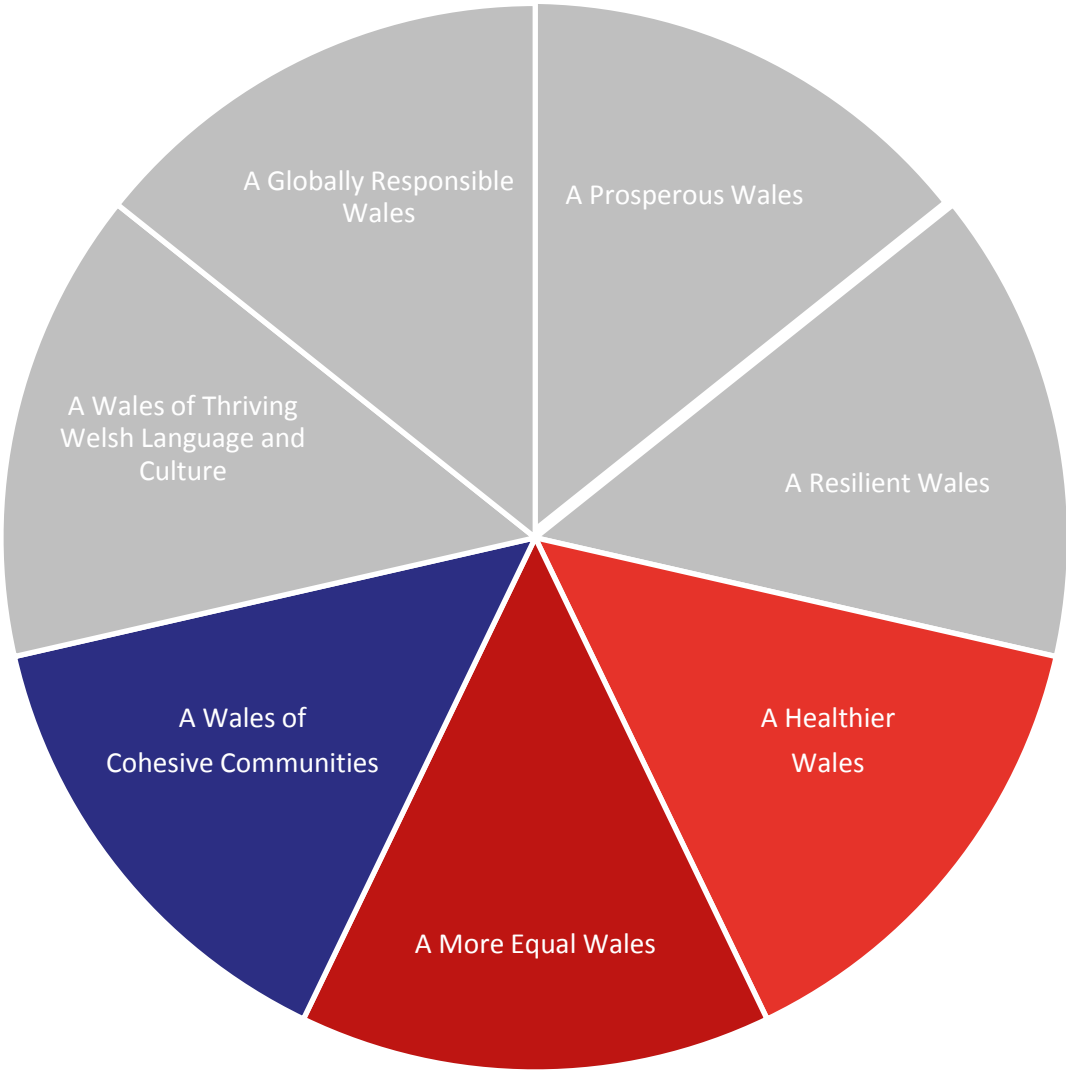
Case Study: People with Physical and or Sensory Needs

Iris lost her hearing at the age of 14 after contracting meningitis. Her treatment at that time left her with a fear of doctors and hospitals which resulted in her deafness never being properly assessed or treated. She learned to lip read and that is how she has continued to live her day to day life never letting anyone know that she was actually deaf. The scheme officer noted that workmen were having difficulty gaining access to her property so he visited her and whilst there realised her TV was turned up to a volume of over 100 and she also had subtitles on. Her neighbours had never complained about the noise.

The scheme officer made a referral to Social Services and the Adult Sensory team for health assessment and also referred Iris to the COTS team for a home assessment to help with aids within her home. The sensory team attended her home and brought equipment that detected Iris could hear sounds that were pitched at a very high level. Her home was fitted with a bell/alarm and this was the first thing she heard in over 60 years. Her home has been fitted with a specialist fire alarm and the fire service is now aware of her situation. Specialist headphones and other equipment that now enables Iris to have conversations with people, hear her doorbell and also hear her TV on sound level 22. As a result she now has started to socialise with other residents, attend the knitting club in the communal hall and is teaching other residents to crochet. Her biggest highlight is actually being able to hear her favourite show X Factor for the first time.

Iris can hear sounds for the first time in over 60 years which has enabled her to socialise and join in Communal Hall activities. She is now more involved in her local community and with her neighbours. She has stronger relationships with friends and family as a result of her improved communication. This has relieved pressure on family members, enhanced Iris's feeling of safety within her home and supported her to live independently for longer in her accommodation. Iris feels much safer now that she can hear the doorbell, smoke alarms etc.

In future, Iris would like to engage more in her local community and make friends. Her involvement in the knitting group and showing people how to crochet is helping build her confidence and bring her out of her shell.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Student Council Conference*

Every year students from across the borough gather together at our annual Student Council Conference. This year's event focused on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and how this important piece of legislation could be used to unlock opportunities to benefit young people in the long term.

The conference was held in Merthyr Tydfil College, with the Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe in attendance. There were students from 3 secondary schools, 13 primary schools, and our special school

The young people in attendance were given the opportunity to discuss what the 7 well-being goals meant to them, to identify what was working well now, and what could be improved in the future.

The feedback from all in attendance has been overwhelmingly positive, and the young people are keen to have more opportunities to get involved. The decision has been taken to have student conferences on a termly basis, with the next one planned for November 2018. In addition some of the young people who attended the conference had the opportunity to meet with the Cwm Taf PSB Chair Marcus Langley to discuss how future well-being planning can include the views of young people. The young people have been tasked to write a briefing paper outlining key messages on the 7 well-being goals from a young person's perspective. This briefing will form part of the evidence to support the review of the PSB Well-being Plan in spring 2019 with another conference planned for March 2019.



Steps to achieve well-being...

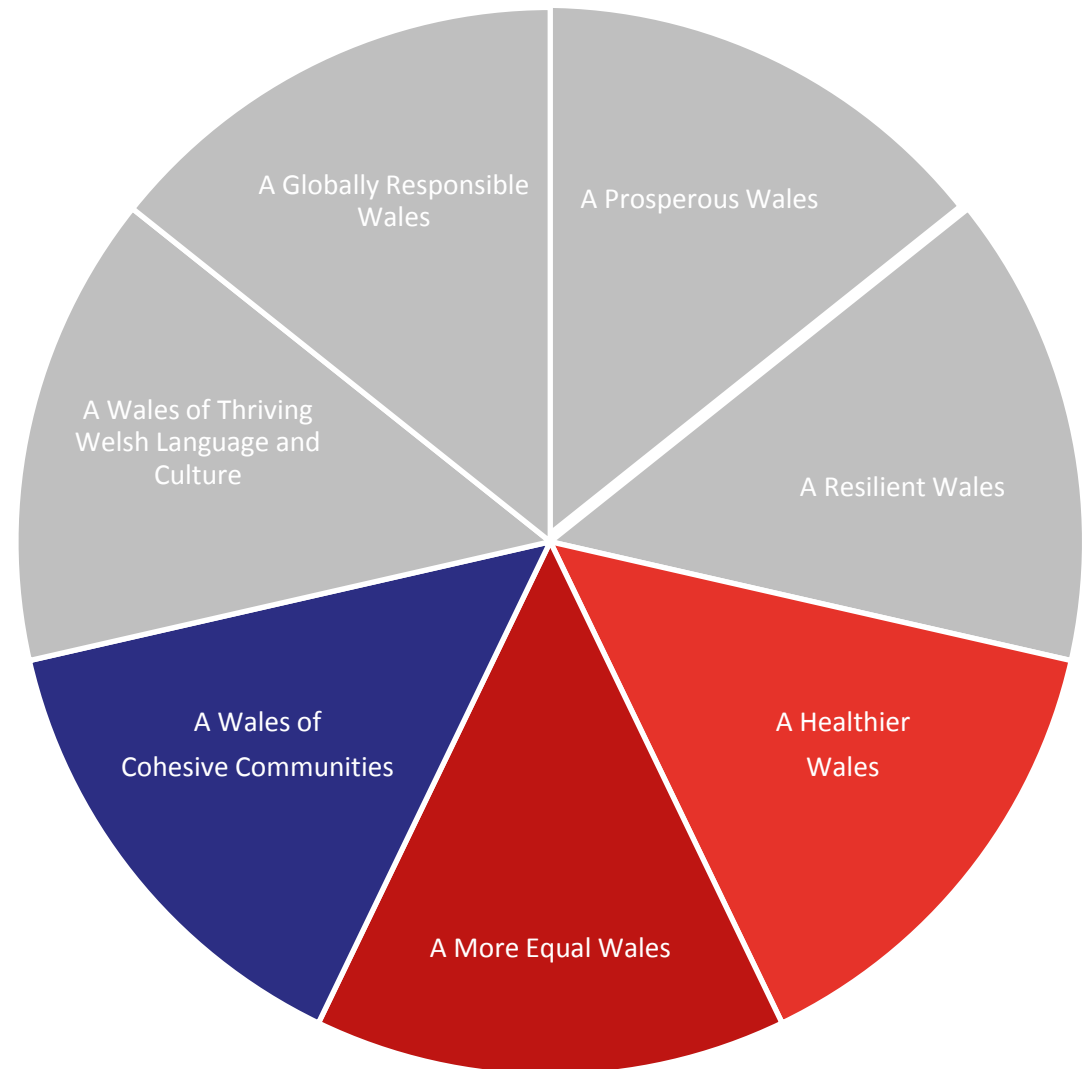
Case Study: *Supporting Needs for Single Parent Families*

Debbie was referred to Adref Floating Support via Garth Villas (Adref's Hostel). Debbie had recently given birth and required a suitable home to provide for herself and her new born child. She was sofa surfing and on occasions found herself without anywhere to stay with her new born child. Debbie had previously left her home leaving her two other children behind. They now reside with their grandparents and are under the care of Local Authority Social Services. Debbie had found herself homeless on a few occasions, due to getting into unstable relationships.

Debbie's Tenancy Support Officer helped her to obtain a suitable 2 bed property where she now resides with her youngest child. All relevant benefits are set up and effective budgeting is in place. Debbie is liaising well with social services and all 3 children have now been taken off the children protection register and minimum input is in place with Social Services. The 2 boys continue to reside with their grandparents and visit on a regular basis with overnight stays. Throughout support Debbie has been encouraged to refrain from entering into inappropriate relationships, and she continues to reside in her own property preventing homelessness. Debbie still receives support and continues to work well with all professionals.

Debbie is now living in a suitable environment for her circumstances and feels safe as a result. She has been assisted to set up her own tenancy and to realise the pitfalls of allowing other people to reside there with her, and now feels able to gate-keep her own property and not put her tenancy at risk.

Debbie's future plan is to have a safe and settled home for her and her children and to have no involvement with Social Services.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Positive Outcome for Homeless Client*

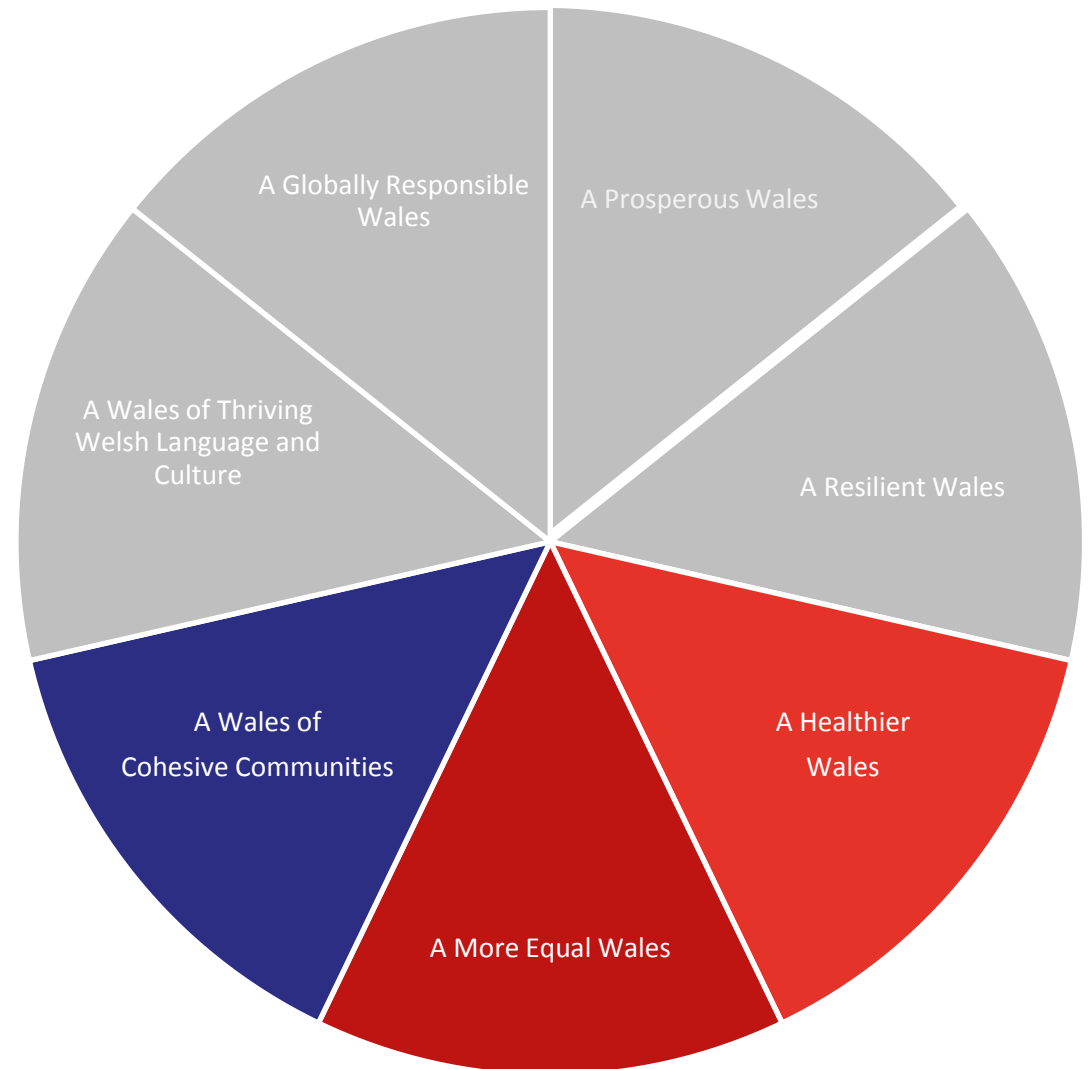
Kelly (not real name) was sleeping rough behind the former Tax Office in Merthyr Tydfil town centre, with some of her peers. The Housing Solutions Team participated in a multi-agency project within the town centre, aimed at engaging with rough sleepers and; providing them with help, support and advice. Kelly actively engaged with the project and agreed to undertake a homelessness assessment.

A comprehensive homelessness assessment was undertaken with Kelly, which explored her current housing crisis, recent accommodation history, identified support needs and a Personal Housing Plan (PHP) was developed with Kelly, outlining the positive steps which she and the local authority could take to resolve her homelessness situation. Fortunately for Kelly, the Housing Solutions Team had recently implemented a new Housing Pathway approach to its work. As a result, Kelly immediately accessed a local homeless hostel, where she is now safe, warm and receiving the support she desperately required to make a step change in her life.

Kelly thrived in the hostel, by fully engaging in support, resolving welfare benefit issues, saving a modest amount of her income (for the first time ever) and has enrolled on the Council's new Tenant Ready course – which provides practical training on how to run and manage a home independently.

As Kelly continues to engage in support, when she was ready to move into a home of her own, she was awarded Band 1 status on the Common Housing Register, affording her the highest priority and significantly increasing her chances of securing a 1 bed home in the coming months. Kelly placed a few bids and was successfully short-listed and offered a property by a local housing association.

Kelly is now thriving and not just surviving, without this intervention, Kelly would still be sleeping on the streets.



Steps to achieve wellbeing...

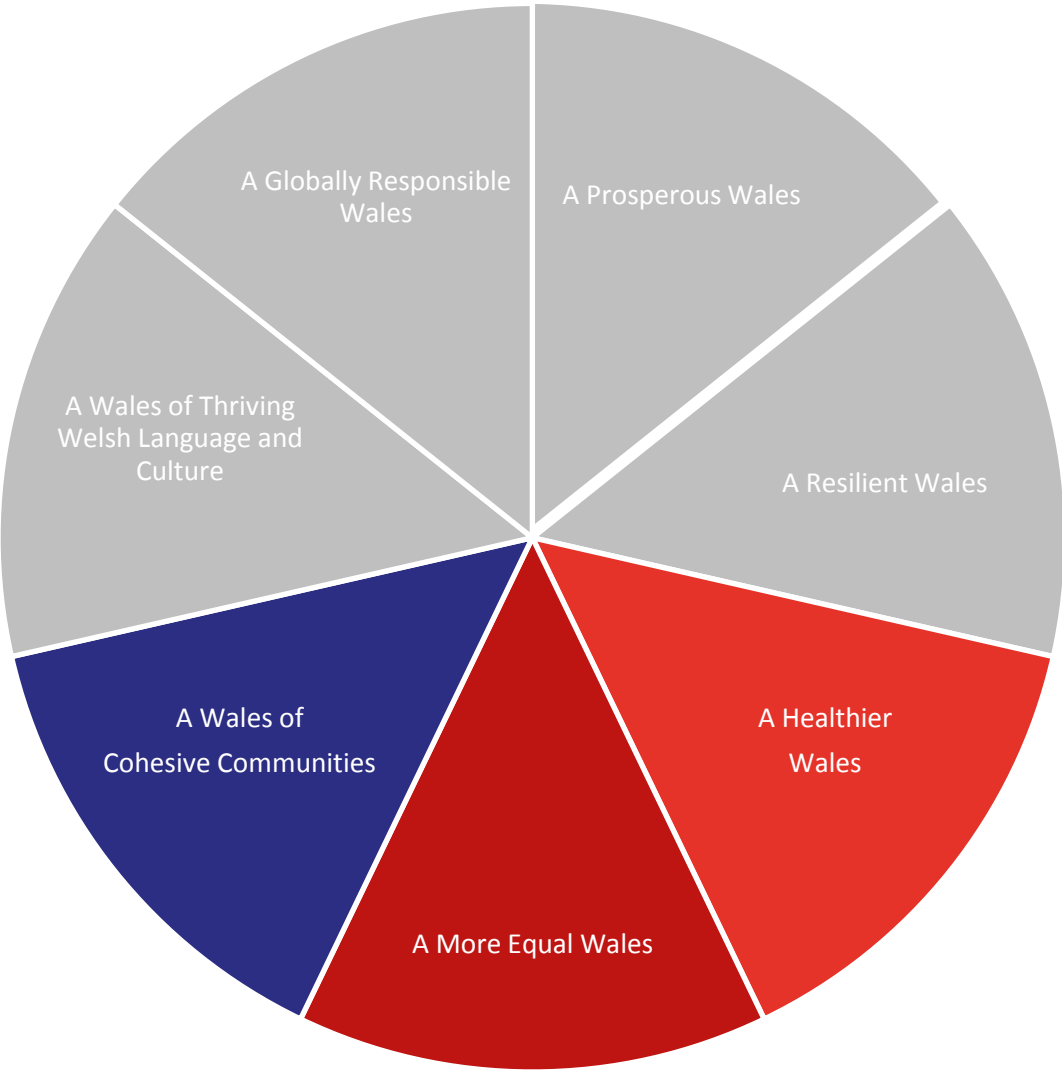
Case Study: People Over 55 with Supporting Needs

William was living in one bedroom flat which was not meeting his needs as a result of physical decline. He had previously had a stroke and had a history of alcohol usage and was finding immense difficulty in being independently mobile in his flat; it was very small and no longer suitable for his needs since he required the use of a wheelchair, which had a negative impact on his mental health and overall well-being. He became further isolated and unable to maintain accommodation responsibilities so his flat became unkempt. William was smoking heavily and was neglecting his physical and hygiene needs. His relationships with family and significant others was impacted upon because he became angry and frustrated with his circumstances and living situation.

The support received from multi agency working with housing departments and the Community Outreach Team assisted William to with the process of rehousing William into appropriate and safe accommodation within a supported complex, which was more suitable and adapted flat in the complex. With continued support from the Age Connects Morgannwg (ACM) Support Worker, William collaborated with his family and friends to source an affordable means decorating his flat to an appropriate standard in order to be eligible to sign a new tenancy agreement for the supported complex.

William is currently managing his alcohol usage and has significantly reduced his daily intake; as a result he has been visited regularly by his siblings. Intervention with agencies such as the rehabilitation team and the provision of home care services is positively contributing to William’s mobility, standards of hygiene and overall well-being. The new accommodation is sustainable and long term management is positive. The supported housing complex allows him to feel safe and secure and has promoted his independence.

The relocation has also improved his confidence and overall well-being with significant signs of engagement with all professionals and other tenants in the complex. William is now part of the community and social isolation is reduced. The new accommodation in the supported complex safeguards all aspects of safety for William. Now that William has been supported to set up direct debits and pay his bills, he isn’t worried about managing his money or getting into debt.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: 2017 Urdd Eisteddfod

Pen Y Dre High School had not taken part in the Urdd Eisteddfod for many years before the arrival of Mr Morgan in September 2013.

The vision was to create a thriving Welsh language culture through the participation of pupils in the County and National Urdd Eisteddfod. To help achieve this vision, we improved our school eisteddfod and created a cluster eisteddfod for our six primary feeder schools.

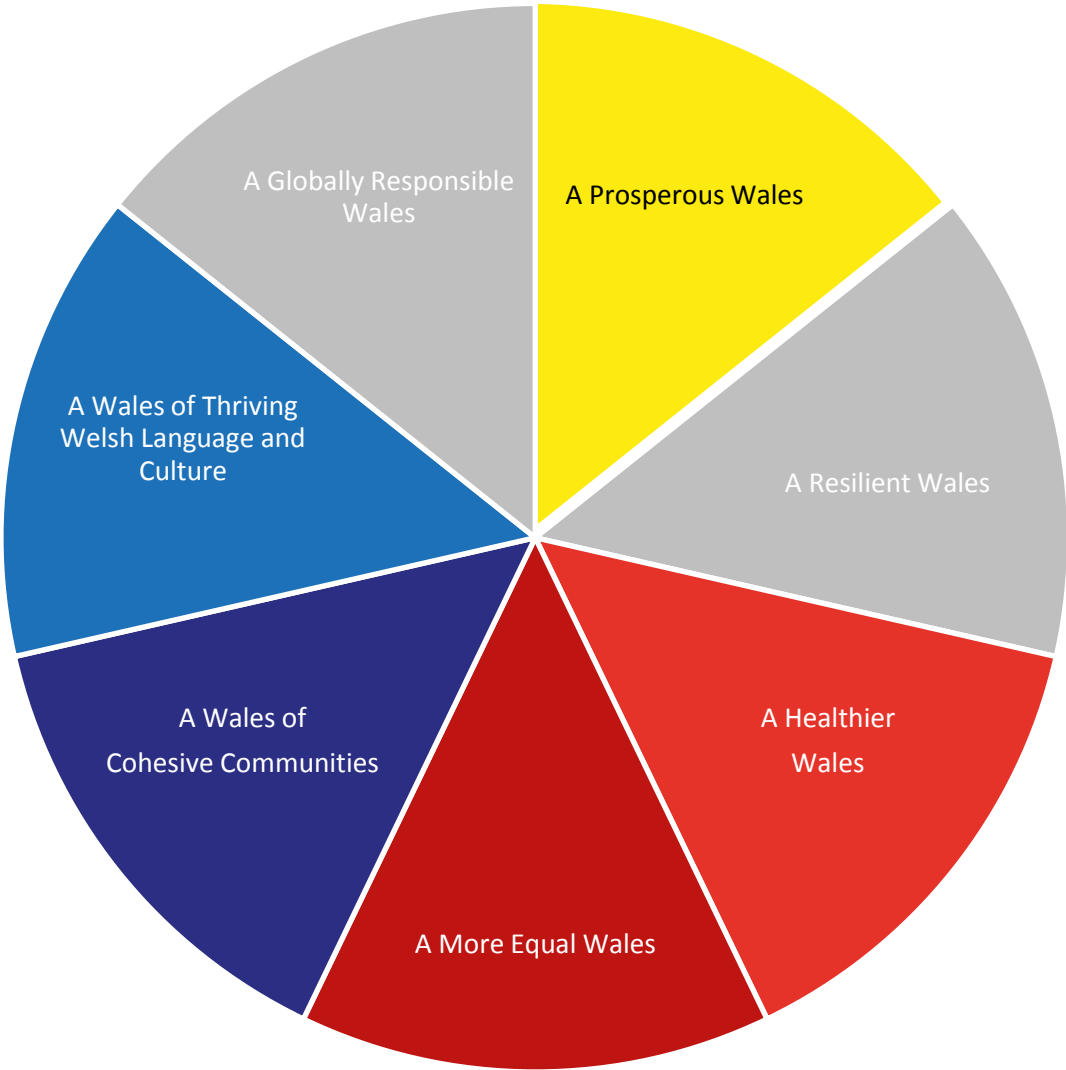
From a small but successful start in Bala in 2014 there has been an ever increasing awareness of the Urdd Eisteddfod, and the numbers competing has consistently grown and the success of the pupils has been outstanding.

In 2017, Pen Y Dre was the most successful English medium secondary school in Wales at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Bridgend. The pupils won 29 medals, including 19 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze across a full range of categories including: group recitation, individual performance, group drama, 3D writing and musical soloist.

Pupils and teachers were invited to the Civic Centre for a reception with the Mayor and Mayoress to celebrate their great achievements. Mr Morgan (Head of Welsh) said “ We are proud to be a school that promotes the Welsh language and culture, and our pupils absolutely love speaking Welsh and performing in front of an audience.”



The commitment by the pupils and the support of the whole school and parents to embrace Welsh culture has culminated in the recognition of Pen-y-Dre as a lead school for Welsh transition activities.



Steps to achieve well-being...

Case Study: *Urdd Sports Development Project*

The Council's Welsh language service and Active Merthyr Tydfil are working in partnership to support an Urdd Sports Development Apprentice Project.

Children and young people will benefit through the provision of opportunities in Welsh as follows:

- Adopting Welsh language as an important part of their of their self-identity
- Enabling children, young people and families to have opportunities to develop leadership skills and sporting skills and also their use of the Welsh language
- Children and young people have the opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity outside of school through the medium of Welsh.



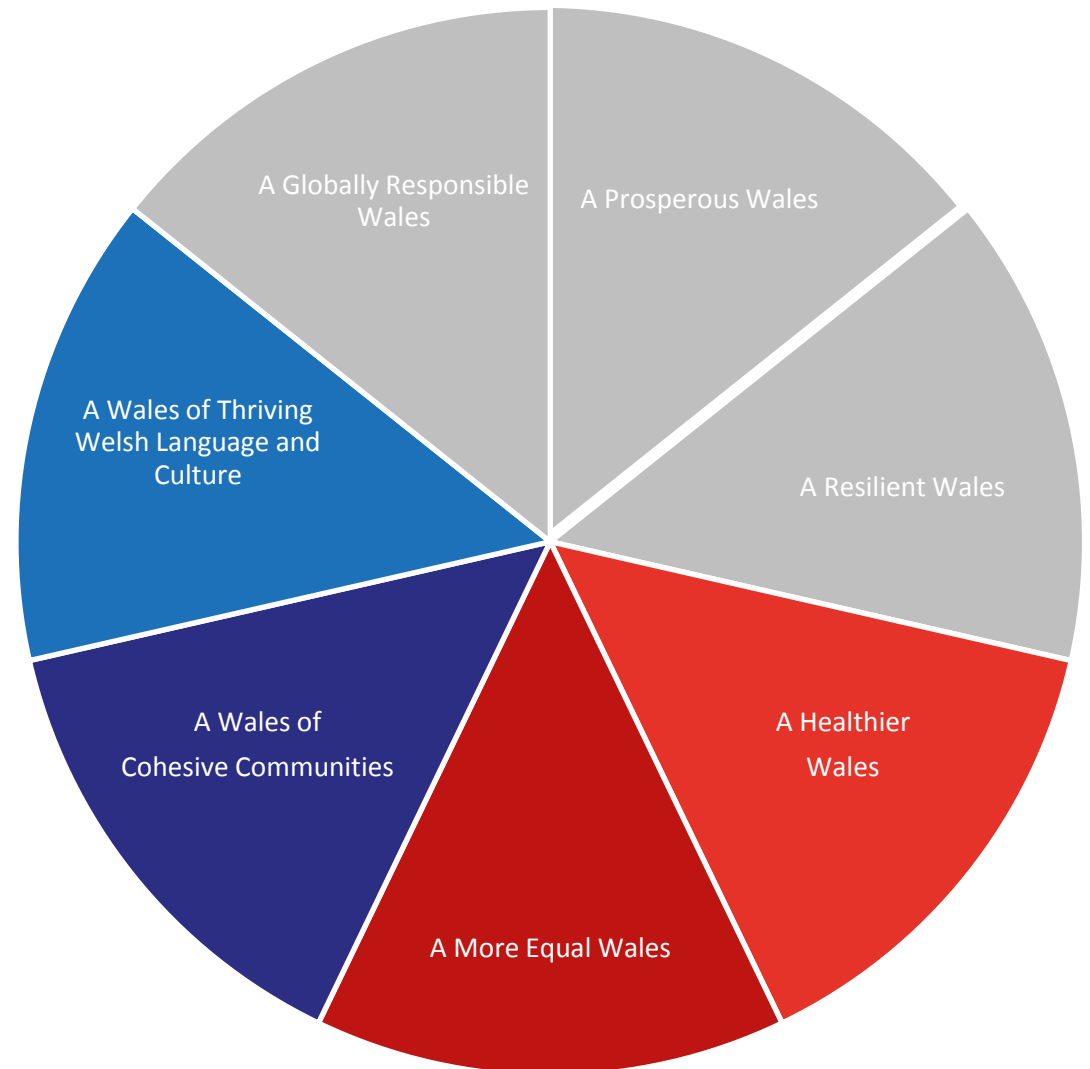
Some of the key project developments include:

- the setting up of four after school clubs (two English medium and two Welsh medium schools) and three community clubs being delivered weekly;
- supporting the improvement of physical development for the foundation age;
- on average, there are 131 children engaged weekly in these clubs;
- there are now partnerships in place with Menter Iaith Merthyr Tydfil; Welsh and English medium schools, Active Merthyr Tydfil, MTCBC's Youth Service and the College, Merthyr Tydfil to provide opportunities to support and develop use of the Welsh language; and
- the provision of Active Merthyr Tydfil services through the medium of Welsh.

The project also offers opportunities to identify and upskills current and new Welsh speaking leaders and coaches

"It is great to see the children using the language and having fun at the same time; you hardly ever hear any Welsh in Merthyr Tydfil, and I am really pleased they have the opportunity to, in this club".

Parent: Urdd Aberfan Football Sessions



Steps to achieve well-being...

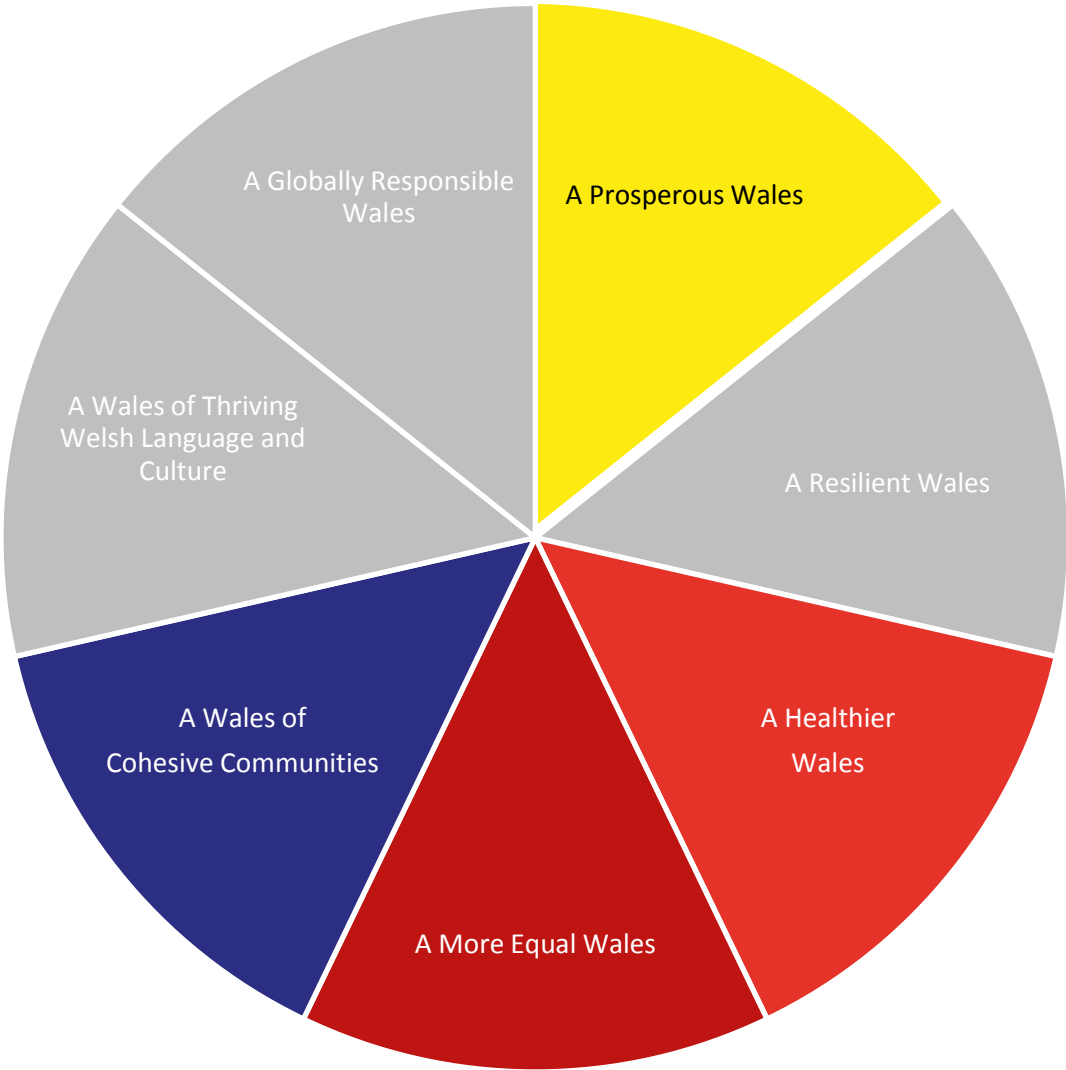
Case Study: Women Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Florence was assisted by Adref to move into social housing, after a relationship with her partner had broken down, when he became violent towards her. During this time they were both living in a privately rented tenancy next door to his mother. Florence had always harboured a desire to work and support herself to live independently.

About a year after support began, Florence and her two young sons were assisted by Adref to move to a more suitable property. Once her youngest son started school, Florence completed a hairdressing course. After assistance was given by Adref, Florence gained part-time employment in the tea rooms at Cyfartha Castle. Florence now lives with her new partner who also works full time with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

With encouragement and advice from ADREF staff, Florence was eventually able to find employment after being advised about educational courses. She now works part-time and is in a relationship with someone who is also in full-time employment. Florence now lives in a suitable tenancy and is able to manage the property with minimal involvement from Adref staff.

Florence now has a good job and wants her and her partner to be able to look after her family without struggling and without having to rely on state benefits, she is currently well on her way to achieving this, as her partner has a full-time job as well.



Steps to achieve wellbeing...

Case Study: Merthyr Tydfil Tennis Club

Merthyr Tennis Club has been in existence for 40 years and like so many sports clubs in the UK has experienced many barriers and more recently the club's membership figures have flat-lined. Merthyr Tennis Club Committee recognised that this needed to change if the organisation was to survive and for the growth of tennis as a sport in Merthyr Tydfil. Club Chairman David Baker took it upon himself to engage with the Council's European & External Funding Team in order to discuss ways of evolving the club's activities and making them more financially viable and visible in both Merthyr Tydfil and across South Wales.

The European & External Funding Team worked with the club to develop a structured Business Plan that outlined the vision for the organisation. This consisted of the club undertaking a Community Asset Transfer of the three tennis courts from the Council, resurfacing the courts to bring them up to date and developing strategic links with local schools. The European & External Funding Team also assisted the club in developing a number of funding applications. This resulted in them securing over £53,000 of grant finance which was used to resurface the tennis courts and purchase some much needed equipment.

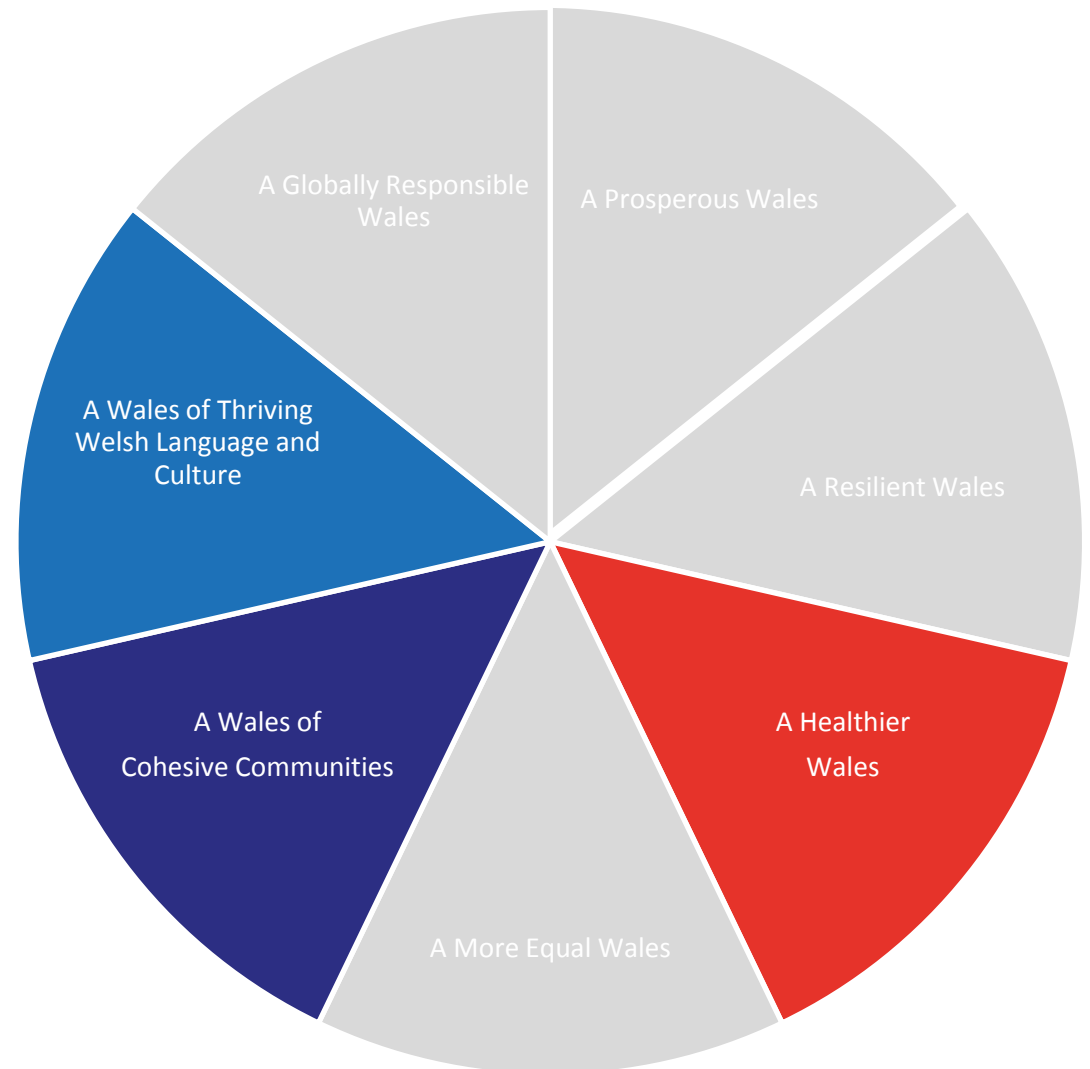
With a large proportion of the finance secured, the club worked with the Council's Estates Department to formally take over the asset and develop a professional working licence with Thomastown Bowls Club for the use of the Pavilion Building on match days. In addition, the Council's Parks Department worked with club to help plan their maintenance schedule and itemise the various equipment needed to successfully manage the facility when it was officially signed over to them.

Officers from the Council's Active Merthyr Tydfil Sports Development Team were instrumental in ensuring the club made links with local schools and national sporting agencies such as Tennis Wales and Sport Wales in order to reinforce the sustainable vision of the organisation and to increase membership figures.

In April 2018 the newly resurfaced tennis courts were officially opened by the Leader of the Council Cllr Kevin O'Neill and His Worship the Mayor Cllr Clive Tovey.



Merthyr Tennis Club Chairman David Baker stated "Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have been massively supportive in assisting the club in achieving our objectives and it is truly amazing to see the clubs vision finally coming to fruition" he continues "Membership figures for the club has risen significantly over the past few months and the use of the courts by the general public is up by a third based on previous year's figures. The club is certainly going in the right direction".



Steps to achieve wellbeing...

Case Study: Rock UK Summit Centre

Rock UK Summit Centre, formerly the Welsh International Climbing Centre, sits on the site of the former Trelewis Drift Mine, which closed in 1989. In 2010, the facility was taken over by Rock UK who had managed three other outdoor activity centres across the UK. Rock UK's vision was to add the Summit Centre to their repertoire of activity centres that offer a variety of activities for schools and families as well as conference and meetings facilities.

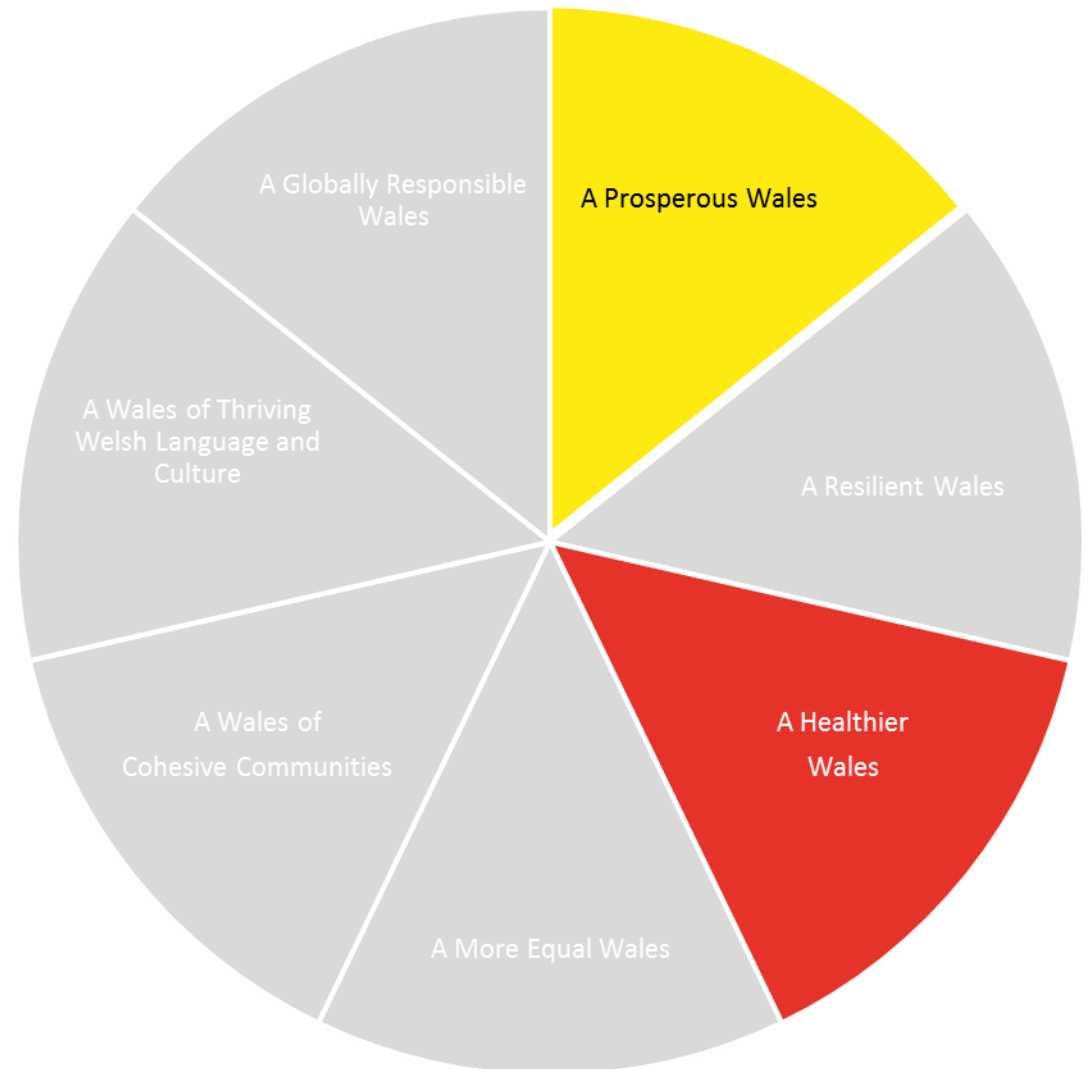
Since acquiring the building the organisation has persisted in trying to grow the business and its core activities. However, the size and scale of the facility has provided a number of constraints on the business which has affected the growth of the social enterprise in recent years.

Frustrated with the restrictions on the business Rock UK CEO John Heasman approached Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Community Regeneration Department to discuss a way to redevelop the infrastructure of the facility and seek support to finance a proposed redevelopment.

"Rock UK's relationship with the Council was already strong and we shared the same vision in terms of developing the facility and increasing visitor figures to the Summit Centre". John Heasman continued "Officer's assisted our organisation in formalising a vision for the facility, worked with us to secure funding from a variety of grant schemes and assisted the organisation with organising 'Meet the Buyer' events so that local contractors had an opportunity to apply for work on the facility".

With the Council's intervention Rock UK Summit Centre secured circa £4m of finance ranging from £2.3m of European Regional Development Fund, £500,000 from the Council administered Ffos-y-Fran Large fund and other grant bodies. The Council also assisted Rock UK in employing local people as part of their redevelopment with many of the 30 roles within the business taken up by Merthyr Tydfil residents.

Newly relaunched in April 2018, Rock UK Summit Centre now boasts a new 104 bed accommodation facility, over 180 climbing routes, climbing walls of up to 18 metres high, a world class manmade caving system with waterfall, café, gymnasium, children's play area and run a variety of outdoor activities.



Steps to achieve wellbeing...

Case Study: Merthyr Rising

The festival is now in its fourth year and takes place during the anniversary of one of the very first organised uprisings by workers in 1831 known as the Merthyr Rising; it is believed that this was the first time the red flag of revolution was flown as a symbol of workers' revolt to poor working conditions.

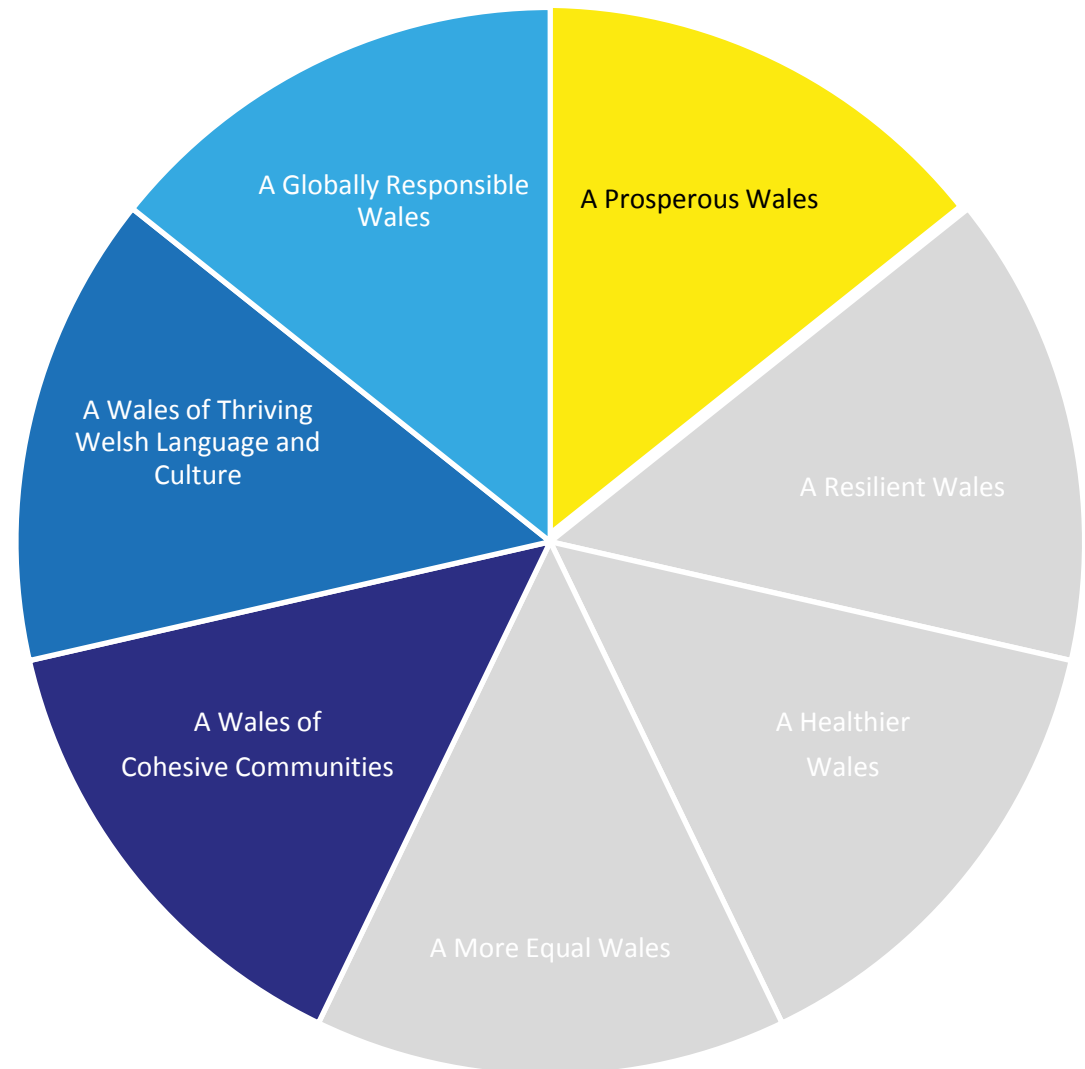
The festival has been setup and run as a not-for-profit organisation with a constitution to support music, arts and creativity in the area and raise the profile of the town and the aims are:

- To encourage more political awareness and activism at grassroots level.
- To discuss, debate and generate radical ideas to support our communities and change the world.
- Support and develop music and arts in Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding area.
- Create a positive sense of pride, solidarity and wellbeing through entertainment, leisure and arts.
- Promote and educate local citizens and visitors about the rich culture and heritage of Merthyr Tydfil.
- Develop a positive perception of Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding area.
- Develop and encourage artistic and creative participation from Merthyr Tydfil citizens and the surrounding area.
- Support and develop grassroots organisations and businesses in the surrounding area.



The Council, working with partners put together a detailed Community Safety plan to ensure festival goers can enjoy the activities and music in a safe and secure environment. The plan is designed to ensure security measures do not detract from the festival atmosphere, but can respond quickly if the need arises. The festival attracts approximately 3000 visitors over the weekend and the crime statistics showed no significant increase in incidents. Merthyr Rising has recently been listed in [Britain's 100 greatest music festivals](#) by the Telegraph.

"What a fantastic weekend! Camped in the park and met some fab people! Great sounds and well organised. Didn't see one incident and no trouble at all."



"Awesome awesome weekend. Safe. No trouble and superb line-up"

2017 - 2018

"Fantastic weekend, great atmosphere. Felt proud to be living in Merthyr."

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 Inspectorate for Wales (CIW).

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 September 2018. The report concluded that, during 2017/18 **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. In summary, this includes:

- Working towards better decision making and risk taking
- Building on work already undertaken to improve the Council's Scrutiny arrangements to ensure they are 'Fit for the Future'.

Please visit www.audit.wales/publications to view the latest 'Annual Improvement Report 2017 / 18' for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council'

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales (Estyn)

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. The purpose of Estyn is to provide an independent inspection and advice service on quality and standards in education and training in Wales.

To search for the latest reports, please visit www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

We register, inspect and take action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of the people of Wales. This includes the review of the Council's children and adult social services.

For the latest review and inspection reports on the effectiveness of our services, please visit the 'Our Reports' section of www.careinspectorate.wales

GOAL	Description of the goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

"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
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.	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.	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.
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.	Lifestyles, health and vulnerability To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.	We will encourage active lifestyles and promote wellbeing.
Environmental Wellbeing Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.	Economy and Infrastructure To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.	We will support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful environment and economy.
Living Well People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.	Tackling loneliness and isolation (Cross cutting objective) We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteers to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.	

*Merthyr Tydfil ... a place to be proud of
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council*

In the first year of Focus on the Future we identified 8 well-being projects to help deliver on our two well-being objectives.

The focus of the 8 projects can be grouped into three broad themes:

1. Emotional and physical well-being
2. Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners
3. Achieving excellence in schools

1. Emotional and physical well-being

There were 4 projects that supported emotional and physical well-being:

Project: Active Merthyr Tydfil

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	<p>M Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Girls sessions weekly in all four high schools with an average of over 100 girls taking part weekly. <p>Physical Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Books to life” at Trelewis Primary School with over 20 families using the home resource. Dance tots workshops delivered with 20 Teacher’s and Learning Support Assistants upskilled. <p>Leadership in sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Primary Schools and 84 Young Leaders engage delivering daily Physical Activity sessions in the school yard to school mates. 	
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bump fit: 42 pregnant mothers along with the Cwm Taf Midwifery team take part in a consultation to help design appropriate interventions. Joint workshops have taken place with midwives and health visitors to ensure there is a consistent message of the benefits of physical activity in pregnancy, and to ensure that every contact counts Buggy Running: People that have participated in the intervention have moved on to additional independent activities such as Parkrun. The Subjective Well-being score has improved for all participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the commissioned providers to deliver the programmes.

Project: Supporting child development

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New language development pathway in place and reported to Poverty group on outcomes • Smoking cessation programme commissioned • Parenting programmes strategically commissioned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor impact of changes • Projects now are considered business as usual within Funding flexibility remit

Project: Improving parental involvement in learning

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
Jul 2017-Jul2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 out of 28 schools, which equates to 64%, have responded to the Parental Engagement Survey. Key areas for improvement and good practice have been identified. • A Marketing company has been commissioned to develop a Corporate Strategy for Parental Engagement • Parental enrolments /accreditations achievements. • Child Impact Monitoring Form • Parent Evaluation Forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion Service and the Tackling Poverty Group to develop and market a Corporate Strategy for Parental Engagement with the support of Marketing Company. • Encourage all schools to take part in the Parental Engagement Survey • Family Learning Projects now are considered business as usual within ACL remit.

Project: Improving pupil well-being

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
Jul 2017-Jul2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mind has delivered training to sixteen schools and LA staff on how to support low level mental health. • The “toolbox” of resources developed by Inclusion to support low level mental health and build resilience has been shared electronically with all schools and provided as part of a resource pack with that produced by the Youth Forum and Up and Coming. • The Behaviour Self-evaluation has been completed by 14 (50%) schools, all of whom have received feedback. • The Well-being Survey having been trialled by one school will not be rolled out across all schools due to the lack of engagement from schools as it was felt that there were other tools already in place for assessing this and therefore it would not provide any additional information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools to take up offer of in school support from Mind during the Summer Term. • From this good practice has been gleamed and shared with all schools, along with the previously produced guidance on Positive Classroom Behaviour Management.

2. Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners

Within this theme there were two projects to support the outcomes for vulnerable learners.

Project: Improving outcomes for Children looked after

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
2018-2019	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some looked after young people do have stable placements and experience disruption. Some looked after young people's early life experiences continue to impact on their attainment long after becoming looked after. The Looked after education service staff are challenging their job evaluation results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project is continuing next year.

Project: Improving outcomes for pupils with additional learning needs

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
2018-2019	RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) does not meet the needs of all vulnerable pupils. Too many pupils receiving their education in unsuitable placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the current Learning resources base provision within the county borough and make appropriate adjustments subject to cabinet approval. Register the EOTAS provision as a PRU in readiness for September 2018 Provide regular updates to LAESCYP Scrutiny on progress with the reviews of EOTAS and LRB provision and proposals for alternative fit for purpose ALN provisions. Continue with this wellbeing project into 2018-19 to ensure more appropriate provision is provided in county to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils.

3. Project: Achieving excellence in schools

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
Jul 2017-Jul2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven schools have participated in a peer enquiry and resulted in an accurate detailed report identifying areas for improvement. • All schools are part of a governor improvement group. • 7 schools have completed the self-evaluation audit tool and have a detailed action plan to address the areas for improvement. • 12 schools are in the process of completing the self-evaluation audit tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage schools categorised as requiring a 'C' capacity to improve to undertake a peer enquiry – 2 schools. • Encourage schools categorised as requiring a 'yellow' level of support for the past two years to undertake a peer enquiry – 4 schools. • Ensure the 12 schools complete the self-evaluation audit tool and have a detailed action plan in place to address the areas for improvement. • Ensure the 7 schools who have not engaged in the self-evaluation audit tool commence the process.

In the first year of Focus on the Future we identified 10 well-being projects to help deliver on our three well-being objectives.

The focus of the 10 projects can be grouped into three broad themes:

1. Community Safety
2. Physical and Mental Well-being
3. Living Independently

1. Community Safety

There were five projects that supported the outcomes for community safety:

Project: Prevention of doorstep crime and scamming

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation Avalanche – Joint patrol with SWP advising businesses and residents Scams Project – Visits have been made to potential scam victims providing them with relevant information to protect themselves Call blockers. A number of call blockers have been installed free of charge to dementia patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise a Prevent, Intelligence and Enforcement Campaign for the 18/19 Meet with Call Blocker Providers with a view to supplying free to vulnerable persons. Continue joint work with SWP.

Project: Development of a drug litter reporting 'app'

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exegesis (the developer) are in contact weekly throughout the development. Last contact 23/03/18. Community safety partners have been kept up to date on the applications development and are expressing a substantial interest in using it when ready. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning the roll out of the app and training on how to operate it. In conjunction with the app training we are combining it with drug training. This will improve partners awareness of local issues and improve their skills in identifying the different types of drug litter.

Project: Protection of children from age-restricted projects

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up survey on use of novelty ID. 3 retailers sold who will now go through Licensing review. A Sensible Shopkeeper Scheme has been produced to assist retailers with staff training on prevention of underage sales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise a Prevent, Intelligence and Enforcement Campaign for the 18/19 Launch of Sensible Shopkeeper Scheme

Project: Tackling violence against women and girls: DART, COMETS & ROCKETS, CREA8

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DART – Service delivery is on track and it is anticipated that the annual KPIs will be met or exceeded. Comets & Rockets – beneficiary numbers and outcomes exceeded. CREA8 – it is anticipated that the annual beneficiary target and outcomes will be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DART – continue service delivery outlined in the Welsh Government Services Grant Delivery Plan. Comets & Rockets – funding for this project ends 31/7/18. Continuation funding has been sort from BBC Children In Need, and the outcome will be known during June 18. CREA8 – continue service delivery as agreed with the funder; Comic Relief.

Project: DIVERT 18-25 project

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since project initiation April 2015 only 5 individuals have reoffended giving ups a 96% rate of non – reoffending. Funding sustained for 2018/19 Over 100 signposts to other agencies for support (i.e. mental health, citizen’s advice). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and roll out the Diver “Support” element of the programme (offered to all young people attending custody not just those hitting the criteria). Broaden the criteria of the programme so that more young people are suitable for the programme. Use the research and evaluation from the study of the night time economy to influence our work programmes within Divert and the Wider Community Safety Partnership focussing on prevention of offending in the night time economy

2. Physical and Mental Well-being

Within this theme there was one project with six distinctive strands to support the outcomes for physical and mental well-being.

Project: Active Merthyr Plan

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	Bump fit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 pregnant mothers along with the Cwm Taf Midwifery team take part in a consultation to help design appropriate interventions. Joint workshops have taken place with midwives and health visitors to ensure there is a consistent message of the benefits of physical activity in pregnancy, and to ensure that every contact counts. Buggy Running <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People that have participated in the intervention have moved on to additional independent activities such as Parkrun. The Subjective Well-being scoring have improved of participants.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the commissioned providers to deliver the programmes.
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	Physical Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Books to life" at Trelewis Primary School with over 20 families using the home resource. Dance tots workshops delivered with 20 Teacher's and LSA's upskilled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out the "Books to Life" project to other interested schools.
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	M Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Girls sessions weekly in all 4 high schools with an average of over 100 girls taking part weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue supporting the M Girls program in the secondary schools and community, in addition introduce the program into Merthyr College.
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	Leadership in Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Primary Schools and 84 Young Leaders engage delivering daily Physical Activity sessions in the school yard to school mates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue supporting the Young Leaders programme in the school currently engaged and recruit schools currently not engaged in program.
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	Insport Gold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insport Gold consultation process complete Insport Gold Pre panel attended Insport Gold priority work areas agreed with Disability Sport Wales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop evidence portfolio Engage with key partners to plan interventions Meet with DSW case officer Work towards 2020 submission
April 2017-March 2018	BLUE	Club Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Football clubs supported through Community Chest Updated Gymnastics provision in place in Merthyr Tydfil with development plan in place New Walking and Running forum in place and constituted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate club development calendar Support clubs through community chest programme Develop insport club programme

3. Living Independently

Within this theme there were four projects to support the outcomes for people to living independently.

Project: Well-being Website for Children and Young People

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
September 2017 – March 2018	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people have been involved in the design and there is a draft of the web pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise timeline and launch action plan following IAA workshop on 3.5.18

Project: Equality learning resource

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
September 2017 – September 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, four fact sheets have been developed for Disability, Sexual Orientation, Race and Religion or Belief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on developing the remaining five fact sheets.

Project: Evaluate the Stay Well @Home Service

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall indications show that the service is having a positive effect in preventing admissions (in terms of the increase in the 'zero length of stay'). The service has assisted people to return home sooner from hospital. There has been a decrease (by 50% since June 2017) in the numbers of people being put on a transfer list to go to a community hospital from the main District General Hospitals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TLG to commission formal evaluation to determine phase 2 WAO to review use service as part of review of Integrated Care Fund Continue monitoring of performance and efficacy of service via monthly joint board meetings

Project: Supporting People Pricing System (Cost Calculator).

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2019	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The calculations for the changes to the grant allocations are complete. All Providers have been engaged and consulted as part of the process and have received their indicative allocations. Transition arrangements have been agreed with all providers. Start date for 2018 / 19 has been agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPPG to continue to monitor implementation via the SP Outcomes Monitoring process and financial framework. SPPG to agree reinvestment of any SP Grant with particular reference to identified need, Funding Flexibilities and Regional Working.

In the first year of Focus on the Future we identified five well-being projects to help deliver on our two well-being objectives.

The focus of the five projects can be grouped into two broad themes:

1. Skills development
2. Developing business infrastructure and environment

1. Skills development

There were two projects that supported skills development:

PROJECT: Measuring subjective well-being

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employability Advisors' better understand participants enabling more targeted support Data being captured and recorded to show impact of service area interventions Minutes of team meetings now show the sharing of results and demonstrate the impact of introducing this project 	The capturing of subjective well-being data will remain a key focus for the Employability Service and is now firmly embedded into day to day operations. This will be ongoing and will now be seen as business as usual.

PROJECT: Pathways to employment: Children Looked After and Care Leavers

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of referrals being received Number of people signposted to employability focussed provision 	<p>We are now going to link in on a more regular basis with the CLA team to ensure that this project remains a key focus that contributes to our corporate parenting role.</p> <p>A more robust structure for case conferencing potential clients will take place on a monthly basis. This will remain a key focus for the employability service to support Social Services and Barnardo's and is now firmly embedded into the day to day functions of the Employability Service</p>

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
			area.

2. Developing business infrastructure and environment

Within this theme there were three projects to support the outcomes for developing .

PROJECT: Relocation of Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station – Phase 2

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017- March 2018	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the acquisition of land process for the whole development site All required Welsh Government deadlines met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Await feedback from Welsh Government

PROJECT: Active Travel Routes – Phase 1

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017- September 2018	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation completed Submission of Active Travel Routes application submitted to Welsh Government All required Welsh Government process deadlines met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further phase of consultation pending (starting in April 2018)

PROJECT: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017 – September 2018	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation undertaken and feedback analysed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Exercise completed and approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions to identify next steps to be scheduled

In the first year of Focus on the Future we identified seven well-being projects to help deliver on our two well-being objectives.

The focus of the seven projects can be grouped into two broad themes:

1. Local environmental quality
2. Heritage and culture

1. Local Environmental Quality

There were three projects that supported the outcomes for Local Environmental Quality.

Project: Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017- June 2018	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional monitoring station added to the lower end of Twynyroddyn Road produced sufficient data to permit an interim assessment to be made of the potential for other air pollution hotspots on Twynyroddyn Hill. The first phase ANPR traffic survey was completed by specialist consultants in July 2017. A second ANPR survey has been undertaken and has provided data on where the traffic using Twynyroddyn Road and other key links is travelling to and from. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the additional traffic survey data. Work actively with internal partners (Highways Engineers, Corporate Communications, members, etc.) to finalise draft action plan proposals. Complete formal public consultation by 8th June on the draft proposals in accordance with WG policy guidance. Prepare a report to go before Council on the 27th June. Recommended option to be submitted to WG for inspection and approval by the end of July 2018.

Project: Implementing the Carbon Management Plan

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expression of interest has been issued to Salix for possible loans up to the value of £4million. We are investigating the feasibility of "solar farms" on a couple of sites which may be of benefit to the authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit a suitable energy engineer who can drive forward the Carbon Management Plan. Continue to reduce energy use as and where we can

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report has been submitted to Council requesting that the energy engineer post terms be changed from a fixed term to a permanent position. All of the large sites with a baseline for 2014 so that reductions targets can be set once the carbon management plan has been approved. 	with the limited resources we have.

Project: Furniture Reuse

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
August 2017 – January 2020	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data reports to confirm items collected by Furniture Revival. Collection crew feedback/ One stop shop feedback. An area for re-use, including a shop and storage area has been included in the unit 20 Pre Application to Countryside and Planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Full Planning application in April 2018. Promote the service through a variety of communication channels to increase public awareness and usage of the service.

2. Heritage and Culture

Within this theme there were four projects to support the outcomes for Heritage and Culture.

Project: Urdd Sports Development Apprentice

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 4 after school and 3 community clubs being delivered weekly. There is an average of 150 children engaged weekly in these. There are partnerships in place with Menter Iaith, Welsh and English medium schools, Active Merthyr Tydfil, the Youth Service. Merthyr Tydfil College to provide opportunities to support and develop the Welsh Language. 	<p>The Urdd to work partnership with the following organisation to develop additional Welsh Language and bilingual opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merthyr Tennis Club Morlais Castle Golf Club Afon Taf High School Athletics. Holiday Provision at Afon Taf High School.

Project: Provision of Welsh language workplace training opportunities

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh language training enrolments maintained over the year with low drop-out rate Of the officers undertaking accreditation, 100% have successfully achieved a qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh language training for staff is now deemed 'business as usual'

Project: Improving outcomes for pupils with additional learning needs

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
5 years	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) does not meet the needs of all vulnerable pupils. Too many pupils receiving their education in unsuitable placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the current Learning resources base provision within the county borough and make appropriate adjustments subject to cabinet approval.

Project: Volunteering Programme at Cyfarthfa Heritage Area – Phase 1

PROJECT LENGTH	STATUS	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATUS (MAXIMUM OF 3 POINTS)	NEXT STEPS
April 2017-March 2018	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and Lessons learnt from previous programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit HLF application inclusive of activity plan for volunteers



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
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