Foreword by the Chief Statistician

This report, the third annual Well-being of Wales report, provides an insight into our nation and the progress we are making against the seven well-being goals.

As I announced last year, we have approached this year’s report differently. We have focused on a shorter report that provides more of an update on what we have learnt over the last year. The intention will be to provide the more in depth analysis that we provided in previous reports every 4-5 years, when we will be able to take stock more on long term progress.

At the same time we have taken the opportunity to present a more visually appealing report. The report should continue to provide an important state of the nation view of the latest data on well-being, and I welcome any feedback on this approach.

Whilst we have shortened the report we have also included new data in some areas, such as expanding our analysis on the quality of work; accessibility to green spaces; analysis of social media and cyber bullying amongst young people; and new data from the house condition survey and the national diet and nutrition surveys.

The report highlights important messages from data in the last year that policy and decision makers should be considering. For example:

Healthy life expectancy continues to stagnate. Our diets continue to be low in fruit and vegetable consumption and too high in salt, sugar and red meat.

We have seen improvements this year in the levels of main pollutants in the air, renewable energy capacity and carbon emissions.

The labour market in Wales continues to be strong in historical terms. However this does not necessarily equate to good quality work for everyone, and the gender pay gap has increased.

The first survey data in a decade showed that house conditions have improved significantly in Wales, which means there are fewer people living in houses that have hazards and are not energy efficient.

There continues to be disparities between the most and least deprived, for example in terms of avoidable deaths and educational attainment. And relative poverty rates remain at a similar level this year.

The factors underlying individual well-being are complex and inter-related. Furthermore, the Well-being of Wales report summarises a wide range of topics and more detailed analysis of most of these topics, looking at differences across time, geography and different population groups are available in the statistical releases produced by ourselves, the ONS and other statistical producers. Links are provided throughout the report to where more information can be found.

During the last year, alongside work on developing national milestones for Wales we took the opportunity to seek views on any changes to the national indicator set. It was reassuring that most of the indicators continue to be relevant and that there was very little overwhelming call to change the indicator set significantly. As a result of this work we will:

- amend the national indicators around the quality of work, taking into account the recommendations of the Fair Work Commission
- investigate a new National Survey for Wales question on “active global citizens” to replace the indicator on SDG partnerships that cannot currently be measured
- extend the pay difference indicator to other population groups (e.g. ethnicity and part-time)
- take forward further work on other indicators alongside the ongoing national milestone work, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Glyn Jones
Chief statistician

The report shows

After many years of continued increases, life expectancy has changed little in the last few years. Most of our lives are spent in good health, but that time is less for those living in more deprived areas.

There has been little change in the latest year in healthy lifestyle behaviours. And the latest data show that our diets continue to be low in fruit and vegetable consumption and too high in salt, sugar and red meat (despite improvements over the decade).

The percentage of babies born with a low birth weight has increased a little over the past few years, after a gradual decline over the previous 7 years.

Housing conditions have improved over the last 10 years, reducing the potential risk to the health of occupants, with improvements across all tenures.

The Welsh labour market continues to perform strongly, with the gap between Wales and the UK narrow in historical terms. However the percentage of people in low paid work seems to be increasing.

Young people’s participation in education and the labour market has grown since the recession although this fell slightly in the most recent year for 16-18 year olds.

Latest data shows the gender pay gap has increased. However, at 7.3 per cent, it is still one of the lowest on record. New data on the ethnicity pay gap shows, on average, employees from ethnic minority groups earn around 7.5 per cent less per hour than white British employees.

There still remains a significant gap in employment outcomes for disabled people, although the employment gap has reduced in the last year.

Qualification levels amongst the population continue to increase, although there remain large differences in attainment at school for different population groups.

There has been little change in relative income poverty levels for a number of years, though changes have been seen for some groups. Relative income poverty remains highest amongst children. Fewer households are living in fuel poverty compared with 10 years ago as our homes become more energy efficient.

In the latest year there has been a slight increase in community cohesion but a slight decrease in feeling safe. However, it is too early to tell if this is the beginning of a trend.

Recorded race hate crime incidents have been increasing.

Levels of regular sports participation for adults and children remain unchanged in the latest year.

Latest survey data suggests that there are increases in the percentage of people who say they speak Welsh, but not fluently. Use of the language remains steady.

There has been a large fall in greenhouse gas emissions in the latest year, and over the longer term, emissions have fallen by over a quarter since the 1990s.

Air pollution continues to be a significant health issue, although there have been improvements in the levels of three of the main air pollutants in the last year.

The capacity of renewable energy generation installations has risen in the last decade and almost half of electricity consumed comes from renewable sources. Although a few years old, our ecological footprint suggests that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.

There have been improvements in the populations of some species, but the latest comprehensive assessment of Welsh natural resources shows that overall, biological diversity is declining.
This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals. It considers the current position and progress in recent years by reference to the 46 national indicators for Wales and some additional contextual information where appropriate. It is not a report about the performance of any organisation, but the collective changes we are seeing in Wales.

The 7 well-being goals were put in place to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales and are contained in law under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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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 Prosperous Wales

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

- Welsh economic performance continues to be low in terms of economic output (gross value added) and household income (gross disposable household income), but is not too dissimilar from parts of the UK with similar characteristics.

- Recent data suggests modest improvements in Wales’ relative productivity, perhaps reversing a trend of deterioration prior to the recession.

- Over the last year Wales has seen a slight fall in the employment rate and a corresponding rise in economic inactivity.

  The share of 16-18 year olds who were in education, employment or training fell slightly to 89.7 per cent in 2018, whilst the rate for 19-24 year olds held steady at 83.9 per cent.

- There is evidence to suggest that jobs in Wales are, in some respects, better than jobs elsewhere in the UK. However, Welsh workers now have the highest levels of stress in Britain.

- The gender pay gap grew slightly in 2018, up to 7.3 per cent.

- The most recent data on overall rates of relative income poverty suggest they are largely unchanged in Wales. There was a small increase in child poverty rates, contrasting with a small decrease in pensioner poverty.

  Attainment at secondary school, using the national indicator of the average capped points score, was largely unchanged from the previous year. Children from deprived backgrounds continue to have poorer outcomes than other groups.

- 2018 data shows that Wales has the lowest share of registrations of ultra low emission vehicles in the UK.
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What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

– As across the UK as a whole, the growth in the economy and in real incomes has been sluggish since the recession of 2008, reflecting weak productivity growth. Over the longer run, since 1999, Wales has broadly kept pace with the UK, but its performance continues to be low compared with other parts of the UK.

Average household incomes in Wales are considerably closer to the UK average than gross value added (GVA) per head, but there are differences depending on the measure used.

– The Welsh labour market continues to perform strongly, with the gap between Wales and the UK narrow in historical terms. Young people’s participation in education and the labour market has grown since the recession.

– Wales has more people in low paid work and evidence suggests this share is increasing. In addition, the evidence on quality of work suggests a mixed picture in Wales.

– There has been little change in overall relative income poverty levels in Wales for a number of years, though changes have been seen for some groups. Child relative income poverty has seen an overall reduction over the last 5 years whilst pensioner relative poverty has seen an increase – both remain well below the rates in the late 1990s.

The qualification profile of the Welsh working age population has been improving over time. Attainment in primary and secondary schools has risen in recent years, although children from deprived backgrounds still have poorer outcomes.

– The interaction between economic growth and an innovative, low carbon economy is complex and poses challenges, but there are positive signs. Travel makes a substantial contribution to carbon emissions, but there is no evidence yet of a shift away from cars as the main method of travel.
Gross value added (GVA) represents the value of all goods and services produced in an area. It is both the source of the real incomes people earn and the base on which taxes can be levied to fund public services.

While GVA per head in Wales has grown broadly in line with the UK since 1999, it remains lower than all other countries and regions of the UK.

Looking at progress more recently, GVA per head in Wales grew slightly slower in 2017 than across the UK as a whole. It increased by 2.7 per cent (not accounting for inflation), the eighth fastest growth of the 12 areas of the UK.

Wales' GVA is a reflection of comparatively low productivity levels. GVA per hour worked continues to be lower in Wales than almost all other parts of the UK. In 2017 it was 84.2 per cent of the UK figure.

Recent data suggests modest improvements in relative productivity, perhaps reversing a trend of deterioration prior to the recession.

### 1.1 Gross Value Added per head, 1999 to 2017

Average household incomes in Wales are considerably closer to the UK average than GVA per head, but there are differences depending on the measure used.

- Household income is a better indicator of people’s prosperity and material well-being than GVA.

- The national indicator on income uses a different measure – gross disposable household income. On this measure Wales is now close to 80 per cent of the UK figure, having fallen from 88 per cent at its peak in 2004. This relative fall has partly been driven by a steep increase in household incomes in London, which has helped to drive up the UK average.

- Whilst Wales has the lowest GDHI per head of the UK countries and regions, it’s not too dissimilar from areas of the UK with similar characteristics.

- Wales performs better on an indicator of median household income (after allowing for housing costs). On this indicator, which probably better reflects the circumstances of a typical household, average incomes in Wales have generally been well over 90 per cent of the UK figure. However, Wales remains near the bottom of the “league table” of UK countries and regions.

### 1.2 Welsh Gross Disposable Household Income per head, 1999 to 2017

![Graph showing GDHI per head for Wales and UK from 1999 to 2017.](Source: Regional Gross Disposable Household Income, Office for National Statistics)
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The Welsh labour market continues to perform strongly, with the gap between Wales and the UK narrow in historical terms.

- Over the last year the employment rate increased to the highest level on record then subsequently dipped. The gap between Wales and the UK is narrow in a historical context.

- According to the Labour Force Survey, the employment rate in Wales fell by 0.4 percentage points over the year and the inactivity rate grew by 0.3 percentage points.

- The unemployment rate remains at historically low levels, broadly tracking the UK rate.

- The recent substantial improvements in the Welsh labour market meant that employment, unemployment and inactivity rates were broadly comparable to the UK for most of this year.

1.3 Employment rate for people aged 16–64, 1999–2019

1.4 Economic inactivity rate for people aged 16–64

* Does not start at zero

Source: Regional labour market statistics in the UK: September 2019 : Office for National Statistics
Young people’s participation in education and the labour market has grown since the recession.

- There have been recent increases in young people in education, employment or training across both the 16-18 and 19-24 year old groups despite a slight decline for 16-18 year olds in the latest year.

- For 16-18 year olds, the percentage in education, employment or training has fluctuated at around 90 per cent in recent years. In general, the figure has been increasing gradually since the recession, although it fell slightly to 89.7 per cent in 2018.

- The effect of the recession was felt more sharply by the 19-24 age group. Since then, the share in education or the labour market has generally been increasing, although it was unchanged in the most recent year. The rate now stands at 83.9 per cent, around 6 percentage points higher than in 2012.

- At age 16-18, women are more likely than men to be in education, employment or training. For the first time in 2018, women also had higher participation rates than men in the 19-24 age group.

### 1.5 Percentage of young people in Wales in education, employment or training, 2004–2018

*Does not start at zero

Source: Participation of young people in education and the labour market, Welsh Government
A Prosperous Wales

Wales has more people in low paid work and evidence suggests this share is increasing.

- The real living wage is calculated by the Living Wage Foundation and aims to reflect the cost of living. 26 per cent of employees in Wales earned less than the real living wage. This share has been rising gradually from 23.5 per cent in 2012 when the living wage was introduced.

- It is much more common for part-time employees to earn less than the real living wage compared with full-time employees (48 per cent compared to 17 per cent).

- Some 30 per cent of employees are covered by collective bargaining arrangements, where pay and conditions are negotiated between an employer and a trade union. This share has been falling, but remains higher in Wales than in many areas of England.

- Over the longer term, the gender pay gap has been falling, but the most recent data suggests it grew slightly in Wales in 2018 - up from 6.4 per cent in 2017 to 7.3 per cent a year later. These gaps do not take into account differences in education levels and experience, which vary across genders and affect earning levels.

1.6 Percentage difference in median hourly full-time earnings between men and women, 1999–2018

![Graph showing the percentage difference in median hourly full-time earnings between men and women, 1999–2018]

A pay difference greater than zero means men’s earnings are higher than women’s

Source: Welsh Government Analysis of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics
The evidence on quality of work suggests a mixed picture in Wales.

- There is evidence to suggest that jobs in Wales are, in some respects, better than jobs elsewhere in the UK, including relationships with managers, involvement in organisational decision-making and high levels of task discretion. However, the same survey suggested that Welsh workers now have the highest levels of stress in Britain.

- The national indicator on quality of employment is the percentage of people in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent work) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage.

- In 2018, 67.5 per cent of people in employment met this definition. This figure changes only slightly each year, with no clear trend.

- The percentage of people satisfied with their job remains broadly unchanged, standing at 82 per cent in 2017-18. Job satisfaction tends to increase with age.

### 1.7 Percentage of people in employment earning more than 2/3 of the UK median average wage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>66.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>65.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>65.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>67.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There have been falls in relative income poverty rates for children whilst pensioner poverty has been rising in the last 5 years but overall, rates have remained steady and below the rates seen in 1990s.

- Children are more likely to be in relative income poverty than the population overall. In the most recent data there was a small increase in the share of children in relative income poverty, up to 29 per cent in 2015-2018. The share of pensioners in relative poverty decreased slightly to 19 per cent, following a period of increases since the early 2010s.

- Around two-thirds of people under pension age who were in relative income poverty were living in households where someone was in work.

- Material deprivation means not being able to afford typical goods and services such as keeping the house warm or making regular savings. The share of people in material deprivation has fluctuated at around 14-16 per cent in Wales over recent years.

- New data on fuel poverty suggests that 12 per cent of households in Wales are fuel poor. The last time this data was collected was in 2008 when 26 per cent were living in fuel poverty. This large reduction is likely to be due to a combination of increasing incomes and greater energy efficiency.

### 1.8 Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales, 1994 to 2018

Source 1: Poverty: StatsWales
Source 2: Households Below Average Income data tables for Wales: Welsh Government
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The qualification profile of the Welsh population has been improving over time.

- Skills and qualifications are the biggest single influence on people’s chance of being in employment and on their incomes.
- Latest data shows there continues to be an improvement in the share of people qualified at higher levels. In 2018, 37.8 per cent of working age adults were qualified to at least higher education level (known as NQF level 4), up slightly from 37.5 per cent the year before.
- Over the last decade, there have been large falls in the share of working age people with no qualifications, and this now stands at 8.4 per cent.
- Older adults are more likely to have no qualifications than younger adults.
- Women are more likely to hold qualifications at or above level 4 across all age groups.

1.9 Working age population with no qualifications or qualified at level 4+, 2008–2018

Attainment in primary and secondary schools has risen in recent years, although children from deprived backgrounds still have poorer outcomes.

- At age 4, around 6 in 10 children were at or above the expected developmental level for their age in maths and language, literacy and communication in English. Around 9 in 10 children were within one stage of their expected development.

- The picture is different for language, literacy and communication in Welsh, where around 1 in 3 children were at a stage consistent with their development. This is due to children from non-Welsh speaking families being enrolled in Welsh medium schools. To put this into context, by the end of the Foundation Phase, by the end of the Foundation Phase at age 7, around 82 per cent achieve the expected level.

- The “capped nine points score” is the national indicator on secondary school performance. It focuses on year 11 pupils’ best nine results, including some subject specific requirements.

- The capped nine points score was largely unchanged in 2017/18 from the previous year, standing at 349.5, compared to 350.9 in the previous year. This is equivalent to just below nine GCSEs at grade C.

- The score for pupils who are eligible for free school meals was 79.1 points lower than the score for other pupils. This is equivalent to almost two fewer GCSEs at grade C on average per pupil.

### 1.10 Capped nine points score by free school meal eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Eligible for FSM</th>
<th>Not eligible for FSM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Examination Results, Welsh Government
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The interaction between economic growth and an innovative, low carbon economy is complex and poses challenges, but there are positive signs.

- Coming up with new ideas and better ways of doing things is an important way of improving productivity and, potentially, reducing carbon emissions.

- Data on innovation shows that in 2014-16, the proportion of businesses that were engaged in innovation activities was 46 per cent. All but one area of the UK saw a fall in innovation activity, with the Wales figure falling from 51 per cent in the previous period.

- Overall, greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 25 per cent since the 1990 base year. Business contributes just over one fifth of total Welsh emissions, with the amount of emissions from this sector falling substantially since 1990 (by 35 per cent). Most of this fall came in the early 2000s, with much more modest progress since then.

1.11 Greenhouse gas emissions from business, 1990 to 2017

Source: Welsh Government Analysis of National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Travel makes a substantial contribution to carbon emissions, but there is no evidence yet of a shift away from cars as the main method of travel.

- Although the recovery from recession has been slow and halting, the long-run trend to increased transport use in Wales has resumed, affecting all modes except buses (where use has decreased).

- As in most other parts of the UK outside London, private road transport remains the dominant mode of travel and accounts for the overwhelming majority of commuting journeys in Wales.

- In 2017, 81 per cent of commuters in Wales used a car as their usual method of travel, a small decrease since a peak of 84 per cent in 2013.

- While the registration of ultra low emissions vehicles is increasing, this is from a low base and, as a proportion of all vehicles registered in Wales, it is the lowest of any UK country or region.

- The proportions of people walking or cycling to work, traveling by rail and using buses have remained relatively stable over the past 15 years.

- Over time, reduced car use, stable commuting times and increased use of low carbon vehicles could contribute to a reduction in emissions.

**1.12 Usual mode of travel to work by Welsh residents, Oct–Dec 2017**

- Car 81%
- Walk 8%
- Bus Coach 4%
- Rail 4%
- Bicycle 2%

*Source: Transport Statistics Great Britain 2018, Department for Transport*
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Further reading:
The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report included further analysis of

- Wealth and home ownership
- International comparisons of GVA
- Innovation
- Gender differences in the labour market
- Occupational class
- International comparisons of education performance
- Key stage 2 achievement
- Secondary school achievement
- Work and health
- In-work poverty
- Commuting times

This report covers a wide range of subjects, and therefore in this report it is only possible to consider high level measures of progress. More in depth analysis of many of these topics are available through the range of statistical releases published by Welsh Government, the ONS or other statistical producers.

Useful links for further information:

Key Economic Statistics, provides a monthly update on the Welsh labour market, economy, exports and earnings.

The Welsh Economy in Numbers dashboard shows trends in the key economic outcomes for Wales, compared to the UK.

Transport Statistics Great Britain is an annual compendium of transport statistics, including data for Wales on a number of topics.
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Data sources

Economic Performance
Regional economic activity by gross value added (balanced), UK Statistical bulletins
Regional and sub-regional productivity in the UK: February 2019

Household income
Gross disposable household income
Regional gross disposable household income, UK Statistical bulletins
Family Resources Survey

Labour market
Regional labour market statistics in the UK Statistical bulletins
Estimated 16-24 year olds not in education, training or employment by economic activity and age groups

Pay
Gender pay difference in Wales by year (median hourly earnings full-time employees excluding overtime) (£)
Trade union statistics

Fair work
Skills and Employment Survey: Work in Wales, 2006 to 2017
People in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage by quarter
Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs by age

Poverty
Relative Income Poverty
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation by local authority
Fuel poverty estimates for Wales (headline results): 2018

Qualifications
Highest qualification levels of working age adults by year and qualification

Education
On-entry assessments of pupils in reception class: September 2017 to August 2018
Examination results: September 2017 to August 2018

Businesses
The UK Innovation Survey: Headline Findings 2014 to 2016
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by Year

Travel
Transport Statistics: Great Britain 2018
Department for Transport ultra low emission vehicle statistics
A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse 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 Resilient Wales

### What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

- Latest data shows some improvement in the quality of our surface water bodies, but the share achieving the European standard is still relatively low.

- The latest flood risk assessment shows that some homes in Wales are at risk of flooding from seas, rivers and surface water.

- Green spaces are readily accessible for most people in Wales and the perceived quality of these spaces appears to be stable.

- There were improvements in the levels of three of the main air pollutants. Following a small increase in 2016, average levels of nitrogen dioxide fell in 2017.

- There was a large fall in greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, down 13 per cent overall. The downgrading of operations at Aberthaw power station made a substantial contribution to this.

- The installed capacity for renewable energy was 10 per cent higher in 2017 than the previous year and 62 per cent higher than in 2014. Almost half of electricity consumed in Wales comes from renewable sources.

- Despite the improvements in average energy efficiency, only 47 per cent of homes in Wales were considered to have adequate energy performance.

The recycling rate fell slightly in 2017–18 for the first time. This is partly due to an improvement in the quality of data reporting. 62.7 per cent of municipal waste was reused, recycled or composted in 2017–18.
A Resilient Wales

What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

There is evidence of some positive trends in relation to Welsh peatlands, soils and species, but the latest comprehensive assessment of Welsh natural resources shows that overall, biological diversity is declining.

- The quality of our water – whether in seas, rivers, streams or stored in the ground – is generally improving.
- Air quality has improved greatly since the 1970s but some areas still regularly experience breaches of safe levels.
- Wales is a world leader in household recycling, but we continue to use up resources faster than they can be replenished.
- Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by a quarter since the 1990s, despite some periods of increases.
- The capacity of renewable energy generation installations has risen in the last decade, but the pace of the increase slowed in the most recent year.
- The energy efficiency of our homes has been improving, but the age of Wales' housing stock provides challenges.
A Resilient Wales

There have been improvements in the populations of some species, but the latest comprehensive assessment of Welsh natural resources shows that overall, biological diversity is declining.

- The State of Natural Resources Report 2016 found that overall, diversity is declining, as shown by loss of habitats and species. It found that no ecosystem in Wales had all the features needed for resilience.

- Long term monitoring shows that the numbers and distributions of almost a third of Welsh bird species are declining significantly.

- Whilst some woodland bird populations have been improving (and are doing better in Wales than the UK as a whole), there have been significant declines in birds of farmed habitats.

- Species data from the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme indicates that specialist butterfly groups have recently stabilised after declining for many years.

- The National Bat Monitoring Programme shows that, of the seven species of bat that are monitored in Wales, all but one have seen increases in their population or remained stable. This is broadly similar to the picture across the UK as a whole.

- Evidence suggests marine habitats are in variable condition but they are able to support healthy populations of many species of seabirds and marine mammals.

The National Survey for Wales found that:
33 per cent of people thought there had been a decrease in the variety of species in Wales.
45 per cent thought there would be a decrease in future.
There is evidence of some positive trends in relation to Welsh soils and peatlands.

- Well managed soil will safeguard food production, support habitats, help manage flood risk and reduce water treatment costs.

- The picture for soil in Wales is mixed. Recent assessments of soil quality have shown some improvements in woodlands, and peatlands are showing signs of recovery. However, improved agricultural land has become more acidic. Soil acidification means that growing crops could become more difficult.

- The concentration of carbon in our soil is generally stable, apart from in habitat land where a loss of carbon has recently been observed.

- The marine area is vast, covering 41 per cent of the territory of Wales. 35 per cent of Welsh marine waters are designated as marine protected areas. A 2016 assessment of these areas concluded that the network is well connected and is progressing towards being well managed.

Semi-natural habitats cover 31 per cent of the Welsh land surface

Source: Natural Resources Wales
The quality of our water – whether in seas, rivers, streams or stored in the ground – is generally improving.

- Water is one of Wales’s natural resources which we rely on constantly. It provides us with 951 million tonnes of drinking water per day.
- According to Natural Resources Wales, the quality of our rivers has generally improved over the last 25 years.
- Latest data shows some improvement in the quality of our surface water bodies, but the share achieving the standard is still relatively low. Some 40 per cent achieved a good or high overall status in 2018, compared to 36 per cent when they were last classified in 2015.
- When looking at the national indicator, which combines groundwater and surface water bodies, 40 per cent of all water bodies are at good or better status in 2019. The quality of groundwater bodies was last reported on in 2015 and will next be reported on in 2021.
- The quality of bathing water is monitored at 104 sites around Wales’ coast. In 2018, all of these sites met European quality standards, an improvement from 2017 when one site failed. However, there was a small fall in the number of sites reaching the highest quality standard – 78 sites were awarded excellent status, down from 80 the year before.

2.1 Bathing water quality

Source: NRW Bathing Water Quality Report 2018
The latest flood risk assessment shows that some homes in Wales are at risk of flooding from seas, rivers and surface water.

- The landscape and geology of Wales provide few natural stores of water. This means that rainfall generally travels quickly to our rivers and streams, which can lead to flooding conditions.

- Data from the latest flood risk assessment in 2019 shows that over 34,800 properties in Wales are at high or medium risk of flooding from rivers. This covers both residential and non-residential properties.

- Almost 7,700 properties are at high or medium risk of tidal flooding.

- A much greater number of properties are at risk from surface water flooding, caused when rainwater saturates the ground and drainage systems. Almost 54,000 properties are at a high or medium risk of this type of flooding.

- Some properties will be at risk from more than one type of flooding. It’s not currently possible to produce a total estimate of homes at risk from any type of flood risk without potentially double (or triple) counting these properties.

The National Survey for Wales found that 28 per cent of people in Wales were very or fairly concerned about the risk of flooding in their local area.
Green spaces are readily accessible for most people in Wales and the perceived quality of these spaces appears to be stable.

- Access to green spaces can have a positive influence on health and well-being.
- Most people in Wales are easily able to access green spaces. Just over 70 per cent of people in Wales said they found it very easy to walk to a green space. However, 4 per cent said there was no green space available.
- 84 per cent said they were very or fairly satisfied with the quality of local green space.
- The vast majority of people felt local green space had stayed the same over the last three years, at 65 per cent. Around 15 per cent said that local green space had got worse, while 20 per cent felt it had got better.
- Recent data from the Green Space Index suggested that over 236,000 people in Wales do not live within a ten minute walk of a green space.

### 2.2 How has local green space has changed over the last 3 years?

- **Got better**: 20%
- **Stayed the same**: 65%
- **Got worse**: 15%

*Source: National Survey for Wales 2018-19*
Air quality has improved greatly since the 1970s but some areas still regularly experience breaches of safe levels.

- The national indicator on nitrogen dioxide (NO$_2$) emissions shows that overall, levels have been declining over the past decade. Following a small increase in 2016, average levels fell to 9 µg/m$^3$ in 2017.

- The highest concentrations of nitrogen dioxide emissions are found in urban areas and near busy roads, reflecting the contribution of traffic and urban activities to poor air quality.

- There are 45 air quality management areas in Wales where levels of nitrogen dioxide exceed the annual mean limit for the protection of human health.

- Some 13 per cent of people were dissatisfied with the level of air pollution in their local area.

- Public Health Wales estimates that the equivalent of 1,600 deaths are attributed to PM$_{2.5}$ exposure each year, and around 1,100 deaths to NO$_2$ exposure.

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2.3 Air quality indicators

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Source: Air Quality Emissions Indicators
Wales is a world leader in household recycling, but we continue to use up resources faster than they can be replenished.

- The amount of municipal waste generated in Wales has gradually decreased since the early 2000s, with some fluctuation in recent years.

- Alongside this, recycling rates have risen substantially over the last two decades and evidence suggests Wales has the third highest household recycling rate in the world. However, the rate fell slightly in 2017-18 for the first time. This is partly due to an improvement in the quality of data reporting.

- The latest data shows that 62.7 per cent of municipal waste was reused, recycled or composted in 2017–18.

- Reducing and re-using waste is one way to reduce our consumption of resources. According to 2015 estimates, if everyone on the planet consumed the same as the Welsh average, we’d need 2.5 planets to provide the necessary resources and absorb the waste.

- Wales’s ecological footprint, at 10.05 million global hectares, is roughly five times the size of Wales.

### 2.4 Percentage of waste reused/recycled/composted (statutory target)

![Percentage of waste reused/recycled/composted](image)

Source: Local Authority Municipal Waste
A Resilient Wales

Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s, despite some periods of increases.

- Emissions in Wales have fallen by a quarter since 1990, driven by efficiencies in energy generation, natural gas replacing coal, chemical industry abatement and changes in manufacturing output.

- Around a third of emissions are from energy supply. Emissions from this sector can be volatile – they saw a 29 per cent decrease in 2017, largely due to downgrading operations at Aberthaw power station. This contributed substantially to the 13 per cent fall in overall emissions that year.

- It is important to understand emissions resulting from goods consumed in Wales, even if they are produced elsewhere. This is not part of these emissions estimates but will be produced by 2022 for Wales’ first carbon budget period.

- This year the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency. 76 per cent of adults in Wales said they were concerned about climate change in 2018-19.

### 2.5 Emissions of greenhouse gases by year

![Graph showing greenhouse gas emissions by year](Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory)
A Resilient Wales

The capacity of renewable energy generation projects has risen in the last decade, but the pace of the increase slowed in the most recent year.

- Around 22 per cent of electricity generated in Wales is from renewable sources. The amount of renewable electricity generated is the equivalent of 48 per cent of electricity consumed in Wales, a five percentage point increase compared to 2016.

- At the end of 2017, the installed capacity for renewable energy was 3,683 megawatts. This is 10 per cent higher than the previous year and more than 3 times higher than in 2012.

- Wind power makes up almost half of renewable capacity.

- Wales generates more than twice the amount of electricity it consumes, making it a net exporter of electricity to England and Ireland.

- Since 2005, total electricity demand has reduced by 18 per cent. A reduction in demand for energy generation from fossil fuels will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and have an impact on future climate change.

### 2.6 Renewable energy generation capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Capacity (MW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3,683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Energy Generation in Wales report*
The energy efficiency of our homes has been improving, but the age of Wales’ housing stock provides challenges.

- New survey data on the energy efficiency of Welsh homes was collected in 2017-18 for the first time since 2008.
- Energy efficiency is rated on a scale from A to G, with A being the most efficient.
- There is evidence that homes in Wales are becoming more energy efficient. In 2017-18, the average energy efficiency rating for a home in Wales was band D. This has improved from band E when this data was last collected some ten years ago.
- Despite the improvements in average energy efficiency, only 47 per cent of homes in Wales were considered to have adequate energy performance.
- Wales has the oldest housing stock in the UK, with over a quarter of homes built before 1919. Older homes face more challenges in improving their energy efficiency. Less than 20 per cent of homes built before 1919 had adequate energy performance, compared with 78 per cent of homes built after 1980.

### 2.7 Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of dwelling</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre–1919</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919–44</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945–64</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965–80</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post–1980</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Welsh Housing Conditions Survey
A Resilient Wales

Further reading:
The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report included further analysis of

- Terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats
- Biodiversity
- Quality of soil, water and air
- Protected or designated sites in Wales
- Noise pollution
- Renewable energy generation and use
- Energy efficiency of social housing
- Industrial, commercial and construction waste
- Low carbon travel (also covered by the Prosperous Wales goal)

Useful links for further information:

State of Natural Resources Report 2016 provides a comprehensive assessment of the extent to which natural resources are being sustainably managed.

National Survey for Wales provides data on people’s views on environmental issues.

Energy Generation in Wales 2017 sets out the current energy generation capacity of Wales and analyses how it has changed over time.

Report from the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme on progress towards developing a national indicator on biodiversity.

Data sources

Biodiversity
State of Natural Resources Report
State of Birds in Wales
National Bat Monitoring Programme
National Survey for Wales
A Resilient Wales

Habitats
Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
State of Natural Resources Report
Extent of Semi Natural Habitat in Wales

Water
State of Natural Resources Report
River Basin Management Plans
Wales Bathing Water Report

Flood Risk
Flood Risk Assessment Wales, National Survey for Wales

Local environment
National Survey for Wales
Green Space Index

Air Quality
Air Quality Exposure Indicators
Air Quality in Wales
National Survey for Wales
Public Health Wales

Resource Use
Local Authority Municipal Waste
Eunomia
Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales

Greenhouse Gas Emissions
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory
National Survey for Wales

Energy
Energy Generation in Wales

Energy Efficiency of Homes
Welsh Housing Conditions Survey
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.
Males and females living in the most deprived areas (based on deprivation deciles) were 3.7 and 3.8 times more likely to die from an avoidable cause than those living in the least deprived areas respectively.

Although life expectancy is higher for women, the proportion of life spent in good health is higher for men (78 per cent compared to 75 per cent).

Overall cancer survival continues to increase but at a slower rate than previously.

What is important to our well-being might be changing. Analysis by the Office for National Statistics for the UK shows that health, marital status and economic activity are important – but marital status seems to matter more now than it did six years ago.

Reported experience of cyber-bullying was higher in girls than boys and peaked in year 9.

Our diets continue to be low in fruit and vegetable consumption and too high in salt, sugar and red meat. But intake of red meat, salt and sugar has generally fallen over the last 9 years.

There have been improvements in hazards from housing conditions that could impact on health.
What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

- The most recent life expectancy figures (2015-2017) show little change again on recent years. The gain between 2009-11 and 2015-17 was much smaller across all UK countries than the gain in the previous 7 year period, and the gain was smallest in Wales.

- Healthy life expectancy and mortality outcomes continue to be worse for those living in more deprived areas, but for Wales there isn’t evidence that gap is increasing.

- Smoking, obesity and drinking rates for adults show no change in the latest year. Smoking rates and alcohol consumption have fallen over the longer term. However, obesity rates have increased.

- Children’s lifestyle measures (not smoking and not drinking) have fallen significantly over the longer term.

- The percentage of adults who follow fewer than 2 (of the 5) healthy lifestyle behaviours remains around 10 per cent with 12 per cent of children following fewer than 2 (of the 4).

The headline measures of mental well-being for children show no change over recent years.

Overall life satisfaction for adults continues to increase.

The proportion of babies born with a low birth weight hasn’t changed much in the last decade, but the last few years have seen increases following the lowest figures in 2014 and 2015.
Life expectancy had been rising until recent years but has changed little recently.

- Life expectancy was 82.2 years for women and 78.3 years for men for 2015-17. This is similar to the last four years – and follows many years of continued increases.

- The slowdown in Wales is a little greater than the other nations of the UK. In particular life expectancy for women in Wales has increased very little over the last 5 years.

- The reasons as to why this slowdown has occurred are complex and are due to a number of factors which have happened at the same time. Analysis for England shows that these include an ageing population and reductions in mortality from stroke and heart disease.

### 3.1 Index of Life expectancy at birth by sex (2001-03 = 100)

![Graph showing life expectancy index for Wales from 2001-03 to 2015-17]

Source: Office for National Statistics
A Healthier Wales

Inequalities in life expectancy and mortality remain wide.

- Recent analysis (based on 2015-2017) shows that the gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived has remained stable – but is 18.1 years for men and 19.4 years for women.

- The life expectancy gap is much narrower – at 9.0 years for men and 7.5 years for women. This is because those living in more deprived areas spend a much greater proportion of their lives in ill-health (35 per cent compared to 18 per cent)

- In 2017, males and females living in the most deprived areas (based on deprivation deciles) were 3.7 and 3.8 times more likely to die from an avoidable cause than those living in the least deprived areas respectively.

3.2 Slope index of inequality (SII) for life expectancy (LE) and healthy life expectancy (HLE), males and females

Source: Office for National Statistics
Improvement in mortality rates from some causes has slowed.

- Whilst mortality rates have improved slightly in recent years, the rate of improvement has slowed since 2011.

- In particular the mortality rate for circulatory disease which fell sharply between 2001 and 2011 (around 5 per cent a year) has fallen far more slowly since then (around 3 per cent a year).

- The gap in mortality rates between the most and least deprived also varies by cause of death – previous analysis (2012–2014) shows circulatory, cancer and respiratory disease had the greatest gaps.

- New analysis for suicides shows rates in Wales are higher for those in the most deprived areas. Those in lower skilled occupations had a higher risk of suicide.

- Drug related deaths in 2018 were the highest on record whilst suicide rates remained stable in Wales (but increased for women).

### 3.3 Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population from selected causes, Wales, 2017

![Graph showing age-standardised mortality rates from selected causes, Wales, 2017.](image)

*Source: Life events, Office for National Statistics*
Overall cancer survival continues to increase but at a slower rate than previously.

- One-year cancer survival increased by 3.0 percentage points over five years, from 70.9 per cent for people diagnosed 2007-2011 to 73.9 per cent for the most recent diagnosis period, 2012-2016. Over ten years this increase was 6.4 percentage points.

- Five-year survival in the most deprived areas is only three-quarters of that in least deprived areas, with little recent improvement in inequality.

- Overall cancer survival is slightly higher in women than men, but the gap is narrowing.

- For most cancer types there are no significant differences in five-year survival between Wales and England apart from leukaemia, and cancers of the prostate and stomach.

### 3.4 Cancer survival rates, five-year and one-year

![Cancer survival rates graph](image)

Source: Cancer survival, Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit
A Healthier Wales

The percentage of low birth weight babies hasn’t changed much over the last decade.

- The proportion of babies born with a low birth weight hasn’t changed much in the last decade, but the last few years have seen increases following the lowest figures in 2014 and 2015.

- The proportion increases with deprivation – with 7.4 per cent in the most deprived areas born with a low birth rate in 2017 compared to 3.9 per cent in the least deprived.

- Around one in five pregnant women smoked and around 30 per cent were obese at their initial assessment.

- Smoking rates for pregnant women fall by age – from over 25 per cent for women aged under 25 to 15 per cent for those aged 40 or over.

- The number of births rose between 2001 and 2012 but has fallen since. The fertility rate in Wales is the lowest on record and remains lower than England.

### 3.5 Percentage of live singleton births with a birth weight of under 2,500g

![Graph showing percentage of live singleton births with a birth weight of under 2,500g from 2005 to 2018](Source: National Community Child Health Database)
Over the long term there have been reductions in smoking and drinking rates – especially for children, but little change in recent years.

- Smoking rates were 17 per cent in 2018-19, with no significant change in the latest year. However it has fallen from over 25 per cent in 2003-04. Smoking rates remain higher for those in more deprived areas, but there is some evidence the gap might be closing.

- The percentage of adults who drank above weekly guidelines has not changed in the last few years. Unlike smoking, those in the least deprived areas consume more alcohol on average than those in the most deprived.

- Smoking and drinking rates for children fell sharply between 2002 and 2014 and were similar in 2018.

- The percentage of adults who follow fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours hasn’t changed recently (at around 10 per cent), and it hasn’t changed for children either (at 12 per cent).

### 3.6 Percentage of children aged 11–16 following selected health behaviours

*2018 data is based on SHRN and is therefore not completely comparable with data from previous years, which was from HBSC

*Source: Health Behaviour in school aged Children (HBSC) and School Health Research Network (SHRN)*
Our diets continue to be low in fruit and vegetables and high in salt, sugar and red meat.

- 24 per cent of adults (16+) ate the recommended portions of five fruit of vegetables a day. This is unchanged in the latest year.

- Adults consumed more than children on average (3.8 portions for adults vs 2.7 for those aged 11-18 based on 2012/13 –2016/17).

- Consumption of red meat is above the recommended guidelines, but has been falling.

- Salt and sugar intakes are also above recommended levels – but have been falling. In particular intake of sugary drink in children shows significant reductions.

### 3.7 Percentage of those aged 16 or over who ate 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day by deprivation quintile, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>Percentage (age standardised)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quintile 1 (most deprived)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintile 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintile 3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintile 4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quintile 5 (least deprived)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales
We are more satisfied with our lives (on average) and relationships, economic status and our health are important to our well-being.

- Average mental well-being (as measured by the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale) shows a slight increase for 2018-19 compared with 2016-17, but more data is needed to see if that is part of a longer term trend.

- Previous analysis for the UK highlighted that those in employment, married or had good health had higher levels of mental well-being. This might be changing as newer analysis shows relationship status becoming more important.

- Average life satisfaction has been increasing since 2011-12, with slight reductions in average anxiety levels.

- Well-being and life satisfaction in children (aged 11-16) reduces with age, and reduces more for girls than boys.

### 3.8 Life Satisfaction – Headline measures of well-being (average scores out of 10)

![Graph showing life satisfaction from 2011-12 to 2017-18](image)

Source: Annual Population Survey
Housing conditions have improved in the last 10 years.

- A range of factors are important to everyone’s health – for example employment, air pollution and housing all impact on overall health outcomes.

- Housing conditions in Wales have improved over the last 10 years - reducing the potential risk to the health of occupants.

- The Welsh Housing Conditions Survey showed that 82 per cent of dwellings were free from the most serious (category 1) hazards in 2017-18, compared with 71 per cent in 2008.

- There were improvements in all tenures.

### 3.9 Percentage of dwellings meeting the overall proxy measures of Welsh Housing Quality Standard by tenure, 2008 and 2017-18 (using conditions survey data)

Sources: Living in Wales Property Survey 2008 / Welsh Housing Conditions Survey 2017–18
A Healthier Wales

Social media and cyber-bullying affects girls more than boys.

- On average problematic social media use in 2018 was higher in girls and increased with age.
- A fairly small proportion of adolescents reported taking part in cyber-bullying. A larger proportion reported experiencing cyber-bullying (almost one in five). Reported experience of cyber-bullying was higher in females and peaked in year 9.

3.10 Percentage of children aged 11–16 with problematic social media use, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Health Behaviours in School Aged Children
Physical activity guidelines are not being met by many of us.

- 58 per cent of men and 47 per cent of women meet the physical activity guidelines.

- Physical activity levels decline in secondary school – 26 per cent of those aged 11 met the guidelines for children compared to 12 per cent aged 16.

- Around a third of adults and a half of children participated in sports activities 3 times a week or more – this is unchanged on recent years.

- A third of children aged 11-16 walked or cycled to school, with those from less affluent families more likely to walk or cycle.

- Over half of adults (58 per cent) walked or cycled to get somewhere, with a higher percentage in urban areas (63 per cent) compared to rural areas (48 per cent).

### 3.11 Percentage of children and adults meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines

![Bar chart showing percentage of children and adults meeting physical activity guidelines across different age groups.]

*Source: National Survey for Wales, 2018-19 (adults); Welsh Government and Health Behaviours in School Aged Children, 2013-14*

*Recommended physical activity guidelines are at least 60 minutes a day for secondary school-aged children, and at least 150 minutes a week for adults.*

*Data for adults and children are not strictly comparable due to differences in guidelines and measurement.*
A Healthier Wales

Further reading:
The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report, included further analysis of:

- Mental well-being
- Children's well-being
- Cancer survival
- Adult lifestyles
- Children's lifestyles

This report covers a wide range of subjects, and therefore in this report it is only possible to consider high level measures of progress. More in depth analysis of many of these topics are available through the range of statistical releases published by Welsh Government, the ONS or other statistical producers.

Useful links for further information:

Public health outcomes framework provides data for the indicators in the framework by characteristics and small area

Office for National Statistics Well-being dashboard provides a visual overview of well-being in the UK.

Social services national outcomes framework shows progress made in improving care and support.

Data sources

Mortality
Life Expectancy
PHE analysis of mortality trends in England
PHW analysis of mortality rates by deprivation quintile
Life expectancy by deprivation decile
Avoidable mortality
Deaths by cause, 2001–2016
Suicides in Wales
Suicides: 2018
Drug related deaths
Cancer survival

Well-being
National survey for Wales
Factors that affect well-being
Well-being measures from the ONS
A Healthier Wales

Lifestyles
National diet and nutrition survey
Schools Health Research Network
National survey for Wales
Children’s Lifestyle behaviours
School sports survey

Maternity and births
Maternity indicators
National child health data
Births

Housing quality
Welsh Housing Quality Standard: as at 31 March 2018
A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

**Socio-economic disadvantage**

- Nearly a quarter of all people in Wales (24 per cent) were living in relative income poverty (after housing costs) between 2015-16 and 2017-18. Children are the most likely to be in relative poverty; 29 per cent of children compared to 19 per cent of pensioners.

- Over two fifths (42 per cent) of those who are single parents were in material deprivation in 2018-19 and 3 per cent of households said they had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months.

- In 2018, an estimated 12 per cent of households were living in fuel poverty (down from 26 per cent of households in 2008).

**Gender**

- Girls continue to achieve better educational outcomes than boys; in 2018 the gap for those achieving the Level 2 inclusive threshold at Key Stage 4 rose to 10.5 percentage points.

- The gender pay gap grew slightly in 2018, up to 7.3 per cent.

- In 2017-18, 54 per cent of new public appointments and 48 per cent of re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to females.

**Age**

- Amongst those aged 16-64, the employment rate remains highest among those aged 25 to 49, and lowest in the 16 to 24 year age group.

- In 2017-18, 61 per cent of new public appointments and re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to people aged over 55.
A More Equal Wales

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Ethnicity

- 4.4 per cent of the Welsh population describe themselves as Black, Asian or other ethnic minority group (BAME); the second largest ethnic group (after White) is Asian, at 2.1 per cent of the population (2015-17).

The ethnicity pay gap in Wales is 7.5 per cent. This means that employees from ethnic minority groups in Wales earned, on average, 7.5 per cent less per hour than white British employees in Wales in 2018.

- In 2017-18, 9.2 per cent of new public appointments and 2.3 per cent of re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to individuals from a Black and Ethnic minority background (BAME).

- There was a 10 per cent increase in reported race hate crimes between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Religion

- Latest estimates (2015-2017) show that over half the population (52.8 per cent) identify as Christian, whilst 42.7 per cent said they had no religion.

- Nearly 50,000 people (1.6 per cent of the population) identified as Muslim; over two thirds of the Muslim population lived in South East Wales.
A More Equal Wales

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Sexual orientation

- Latest estimates show that 2.0 per cent of the Welsh population identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual, an increase from 1.3 per cent in 2012.

- There were 372 same-sex marriages in 2016, whilst civil partnerships have reduced substantially to around 30 a year since 2014.

- Hate crimes recorded by police in which sexual orientation was considered the motivating factor have increased considerably; there were 670 such crimes recorded in 2017-18, though Stonewall Cymru research suggests that many such incidents are not reported to the police.

Disability

- The employment rate among disabled adults aged 16-64 (48 per cent in the year ending March 2019) remains lower than among those who are not disabled, but the gap has reduced in the last year.

- Living in a household where there is someone who is disabled continues to make relative income poverty more likely (for working age people and for children).

- The proportion of people with a limiting long-standing illness or disability living in a household in material deprivation reduced slightly to 21 per cent in 2018-19, but remains twice as high as for those who are not disabled (10 per cent).

Marital status

- It remains true that those who are married are less likely to be in material deprivation than those who are separated or divorced.
A More Equal Wales

What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

- There has been little change in relative income poverty levels in Wales for a number of years, though changes have been seen for some groups. Whilst children are the population group most likely to be in relative poverty, child poverty has seen an overall reduction over the last 5 years whilst pensioner relative poverty has seen an increase – both remain well below the rates in the late 1990s.

- There remains a gap in the educational outcomes of children in school eligible for free school meals and those who are not, with the gap widening as pupils get older.

- Despite a small increase in the last year, the gender pay gap has generally been narrowing. But fewer women than men are employed in work that meets our national indicator definition of good quality employment.

- Life satisfaction scores dip for those in their middle age (45-64), and those aged 16 to 24 are now more likely to report being lonely than those 65 and over.

- Latest data continues to show some differences in educational attainment between ethnic groups, with a higher proportion of children from Asian, Chinese and Mixed ethnicities reaching expected levels of attainment than those from a White background.

- Despite some improvement, the Black and Ethnic minority population are still under-represented in local political life but the proportion of public appointments made by the Welsh Government to those with a BAME background has risen in recent years.

- Race is still judged to be a motivating factor in almost 7 in 10 of all hate crime, and recorded race incidents have been increasing.

- The employment rate among disabled adults (16-64) remains lower than among those who are not disabled.

- Those who are divorced, separated or never married are still more likely to struggle financially, with single parent households most likely to be in material deprivation.

- The proportion of the Welsh population identifying themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual has been increasing in recent years (now at 2 per cent of the population).

- Since 2014, when same sex marriages became legal, the number of same sex marriages has increased (to 372 in 2016) whilst the number of civil partnerships formed has reduced substantially to around 30 partnerships annually.

- The number of recorded hate crimes in Wales judged to have been related to sexual orientation has been increasing (now one fifth of all recorded hate crimes) though Stonewall Cymru research suggests that many such incidents are not reported to the police.
A More Equal Wales

Socio-economic disadvantage: Child poverty has been falling whilst pensioner poverty has been rising in the last 5 years but overall poverty rates have remained steady, and below rates seen in the 1990s.

Between 2015-16 and 2017-18, nearly a quarter of the population (24 per cent) were living in relative income poverty after paying their housing costs.

Children are the population group most likely to be in relative income poverty. The most recent figures show that this was the case for 29 per cent of children in Wales compared to 19 per cent of pensioners.

In 2018-19, 14 per cent of adults were classed as materially deprived (that is, unable to afford certain things such as keeping the house warm enough, make regular savings, or have a holiday once a year). This is the case for a higher percentage of females (15 per cent) relative to males (12 per cent).

Single parent households are more likely to be materially deprived than other types of households; over two fifths (42 per cent) of single parents were materially deprived in 2018-19.

3 per cent of households (in 2018-19) said they had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months; and an estimated 155,000 households (12 per cent of households) live in fuel poverty.

Despite some recent improvement for children in care, pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and children in care have poorer educational outcomes in schools on average with the gap widening as pupils get older.

4.1 Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales, 1994 to 2018
After Housing Costs, three year averages (financial years) 1994–95 to 1996–97, to 2015–16 to 2017–18

Source 1: Poverty: StatsWales
Source 2: Households Below Average Income data tables for Wales (Excel): Welsh Government
Gender: At school girls continue to achieve better outcomes than boys, and girls are more likely to stay on in education beyond age 16.

- Life expectancy is still longer for girls than boys but they can expect to spend a lower portion of their life in good health.

- From around age 14 (year 9) onwards more girls report fair or poor health than boys; by age 16 (year 11) one in three girls report poor health compared to one in four boys.

- On average, male adolescents had higher mental well-being scores and were more satisfied with their lives than females adolescents, with the gap widening as they reach age 16. This continues into adulthood with average mental well-being scores for men consistently higher than women across all age groups; though suicide rates remain higher for men than women.

- In education, from Foundation Phase (up to 7 years old) to Key Stage 4 (15 year olds), a higher proportion of girls than boys achieve the expected outcomes. The gap initially narrows up to Key Stage 2 but then grows as pupils get older. In 2018, the gap at the end of Key Stage 4 (Level 2 incl.) was 10.5 percentage points.

- A higher proportion of females aged 16-18 than males remain in full-time education; this is also the case for those aged 19 to 24 years old.

### 4.2 Extent to which girls outperform boys in educational achievement, by key stage, 2008/09 to 2018/19

![Graph showing the percentage of girls outperforming boys in educational achievement from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4.](image)

A dashed line indicates that the data are not comparable before and after that point. Comparisons over that time period should be avoided.

*Source: StatsWales*
A More Equal Wales

Gender (cont.): Whilst the gender pay gap has increased slightly this year and employment rates remain lower for women than men; there is now more parity between men and women in new public appointments.

- Employment rates in Wales are lower for women than for men, 72.4 per cent for women and 77.1 per cent for men in May – July 2019. Economic inactivity rates are higher for women (25.2 per cent) than men (19.3 per cent) over this period.

- At age 16-18 years, females are more likely than males to be in education, employment or training. For the first time in 2018, females also had higher participation rates than males in the 19-24 age group.

- The gender pay gap, based on median full-time hourly earnings (excluding overtime), stood at 7.3 per cent in 2018, up from 6.4 per cent in 2017. Of the 11 UK countries and regions where men earn more than women, Wales has the second smallest pay gap.

- Women are less likely to say they feel safe in their community (58 per cent compared to 83 per cent for men in 2018-19), despite men being somewhat more likely to be victims of violent crime than women.

- In 2017-18, 54 per cent of new public appointments and 48 per cent of public re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to females. In 2013-14, 60 per cent of appointments were to men.

4.3 Employment rate (percentage of the population age 16-64) in Wales by gender and year, 2005 to 2018 (rates for May to July)

Source 1: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics
Source 2: StatsWales
Subjective well-being tends to be higher earlier in life and in the older age groups, dipping in the 45-59 age group. In 2018-19 the highest average life satisfaction scores are for the 65-74 age group (8.1) and for the 75 and over group (7.9), and the lowest are for those aged 45-64 (7.6).

In recent years a higher proportion of the working-age population has been in relative poverty than pensioner households.

The employment rate is highest in the 25 to 49 age group whilst the increase previously seen in the employment rate for those aged 65 and over may now be flattening out.

### 4.4  Life Satisfaction by age group, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Mean score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16–24</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–44</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45–64</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65–74</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government
A More Equal Wales

Age (cont.): Whilst older people tend to have a stronger sense of community and be more satisfied with their local area generally, they may still feel the least safe in their communities after dark.

- Older people (aged 65 and over) are more likely to have a strong sense of community compared with younger age groups, whilst 90 per cent of those aged 75 and over are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

- Younger age groups are generally at higher risk of being victims of crime (including violent crime), with the 16-24 year age group experiencing the highest rates in most crime categories and those aged over 65 years experiencing the lowest rates of crime in Wales during the last 12 months up to March 2019. However, the 2018-19 National Survey for Wales indicates that it is those aged 75 or over who feel the least safe in their communities after dark.

- In 2017-18, 61 per cent of new public appointments and re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to people aged over 55.
A More Equal Wales

Ethnicity: Children from some ethnic groups (e.g. Chinese, Asian and Mixed ethnicities) tend to achieve better on average in school compared to others; and in general, the BAME population are now better represented in higher education and in new public appointments.

- 95.6 per cent of the population (in 2015 to 2017) described their ethnic group as White; varying by region from 97.8 per cent of the population in North Wales to 94.3 per cent in South East Wales.

- Educational attainment remains low for gypsy traveller children, whilst a higher proportion of children from Asian, Chinese or Mixed ethnicities reach expected levels of achievement at school than those from a White background.

- A relatively high proportion of the Welsh Black and Ethnic minority population enrol in higher education; 8.4 per cent of Welsh student enrolments at higher education institutions in 2017/18 were from a Black or Ethnic minority background and group.

- In 2018 a higher proportion of adults from an ethnic minority background have no qualifications (15 per cent, compared to 9 per cent for the White group).

- BAME public appointments have been increasing. In 2017/18, 9.2 per cent of new public appointment and 2.3 per cent of re-appointments made by the Welsh Government were to individuals from a Black and Ethnic minority background (BAME). In 2013-14 these figures were 4.3 per cent of new appointments and 2.0 per cent of re-appointments.
Well-being of Wales 2018-19

Statistics for Wales

A More Equal Wales

Ethnicity (cont.): Employment rates and average pay remain lower for Black and Ethnic minority groups; with non-White households being more likely to be in relative income poverty.

- Employment rates (2015-17) among the Welsh population aged 16-64 are highest among individuals with a White ethnicity (72 per cent), with employment rates lowest among individuals with an Other ethnicity (50 per cent). The equivalent rates among individuals with a Black, Asian and Mixed ethnicity are 59 per cent, 60 per cent and 69 per cent, respectively.

- Employment rates for ethnic groups differ for males and females, with the biggest gap in employment rates seen in the Mixed ethnic group (males 81 per cent compared to females 54 per cent).

- The ethnicity pay gap in Wales is 7.5 per cent. This means that employees from ethnic minority groups in Wales earned, on average, 7.5 per cent less per hour than White British employees in Wales in 2018.

- In recent years (2013-14 to 2017-18) people who were living in households where the head of the household was from a non-White ethnic group were more likely to be in relative income poverty (31 per cent) compared with those where the head of the household was from a White ethnic group (23 per cent).

4.5 Employment rates by ethnicity and gender, 2015-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Employment Rate Male</th>
<th>Employment Rate Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>52.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doesn’t apply / no answer</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Population Survey 2015 - 2017 pooled dataset
Race was judged to be a motivating factor in 68 per cent of hate crimes recorded in Wales in 2017-18. There was a 10 per cent increase in reported race hate crimes between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Of those households who applied to local authorities in 2018-19 for housing assistance because they were threatened with homelessness, 8 per cent were from a Black or Ethnic minority background. However, 14 per cent of households who are assessed as unintentionally homeless and in priority need are from a BAME background and of these 83 per cent accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation.

4.6 Hate crime offences in Wales by motivating factor, 2012–13 to 2017–18

Source: Home Office
Religion: Christianity remains the largest religion in Wales but whilst 4 per cent of the population have another religion many people now say they have no religion.

- Christianity is still the largest religion in Wales. In 2015-2017 over half of the population of Wales identified as Christian (52.8 per cent), whereas 42.7 per cent of the population stated they had no religion.

- Nearly 50,000 people (1.6 per cent of the population) identified as Muslim. Over two thirds (69 per cent) of the Muslim population lived in South East Wales.

- A higher proportion of women than men identified as having a religion (61 per cent compared with 53 per cent) and the proportion of people identifying as having a religion increased by age group. The Muslim population has a younger age profile than most other religions in Wales.

- Religion was judged to be a motivating factor in 6 per cent of hate crimes recorded Wales in 2017-18; a total of 198 religious based hate crimes were recorded by police in Wales in 2017-18, up from 123 in 2016-17.

- Employment rates for those who identify as Christian or with no religion are similar; amongst Muslims the employment rate for females (37 per cent in 2018-19) is around half of that for males (74 per cent).

4.7 Age distribution by religion, Census 2011

Source: Religion by health measure, age and gender: StatsWales
Well-being of Wales 2018-19

A More Equal Wales

Sexual orientation: The numbers who chose to identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual, or who chose not to identify as straight are rising, with same-sex marriages now more common than civil partnerships.

- In 2017, 95.0 per cent of the population of Wales identified as heterosexual, with 2.0 per cent identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual. A higher proportion of the 16 to 45 years age group identify as gay/lesbian or bisexual than other age groups.

- Over the last five years, the proportion of the Welsh population identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual has increased from 1.3 per cent.

- Since 2014, when same sex marriages became legal, the number of same sex marriages has increased (to 372 in 2016) whilst the number of civil partnerships formed has reduced substantially (32 partnerships in 2017).

- In 2018-19 a lower proportion of adults who identified as heterosexual were in material deprivation (13 per cent) compared with those who did not identify as heterosexual (20 per cent).

- In 2017-18, 670 hate crimes recorded by police in Wales in which sexual orientation was considered the motivating factor (up from 461 in 2016-17). Sexual orientation was judged to be a motivating factor in one fifth of all hate crimes recorded in Wales in 2017-18.

- Stonewall Cymru research within the LGBT community indicates that almost one in four LGBT people (23 per cent) say they have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months and that many of them did not report the incident to the police.

- The National Survey for Wales (2018-19) indicates that those who do not identify as heterosexual feel less safe in their communities than those who do.
A More Equal Wales

Disability: In general, outcomes for children with special educational needs are improving.

- National Survey for Wales data (2018-19) shows that life satisfaction was generally lower for people with a limiting long-standing illness or disability (their mean score was 7.2) than for those without (8.1).

- The educational outcomes of pupils with special educational needs has improved in recent years.

- Disability was judged to be a motivating factor in 9 per cent of hate crimes recorded in Wales in 2017-18, slightly less than in the previous year.

- Of the working-age population, a higher proportion of disabled people hold no qualifications than those who were not disabled (in 2018, 17 per cent compared to 6 per cent respectively) and a lower proportion held qualifications at level 4 (degree level) or above (28 per cent compared to 41 per cent respectively).

4.8 Pupils with a statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) achieving the level 2 Inclusive threshold at Key Stage 4 including English or Welsh first language and Mathematics

Making comparisons to performance prior to 2016/17 is difficult due to significant changes in how the indicators are calculated. See "Examination Results: September 2017 - August 2018" release for more information.

Source: Welsh Government
A More Equal Wales

Disability (cont.): Employment rates for disabled people are rising but a disability pay gap remains and households including someone who is disabled are still more likely to struggle financially.

- In the latest period (2015-16 to 2017-18), 39 per cent of children who lived in a household where there was someone who was disabled were in relative income poverty compared with 24 per cent in households where no-one was disabled.

- Similarly, 32 per cent of working-age adults who lived in a household where there was someone who was disabled were in relative income poverty compared with 19 per cent of those who lived in a household where no-one was disabled.

- As in previous years, in 2018-19, one in five people with a limiting long-standing illness or disability lived in a household in material deprivation compared with one in ten of those who were not disabled.

- For the year ending 31 March 2019 the employment rate among disabled people aged 16-64 in Wales was 48 per cent whilst the rate for people who are not disabled was 80 per cent. The disability employment gap for 2019, of 32 percentage points, is reduced compared to recent years when it was around 35 percentage points.

- EHRC report that median hourly earnings were higher in 2016-17 for non-disabled (£10.67) than for disabled (£9.72) employees, a disability pay gap of 8.9 per cent.

4.9 Disability employment rate gap, year ending March 31st 2014 to year ending March 31st 2019

Source: StatsWales
There were a total of 13,553 marriages in Wales in 2016. Of these 13,181 (97.3 per cent) were among opposite-sex couples, with 372 (2.7 per cent) marriages involving same-sex couples. The number of civil partnerships formed in 2017 remains low (32 partnerships) compared to the levels in 2013.

In 2018-19, 21 per cent of divorced adults and 33 per cent of those who are separated (but still legally married) were in material deprivation compared with 8 per cent of those who were married and 9 per cent who were widowed. Over two fifths (42 per cent) of those who are single parents were materially deprived.

National Survey for Wales results for 2018-19 confirmed that a higher proportion of the married population report a high ‘satisfaction with life’, feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile and high levels of happiness compared to those that have never married, the separated, divorced or widowed. In 2017-18, those who were separated or divorced were more likely to say they felt lonely.

### 4.10 Life satisfaction by marital status, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Life Satisfaction (0–10 scale)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated, but still legally married</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, that is never married and never registered a same sex civil partnership</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales, 2018-19
Marital status (cont.): Single parent households and those who are single continue to face challenges. They are more likely to be threatened with homelessness or be materially deprived.

- Single parent households and single pensioner households were the households least likely to say they feel safe in their communities after dark in 2018-19.

- Relationship breakdown is one of the key causes cited for households being threatened with homelessness.

- Of those judged to be homeless and in priority need, just over half are single person households and a third are lone parents with dependent children.

- Of those aged between 16 and 64, those who were married or in a civil partnership had the highest employment rates (80 per cent) compared to those who were separated or divorced (70 per cent), single (67 per cent) or widowed (60 per cent).

- Employment rates are generally lower for women than for men and this is particularly the case for women who are married or in a civil partnership; the employment rate for married men being 87 per cent compared to married women 74 per cent in 2018-19.
A More Equal Wales

Further reading:
The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report, included further analysis of:

- Loneliness and sense of community
- Participation in public representation
- Taking part in volunteering or in arts or sports activities
- Life expectancy and health-related lifestyles
- Children's development and educational attainment
- People seeking support with their housing
- Likelihood of being victims of crime
- Violent crime, sexual assault and domestic abuse

This report covers a wide range of subjects, and therefore in this report it is only possible to consider high level measures of progress. More in depth analysis of many of these topics are available through the range of statistical releases published by Welsh Government, the ONS or other statistical producers.

Useful links for further information:

- EHRC (2018). Is Wales Fairer?
- ONS (2019). Centre for Equalities and Inclusion
- Stonewall Cymru (2017). LGBT in Wales – Hate Crime and Discrimination
A More Equal Wales

Data sources

The following data sources were used in this narrative:

Equality and diversity statistics (populations)

Data from the National Survey for Wales, on life satisfaction, sense of community, feeling of safety, material deprivation

Hate Crime from Police Recorded Crime Open data tables

Poverty
Relative Income poverty
National Survey for Wales (material deprivation)
Fuel poverty

Education
On-Entry Assessments
Welsh Examinations Database

The labour market
Labour Force Survey
Participation in the Labour Market

Gender pay gap
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Homelessness data
Statutory Homelessness and Rough Sleeper open data tables

Public Appointments
Annual report 17/18
Management Information

Marriages in Wales

Prevalence of Crime
Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

- Many of the indicators for cohesive communities have only been recently collected and it is therefore difficult to comment on changes over time.

- The measures relating to community cohesion (just over half agreeing with three statements) and feeling safe (just over 70 per cent feeling safe in different situations), which have been collected for a number of years, are broadly unchanged.

- There was a slight increase in community cohesion in 2018-19 and a slight decrease in feeling safe, but it is too early to tell if this is the beginning of a trend.

- There continues to be a gradual decline in people feeling that local decisions can be influenced.

- During 2018-19 there was a continued increase in both the number and percentage of households that had approached their local authority for support and were successfully prevented from being homeless.

- There was an increase of less than 1 per cent in the estimated number of people sleeping rough in Wales, with 347 rough sleepers counted in the October 2018 count.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

- Most of the indicators within this goal have had detailed analysis carried out to determine the factors that are linked with differences in the level of the indicator.

- The indicators in this chapter are most commonly associated with age and disability or health in terms of equality dimensions. Where there is an association, being older or in good health/not disabled are linked with more positive values of the indicator. Long term progress is therefore linked with improvements in health and deprivation/poverty.

- All of the indicators are associated with at least one measure to do with socio-economic status or deprivation. The actual measures differ across the indicators but in each case being better off is associated with more positive values of the indicator. The one exception is that being economically inactive is linked with volunteering more, but this is mainly due to the fact that retired people are more likely to volunteer.

- There are connections between the different measures of cohesive communities, particularly in the case of loneliness which has a statistically significant link with four other measures. The associations can easily work in either direction, for example, lonely people may be less likely to volunteer but also volunteering may help to reduce loneliness. Other than loneliness, each of the indicators has a link with geographic area, even after controlling for other factors. However, it is not always the same parts of Wales.

- People feel that crime has increased a lot in recent years, although the picture from recorded crime is more mixed with an increase in violent crimes recorded but theft and criminal damage remaining stable.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Half of adults agreed with all three measures of community cohesion, this is broadly unchanged in recent years.

- In 2018-19, 52 per cent of people agreed with all three statements about their local area that make up the national indicator, while over 70 per cent agreed with any one statement.

- These figures are broadly stable since they were first collected in 2012, although there was a slight increase in the agreement on all three measures since 2016-17.

- There is no statistical difference between men and women on either the individual measures or agreeing with all three statements. However, the increase between 2016-17 and 2018-19 was mainly amongst women.

- There is a clear trend towards increased community cohesion as deprivation in the area falls.

### 5.1 Percentage of people agreeing with statements about their local area, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Tend to agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belong to the local area</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in the area from different backgrounds get on well together</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People treat each other with respect and consideration</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government
Nearly three quarters of adults feel safe in various situations after dark.

- The national indicator is the percentage of people that agreed with four statements about feeling safe after dark: at home, walking in their local area, travelling by public transport or travelling by car. In 2018-19, 71 per cent of people felt safe in all four situations, down slightly from 73 per cent in 2016-17.

- Data on travelling by car was first collected in 2016-17 but the other measures in the indicator are broadly stable since they were first collected in 2012.

- Men feel safer (83 per cent) than women (58 per cent).

- There is a clear trend towards an increased feeling of safety as deprivation in the area falls, with 79 per cent feeling safe in the least deprived quintile and 59 per cent in the most deprived quintile.

5.2 Percentage of people agreeing with statements about feeling safe after dark, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Very safe</th>
<th>Fairly safe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At home</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling by car</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking in the local area</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling by public transport</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government
Well-being of Wales 2018-19

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

85 per cent are satisfied with their local area as a place to live and 80 per cent satisfied with their ability to get to/access facilities and services.

– Overall, according to the 2018-19 National Survey, 85 per cent of people feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live which is unchanged from 2016-17.

– 80 per cent of people were satisfied that they were able to get to or access the services they need.

– Fewer than 60 per cent of people said that municipal services such as community centres, secondary schools, libraries and youth or sports clubs were available in their local area. In contrast, over 80 per cent said public transport links, shops and pubs were all within a 15 to 20 minute walk from their home.

5.3 Access to good services and facilities by area, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Yes – satisfied with access to services and facilities</th>
<th>Not satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban &gt; 10k</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town and fringe</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamlet &amp; isolated dwellings</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government

Please note: this page was updated in November 2019
In 2018-19, 19 per cent of people felt that they could influence decisions affecting local area.

There has been a gradual decline since the peak in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

For those in good health, 20 per cent felt that they could influence decisions while 16 per cent of those in poor health felt they could influence decisions.

### 5.4 Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting local area, 2012–13 to 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government*
Just over a quarter of adults volunteer.

- Social interaction has been shown to be beneficial to personal well-being and volunteering is an aspect of social interaction that has proven positive benefits in terms of both health and well-being.

- In 2017-18 the National Survey results show that 28 per cent of people in Wales volunteered, the same as in the previous year. People most commonly volunteered for charities and sports clubs.

- More women (30 per cent) volunteer than men (26 per cent).

### 5.5 Percentage of people volunteering by type of organisation, 2017–18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable organisations</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School or young persons group</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports club</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious group</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other club or organisation</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts groups (e.g. drama, music, art or crafts)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants / residents group or neighbourhood watch</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental group</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners group / organisation</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government
Younger people are the most lonely.

- The National Survey collected data using the De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale which covers both emotional and social isolation.
- In 2017-18, based on all six measures, 16 per cent of people in Wales were found to be lonely. There is a marked variation in the percentage of people feeling lonely on each of the individual measures.
- For those aged 16-24, 21 per cent felt lonely compared to 10 per cent for those aged 65+.
- While loneliness is higher for those aged under 65 on most measures, for those missing having people around, the percentage was highest for those over 75 (26 per cent).

5.6 Percentage of people feeling lonely by reason, 2017–18

- I miss having people around me (Yes) 20
- There are many people I can trust completely (No) 18
- There are plenty of people I can rely on when I have problems (No) 10
- I experience a general sense of emptiness (Yes) 10
- There are enough people I feel close to (No) 8
- I often feel rejected (Yes) 8

Source: National Survey for Wales: Welsh Government
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Nearly half of households threatened with homelessness had dependent children.

- The successful homelessness prevention rate improved to 68 per cent in 2018-19, despite an increase in the number of households threatened with homelessness.
- The applicant was aged 16 and 17 in 2 per cent of cases and between 18 and 24 in 20 per cent.
- 44 per cent of all households threatened with homelessness were families with dependent children (single parents and couples).
- In October 2018 there were 347 people estimated to be sleeping rough across Wales, up just 1 per cent on the previous year.
- In 2017, there were estimated to be 13 deaths amongst homeless people in Wales.

5.7 Households threatened with homelessness (section 66) by lead applicant characteristic, 2018–19

Source: StatsWales
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Most people don’t experience crime. However, reporting of crime to the police and people’s perception of crime have increased in the latest year.

- Latest data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) shows 53 per cent of people in Wales believe crime has risen a lot nationally in recent years (up from 42 per cent in previous year).

- Locally, the percentages are smaller but have also risen, from 16 per cent believing crime has risen a lot compared with 11 per cent in the previous year.

- Police Recorded Crime is increasing but care should be taken due to improved recording practices and changes in categorisation.

- CSEW incidence of violent crime in Wales has risen to a rate of 33.3 per 1,000 adults in the latest year.

- Police recorded violent crime also rose (by 24 per cent) but data should be treated with caution due to changes in the stalking and harassment category.

5.8 Police Recorded Crime per 1,000 Population

Source: Police Recorded Crime, Office for National Statistics
A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Further reading:

Further analysis of the 2016-17 National Survey data included regression analysis to highlight significant factors for the different indicators:

- National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Local Area and Community
- National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Volunteering and Caring
- National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Loneliness
- Who is most likely to feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area? (Future Generations Indicator 23)

Other research and analysis that may be of interest:

- Volunteering is good for your health
- Measuring your Impact on Loneliness in Later Life
- Late-life social activity and cognitive decline in old age
- Loneliness in the general population: prevalence, determinants and relations to mental health
- Wales 2017 electoral data report

Data sources

The following data sources were used in this narrative:

Homelessness data:
- Statutory Homelessness and Rough Sleeper open data tables
- Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales – local authority estimates: 2013 to 2017

Crime data:
- Crime Survey for England and Wales Perception data
- CSEW violent crime incidence comes from the Personal crime Incidence open data tables
- Police Recorded Crime Open data tables
- Police Recorded Crime 2018-19 (table P1)
- Police Recorded Crime rates are calculated using Mid Year Estimates

All other data are from the National Survey for Wales
A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.
# A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

## What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

- An increase in arts attendance amongst children in 2018, although participation remains at similar levels. Attendance amongst children is now at highest levels recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What have we learnt from the data in the last year?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- An increase in arts attendance amongst children in 2018, although participation remains at similar levels. Attendance amongst children is now at highest levels recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In 2018-19, 73 per cent of adults had attended one or more arts event in the past 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The biggest barrier to adults going to or taking part in the arts is finding the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No change in participation in sports amongst children in 2018 compared with the 2015 survey, with just under a half of children (48 per cent) participating 3 times a week or more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20 per cent of scheduled monuments assessed during the year were classified at risk and 46 per cent were in a worsening condition compared with their previous assessment. The condition of listed buildings assessed was similar to previous years assessments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Whilst surveys report increases in children speaking Welsh, the numbers of school pupils that speak Welsh at home are stable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No change in adult participation in sports, with 32 per cent participating 3 times a week or more.**

**Survey data suggesting increases in people reporting they can speak Welsh, but not fluently, although we won’t get an update on the Census data until 2022.**
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

What is the longer term progress towards the goal?

– As the national indicator on arts and culture has only been collected once and questions have otherwise varied, it is difficult to provide an overall assessment of recent progress in arts attendance and participation. There are wide differences depending on gender, socio-economic background and other characteristics.

– Children and young people attending arts events has been increasing fairly consistently since 2010, despite a dip in 2016, but with similar differences according to gender and socio-economic background. The gender differences have been growing in recent years.

– The change to the National Survey meant that there has been a discontinuity in terms of monitoring adult sports participation over the long term. Sports participation amongst school pupils has stayed at the same level since 2015 following an increase in the previous survey.

– The number and percentage of people who speak Welsh fell in the 2011 Census, but survey data since then has suggested an increase in non-fluent Welsh speakers. The percentage that use the language every day has been fairly stable.

– Whilst the highest percentage of Welsh speakers is amongst children, this isn’t translated into the number speaking at home and there remains a drop off when they leave compulsory education.

Over a half of museums and archives have achieved UK accredited standards.

38 per cent of scheduled monuments were in a worsening condition according to the ten year inspection programme.

9 per cent of listed buildings and 14 per cent of scheduled monuments are assessed at risk.
There are differences in attendance and participation in arts across groups and the biggest barrier is finding the time.

- Participation in the arts and sports can have a positive impact on mental well-being and physical health.
- In 2017-18, the national indicator showed that 75 per cent of adults aged 16 or over attended or participated in arts, culture or heritage events 3 times or more.
- The national indicator wasn’t collected in the 2018-19 National Survey, but the survey did ask a narrower question solely relating to arts events. This showed that 73 per cent attended one or more arts event in the past 12 months. This isn’t directly comparable with other surveys. The Arts Council for Wales will be producing a more detailed analysis of these data over the next few months.
- Data for 2018-19 showed that people have various reasons for not going to or taking part in arts events, but difficulty finding the time was the most frequent reason reported.
- Younger adults are more likely to have attended and participated. Women are slightly more likely to participate regularly than men, but there’s very little difference in attendance.

### 6.1 Barriers to going to or taking part in arts events, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is too difficult to find the time</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It costs too much</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I already go/take part as often as I want to</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not interested in doing these things</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family commitments/childcare</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My health is not good enough</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access/facilities for disabled people</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Arts council in Wales children’s omnibus survey*
Children and young people attending arts events has been increasing in recent years although there are differences according to gender and socio-economic background.

- Data for 2018 showed 89 per cent of 7-18 year olds attended arts events once a year. In general arts attendance amongst children has been increasing over the past decade.

- The figure for 2018 is a 2.8 percentage point increase on 2017 and is over 10 percentage points higher than in 2010.

- Participation in the arts has been more stable in recent years, and remains at 87 per cent having participated once a year or more.

- As with adults, girls and children from the higher socio-economic backgrounds were most likely to attend and participate in the arts. The gap between girls and boys increased in the latest year, continuing recent trends.

6.2 Attendance at arts events once a year or more by those aged 7 to 18, 2010 to 2018

Source: Arts Council for Wales Children’s Omnibus Survey
32 per cent of adults and 48 per cent of children report participating regularly (three or more times a week) in sports. These levels are unchanged from the previous surveys.

- The level of participation in sports remained unchanged according to latest data. For adults this was in comparison with 2017-18 and for children in comparison with 2015.

- In both 2017-18 and 2018-19, 32 per cent of adults took part in sport 3 times a week.

- 41 per cent of adults reported having not participated in any sport or physical activity, again unchanged from the previous year.

- Men and younger age groups were most likely to take part in sport 3 or more times a week.

- The latest School Sports survey, in 2018, showed that 48 per cent of pupils in Years 3 to 11 participated in sports 3 times a week. This was unchanged from 2015, following a big increase from 2013.

### 6.3 Percentage participating in sports 3 or more times a week

![Bar chart showing percentage participation in sports 3 or more times a week for adults and children from 2016-17 to 2018-19.](Source: National Survey for Wales, Schools Sports Survey)
Well-being of Wales 2018-19
Statistics for Wales

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Survey data since the Census has suggested an increase in non-fluent Welsh speakers, although the percentage speaking on a daily basis hasn’t increased.

– According to the last Census 19 per cent of adults are able to speak Welsh. Because the Census only happens once a decade we use surveys to look at trends since 2011, although the data aren’t comparable with the Census as people are more likely to report they speak Welsh in surveys.

– In 2018-19 there has been a further increase in the percentage who report in surveys that they have some ability in Welsh. The increases in recent years are considered to be mainly amongst those who are not fluent: in the National Survey this percentage has increased from 14 per cent in 2014-15 to 22 per cent in 2018-19.

– According to the National Survey, the percentage who can speak more than a few words and speak the language daily was 11 per cent in 2018-19, a similar level to the past few years.

– New data for 2018-19 showed that 12 per cent of adults who had attended an arts event or visited a museum, during the last year, said that at least one of these events had been in the Welsh language.

6.4 Reported Welsh Language ability, National Survey for Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fluent</th>
<th>A fair amount</th>
<th>Only speak a little</th>
<th>Say a few words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Survey for Wales
Children are reported to be the group most likely to speak Welsh, although this isn’t leading to increases in the percentage speaking at home according to parents.

- Children are the group most likely to report they speak Welsh according to both the Census and surveys.
- Further analysis published this year showed that a third of the increase in the number of Welsh speakers on the Annual Population Survey since 2008 can be attributed to 3-15 year olds.
- However, the percentage of children reported through the school Census to speak Welsh at home has remained at a similar level to previous years (just over ten per cent).

### 6.5 Percentage aged 5 or over in maintained schools who speak Welsh at home

![Graph showing percentage of children aged 5 or over who speak Welsh at home over years from 2006/07 to 2018/19.](Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census)
According to their latest assessment, 38 per cent of scheduled monuments were in a worsening condition and 14 per cent are “at risk”.

- 37 per cent of adults had visited a museum in 2018-19, slightly lower than in previous years.

- Of the 30,000 listed buildings in Wales, 75 per cent are in a stable or improving condition, and 9 per cent are considered to be at risk. In general, conditions have remained similar over the past five years.

- After the ninth year of a ten year programme of inspecting scheduled monuments, 62 per cent are classed as being stable or improving – which means that 38 per cent are in a worsening condition. 14 per cent were assessed “at risk”.

### Over a half of museums and archives have achieved UK accredited standards.

### The monuments assessed in 2018-19 are more likely to be in a worsening condition and at risk than those that had been assessed to date (20 per cent at risk and 46 per cent in a worsening condition).
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Further reading:
The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report included further analysis of:

• Barriers to participation in arts
• Differences between socio-economic and population groups in arts and sports participation
• Trends in the types of activities participated
• Links between Welsh language and arts and culture events

This report covers a wide range of subjects, and therefore in this report it is only possible to consider high level measures of progress. More in depth analysis of many of these topics are available through the range of statistical releases published by Welsh Government, the ONS or other statistical producers.

The Arts Council for Wales and Sports Wales produce regular in-depth reports on arts and sports participation using various research and surveys. This includes the Children’s Omnibus Survey 2018 and the School Sport Survey

A range of analysis on the Welsh Language is also available from the 2011 Census and in the Welsh Language Use Survey report for 2013-15. More recently, the following two statistical bulletins analysed survey data on the Welsh Language in more detail:

Welsh language confidence and attitudes (National Survey for Wales): April 2017 to March 2018
Welsh language data from the Annual Population Survey: 2001 to 2018

Data sources
The following data sources were used in this narrative:

Arts attendance and participation
National Survey for Wales
Children’s Omnibus Survey 2018

Sports participation
National Survey for Wales
School Sports Survey 2018

Welsh Language:
2011 Census
National Survey for Wales
Annual Population Survey
Pupil Level Annual School Census data

Museums and archives:
Welsh Government data used for the national indicator and the National Survey for Wales
Cadw data used for the national indicator
The goal: 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. Goal 7 recognises that in an inter-connected world what we do to make Wales a sustainable nation can have positive and adverse impacts outside of Wales.
What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

- 74 per cent of adults re-use their own carrier bags all or most of the time for food shopping.

- There was a large fall in greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, down 13 per cent overall. The downgrading of operations at Aberthaw power station made a substantial contribution to this.

- Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery increased on the previous year, with 251 referrals in 2018, although it is likely that the increase this year is due to improvements in the data collection. Also, it’s not possible to disentangle improved reporting from real increases in incidence.

- In 2017/18, within the Skills Challenge Certificate Welsh Baccalaureate, there were over 28,000 entrants for the Global Citizenship Challenge at Key Stage 4 and over 14,000 at A-level.

- Vaccine uptake in young infants remained high but has decreased compared to previous years. Uptake of both the ‘6 in 1’ and pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations (PCV) remained above 95 per cent in children at one year of age. However, MMR uptake was just below 95 per cent for the first dose at two years.

- There was a slight fall in the number of asylum seekers receiving support at the end of March 2019, although figures have generally been increasing since the start of the decade. Up to March 2019 a total of 1,072 refugees have been resettled in Wales under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

76 per cent of adults are concerned about climate change, and 51 per cent of adults have reduced the energy used at home to help protect the environment or address climate change.

There were over 21,000 international students from over 160 countries at Welsh higher education institutions in 2017/18.
Global Content - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

On 1 January 2016, the world began implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the transformative plan of action based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The SDGs emphasise a universal agenda that requires all UN member states – both rich and poor alike - to take action to support sustainable development.

There are many factors which dictate whether Wales is becoming a more globally responsible nation.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act, with its Welsh specific well-being goals, provides a framework for Wales’ contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For the most part the other six narrative reports, through their assessment of our progress towards the national well-being goals, demonstrate our overall contribution as a nation to the international sustainable development agenda. For example, we report elsewhere on national trends on issues such as poverty, inequalities and decent work. This narrative on “A Globally Responsible Wales” therefore focuses on areas that are most relevant to the global agenda in particular.
The 46 National Indicators for Wales have also been mapped for indicative purposes against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to help you navigate between progress here in Wales, and the relationship to each of the SDGs.

Note: Whilst some of the narrative is drawn from National Indicators and official statistics, some of the data presented in this section is contextual and uses data or factual statements related to specific policies or programmes, where we have considered it relevant to the overall narrative. These data are not collected through official statistics sources, and although reported here for context, we cannot provide assurance about data quality. However, where possible, more information about the data can be found in the Quality Report for National Well-being Indicators. This section also includes some duplication with extracts from other goal pages.
People in Wales are concerned about climate change.

- In 2018-19, 76 per cent per cent of adults were concerned about climate change, an increase compared to the 67 per cent in 2016-17.

- The vast majority of those who thought the world’s climate was changing thought it was partly or mainly due to human activity (95 per cent).

- To help protect the environment or address climate change, 51 per cent of adults said that they had reduced the energy used at home and 33 per cent had cut down the amount they travel by car. Both of these have increased compared with 2016-17. However, just 6 per cent reported they had actively volunteered to help protect the environment.
Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s, despite some periods of increases.

- Emissions in Wales have fallen by a quarter since 1990, driven by efficiencies in energy generation, natural gas replacing coal, chemical industry abatement and changes in manufacturing output.

- Around a third of emissions are from energy supply. Emissions from this sector can be volatile – they saw a 29 per cent decrease in 2017, largely due to downgrading operations at Aberthaw power station. This contributed substantially to the 13 per cent fall in overall emissions that year.

- It is important to understand emissions resulting from goods consumed in Wales, even if they are produced elsewhere. This is not part of these emissions estimates but will be produced by 2022 for Wales’ first carbon budget period.

7.1 Emissions of greenhouse gases by year

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory
A Globally Responsible Wales

Our ecological footprint shows that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.

- The last ecological footprint for Wales was calculated in 2011 and was 10.05 million global hectares. This is roughly 5 times the size of Wales and equivalent to 3.28 global hectares per person in Wales.

- If everyone in the world were to consume the same as the average Welsh resident, it is estimated that just over 2.5 earths would be required to provide the resources and absorb the wastes. This is slightly lower than the figure for the UK, which is 2.7 earths.

The ecological footprint of a country serves as an indicator of the total environmental burden that a society places on the planet.
A Globally Responsible Wales

Three-quarters of adults re-use carrier bags for food shopping all or most of the time.

The UN SDG “Responsible consumption and production” has a target to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

2018-19 data for Wales shows:

- Of those who re-use a thick plastic bag for shopping, 32 per cent report they re-use them on average more than 50 times.

- 33 per cent of adults have had clothing repaired in the last year that would otherwise have been unused or thrown away. This is similar to the figure for 2014-15, when data was last collected.

- 74 per cent of adults re-use their own carrier bags for food shopping all or most of the time.

- The recycling rate fell slightly in 2017-18 for the first time. This is partly due to an improvement in the quality of data reporting. In 2017-18, 62.7 per cent of municipal waste was reused, recycled or composted.
Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery in Wales have increased in recent years.

*The UN SDGs include a target on “Ending modern slavery and human trafficking”. Modern slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking.*

- According to the National Crime Agency (NCA), the recorded incidents of potential victims of slavery to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) continue to increase each year, with more referrals of survivors from the UK and Wales. The NCA judge that the scale of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK is likely to be increasing steadily but cannot disentangle increases in incidence rate from improved reporting. Therefore, they are unable to quantify the overall growth of modern slavery.

- In 2018, there were 251 referrals of potential victims of slavery where the referral was subsequently sent to a police force for crime recording considerations in Wales. This is a 30 per cent increase on the previous year, and is also higher than in previous years (although some increase in recent years is probably due to changes in how the data are recorded). It represents 3.6 per cent of all UK referrals.

- 94 of the referrals were females (37 per cent) and 157 were males (63 per cent). There were 126 (50 per cent) individuals referred for adult exploitation categories and 125 (50 per cent) referred for exploitation as a minor.
The UN SDG ‘Gender Equality’ has a target to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

- Female Genital Mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and the Serious Crime Act 2015 and it is mandatory for staff in the NHS to report all cases in children (under 18s) to the police. It is important to note that if a patient is identified through the delivery of care from the NHS as having had FGM, this does not mean that she had FGM either recently or that the FGM was carried out in the UK.

- In 2018-19, a total of 235 women and girls were identified and reported as having had FGM. This is a decrease compared to 271 the previous year, but an increase compared to 2016-17.

In 2018–19 a total of 235 women and girls were identified and reported as having had FGM.
A Globally Responsible Wales

Young people in Wales are learning about global issues but there’s been a decline in recent years in international students attending Higher Education institutions in Wales.

The UN SDG ‘Quality Education’ recognises the importance of obtaining a quality education and all learners acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality and global citizenship.

- Within the Skills Challenge Certificate Welsh Baccalaureate there is a compulsory Global Citizenship component, which engages students in learning about global issues.

- In 2017/18, there were over 28,000 entrants for the Global Citizenship Challenge at Key Stage 4 and over 14,000 at A-level. Nearly half of Key Stage 4 learners achieved a merit or distinction for this component, and nearly a quarter of A-level candidates achieved a distinction.

- A large number of students from a range of countries attend Higher Education institutions in Wales. In 2017-18, there were 21,350 international students from over 160 countries, comprising 17.6 per cent of the total student population. This is similar to the figures for last year but slightly lower than in recent years. In 2010-11 there were 26,290 international students in Wales, which made up 20.1 per cent of the student population.

7.2 Percentage of the student population at Welsh higher education institutions who are international students

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Some adults in Wales are facing food poverty and are concerned about affording food.

The UN SDG ‘Zero Hunger’ aims to end hunger and achieve food security and improve nutrition.

- Some people in Wales are reporting food poverty. The 2018-19 National Survey for Wales reported that 3 per cent of households had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months. In 2016-17, this was 1 per cent. However, the results are not directly comparable due to a change in how the question was asked in 2018-19.

- The survey also reported 9 per cent of adults said there was at least one day in the previous fortnight where they had needed to go without a substantial meal due to lack of money. In 2017-18 the equivalent figure was 4 per cent. However, the results are not directly comparable due to a change in how the question was asked in 2018-19.

The 2018–19 National Survey for Wales reported that 3 per cent of households had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months.
A Globally Responsible Wales

The number of asylum seekers receiving support has remained steady in the past few years but has increased since the start of the decade.

**Goal 16 of the UN SDGs is to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

– At the end of March 2019, nearly 3,000 asylum seekers were receiving support in Wales. Although it is a slight fall compared to the previous year, the numbers have generally been increasing since a low during the same quarter in 2012, and are similar to the levels of the previous high point in 2007.

– As at the end of March 2019, a total of 1,072 refugees have been resettled in Wales under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

– Complete figures for the numbers of asylum seekers and refugees who are resettled in Wales are not available. However, figures relating to the number of refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and the number of those currently receiving asylum support, are published.

### 7.3 Number of asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, year ending March 2004 to 2019

![Graph showing the number of asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, year ending March 2004 to 2019](source)

*Source: Home Office Immigration statistics, year ending March 2019, table as 16q*
The UN SDG Sustainable Development goal ‘Good Health and Well-being’ states the importance of providing access to affordable and essential medicines and vaccines. The World Health Organisation has a vision for a world without measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS).

- In 2018-19, vaccine uptake in young infants remained high but was not as high as in previous years when uptake was at its highest. Uptake of both the ‘6 in 1’ and pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations remained above 95 per cent in children at one year of age.

- MMR uptake was just below 95 per cent for the first dose at two years. This is suboptimal for preventing outbreaks of measles.

- As a result of recent procedures introduced to make the vaccination data held more accurate, there has been an increase in the uptake in immunisations reported on at 4 years of age and above.

7.4 Percentage uptake of childhood immunisations in Wales, 2008-09 to 2018-19

*Does not start at zero

(a) MMR protects against measles, mumps and rubella
(b) Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (Whooping Cough), polio and Hib. Pertussis uptake is used as a proxy. In 20018-19, data is for the ‘6 in 1’ vaccine (previously the ‘5 in 1’ vaccine). This was introduced for babies born on or after 1st August 2017. A small proportion of one year olds in this cohort would have received the ‘5 in 1’ DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine.

Source: StatsWales and Public Health Wales
Wales has three world heritage sites of outstanding universal value.

The UN SDG ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ states the importance of protecting and safeguarding the world’s natural heritage.

Wales has three world heritage sites:

- The Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd at Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris and Harlech in north-west Wales
- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape in south-east Wales
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal in north-east Wales
A Globally Responsible Wales

Further reading:
Some topics that fall within the globally responsible Wales goal also come under the resilient Wales goal. Therefore, please refer to the resilient Wales narrative for a more complete picture.

The full 2017-18 Well-being of Wales report included data on:

- Renewable energy
- Soil concentration
- Household food waste
- Heritage sites and Welsh language
- Eco-schools and Global Learning Programme Wales
- Participation in Wales for Africa programme

Useful links for further information:

UK’s Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals – this is the UK’s first Voluntary National Review taking stock of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.


UK data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators
A Globally Responsible Wales

Data sources

The following data sources were used in this narrative:

Climate change, carrier bag use, recycling, food poverty:
National Survey for Wales and the Results Viewer

Greenhouse gas emissions:
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

Ecological footprint:
Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales – Update to 2011

Modern slavery:
End of year summary 2018

Female Genital Mutilation: Data provided by Public Health Wales on request

Welsh Baccalaureate: Data provided by WJEC on request.

Overseas higher education students: Welsh Government analysis of Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data

Asylum seekers:
Immigration statistics, year ending March 2019, table as 16 q, Home Office
Refugees: Immigration statistics, year ending March 2019, table as 20 q, Home Office

Immunisation:
Vaccine Uptake in Children in Wales COVER Annual Report 2019, Public Health Wales and StatsWales

World Heritage sites:
Cadw
What is this report?

This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals. It is a statutory report required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is a report concerning the collective progress of Wales as a nation. It is not a report on the performance of an individual organisation. The first report was published in September 2017.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is intended to make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This in turn is intended to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The Act also puts in place seven well-being goals for a prosperous, healthier, resilient, more equal and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving welsh language.

For more background information on the Act please see the Essentials guide.
What are the national indicators for Wales?

The Act required Welsh Ministers to set national indicators to assess progress towards achieving the well-being goals. From September 2015 to January 2016 Welsh Government undertook a widespread public consultation to identify what small set of indicators should be developed to best measure progress against the well-being goals. These national indicators were published in March 2016 and laid before the National Assembly for Wales.

The national indicators are designed to represent the outcomes for Wales, and its people that will help demonstrate progress towards the 7 well-being goals. They are not intended to be performance indicators for an individual organisation.

Full description of the national indicators including their technical definition and information about their data sources and frequency can be found in the technical document.

How does this relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a transformative plan of action based on 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The United Nations’ 17 global goals mean that every country on the planet will have to take action to end poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, and address climate change. Those goals are meant to be far-reaching, people-centred, universal and transformative. UN member states have committed to working tirelessly towards their implementation by 2030, and Wales will play its part.

In June 2019 the UK’s first Voluntary National Review, taking stock of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals was published. To supplement this, the Welsh Government worked with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and other stakeholders to prepare a ‘Wales Supplementary Report’ to provide consolidated and complementary additional content on the different approach taken by Wales to sustainable development.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress in Wales against more than one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We have mapped the indicators against the goals.

Under the globally responsible chapter of the report we have more clearly brought out some of the indicators and contextual data that directly relate to the UN SDGs from the perspective of Wales’ global contribution.

National milestones

As well as setting National Indicators, the Act also requires Welsh Ministers to set National Milestones to assist in measuring whether progress is being made at a national level towards the achievement of the well-being goals.

In July 2019 the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip published a written statement around proposals for developing a set of national milestones for Wales. Further work is now progressing with key partners to take forward these proposals.

Who produced this report?

The report has been produced by Welsh Government statisticians under the responsibility of the Welsh Government’s Chief Statistician. It has been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics and is therefore produced independently of political influence.

Timeliness

The report has been published in September to ensure it is as close as possible to the end of the preceding financial year, but after the publication of the National Survey for Wales which is the source for 14 of the national indicators.

The data for the national indicators will be kept up to date as new datasets are published for those indicators. In September of each year we will publish an updated Well-being of Wales annual report containing updated narratives for each goal.

Coverage

The coverage of the report is Wales. For some indicators, reference is made to the position relative to the UK. The narrative against the goals and for each indicator is based on national progress against the goals, and it does not seek to provide a report on progress at different geographical levels. However, data for many indicators are available on StatsWales, or on request, at lower levels of geographical detail.
Accessibility

This report has been produced primarily as an interactive on-line report to maximise impact and efficiency using the Welsh Government open data services. The annual version of the report containing the seven progress reports against the goals has also been produced as a printable PDF document.

The majority of the data underlying the report, including much more detailed breakdowns, are available on StatsWales and through the StatsWales open data services.

Are all the data Official Statistics?

Most of the indicators (32) are based on sources that have been published as Official Statistics. That is, they have been published by government statisticians, or by other public bodies, under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

24 of these indicators are based on sources that have been published as National Statistics. That is the United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This means that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

12 indicators are based on other sources such as administrative data held by government departments. 2 indicators currently have no data.

Although not all of the data sources used are from official statistics, the report itself has been developed and published in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Ahead of the 2020 publication we will be seeking to gain National Statistics designation through assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation. We had sought to gain designation prior to this publication. However, the assessment was paused due to the change in format of this year’s report.

Some of the data included in the “globally responsible” narrative are not collected through official statistics sources and although reported here for context we cannot provide assurance about data quality. The Quality report for contextual information provides further information, where available, about the data used as contextual information in the goal narratives.

What else should I know about the data?

The Quality report for national indicators reports alongside this release provides links to quality information about each of the data sources used to measure the national indicators, or provides that information where it does not exist elsewhere.

Who are the users of this report?

It is anticipated this report will be used by Welsh Government; the National Assembly for Wales (including Assembly Members and committees); the media; and the general public to (i) help understand the Well-being of Wales (ii) progress being made against the 7 well-being goals and (iii) where Wales is making progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The national indicators and milestones, once published, can help public bodies who are subject to the future generation law understand further the nature of the change expected in achieving the well-being goals. The national indicators should be considered as useful evidence to assist public bodies in understanding the main areas where progress should be made in relation to the well-being goals.

The national indicators will also have a specific role as they must be referred to by public services boards in Wales when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

The report should also be used by public bodies to develop and review well-being assessments and to set and review well-being objectives required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The annual well-being report must also be taken into account by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales when they prepare and publish their ‘Future Generations Report’.

UK context

For the UK as a whole, the Office for National Statistics has a National Well-being Programme. The well-being dashboard, which is updated twice a year, provides a visual overview of 43 headline national well-being indicators and can be explored by the 10 areas of life (domains) or by the direction of change.

In Scotland, the National Performance Framework (NPF) sets out a vision for national wellbeing and measures achievement in relation to this. A revised
NPF was launched in June 2018 following an open review process and is underpinned by statute (the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015).

The revised NPF maps its eleven National Outcomes to the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and forms an important part of Scotland’s localisation of the SDG agenda. Progress towards the vision set out in the NPF is reported on in an open and transparent way on the NPF website through 81 national indicators covering a broad range of social, economic and environmental measures. In additional to showing performance at the national level the data can be explored by a range of demographic and geographic subgroups to see whether outcomes are being realised for different parts of Scottish society.

In Northern Ireland, the principal mechanism for assessing societal wellbeing is the wellbeing framework of 12 outcomes that was developed by the previous Executive, consulted on and refined during 2016-2017. This framework, which contains 49 supporting population indicators, overarches the Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan and progress on the outcomes and indicators is currently reported through an Outcomes Viewer.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency continues to participate in the ONS-led Measuring National Wellbeing programme and publish a well-being analysis based on the ONS wellbeing measures, where Northern Ireland data availability allows.

Other related links

Well-being of Future Generations Act
Future Trends
National Survey for Wales
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
UK Voluntary National Review
UK voluntary national review: Welsh supplementary report 2019
**Well-being of Wales**

### National Indicators for Wales

#### The seven well-being goals for Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
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<td>A prosperous Wales (1)</td>
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<td>A Resilient Wales (2)</td>
<td>Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived</td>
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<td>A Healthier Wales (3)</td>
<td>Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours</td>
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<td>A More Equal Wales (4)</td>
<td>Levels of nitrogen dioxide ($\text{NO}_2$) pollution in the air</td>
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<td>A Wales of Cohesive Communities (5)</td>
<td>Percentage of children who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language (6)</td>
<td>Measurement of development of young children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globally Responsible Wales (7)</td>
<td>Average capped 9 points score of pupils, including the gap between those who are eligible or not eligible for free school meals</td>
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</table>

#### The way in which we are measuring progress

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<tr>
<th>National Well-being Indicators for Wales</th>
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### Further Information

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. If we are to collectively achieve these well-being goals we need a way of measuring progress so that we can all see if, for Wales as a whole, things are getting better. That is why the Act places a legal requirement on the Welsh Ministers to set national indicators. Whilst the indicators are set by Welsh Ministers they reflect the whole of Wales and will enable us to understand the contribution made by all.

The 46 national indicators published and laid before the National Assembly for Wales in March 2015 are to be read with the national indicators technical information document (How to measure a nation’s progress – *National Indicators for Wales: Technical Document*, March 2016) published by the Welsh Government.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress against more than one of the well-being goals, to help you navigate these links we have, for communication purposes, highlighted a potential set of links between national indicators and well-being goals. This table has been prepared for communication and discussion purposes only and should not be considered as inferring a direct or indirect technical or legal link between the indicators and well-being goals.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales</td>
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<td>Status of Biological diversity in Wales</td>
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<td>Percentage of surface water bodies, and groundwater bodies, achieving good or high overall status</td>
<td><a href="https://futuregenerations.wales/">https://futuregenerations.wales/</a></td>
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<td>The social return on investment of Welsh partnerships within Wales and outside of the UK that are working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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## Agenda 2030

### Wales and the Global Sustainable Development Goals

**The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Emissions of greenhouse gases within Wales</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Status of Biological diversity in Wales</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Percentage of surface water bodies, and groundwater bodies, achieving good or high overall status</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>The social return on investment of Welsh partnerships within Wales and outside of the UK that are working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td><img src="https://www.stats.gouv.wales/" alt="" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a transformative plan of action based on 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The United Nations’ 17 global goals mean that every country on the planet will have to take action to end poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, and address climate change. Those goals are meant to be far-reaching, people-centred, universal and transformative. UN member states have committed to working tirelessly towards their implementation by 2030, and Wales will play its part.

**Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is unique legislation to Wales. The Act provides a framework for us in Wales to be globally responsible and make a positive contribution to these global goals. It puts in place well-being goals, addressing many of these global challenges that are felt by people and communities across Wales. These seven well-being goals will be measured through 46 national indicators.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress in Wales against more than one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to help you navigate these links we have, for communication purposes, highlighted these above. This table has been prepared for communication and discussion purposes only and should not be considered as inferring a direct or indirect technical or legal link between the indicators and the UN SDGs. It draws on the indicators identified by the United Nations to measure the global sustainable development goals.