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Key themes linked to a selection of National Indicators for the Well-being of Wales

Future Generations Indicators: **19** (material deprivation); **23** (ability to influence local decisions); **25** (community safety); **26** (satisfaction with local area); **27** (sense of community); **36 & 37** (Welsh language).

This report provides a summary of the key themes that were found to be linked with each of seven [national indicators for well-being](#). It is based on 2018-19 results from the [National Survey for Wales](#). The report looks at similarities and differences between the individual factors linked to these seven national indicators. For each of the seven indicators (listed below), a more in-depth report was also produced on the key factors for the indicator.

- **FG19¹** – Future Generations indicator 19: *Material deprivation*: ‘Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation (poverty)’.
- **FG23²** – Future Generations indicator 23: *Ability to influence local decisions*: ‘Percentage of people who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area’.
- **FG25³** – Future Generations indicator 25: *Safety in the local area*: ‘Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling’.
- **FG26⁴** – Future Generations indicator 26: *Satisfaction with local area*: ‘Percentage of people feeling satisfied with their local area as a place to live’.
- **FG27⁵** – Future Generations indicator 27: *Sense of community*: ‘Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect’.
- **FG36⁶** – Future Generations indicator 36: *Welsh speaking*: ‘Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily, and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh’.
- **FG37⁶** – Future Generations indicator 37: *Welsh speaking*: ‘Percentage of people who can speak Welsh’.

Demographic factors and perceptions of community cohesion were key factors generally linked with the indicators. Other factors, such as Welsh speaking and socio-economic factors, were only key factors for a couple of the indicators.

¹ [What factors are linked to people living in households in material deprivation?](#)

² [What factors are linked to people feeling able to influence decisions affecting their local area?](#)

³ [What factors are linked to people feeling unsafe in their local area?](#)

⁴ [What factors are linked to people feeling satisfied with the area that they live in?](#)

⁵ [What factors are linked to people agreeing that their local area has a sense of community?](#)

⁶ [What factors are linked to people speaking the Welsh Language?](#)

1. Background

[The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) focuses on improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. To achieve this, the Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about long-term issues and targets, work better with communities and stakeholders, and to take a more joined-up and cohesive approach to decision-making. To ensure that this vision is achieved, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals⁷.

The Act requires the Welsh Government to set [national indicators](#) measuring achievement against the well-being goals. The [National Survey for Wales](#) aims to achieve this by measuring progress against 15 of the national indicators.

The National Survey for Wales is a large scale, face-to-face survey collecting information on a wide range of issues. In 2018-19, the survey collected information from **around 12,000 randomly-selected adults aged 16 and over**.

2. Summary of factors linked to national measures for well-being

Table 1 shows the main types of factor that were found to be linked to each of seven national well-being indicators. This helps us to see potential similarities and differences between them.

The presence of a tick (✓) indicates that a factor is linked to the associated measure. For example, we can see that **demographic factors** are linked to **all** of these indicators, and **cohesive communities** are linked to **all but one**. The factors linked to the indicators are discussed in more detail in section 3

⁷ Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: The Essentials, which can be viewed [online](#).

Table 1. Key themes linked to selected national indicators.

Checked boxes (✓) indicate that a theme was found to be linked to the **combined measure**⁸ of the associated national indicator.

Themes	National well-being indicators						
	FG19 Material deprivation	FG23 Influencing local decisions	FG25 Feeling safe	FG26 Satisfied with area	FG27 Sense of belonging	FG36 Speak Welsh in everyday life	FG37 Can speak Welsh
Demographic factors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Socio-economic factors			✓			✓	
Household characteristics						✓	✓
Health factors	✓			✓			
Well-being factors	✓				✓		
Household characteristics	✓			✓	✓		
Local area characteristics			✓	✓		✓	✓
Community cohesion		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community safety				✓	✓		
Local democracy		✓		✓	✓		
Local authority services		✓		✓	✓		
Welsh language				✓			

⁸ Some measures, such as community safety and sense of community, are single measures made up of a combination of multiple questions. In the full research reports, analysis is conducted for *both* the combined measures and the individual questions.

3. FG19: *Material deprivation*

Demographic factors: Women were more likely than men to be living in material deprivation (a measure of poverty and its effects), and adults aged 45-54 were also more likely to be in deprivation (compared with adults aged 75+). People who had no qualifications were more likely to be living in material deprivation, compared with those with 'A' levels and higher education qualifications.⁹

Health factors: People who reported that they were living with a long-standing illness or disability which limits their capacity to live everyday life were more likely to be in material deprivation.



Well-being factors: People who rated their overall life satisfaction or mental well-being as 'low' were more likely to be living in material deprivation.

Household characteristics: People who were living in social housing were more likely to be in material deprivation compared with people who owned their house, and people who had children in their household were also more likely to be deprived. People in households which did not have access to internet were also more likely to be in material deprivation, as were people who did not have access to a car or van.

4. FG23: *Ability to influence decisions affecting the local area*

Demographic factors: Younger people were more likely to feel able to influence local decisions, as were people who were less qualified (below GCSE grade C).

Community cohesion: People who felt that there was a sense of community in their local area (that they feel a sense of belonging to the local area, that people get along well, and respect each other) were more likely to feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area. Similarly, people who were satisfied with their local area as a place to live were more likely to feel able to influence local decision-making.

Local democracy: People who understood what their local councillor does for their local community (e.g. providing a bridge between the council and the local community by responding to queries and communicating council decisions which affect the community) were more likely to feel that they can influence local decisions, as were people who felt that their local councillor works closely with the local community.



Local authority services: The following groups were also more likely to feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area: 1) people who were satisfied with the availability of their local services; 2) people who could easily access information about their local authority; and 3) people who agreed that their local authority consulted local people over important decisions.

⁹ The type of analysis carried out does not in itself tell us whether a factor caused an outcome, or is caused by it – so for example being in material deprivation could lead to someone getting fewer qualifications, or vice versa.

5. FG25: Safety in the local area

Demographic factors: People aged under 75 were found to be more likely to feel safe in their local area (when walking around their local area, at home, and when travelling by car or public transport). Men were more likely to feel safe in their local area.

Socio-economic factors: Not being in material deprivation, was found to be linked to people feeling safe in their local area.



Community cohesion¹⁰: People were more likely to feel safe if they felt a sense of belonging to their local community, or agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local community.

Characteristics of the local area: People who were very dissatisfied with the level of traffic and noise pollution in their local area were the most likely to feel safe in their local area.

6. FG26: Satisfaction with local area

Demographic factors were found to influence people feeling satisfied with their local area. People aged 35 to 44 were most likely to be satisfied with the local area as a place to live.



Health factors: People who would describe their **general health** as 'fair' were more likely to feel satisfied with their local area, compared with people who would describe their general health as 'bad' or 'very bad'.

Household characteristics: People who did not have children living in the household with them were found to be more likely to feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live.



Local area characteristics: People who lived in towns and fringe areas were more likely to feel satisfied with their local area than people who lived in small villages. People who lived in Monmouthshire, the Vale of Glamorgan, and Gwynedd were more likely to feel satisfied with their local areas as a place to live, compared with people who lived in Pembrokeshire, Blaenau Gwent, and Rhondda Cynon Taf.



Community cohesion: People who felt a sense of belonging to the community in their local area, and people who felt that local people treated each other with respect and consideration, were both more likely to feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

Local democracy: People who felt that they were able to influence decisions which affected their local area were more likely to feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live.



¹⁰ An **overall sense of community** – feel they belong to the local area, sense that community members get along well, and that people treat each other with respect and consideration.



Local authority services: People who were satisfied with the general availability of local services and facilities were more likely to feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live, as were people who felt that they could access information about their local authority the way they want to.

Welsh language: People who could not speak Welsh in general, but reported that they did have some Welsh-speaking ability (i.e. could speak a few words), were the group most likely to feel satisfied with their local area.



7. FG27: Sense of community

Demographic factors: Older people (75+) were the most likely to experience an overall sense of community.



Tenure: Owner-occupiers were most likely to feel that people treat each other with respect and consideration, compared with people in rented or social housing.

Well-being factors: People who were very satisfied with their life were more likely to feel an overall sense of community, and feel a sense of belonging to the community in their local area. People with high mental well-being were more likely to feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and that people treat each other with respect and consideration.

Community safety: People who felt safe (when walking around their local area, at home, and when travelling by car or public transport) were more likely to feel an overall of sense of community.

Community cohesion: People who were very satisfied with their local area as a place to live were more likely to feel a sense of community.

Local democracy: People who have a good understanding of what their local councillor does for their local community were more likely to feel an overall sense of community. People who felt that their local councillor consults local people when making decisions were more likely to feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and people who thought that their local councillor works closely with the community were more likely to feel a sense of belonging to the community in their local area.



Local authority services: People who were satisfied with the availability of good services and facilities in their local area were more likely to feel an overall sense of community.

Welsh language: People who use the Welsh language in their everyday life were more likely to feel that people in their local are treated each other with respect and consideration.



8. FG36 & 37: Welsh language

Demographic factors: the following demographic factors were found to be linked to speaking Welsh in general, and in everyday life:

- **Women** were more likely to speak Welsh than men.
- **People from white backgrounds** were more likely to speak Welsh than other ethnic groups.
- People who were more **highly educated** (holding a qualification at degree-level or above) were more likely to speak Welsh.

Christians were more likely to speak Welsh and to speak it regularly in everyday life. **Younger people** (aged 16 to 24) were found to have a higher chance of speaking Welsh in general.



Socio-economic factors were found to be linked to people being able to speak Welsh, and to just being able to speak a few words of Welsh. People who were currently **employed** were more likely to speak Welsh than people who were unemployed.

Household characteristics were found to be linked to people being able to speak Welsh, and to speaking it in everyday life. People who live in **households with children** were more likely to speak Welsh generally. People who were owner-occupiers were more likely to be able to speak Welsh.



People who live in **rural areas** were found to be more likely to be able to speak Welsh, and to use it in everyday life.

People who live in **Gwynedd** were the most likely to be able to speak Welsh and to use it in everyday life. The three areas where people were most likely both to be able to speak Welsh and to speak it regularly in everyday life were **Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey** and **Ceredigion**. The three areas where people were least likely to speak Welsh were **Newport, Torfaen** and **Monmouthshire**.

Being able to speak Welsh, and also speaking Welsh in everyday life, were both linked to people's **sense of community** in their local area.



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Views expressed in this report are those of the researchers and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government.

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