

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

COUNCIL

23rd July 2014

REPORT OF :

THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES
Chris Lee (01443) 424088

AGENDA ITEM NO.7

SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN (SIP) – ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To consider the SIP Annual Report 2013/14 (technical version) following Local Service Board (LSB) approval on the 26th June 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1.1. Notes the content of the Annual Report 2013/14 (technical version); and in doing so, the progress made in relation to the three outcomes of "Safety", "Health" and "Prosperity".

3. SIP ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 - GUIDANCE & STRUCTURE

- 3.1. The Welsh Government guidance for production of Single Integrated Plans, 'Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery' (2012), set out that LSBs were expected to produce an annual report, containing:

"a balanced summary of the delivery of planned priorities and outcomes and the plan's effectiveness over the previous year, recognising that cause and effect can be difficult to ascribe and external factors can have a significant influence over outcomes."

- 3.2. ['Delivering CHANGE: a Single Integrated Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf'](#) was published in March 2013. Council formally adopted the plan in June 2013.
- 3.3. Welsh Government provided a short memo on non-statutory guidance for producing annual reports that was brought to the LSB in February 2014. Since then, efforts have been made to gather evidence from partner organisations to reflect the detailed work that has gone on during 2013/14 and the planned future work required to complete the actions contained within 'Delivering Change' and move closer towards tackling the priorities.

- 3.4. This has culminated in a detailed account (the technical version) of progress and planned action by partners in moving towards achieving the outcomes of the SIP. In this way, the document is both a 'backward' and 'forward' looking document.
- 3.5. A summary is also being produced, which will be intended as a more accessible, public-facing document.
- 3.6. A monitoring process was approved by the LSB and LSB Scrutiny Working Group in March 2013 that has meant a 'highlight report' was provided to every meeting of the LSB during 2013/14 and, subsequently to the Scrutiny Working Group, outlining progress under the outcomes of 'Safety' (brought to the July 2013 meeting); 'Health' (brought to the November 2013 meeting) and, most recent, 'Prosperity' (brought to the February 2014 meeting). Therefore, progress has been documented throughout the year.
- 3.7. The attached reports follow a similar structure to 'Delivering Change', laid out by outcome and priority, asking under every action: "what have we done in 2013/14", "how do we know we're making a difference" and "what's next for 2014/15?"
- 3.8. The report includes an evaluation and overview of 2013/14 in terms of commentary provided against actions and also latest data on performance measures (that is, measuring impact at the 'population' level) included in the SIP.
- 3.9. This has provided an opportunity to evaluate what has worked well and not so well and to discuss as a LSB whether an impact has been made on the aforementioned 'population' measures. Members should note that this has informed both the first (evaluative) section of the technical version of the SIP Annual Report and further discussions with senior representatives of the partnership organisations.

4. PROCESS FOR PUBLICATION

- 4.1. Both the technical version and summary will be placed on the Council and partner organisation websites and promoted to Elected Members and other community planning partners through Council and Board meetings.
 - 4.2. The summary will be a more public-facing, accessible document and will be bilingual, published online and publicised through forums, community planning partners and community groups.
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

23 JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN (SIP) – ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

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Delivering CHANGE

a Single Integrated Plan
for Rhondda Cynon Taf

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/singleplan

Technical Document
ANNUAL REPORT
2013/14

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2013, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Service Board published '[Delivering CHANGE](#)': a Single Integrated Plan for the County Borough. The plan set out a vision for the area, that:


***People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are
safe, healthy and prosperous.***

This vision formed the three overarching outcomes of 'Delivering CHANGE': *Safety, Health and Prosperity*. Using data from all of our organisations, a combined assessment of need was produced broadly based around these three outcomes, called '[Understanding What Matters](#)'. This information was used to inform professionals and the public of the complicated issues facing people in Rhondda Cynon Taf; such as high rates of domestic abuse, stark health inequalities and low economic prosperity, to find out what they think we could do as public organisations to support people in moving towards a safer, healthier and more prosperous Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Through a series of engagement events, formal consultation and workshops, we agreed on a number of priorities and actions that would help the organisations of Rhondda Cynon Taf get nearer towards the above vision. The outcomes and priorities are shown below:



This first Annual Report of the Single Integrated Plan is an opportunity to look back on 2013/14, reflect on what we have done over the last year, consider whether we are making a difference to the people and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf and look ahead at what we need to focus on for the next few years.



Who is this document for?

This document is a technical document, which means it goes into more detail than the summary 'Delivering CHANGE' Annual Report 2013/14'.

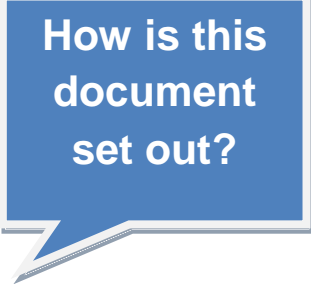
In this way, it is aimed at staff, service providers and community groups who are interested and involved in the delivery of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Single Integrated Plan.

The **next section** of this document is an overview and evaluation of partnership working in 2013/14, looking ahead to how we improve for 2015/16.


The **main section** of this document looks at the priorities within the plan, displaying each action and asking:

- *'What have we done in 2013/14?'*
(progress against the action or barriers to achievement);
- *'How do we know we're making a difference?'*
(any evidence to suggest an impact on people and communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf); and
- *'What's next?'*
(any changes to actions and planning ahead).

The **final section** of the document looks specifically at the most up-to-date, available data for the measures set out in 'Delivering CHANGE'. This section also notes where measures should be removed or changed.



How is this document set out?



How should I use this document?

This document should be viewed as an overview and evaluation of the Single Integrated Plan published in 2013. It should be referred to when planning actions for 2014/15 across partner organisations, but a separate set of 'refreshed' actions for 2014/15 will be added to our website in the Summer (2014).

Find out more / Tell us what you think

Visit: www.rctcbc.gov.uk/singleplan

E-mail: consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01443 680 527

Please contact us if you would like this document in another format.

EVALUATION

This section provides a brief overview and evaluation of partnership working in 2013/14 since the publication of 'Delivering CHANGE', and looks forward to our partnership work in 2014/15 and beyond.

What have we done in 2013/14?

This Annual Review demonstrates that, in relation to the outcomes and priorities of 'Delivering CHANGE', partner organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf have undertaken a lot of activity and are achieving positive results against performance measures. We are also contributing positively to population measures in some priority areas.

Highlights include:

- The Anti-social Behaviour Unit, which is providing a successful multi-agency response to anti-social behaviour through supporting repeat and vulnerable victims and referring low-level offenders to community projects.
- The Drug and Alcohol Single Point of Access to services, allowing for much faster, and therefore, more effective referrals into drug and alcohol treatment.
- The Educating Programme for Patients is helping people with long-term conditions, such as depression and respiratory illness, to have the confidence to take responsibility for their own care. Those who complete the programme report an increase in self-esteem, control and ability to cope.
- Teenage conception rates have fallen by 48% in the last five years. Analysis of rates across the County Borough has enabled services to target their resources more effectively and improved services have contributed to this marked change.
- 95% of service users stated that the @home, Intermediate Care and Reablement services supported them to remain independent and living in their own homes.
- The grades of pupils at age 16 years old have improved and attendance has improved in over 50% of primary schools and in 84% of secondary schools.
- 88% of people involved in 'Bridges into Work' achieved a qualification. 32% of the same group have also had a job interview or progressed to voluntary work.
- Through the Empty Property Loan Scheme and housing enforcement action, 94 private sector properties that had been empty for more than 6 months have been brought back into use.

Has the Single Integrated Plan delivered change?

The Single Integrated Plan has been successful in some ways: partners have been brought together, encouraging better collaboration and allowing organisations to align their corporate plans to a common vision; efforts have been made to make the partnership structure more effective and focussed on actions; and the performance of services in some areas has been better communicated and discussed.

But, despite the good work individuals and organisations have done in 2013/14, this review has suggested that more work is needed to co-ordinate actions across our teams, departments and organisations with the aim of achieving better outcomes for the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The challenge of doing this well is reflected by the latest population measures in 'Delivering CHANGE'. Although we recognise that these issues require long-term solutions and some are affected by things outside of our control, we are failing to make the necessary impact on our measures of success. For example, the rates of smoking, mental illness and obesity are getting worse and, when studied on a local area basis, the measures are even more stark. For instance, some communities have high levels of poverty, low educational attainment and low employment prospects, whereas others are prospering. This illustrates the need to get better at collecting relevant local information and engaging with communities, to help us to understand what differences there are across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This review demonstrates that there is a lot of effort and activity going on in Rhondda Cynon Taf to tackle these issues. But collectively, we are not delivering the changes necessary across our outcomes to improve people's lives. This provides us with the opportunity to reflect and decide whether 'delivering the changes' needed requires a different approach.

What's next for 2014/15?

The information and statistics that we have about Rhondda Cynon Taf suggest that the outcomes ('Safety', 'Health' and 'Prosperity') and priorities of 'Delivering CHANGE' are the right ones and we will continue to focus on achieving success by tackling these over the next few years.

This review has shown where we have successfully completed actions in some areas and, therefore, a refreshed set of actions for 'Delivering CHANGE' 2014/15 will be published on our website in Summer 2014. Most of the new actions also appear in our organisation's corporate plans and will therefore continue to be delivered by individuals and teams across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

But, to make a significant impact and move closer to achieving our vision that 'People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are safe, healthy and prosperous', a different approach is needed.

The way services are delivered, and by whom, has to change over the next few years because, due to the economic climate, Councils, Health Boards, emergency services and the voluntary sector cannot continue to provide the services they have done for so many years. Although this is a difficult time, it also presents us with an opportunity to work differently and work better.

Fewer financial resources mean we have to work together and spend money wisely. Although difficult decisions will need to be made, this is an opportunity to make a lasting change in our communities. What may now be short-term investment in prevention and early intervention will have a long-lasting effect, providing sustainable changes for communities now, and in the future, of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

What are we going to do?

As the Local Service Board, we said in the foreword of 'Delivering CHANGE' that working together was at the heart of this plan and, put simply, that is what we have to do.

We are proposing that we work in a more targeted way together, and with communities, to make the biggest impact on our priorities. Understanding communities better will lead to better services, which are more suited to people, more efficient and lead to better outcomes.

In 2014/15, we will use evidence and local intelligence to:

- **narrow our focus to a smaller number of priorities which will have a greater impact;**
- **target geographical areas to pilot our approach, focusing on those communities with the greatest need and greatest opportunities;**
- **crucially, improve engagement with our communities to help inform initiatives, using our new Joint Public Engagement Strategy as a guide;**
- **improve the gathering and analysis of local intelligence and levels of data-sharing; and**
- **reflect this in the way the Local Service Board, partnerships and scrutiny work.**

SAFETY

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are safe and feel safe

This section looks at the priorities and actions under the outcome of 'Safety'. The full Single Integrated Plan is available at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/singleplan

Anti-social behaviour

Fewer people in Rhondda Cynon Taf are victims of anti-social behaviour

Action 1: Reduce the number of people experiencing anti-social behaviour, by working together in the communities worst affected. We will also offer support to those victims who are vulnerable or have experienced anti-social behaviour several times.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The anti-social behaviour (ASB) unit focuses on the most vulnerable and repeat victims, providing each person with a named contact and an action plan.</p> <p>Offenders are also referred to the ASB unit, which aims to tackle low-level ASB early through engaging offenders in community diversionary projects.</p>	<p>The number of ASB incidents reported to the Police has been falling and is now at 7028 for 2013/14.</p> <p>In the past year, 78% of victims supported through the unit feel safer as a result of intervention.</p> <p>Over 2013/14, 74% of individuals referred to the unit are no longer perpetrators of ASB.</p>	<p>A focus on more serious cases of ASB, using a mediation service to solve long-standing issues.</p> <p>Identify areas which experience repeat ASB incidents and target projects such as the 'Friday Night Project', 'Operation Streetwise' and 'Operation Bernie' towards these areas, which are partnership projects aiming to work with communities to solve ASB.</p> <p>A Restorative Approaches in Schools (RAIS) pilot will be established in 2014/15 by the Access, Engagement and Participation Service. This will involve a partnership approach to developing restorative approaches in school settings and multi-agency training. Research suggests that restorative approaches can have a favourable impact on incidents of anti-social behaviour.</p>

Action 2: Help residents to feel safer by adopting new legal powers proposed by the Government; including being able to more quickly evict tenants who cause problems and being able to stop offenders from getting in touch with victims or being in specified locations.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
A barrier to progressing this action was that the Home Office delayed introducing these powers until Autumn 2014, as part of the 'Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.'	These powers have not yet been introduced, but measures have been in place for some time to reduce ASB offending (see action 1 above).	Identify designated leads across partner organisations to ensure the new powers are adopted and used effectively. Adopt and continuously evaluate the powers.

Substance misuse

Fewer people in Rhondda Cynon Taf misuse alcohol and drugs.

Action 1: Provide effective services across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil through the Area Planning Board (APB) that aim to prevent and treat alcohol and drug misuse.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Funding for substance misuse services is now managed at a regional level, across Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf (or 'Cwm Taf').</p> <p>Services commissioned cover a range of activity from early interventions through to treatment of dependency e.g. alcohol brief interventions (ABIS) is a service that targets its interventions at primary care and looks to assist those who are drinking harmfully but are not yet dependent.</p> <p>RCT Children and young person's substance misuse service provides education and awareness raising in schools and also provides a direct intervention to young people if required.</p> <p>Rhondda integrated substance misuse service (RISMS) is a multi agency project offering a wide range of services from a single base, offering seamless service provision.</p>	<p>ABIS 284 professionals trained to deliver alcohol brief interventions (ABI).</p> <p>638 'ad hoc' ABI delivered during Alcohol awareness week.</p> <p>218 people assessed, 240 starting treatment, 202 closed planned. 70 closed unplanned.</p> <p>RCT Children and young person's substance misuse service This service provided by TEDS delivered 330 awareness raising sessions. The total number of children and young people receiving an input was 10,696.</p> <p>In respect of direct interventions: 143 people assessed, 143 started an intervention, 101 were closed in a planned way.</p> <p>RISMS In 2013/14, 353 people commenced treatment in RISMS. 298 completed their programme in a planned way. 53% of individuals reduced their substance misuse. 42% felt their quality of life improved.</p>	<p>An emerging priority is steroid usage, therefore a new needle exchange programme is to be introduced, which will aim to address to the needs of all injecting substance users.</p> <p>The APB is reviewing all its specialist, substance misuse services to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the people using the services provided.</p> <p>In 2014/15, the APB will be looking for increased opportunities to involve service users in planning and designing services. To facilitate this service users representatives will be recruited to the APB.</p> <p>In the coming year all substance misuse services will be involved in the implementation of the Welsh Government's 'Recovery Framework', with the intention of enabling more service users to achieve a true recovery and be more integrated in their communities.</p>

Action 2: Work together to tackle alcohol misuse, with the aim of reducing crime linked to alcohol misuse and improving the physical and mental health of the population. We will do this by:

- Training staff to help more people to cut down on how much alcohol they drink;
- Raising awareness of the harms caused by binge-drinking and work towards changing attitudes of children and young people, in particular, through education and media campaigns;
- Controlling the availability of alcohol. This includes making sure areas are safe through alcohol licensing, particularly late at night, and tackling the sale of alcohol to underage individuals.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>During this year, 29 sessions to provide staff with brief intervention training on alcohol have taken place with 284 individuals participating.</p> <p>We have also run 'Operation Lamplight', a partnership project to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime associated with alcohol misuse during peak times, such as summer months, sporting events and Christmas.</p>	<p>The percentage of adults who report drinking above recommended guidelines has stayed relatively constant over the last three years, with the latest figure being 46% (2012 Welsh Health Survey).</p>	<p>Take advantage of any new legislation agreed through the 'Public Health (Wales) Bill' to continue to protect the public from the dangers of alcohol misuse and work together to lower the rates of people drinking above guidelines.</p> <p>Continue to work with communities to tackle the illegal sale of alcohol and the sale of alcohol to minors.</p>

Domestic abuse

Fewer people in Rhondda Cynon Taf are the victims of domestic abuse.

Action 1: Set up ways of working together across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil to make sure that we are taking effective action against sexual violence and domestic abuse.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
Services across the two Local Authorities are part of the Cwm Taf Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum.	It is difficult to measure outcomes in relation to working across the region. However, working together on a Cwm Taf basis ensures that there is equitable service provision, available and accessible services in both areas. This is in line with Welsh Government expectations across Wales.	Develop appropriate mechanisms to ensure service users' views are considered in service design and delivery.

Action 2: Introduce a voluntary programme to challenge and change the behaviour of perpetrators and prevent further abuse.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
This project could not go ahead in 2013/14 because of staff changes. 'Safer Merthyr Tydfil' were commissioned to run the project but, due to staff shortages, the project could not run.	This has not yet been implemented, but efforts have been made through the work of South Wales Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. Detection rates for domestic violence are significantly above the average at 70.6% last year.	Commission a voluntary programme for perpetrators and evaluate the outcomes of this.

Action 3: Encourage children and young people to have safe and healthy relationships through delivering educational programmes like "Building Safer Relationships" and the "STAR" programme in primary and secondary schools.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
The Canopi Partnership coordinated 'Train the Trainer' events, delivered in partnership with 'Valleys Kids', in relation to the Building Safer Relationships in Primary Schools. Over 50 professionals from voluntary and statutory sectors were trained to deliver the programme.	10 Primary schools have received the programme, with more scheduled for delivery. Evaluations from both teachers and pupils have been positive. Children were able to demonstrate that they would know what to do if they felt unsafe.	The Welsh Government White Paper on tackling violence against women and girls, proposes ensuring that Healthy Relationship Education is delivered in all schools in Wales. The pilot of this is planned for September 2014. We will use this information to plan local programmes.

Offender management

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are protected from the actions of repeat offenders.

Action 1: Work together to target the worst offenders in Rhondda Cynon Taf by:

- Getting strong commitment from all partner agencies working through the Integrated Offender Management and Prolific Priority Offenders unit to manage offenders together and deliver a joint local response and aim for a safer County Borough;
- Learning from each other’s knowledge and experience to identify potential future offenders;
- Using community knowledge to target the most damaging offenders on a local level;
- Offering offenders the most appropriate support and intervention to change their behaviour, including supporting offenders that are leaving prison;
- Understanding when offenders are most likely to come into contact with services, so that we can target them properly.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>We continue to strengthen partnership working by holding regular meetings, thereby ensuring that all partners are fully sighted on those offenders who cause the greatest concern.</p> <p>Our cohort is currently being refreshed in order that we can concentrate resources on the 18-25 year old age group who are more likely to change their offending habits than veterans currently within the system. Local neighbourhood policing teams are now engaging with our cohort within their respective communities. This provides valuable information in identifying positive lifestyle change or concern whilst local knowledge also identifies others who could be suitable for entry into the cohort.</p> <p>We have recently developed stronger links with DWP to insure that offenders have support around finance when leaving prison.</p>	<p>The first 3 months of 2014 saw a reduction from 125 offenders to 112. This continues to fall due to those within the cohort either significantly reducing their offending or in fact stopping.</p> <p>There are currently 42 Prolific Priority Offenders and 70 within Integrated Offender Management, within the cohort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan – Mar 2013 saw 64 offenders involved in 115 occurrences. • Jan – Mar 2014 saw 48 offenders involved in 107 occurrences. • One PPO alone In March 2014 was involved in 26 separate occurrences for which he was charged. <p>A collaborative team effort has seen swift enforcement resulting in those who continue to offend or refuse to engage being recalled to prison at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Links have been established with the G4S Transitional Support Scheme (TSS). This provides across the prison-gate mentoring support for offenders with substance misuse problems for up to 12 weeks after release. TSS offers hands-on support to offenders as soon as they come out of prison, with the aim of helping them re-engage into the community quickly and effectively by meeting with inmates prior to release.</p> <p>Saadian OHub is an integrated case management system which automatically uploads data from key I.T. systems in use throughout police, probation, councils and prisons. A pilot is due to commence late 2014 within the Rhondda Cynon Taff area.</p>

Action 2: Give young people the opportunity to repair the harm they have caused by offering different restorative justice approaches. This can include a face to face meeting between the young person and victim, a letter of apology, community reparation (such as litter-picking or making community improvements) and victim statements.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The Youth Bureau works with young people to divert them out of the criminal justice system. Tackling underlying causes of youth crime, the bureau is designed to support young people who have offended, without affecting their chances of study, employment and travel later in life.</p> <p>The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has worked closely with other agencies to ensure that all young people who come to the attention of Youth Justice or ASB teams are helped in the appropriate way. This ensures that any risk and vulnerabilities found through an assessment of a young person is used to create a plan suitable to divert them away from offending or ASB behaviour, whilst supporting the family to sustain that change. The priority within that plan will be the opportunity to repair harm using an appropriate restorative justice intervention.</p>	<p>The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system has dropped significantly over the last five years in Rhondda Cynon Taf. In 2009/10, there were 318 first time entrants to the youth justice system. By 2013/14, estimates suggest that this had fallen to 67 first time entrants.</p> <p>Rates of youth re-offending in RCT also continues to be below the South Wales average. During 2012, the rate of re-offending was 38%, against a Wales average of 43%.</p>	<p>The Prevention Services across the Cwm Taf region have been working towards a single service for 2014/15. This Service will deliver a consistent response to young people at risk, and their families, with safeguarding and restorative justice interventions.</p> <p>Maintaining the reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System is a priority for RCT YOS as it merges with Merthyr Tydfil to become Cwm Taf YOS in 2014/15. This will mean consolidating current targeted contact methods and ensuring young people and their families are offered a relevant and effective service to ensure no repeat antisocial behaviour or offending.</p>

Safeguarding

Children and adults at risk are protected from harm.

Action 1: Work together to make sure that safeguarding is at the centre of all services for children and young people, through for example:

- Finding the best ways of dealing with cases of child neglect within a family;
- Working more effectively together to find out the reasons that young people repeatedly go missing from home or care, to try to stop it from happening in future.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Developed and implemented a multi-agency assessment tool, with accompanying guidance and training for dealing with cases of neglect within families.</p> <p>Commenced work with Partners to develop a strategic framework for tackling risky behaviour in children and young people; for example, children who go missing, misuse substances, display anti social or self harming behaviour, or who are sexually exploited and learning from the experiences of some of our most vulnerable groups of young people.</p> <p>Work commenced on the development of a Prevention Strategy for Children's Services that will aim to reduce the need for statutory intervention by identifying the needs of families earlier.</p> <p>Begun work on the development and implementation of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH is a project that will bring together Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils, Cwm Taf Health Board, South Wales Police and the Wales Probation Service, to share information on children and adults at risk in a safe way to improve assessment and working across agencies.</p>	<p>Overall the number of children on the Child Protection Register has increased over the last year.</p> <p>During this period, the numbers of children recorded on the Register for neglect has decreased from 39% in March 2013 to 31% in March 2014, which is partly attributable to a better understanding of parental neglect since the introduction of new multi-agency tool.</p> <p>However, it is also attributable to an increasing number of families who are facing crisis because of problems such as drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence and emotional abuse.</p>	<p>Complete development work on the Risky Behaviour Strategy and implement across Partner Agencies.</p> <p>Complete and implement Children's Services Prevention Strategy.</p> <p>Agree Children's Services MASH model and implement.</p>

Action 2: Raise awareness with members of the public about child abuse and how they can help to keep children and young people safe, at home and in the community, through for example:

- Providing a range of child protection information in places such as libraries and leisure centres;
- Developing an interactive website for young people; where they can express their safeguarding concerns and we can work out how best to address them.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Commissioned work on a dedicated interactive website for children and adults to ensure that safeguarding concerns are highlighted and responded to. Market research has been carried out with a number of different groups of service users and have agreed a format for the web based application.</p> <p>Alongside this development work, work has continued to raise awareness of safeguarding with the public and across agencies working with children.</p> <p>Work has also begun work on developing a framework to maximise opportunities for engagement with young people and improve links with the wider community.</p>	<p>Overall the number of children on the Child Protection Register and the number of children looked after has increased over the last few years and this is partly attributable due to a better public understanding and appreciation of safeguarding as well as across agencies that work with children.</p>	<p>Complete the development of the website.</p> <p>Complete development work on the engagement strategy and implement across Partner Agencies.</p>

Action 3: Work together to make sure that adults at risk are protected from significant harm, through for example:

- Training staff from different organisations about their role in protecting adults at risk.
- Listening to the views of adults on how best we can protect them.
- Raising awareness with members of the community in the role they can play to safeguard adults and themselves from risk of significant harm.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>During the year, the Cwm Taf Adult Safeguarding Board, reviewed its terms of reference and membership to further strengthen safeguarding from a multi-agency perspective.</p> <p>As part of the remodelling of Adult Social Care Services a new Safeguarding Team was established during 2013/14, to improve safeguarding</p>	<p>During 2013/14, 86% of adult safeguarding referrals managed risk appropriately with the remainder representing people who had capacity to say that they would manage their own situation.</p>	<p>To develop quality assurance arrangements through the Cwm Taf Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure lessons learnt inform service and practice improvements on a multi-agency basis. This includes the development of multi-agency data sets, to provide a more</p>

<p>arrangements. Quality assurance processes are also being updated to improve the consistency of practice, recording and decision-making.</p> <p>Begun work on the development and implementation of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This hub will co-locate services and enable the effective sharing of information for adult protection concerns. This will ensure the protection of adults is carried out much more efficiently and, as a result, it is hoped that more adults will be protected.</p>	<p>Council Agenda - 23 July 2014</p>	<p>rounded picture of safeguarding.</p> <p>Agree Adult Services MASH model and implement.</p>
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HEALTH

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are healthy

This section looks at the priorities and actions under the outcome of 'Health'. The full Single Integrated Plan is available at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/singleplan

Emotional wellbeing & mental health

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf have a sense of wellbeing and are more resilient to mental illness.

Action 1: Use the new Welsh Government strategy, [“Together For Mental Health”](#) and the requirements set out in the Mental Health Measure to work together locally, by:

- Helping more people to have a faster assessment of their mental health needs and then helping them to access a range of services in their local community.
- Making sure that people who are in hospital for mental illness are given the best care and treatment as close to their home as possible.
- Involving service users in developing their own care and treatment, and in the development of local mental health services.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The 'Together for Mental Health' partnership board brings together partners across Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf to make sure the actions in the strategy are met. This includes the actions above.</p> <p>People are now supported through referrals from their local GP surgery to the Primary Care Support Service, prompting faster assessments and a wider range of services in the community, such as self-help, 1-2-1 talking therapies and stress management courses delivered through Communities First.</p>	<p>Survey results suggest that people living in Rhondda Cynon Taf continue to suffer with their mental health. The average reported mental component summary score is lower here than the rest of Wales.</p> <p>The most recent data (2011/12) states that the percentage of people that reported being treated for a mental illness is the highest in Wales at 14%. This depicts a high number of people suffering with mental health but could also suggest that services are engaging a high number of people. For example, during 2013/14, the Primary Care Support Service received 5,385 referrals from GPs.</p>	<p>The 'Together for Mental Health' partnership board is supporting the development a service to extend the availability of accessible community based support to help people manage emotional well-being and build personal resilience.</p> <p>The partnership is committed to reducing stigma and challenging discrimination and will identify local 'champions' to take this work forward.</p>
<p>In-patient mental health services have been</p>	<p>90% of service users now have a Care and</p>	<p>A regional project is based around reducing</p>

<p>reconfigured and treatment is now based on a recovery model, aiming to provide effective treatment and reducing the time a patient is in hospital. Home treatments are also being offered wherever this is appropriate.</p> <p>The partnership board has agreed to adopt a co-productive approach to care, treatment and development of local services. Care co-ordinators are being trained to support service user involvement, as part of the wider Cwm Taf Health Board Service User Involvement Project.</p>	<p>Treatment plan. Service users have also developed an 'Inform' project to deliver training on supporting patients for GPs and their staff within the GP practice.</p>	<p>suicides and self harm. Partners are committed to build on the work undertaken around safeguarding younger people to ensure appropriate support is available for peoples of all ages.</p> <p>The partnership board has successfully recruited six service users and carer representatives, who will help to ensure the co-production of plans to improve mental health and well-being.</p>
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Action 2: Raise awareness through education, events and media campaigns about emotional wellbeing, self-managing mental illness and how to access local and national mental health support services.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The Director of Public Health's Annual Report, <i>Changing and Challenging Perspectives. A Focus on Wellbeing in Cwm Taf</i> explored definitions of mental health, mental illness and wellbeing, and outlined the extent of poor mental health experienced by the population of Cwm Taf.</p> <p>The report highlights much of the good work ongoing in Rhondda Cynon Taf and provides a way forward for partner organisations. Work is already underway to promote the dissemination of the evidence-based Five Ways to Wellbeing messages.</p> <p>There are a range of activities to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing. Communities First are working within their own areas to provide better access to stress management and self-help courses and schools are contributing to the agenda through anti-bullying policies, whole school wellbeing policies and counselling services.</p> <p>The Education Programme for Patients (EPP Cymru) is an approach to self-management for people living with an long-term health condition, including stress,</p>	<p>As above for action 1, people living in the area continue to have some of the worst mental health scores in Wales.</p> <p>In Rhondda Cynon Taf, it is estimated that around 13% of boys aged 11-15 years old and around 10% of girls suffer with mental health disorders. The <i>Viewpoint</i> survey suggests that, although 55% of young people state they feel 'happy and hopeful most of the time', 35% stated they felt 'OK about most things, but worried about other things' and 10% stated they 'often feel worried, upset or distressed about things'.</p> <p>The primary care service with support from Communities First are open to the public and delivered in community based settings. These have been accessed by over 400 people across Cwm Taf since January 2014. Feedback from those attending is extremely positive.</p> <p>113 people have completed the EEP course. They report an increase in self-confidence, control of their condition, exercise and relaxation and ability to cope.</p>	<p>The 'Together for Mental Health' partnership board is supporting the development a service to extend the availability of accessible community based support to help people manage emotional well being and build personal resilience.</p> <p>The message within the Director of Public Health's Annual Report, "5 Ways to Wellbeing", will be promoted and disseminated through organisations and communities.</p> <p>There are 13 EPP Courses planned and three "Introduction to Self Management" courses planned up to December 2014. We will be seeking opportunities to raise awareness of the courses and increase the number of people attending.</p>

<p>anxiety and depression. The aim is to give people the confidence to take responsibility for their own care, whilst also encouraging working in partnership with health and social care professionals</p> <p>The Mental Health Support website is also funded to provide information and advice to people in RCT.</p>	<p>One EEP service user said: <i>"With many years of low self-esteem, I am feeling more myself and only have the odd bad day instead of nearly every day".</i></p> <p>Five participants have gone on to become volunteer EPP tutors, delivering regular training sessions. A further two volunteers are awaiting training in order to carry out this role.</p>	
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Action 3: Improving services to better suit different types of people, such as dementia services for older people and services for children and young people suffering with mental health problems.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>A partnership board for the mental health of children and young people has been established.</p> <p>Counselling services through 'Eye-to-Eye' are now offered to all 11-16 year olds at school and community settings, with 1,471 young people receiving this service in 2012/13.</p> <p>A cross agency / partnership protocol aimed at reducing suicide and self harm in young people is firmly embedded and has been effectively implemented on 26 occasions to date (April 2013) since its inception in November 2010. Vulnerable youngsters and their families are supported immediately following an unexpected death and the Educational and Child Psychology Service, Services for Young People (Educational and Lifelong Learning Directorate) and Eye to Eye Counselling provide school and community based support in the event of a critical incident or unexpected death of a child attending school / education settings.</p> <p>The RAISE IT programme has been rolled out across RCT secondary schools by the Youth Engagement and Participation Service.</p>	<p>In 2012/13, 83% of young people who received the 'Eye-to-Eye' counselling service, said it enabled them to cope better at school. 90% of the schools who responded stated the counselling had had a "good" or "excellent" effect on attendance.</p> <p>This input ensures that the risk of other vulnerable youngsters coming to harm are minimised through collaborative multi-agency approaches. Excellent feedback has been received from schools and families who have received this support.</p> <p>A total of 26 schools have been involved in the RAISE IT programme and project outcomes will be evaluated in July 2014 in conjunction with Sussex University.</p> <p>Since June 2011, 113 members of staff and 54 schools have received Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) training. All are now trained to delivery group emotional literacy interventions for youngsters with significant emotional/social needs</p> <p>The 'Butterfly Project' pilot has been very successful, and was awarded a Social Care Accolade last year. Since the project was implemented, there have been</p>	<p>The work around vulnerable young people to reduce suicide and self-harm will continue to be monitored via the Suicide and Self Harm Steering Group.</p> <p>The 'Butterfly Project' is being rolled out to other residential settings to improve the experiences of residents and their families living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.</p> <p>The Youth Engagement and Participation Service has been restructured and two officers will be attached to each mainstream comprehensive school from September 2014. Their specific roles will be to support vulnerable learners to participate and to help overcome barriers to learning. Vulnerability Profile will be used to identify pupils most at risk and targeted support provided for those with the greatest needs.</p> <p>Further schools will be involved in the Wellbeing in Education pilot in 2014/15. The Education and Lifelong Learning Department is currently consulting on a</p>

<p>A Wellbeing in Education pilot was launched by the Access and Inclusion Service in January 2014 which is a project aimed at promoting the capacity of schools to audit wellbeing of learners at an individual, class and whole school level. The Access and Inclusion Service has a comprehensive training schedule aimed at enhancing the capacity of mainstream schools to meet the social, emotional and behavioural needs of learners.</p> <p>A range of services are provided for older people, including those with dementia and / or Alzheimer's disease. The 'Butterfly Project' was piloted in one residential settings and was found to have hugely positive results on staff and clients. The project worked with 'Dementia Care Matters' to train staff, improve the environment of the home and improve the experiences of the people that lived and visited there.</p> <p>As well as this, services in the community, ranging from initiatives run by Communities First for older people to 'from memory' clinics provided by the Alzheimer's Society, are contributing to improving the mental wellbeing of older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p>	<p>no incidents of aggressive behaviour and staff report being much more fulfilled and satisfied with their roles. Residents are now much more active and happier as a result.</p>	<p>Strategy to Improve Wellbeing and Behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and a multi-agency wellbeing forum will be established to agree an action plan to further improve wellbeing in our schools.</p> <p>The Restorative Approaches In School (RAIS) pilot will ensure that universal approaches in targeted schools will be improved thus enhancing the emotional literacy and resilience of learners.</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf will be now be involved in delivering ELSA training within the Central South Consortium.</p>
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Smoking

Fewer people smoke within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Action 1: We will adopt the “Smoke Free Cwm Taf” action plan, which aims to tackle the harm that smoking is causing to our communities by:

- Targeting areas of the County Borough where there are high numbers of people who smoke, helping smokers to quit.
- Educating children and young people about the harms caused by smoking, and second hand smoke.
- Focussing on supporting young people to quit smoking.
- Helping people to stop smoking by training more health and community workers to motivate smokers to quit and access their local support services.
- Identify the reasons why some women continue to smoke during pregnancy, and use this to develop new models of support to quit.
- Helping to lower the effects of “second-hand” smoke by encouraging smoke-free places. For example, the “Smoke-Free Homes” project with Communities First groups and Registered Social Landlords, and encouraging children’s playgrounds and sports grounds to be smoke-free.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Increased the number of community pharmacies providing a stop smoking service and worked with Communities First clusters to target areas of high smoking rates, ensuring cessation services and prevention is prioritised in these communities.</p> <p>Five schools participated in the A Stop Smoking in Schools Trial (ASSIST) programme, which aims to recruit young people to be 'peer supporters', who are trained to intervene and discourage their peers from smoking. The Filter (Ash Wales) is a cessation and prevention service aimed at children and young people. The contacts and webpage has been promoted in schools across RCT.</p> <p>A project on maternal smoking cessation was carried out to pilot alternative behavioural models of support through midwifery services.</p>	<p>Smoking rates in the County Borough remain higher than the Welsh average, with rates actually increasing slightly in the last year to 26%.</p> <p>In order to meet the Welsh Government target of 16% by 2020, the number of smokers in Rhondda Cynon Taf need to reduce by 19,000 during the next six years.</p>	<p>The Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board have agreed to prioritise smoke-free places as a project. This is a commitment across partners to deliver the Smoke Free Action Plan 2011-15.</p> <p>On the basis of the pilot on maternal smoking, funding has been secured from 'Families First' to extend the service.</p> <p>Smoking has been mapped across the County Borough and cessation services are being prioritised in communities with high prevalence. This work will include working with GPs and pharmacies, and community partners to develop novel ways of engaging with people to improve their wellbeing.</p>

Obesity

Action 1: We will adopt the “Healthy Weight, Healthy Valleys” strategy, which aims to tackle obesity by working together to:

- Encourage people to take exercise through providing free and low cost physical activity for children, young people and older people, through working with agencies such as Communities First and Services for Young People.
- Using a new information pack, in agencies such as Communities First and housing associations, to support people in improving their diet and managing their weight in their local community.
- Develop natural and built environments that encourage and support people to be more active, for example through encouraging people to take advantage of good walking routes, cycle routes, play areas and green spaces.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>A range of services are provided to encourage people to take free and low cost physical activity; from the National Exercise Referral Scheme, to leisure centre activity programmes to swimming lessons for children and young people and Welsh Government's Free swimming initiative.</p> <p>A weight management resource and support toolkit has been provided to communities. This has assisted those leading self-help community weight management groups to incorporate clear recommendations into their programmes. What started off in one community as 'Maerdy Fat Club' has now been extended to sixteen groups.</p> <p>Partnerships with primary and secondary schools has led to increased after-school sport and the roll-out of Sport Wales' physical literacy programme is training teachers and sports coaches on giving children the skills and confidence to have a life in sport and exercise.</p> <p>Many initiatives exist to promote outdoor exercise but the development of natural and built environments that encourage people to become more active is still being scoped.</p>	<p>The majority of adults in Rhondda Cynon Taf are overweight or obese (64% in 2012) and the Childhood Measurement Programme found that around a third of children aged 4-5 years old were overweight or obese. These percentages have been increasing year on year.</p> <p>Sport Wales' School Sport survey confirmed that Rhondda Cynon Taf are the 2nd highest performing local authority in Wales for engaging primary aged children in extracurricular sport at least once a week. Secondary aged children are not engaging to the same extent with Rhondda Cynon Taf being 20th in Wales. This demonstrates a large drop off in sports participation between 11 and 16 years.</p> <p>The survey confirmed that 38% of children are "hooked on sport". This means doing sport on at least three occasions per week. This ranks RCT 16th in Wales.</p> <p>Sport Wales Active Adults Survey (2012) confirmed that 31% of adults participate in sport, on average, three times a week. This is the lowest in Wales with comparable local authorities Merthyr Tydfil 36% and Caerphilly 38%.</p>	<p>During Dec 2013-Mar 2014, a programme brought a wide range of partners together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness about the level and nature of obesity and weight related health issues in families locally. • Share messages from published research and good practice about how best to tackle this problem. • Share local learning about cost effective practice in this area. • Develop a common agreement about how best to address the issue in the future. <p>The programme was sponsored by the Families First Pioneer Consortium; comprising Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent. The outcomes of the programme will be used to inform future service development.</p> <p>The Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board has agreed that 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Valleys' should be a priority across the</p>

Positively, 25% adults are members of a sports club. This was 5% in 2008/9.

areas of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. This work is building on the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Bill and the national ["Active Travel Action Plan" \(2014\)](#) to scope natural and built environments that help people to get outside and be more active.

A recent set of recommendations from the Welsh Government Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups asks that each partner considers measures to lowering the rates of childhood obesity in Wales. The report and discussions around this will inform actions for the next few years to slow and halt the rising rates of obesity.

Using the modernised structure in the Youth Participation Service, continue to combat against children dropping out of sport by increasing the variety of opportunities accessible in school and in the local community.

Promote the modernised 'Sport RCT' webpage on the Council's website to promote sports clubs available in RCT and ways in which people can volunteer in sport to grow the number of opportunities.

Sexual Health

People make informed choices about their sexual health.

Action 1: We will deliver the 'Teenage Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy Strategy' for Rhondda Cynon Taf, which includes the need to:

- Aim to reduce unwanted pregnancies and the infection rate of sexually transmitted diseases in young people aged under 25 years old, through raising awareness about the use of contraception.
- Provide targeted support to teenage parents in their communities to support them in making choices about further pregnancies; in particular, informing them about long-acting reversible contraception (LARC).
- Review the existing sexual health services in Rhondda Cynon Taf that are based in communities. We will then make sure they are targeted at the communities in greatest need of education and support around sexual health.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Analysis of teenage conception rates across the Cwm Taf region found that the rates in 19 wards were higher than the average for Wales. Five wards in particular were identified as having high teenage conceptions in under 18 year olds. Work has begun to increase the access to services in these areas, including encouraging young people to make informed choices on contraception, expanding the 'Condom Card Scheme' and promoting young people's sexual health clinics.</p> <p>The 'Condom Card Scheme' has been rebranded and over fifty sites provide this service in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The 'Empower to Choose' national campaign has been adopted locally to encourage young women to take up long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). Work is also ongoing to promote LARC usage in people who misuse substances, as they are considered a particularly vulnerable group.</p> <p>Sexual Health Outreach services are nurse-led services for people aged 11-25 years old, linked closely with initiatives such as Team Around the</p>	<p>Teenage conception rates across Cwm Taf have fallen by 48% in the last five years. Previously, the conception rate in Rhondda Cynon Taf was one of the highest in Wales, but has now decreased to 35.5 per 1000 women, which is much nearer the Wales average of 30.8 per 1000 women (2012).</p> <p>Uptake of LARC is also increasing rapidly in 13-19 year olds, suggesting that young people are making more informed choices about contraception.</p> <p>Although the uptake of the 'Condom Card Scheme' continues to be high, evidence suggests that sexually transmitted infections are increasing in young people. The data on this is not clear, as currently, information is only available for young people that visit specialist clinics.</p> <p>From 1st April to 1st September 2013, the Sexual Health Outreach service provided 172 sessions in educational and youth settings.</p>	<p>A six month pilot is planned in areas of high teenage conception rates, working with community pharmacies to provide information and signposting to LARC and the 'Condom Card Scheme' for those young people accessing Emergency Hormonal Contraception. Work will continue to ensure targeted services in these communities.</p> <p>Evaluations of both the community pharmacy initiative and the Condom Card Scheme in secondary schools are planned.</p> <p>Following the closure of local venues, there is a need to map the current providers of the Condom Card Scheme to assess the impact of the closures on service provision.</p>

Family. These services deliver targeted specialist contraception support to those vulnerable young people at risk of unintended pregnancy and at risk of poor sexual health / not accessing other mainstream services.

Vulnerable Children & Families

Children and families receive early intervention and support to meet their needs.

Action 1: Identify pregnant women who are at risk of giving birth to lower birth weight babies or having babies born not at full term, in order to increase the length of gestation and avoid the health problems that can be caused by low birth weight.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Low birth weight is defined as less than 2500g. It is a determinant of future health, with babies at risk of growth, cognitive development and chronic conditions later in life.</p> <p>There are a number of interventions aimed at lowering the rate of low birth weight babies, such as the smoking cessation initiatives (outlined above under 'Smoking'), multi-agency risk assessment, particularly with suspected incidences of domestic abuse or substance misuse and general education through midwifery services.</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf has the 2nd highest rate of low birth weight births in Wales at 8.7% compared to 7% for the rest of Wales (2010). Analysis was undertaken for Families First of risk factors on low birth weight babies born in 2013. It found that smoking was the highest risk factor (35% of these babies were born to mothers that smoked). Obesity was also a risk factor (31% of babies were born to mothers who were obese).</p> <p>Other significant risk factors included multiple births, teenage conception, mental health diagnoses, being underweight and misusing substances.</p>	<p>Families First have commissioned the Cwm Taf Health Board to provide a new service starting in 2014/15 to reduce the level of babies born with low birth weights. A Public Health Midwife and three maternity support workers are currently being recruited. The project will roll out Models for Access to Maternal Smoking Support, which delivers flexible smoking cessation support, introduce basic weight management support akin to the "Monday Clinic", which provides extra support for obese pregnant women, embed alcohol brief intervention into routine care and provide training resources and support for professionals. This will be complemented by midwifery and health visitor services delivered through Flying Start.</p>

Action 2: Provide the right support to children and young people with disabilities, long-term conditions and additional needs, before and after they have been diagnosed, and as they grow up.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Across Families First services support has been provided to disabled children and their families. Through TAF, 30% of the families supported have had children with additional learning needs. Canopi has supported three parent groups in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf to enable parents of children with additional needs in particular those with behavioural issues to gain support, share issues and influence services.</p> <p>Across all Families First services 1,120 places have been accessed by disabled children and young people. Families First have supported disabled children and young people to access a range of specific projects providing social activities to prevent social isolation. This ranges from cookery through to sport activities.</p> <p>Drafted a multi-agency referral, assessment and diagnostic pathway for Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in children and young people with involvement from parents and carers.</p> <p>Undertaken workshops with parents / carers to commence development of a guide for families following diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).</p> <p>'Holiday Fun', an amalgamation of three holiday play schemes supported families in need from going into crisis or breakdown over the school holiday periods. There have also been Open Access Play Schemes, supporting children with disabilities.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a wide range of specialist provisions (56 Learning Support Classes, 2 Pupil</p>	<p>Parental feedback on the help and support received has been good. Consultation with parents has changed some of our provision and has led to a new Team Around the Family (TAF) service being commissioned to support families where a child or young person has autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) and associated conditions. From the Families First Portage service, 12 families with disabled children aged under 3 have improved development, including communication and language skills and reduced social isolation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 424 STAR activity places were attended by disabled young people. Through improving fitness levels and self esteem, 60% of those disabled young people attending accessed mainstream provision following the intervention. • 25 disabled young people achieved OCNs in Cookery and Sports and Leisure. • Over 516 play sessions were held for under 5s and 371 sessions for 5 to 14 year olds. • Over 2000 disabled children attended Holiday Play Schemes last year. In total, over 38,000 children took part. <p>New provision to meet the needs of learners with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Complex Learning Needs in the early years and at secondary level will be available from September 2014. This will ensure that pupils with the greatest needs will access much needed specialist provision. Feedback suggests that SEN provision within RCT is good (Estyn Inspection outcomes 2012). RCT has very few appeals made to SEN Tribunal for Wales (SENTW). As the second largest LA in Wales, RCT accounted for only 4% of</p>	<p>The new TAF service for families of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), ADHD and other behavioural issues will start in 2014-15. The TAF Disability Team, consisting of three workers covering Rhondda, Cynon and Taf, has been commissioned through Action for Children. This service will provide a bespoke and proactive provision that supports families of children with ASD, ADHD and other behavioural issues. The provision will provide a range of services across the TAF model to include assessments, specialist key working and service delivery.</p> <p>Finalise and implement referral, assessment and diagnostic pathway for ASD and appoint ASD Pathway Implementation and Parent Support Officer.</p> <p>Develop a guide for parents and carers following diagnosis of ADHD.</p> <p>Work will continue to integrate three support schemes under the banner of 'Holiday Fun' to ensure that all children have equity of access and provision.</p> <p>During 2014/15 the plan for the re-alignment of mainstream SEN provision within RCT will be implemented. This will result in three newly established provisions at secondary level, 6 re-designated provisions at primary level and 4 provisions being re-located to a new school site (1 secondary/2 primary). This will ensure a better match of provision</p>

<p>Referral Units and 4 Special Schools) for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN). A review of the mainstream SEN provisions was undertaken during 2013 and a plan devised to further improve this provision consulted on 2013/14. Following a formal consultation process Cabinet approval was given for these changes to be implemented from September 2014.</p> <p>Plans for establishing a post 16 provision for young people with severe/profound Autism has been agreed and progressed within the Local Authority.</p> <p>£2.7m has been delegated to all schools to support mainstream inclusion for both statemented and non statemented pupils with SEN within the Local Authority.</p>	<p>the total number of appeals registered in 2012/13. RCT therefore has a very favourable national ranking of 5th out of 22 Local Authorities on this measure.</p> <p>Pupils with severe to profound autism who require a highly specialist placement at post 16 will now be educated within RCT. This will directly impact on 8 learners in September 2014.</p> <p>An audit of pupil outcomes suggest that the delegation of Additional Needs Funding (ANF) has been successful and resulted in improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners. 93% of schools have indicated that ANF has had a positive impact on pupils with severe and persistent SEN. This support has enabled learners with significant needs to access mainstream education in their local communities.</p>	<p>to local needs.</p> <p>A newly established provision will be opened on the old Glanffrwd Infant School site in September 2014. This will be a satellite base of Ysgol Ty Coch, an existing special school within RCT.</p> <p>The Access and Inclusion Service to continue to review the impact of delegated resources on outcomes and will re-audit compliance with LA guidance in 2014/15.</p>
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Action 3: Provide preventative support to families with additional needs, through for example:

- Supporting families through the “Team Around the Family” approach.
- Working with young children and their parents / carers to improve their speech and language.
- Supporting those families with children known to Children’s Services.
- Expanding the “Flying Start” programme.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The Team Around the Family (TAF) approach has been rolled out across Rhondda Cynon Taf, providing families that require support with a multi-agency approach to making positive changes to their lives.</p> <p>TAF has supported 259 families, 59% of which are still on-going with 48% closed. TAF has been successful in targeting those families who need additional support with 62% of families accessing the service being in receipt of free school meals and 30% of families with a child with additional learning needs.</p>	<p>The number of children becoming looked after has continued to rise in the County Borough. Although this can be seen as a positive that children who are at risk are being identified, the outcomes for looked after children are less positive than those children who remain with their families and the rising demand for services puts the capacity and capability of staff at risk.</p> <p>Of the TAF closed cases –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 38% of families had multiple needs and closed 	<p>To take TAF forward it has been agreed to review the thresholds between TAF and children Services, ensure links between the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and TAF are clear and increase the numbers of staff dedicated to undertaking TAF assessments and provide support through TAF.</p> <p>Development of a Prevention Strategy for Children's Services that will aim to reduce the need for statutory intervention by</p>

Families First has commissioned Access and Inclusion to improve the communication levels of children in primary schools. CLIC (Communication Literacy Inclusive Classrooms) is a 3 year programme targeting early speech and language development in schools (target group 3-7 year olds).

The Integrated Family Support Team have continued to work with families intensively, aiming to stop problems from escalating and children becoming looked after.

Flying Start has been significantly expanded this year, with an increase of 768 children. In terms speech and language, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Communication Strategy (Let's Talk) is complete with delivery plan and will be launched in September.

Early years and Flying Start services are being reconfigured to better meet the needs of families and children where speech and language skills need support and development.

Safer Families and the Family Aide Support Team (FAST) continue to provide targeted services in response to referrals from Health Visitors and Social Workers where there are acute needs

In order to ensure the Flying Start childcare workforce meets the high quality accreditation required to operate as a Flying Start childcare setting, the Early Years Training Centre has been working with settings delivering statutory, mandatory and developmental training opportunities.

- with positive outcomes.
- 28% no longer required ongoing support with their needs being met during the assessment stage.
 - 15% of families decided they didn't need any support.
 - 15% required statutory Children Services interventions.
 - 4% Other e.g. family moved out of area.

68% of families worked with reached their goals.

Since the launch of CLIC in June 2013, 36 schools have been involved in training and 1175 children have been assessed to date. This has resulted in 128 pupils being identified with moderate to severe difficulties and 267 pupils with mild to moderate difficulties. 99 intervention groups have subsequently been established and 72 consultation visits undertaken by the Learning Support Service (Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate) to agree actions and interventions to bring about change. 124 members of school staff have been trained to use the SpeechLink assessment tool and 25 members of staff have received ELKLAN training thus enhancing the capacity of mainstream schools to meet learner needs.

HEALTH

2,740 children received services from a Flying Start Health Visitor in the year ending 31st March 2014. Results of the SOGS assessments for 2013/14 rates (child development assessments undertaken with all 2 and 3 year olds) are very consistent in original Flying Start areas and for 2 years assessments in expansion areas. However, results for 3 year assessments in expansion areas are noticeably poorer. It is suggested that this is due to the fact that children in expansion areas will have had no access to any Flying Start support in prior years.

CHILDCARE

identifying the needs of families earlier.

Roll out of year 2 of the CLIC programme and roll out of year 1 of the literacy element to continue from September 2014.. The Access and Inclusion Service to evaluate the impact and outcomes of the interventions implemented to date in late June 2014 following the re-assessment of speech and language skills by school staff. Further training to target younger age range will be undertaken and 71 staff in nursery settings will receive training in the use of the WELLCOMM a speech and language toolkit in the early years in June 2014.

Developing the IFST service model to apply to other areas, i.e. Domestic Abuse.

Expansion will continue next year, taking on a further 448 children and, similarly, 315 in 2015/16. By 31/3/16, there will be 3,271 children benefitting from Flying Start in RCT (25% of the whole RCT population of children aged 0-3 years old).

The Centre is working closely with 'City and Guilds' to develop Wales centric childcare modules. This will aim to improve the calibre of students leaving colleges making them fit for employment, rather than merely certificated

23 settings currently deliver Flying Start childcare across RCT. During Term 3, 261 children became newly eligible to receive childcare. Of these, 82% received an offer of childcare, and 70% went on to take up this offer.

In terms of childcare sessions, during Term 3:

- Over 33,000 sessions were available.
- 58% of sessions were attended.
- 13% were unused due to authorised absence.
- 6% were unused due to unauthorised absence.
- 23% were unfilled.

It is clearly disappointing that 42% of sessions were unused or unfilled. Addressing this is a priority, not only in RCT but across Wales.

PARENTING/EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The average number of informal drop in sessions offered per month continued to increase during Term 3, with 931 sessions attended. These sessions include 'Talkabout' sessions, Parenting Engagement Workshops, Weaning and Baby Massage sessions. 95 places were taken up on Language & Play and Number & Play courses, with all parents attending at least 75% of sessions.

No evidence-based courses ended during the term due to the late Easter break. All courses ending in early April will be reported as part of 2014/15 Term 1 data.

47 bespoke packages of one to one parenting support were provided by the Safer Families Team, 'Dad Matter's, Parenting Senior Practitioner, FAST Team and Disabled Children's Team Childcare Support Workers. Of these, positive distance travelled was evidenced in 85% of cases.

Safer Families supported 80 parents/couples in 2013/14 where domestic abuse is causing concerns relating to the wellbeing of children. A further 34 were referred but they were outside of the FS age/location.

	<p>The FAST service supported 213 families in 2013/14 in order to improve parenting, childcare, housekeeping, budgeting and routines within families. 82% of these were on the child protection register or classed as children in need.</p>	
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Vulnerable Adults

Adults in Rhondda Cynon Taf are able to live independent and fulfilled lives.

Action 1: Deliver health and social care services in a different way, making sure they are joined up and provided in people's homes or in their local communities. The services will be designed on the three localities of Rhondda, Cynon and Taf.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Over the year, partners have been responding to the Welsh Government on a range of linked issues, including the consultation on a framework for delivery, releasing funds under an 'Intermediate Care Fund' and raising the profile of the significant Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill.</p> <p>A Project Manager has also been funded through the European Social Fund to drive forward the 'Integrated Localities' workstream.</p> <p>One of the major developments achieved during the first year of the Single Integrated Plan was the development of a Statement of Intent for the development of integrated services for older people with a complex need.</p> <p>This Statement of Intent was agreed between Cwm Taf UHB, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, the Third Sector and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC to further develop services in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frail Elderly and Rehabilitation model; 2. Localities Partnership working; 3. Unscheduled Care; 4. Older Persons Mental Health Services; 5. Primary Care Services. 	<p>The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons (per 1000 population aged 75 and over) has been improving over recent years, from 5.81 in 2011/12 to 4.57 in 2013/14. This would suggest that, among other factors, the integration of health and social care services is improving, with service users experiencing a more efficient transfer from hospital to other NHS or non-NHS services.</p> <p>The development of shared assessment documentation with Cwm Taf UHB and Merthyr will mean over time that people are not asked the same basic questions repeatedly by different Health and Social care staff. Our continuing inability to share this electronically remains an obstacle to sharing the information in a timely manner and to the people who need the information to deliver a service.</p> <p>Our vision locally is: 'Supporting people to live independent, healthy and fulfilled lives', which will be achieved by providing services that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated, joined up and seamless. • Focused on prevention, self management and reablement. • Responsive and locally delivered in the right place, at the right time and by the right person. • Safe, sustainable and cost effective. <p>This will: 75</p>	<p>The Cwm Taf region were successful in their bid for the one-year Intermediate Care Fund. Over the next year, this fund will be used to explore widening the collaborative working with the University Health Board and Merthyr through an extension of '@ home' services (see action 2 below).</p> <p>The fund will also be used to employ five Third Sector Community Co-ordinators who will provide a link individuals, at risk of losing their independence, to community activity.</p> <p>There will also be a range of initiatives involving house adaptation, promotion of wellbeing and laying the foundations for transformational health and social care over the next few years.</p> <p>The upcoming Social Services and Wellbeing Bill will also provide a direction for collaborative working around ensuring adults have the choice and control over the lives they lead.</p>

- Promote healthy lifestyles and prevent ill health.
- Promote independence and protect the vulnerable.
- Improve services and joint working.

Action 2: Expand the “At Home” service, which will support individuals in the community who are at risk of being admitted to hospital or starting to fail at home, and help in discharging people from hospital faster by delivering services at home to assist people in their day-to-day lives.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The "At Home" or "@home" model was launched and has continued to be developed and expanded, with the community assessment seeing an increase in referrals each quarter.</p> <p>The Intermediate Care and Reablement service continues to successfully support individuals in the community, with access expanded now to include patients who attend A&E and those who have stayed at the short-term unit, as well as people leaving longer term hospital stays.</p>	<p>Over the last year, 95% of Intermediate Care and Reablement clients felt they had been helped to remain independent and clients of the @home service report positive outcomes, including one case study in which the client stated it was "the best service she'd ever had". GPs are also reporting that these services are assisting in their patients avoiding hospital admissions.</p>	<p>Develop a single point of access for all '@home' services across Cwm Taf to help more people live independently of social care services.</p> <p>Ensure services meet the demands and needs of a changing population through review and re-commissioning of services to emphasise early intervention and prevention approaches.</p>

Action 3: Provide people with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to look after themselves properly and manage their long term conditions, through:

- Information and advice services, including the development of a “Communications Hub” based at Ty Elai.
- Education programmes including increased uptake of the “Educating Patients” programmes.
- Peer support groups.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Extended the services within the Health and Social Care Communications Hub to include more services including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care 'First response'; • Social Care Out of Hours Emergencies; • Lifeline alarm monitoring (Telecare); • GP Out of Hours Services; • Emergency dentistry; • District Nurse enquiries; • Non emergency patient transport. <p>These services combined receive 500,000 calls a year.</p> <p>The Education Patients Programme (EPP) is mentioned above under 'Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health'. This programme is a self-management and education course for people with any long-term health condition.</p> <p>Online health checks have also been implemented for people over the age of 50 years old, encouraging people to take responsibility for their wellbeing.</p> <p>There are several peer support groups run throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf. Many of these are for sufferers of mental illness, anxiety or depression and these can be found on the following directory: http://www.mentalhealthsupport.co.uk/</p>	<p>The benefits of the EPP are explored above under the 'Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health' priority.</p> <p>The Communications Hub means that local customers can contact multiple services at one centre and the following benefits are evident:</p> <p>Assessment at Point of Contact Customers who ring the Council are offered a full advice service for Adult Social Care (First Response). If Social Care needs are identified, this is immediately undertaken during the call (without referral on) and all necessary information is gathered in order that the short term intervention, sensory, aids and adaptations teams can deliver the most appropriate package of care in the most timely manner. In 2013/2014 the First Response team carried out over 4,000 assessments.</p> <p>Adult Social Care reablement packages utilise 'Telecare' within their provision with a free 6 week trial allocated to 186 clients and 76% of these choosing to retain the service to support independence in 2013-14. (see monitoring service below).</p> <p>24 hr Independence - Telecare Alarm Monitoring The 'Hub' hosts the Community alarm monitoring service for over 5,500 clients with 130,000 contacts received from alarm holders in 2013/14 . Robust processes ensure sustained connectivity between</p>	<p>The Intermediate Care Fund will provide five Community Co-ordinator posts across Cwm Taf, which will work to help people take advantage of opportunities in their communities through knowledge of existing groups to help people to help themselves with their needs.</p> <p>More broadly, the third sector will assist in identifying and supporting local initiatives to help older people live in their own homes for longer.</p> <p>Supporting Integrated Assessment Processes at all points of contact at the Communications Hub.</p> <p>Ensuring (through the Intermediate Care Programme) that a common ICT Lifeline (Telecare) monitoring platform is in place across Cwm Taf to enable further Business Continuity arrangements across the monitoring centre locations for this critical service.</p>

the centre and the frontline holder. Many calls relate to reassurance but 600 incidents related to serious falls where the client was injured and operators immediately contact the emergency services to intervene. This information also informs case review processes and can prompt early intervention. Response times are of a very high standard (97.5% in 60 seconds) to meet national standards.

Local Health Board Out of Hours

Over 58,000 GP and Dentistry emergencies were responded to of which 29,000 were booked into the local Primary Care centre and 5,000 were allocated to a GP visit. 27,500 District nurse enquires were handles and 95,000 non emergency patient transport enquiries were responded to with transport arranged for those eligible.

Business Continuity

Other services including Home Care and Social Care Out of Hours as well as Health Board services, benefit from the contact centre's infrastructure including appropriate line capacity and power back up arrangements, site location and 24 hr access, call routing and recording processes. This single site investment supports Business Continuity during any risk period for high risk services.

Action 4: Make sure that carers are recognised and supported through implementing the new “Carers Measure” including:

- Training and awareness raising for staff across all sectors.

- Giving people information about being a carer, and the kind of support they can access.
- Provision of carers' assessments.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The Carers Information and Consultation Strategy was launched in June 2013 and an e-learning toolkit has been produced to help staff within all partner organisations become more aware of carers and their needs.</p> <p>Two Carer Measure Co-ordinators have been appointed to cover the Cwm Taf area. Additionally over 150 Carers Champions have been recruited across the University Health Board and both Local Authorities. Their role is to ensure that they liaise with the Coordinators to provide appropriate access to information and support for Carers and to cascade information to staff colleagues. They will also help to prioritise staff for the Carer Awareness e-learning training programme.</p> <p>The Carers Measure team delivered its first workshop in the University of South Wales to nearly 150 nursing degree students to raise awareness of Carers. This will be replicated in various cohorts throughout the year.</p> <p>Colleges across Cwm Taf are also raising awareness of Carers to their students.</p> <p>The first annual report for the Carers Measure has now been submitted to Welsh Government.</p>	<p>A Cwm Taf Carers questionnaire was undertaken to provide a baseline to satisfaction with services and measuring impact of work. Initial results suggest that 40.6% of carers report a negative impact on their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The number of carers identified has increased by 22% between 2012/13 and 2013/14, which suggests the work of the Co-ordinators and the strategy is having an impact.</p>	<p>Improve the way carers and their roles are identified and assessed at the initial point of access to social services.</p> <p>Ensure that all carers are defined as under the Carers Recognition Act.</p>

PROSPERITY

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are prosperous

This section looks at the priorities and actions under the outcome of 'Prosperity'. The full Single Integrated Plan is available at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/singleplan

In 2013/14, for the first time, we brought partners together to form a 'Prosperity Partnership'. This group has a core membership, but focuses on a 'theme' per meeting, inviting relevant people along to share information, discuss barriers to progress and form actions together to provide support and opportunity to people living and working in the County Borough. Although this partnership is in its infancy, attendees have commented on its value and worth in terms of bringing new people around the table to discuss issues relating to the prosperity of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Education and Employability

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf have the education and essential skills to secure employment

Action 1: Work together to improve levels of attainment in education overall and reduce inequalities through:

- Providing co-ordinated support to help improve literacy and numeracy skills.
- Rolling out a programme to improve attendance across the whole County Borough.
- Reducing gaps in attendance and attainment for vulnerable groups (in particular those eligible for free school meals and children who are looked after).
- Offering diverse learning pathways to support more young people to stay in education, training and employment.
- Fostering a culture of high achievement and high aspiration in schools, colleges and training settings.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
A range of activities contribute towards achieving this action, including targeted work in schools with pupils struggling in literacy and numeracy and working with 'leading edge schools' to build school-to-school support in this respect.	Scores in literacy tests are generally increasing, with 72% of 11 year olds gaining a standardised score of 95 and above in 2013/14, compared to 62% the year before. Attendance rates in primary and secondary schools are also increasing.	Continual improvements in data collection and usage will allow us and the schools to determine where resources need to be assigned/deployed, and therefore, will lead to further improvements in coming years.
A 'Wellbeing in Education' project was launched this year, which aims to promote the capacity of schools	Interviews with young people who have received intervention from the Access and Inclusion Service	Continue to strengthen the interventions around literacy and numeracy, particularly in

<p>to audit the wellbeing of individuals, classes and the whole school. The Attendance and Wellbeing Service (AWS) provide differentiated levels of support to schools based upon the attendance data from the previous term. Data Response Visits are conducted with schools where issues have been identified and additional support is offered to assist.</p> <p>AWS work with the Central South Consortium is underway to raise the profile of school attendance as a key component of school improvement, in order to raise attainment levels across the region.</p> <p>Attendance strategies have been shared between the Local Education Authority (LEA) and Further Education settings through the Prosperity Partnership Board, to encourage that pupils no longer in compulsory education continue to attend their courses.</p> <p>In order to identify young people at risk of disengaging from education, employment and training, a pre-16 Information Sharing Protocol has been agreed between the LEA (on behalf of Secondary Schools), Coleg y Cymoedd and Careers Wales.</p> <p>This has enabled us to implement 'Vulnerability Profiling' for children and young people, which uses factors associated with being at risk of disengagement from education to target those young people and provide them with extra support.</p>	<p>suggested that 98% of them felt that things had improved since receiving support.</p> <p>The percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 threshold (equivalent to 5 GCSEs graded A*-C) increased from 69.41% in 2012/13 to 77.91% in 2013/14. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals gaining this score also rose by almost 8.96% during this period. However, the achievement of Looked After Children (educated within RCT) is decreasing - from 190.33 average external points in 2011/12 to 163.09 2013/14.</p> <p>During the academic year 2012/13 attendance levels increased by 0.3% for primary schools, from 93.1% to 93.4%. In addition, the gap in attendance levels between those pupils receiving Free School Meals (FSM) and those who do not decreased by 0.4% from 3.1% to 2.7%.</p> <p>Secondary school data from the academic year 2012/13 was also positive, with an increase of 1.3% from the previous year (90.6% to 91.9%). Similarly to the primary sector, the gap in attendance of FSM pupils and other pupils decreased from 6.4% to 5.7%, a difference of -0.7%.</p> <p>Despite these local improvements, RCT remains 21st of 22 Local Authorities in Wales for secondary schools attendance. However, RCT has improved by 2 rankings from 2011/12 for primary attendance, with a ranking of 16th at the end of 2012/13.</p> <p>The percentage of pupils known not to be in education, employment or training has decreased overall from 5.75% in 2012 to 4.3% in 2013.</p> <p><i>(please note: education data is based on the previous academic year.)</i></p>	<p>the schools with the biggest improvements to make.</p> <p>Make best use of the analysis around tracking pupils, vulnerability profiling and trend data to focus on improving educational outcomes at Key Stage 4 (GCSE level), particularly with regards to vulnerable and underachieving pupils.</p> <p>Develop a campaign across the Consortia area to promote and improve school attendance. Initiatives and interventions will be evaluated for their effectiveness and impact, the results of which will be used to plan future provision.</p> <p>Introduce a 'behaviour strategy' in partnership with schools to lower the levels of exclusions and promote a culture of high achievement and aspiration.</p> <p>Support year 13 pupils to access Russell Group Universities.</p> <p>To target our responses and support to further reduce the numbers of 16-18 and 18-24 year olds not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>Work with 'leading edge schools' across these actions to develop better school-to-school support and improvement.</p>
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Action 2: Work together to develop a co-ordinated way that makes sure people receive effective and targeted support to get work and remain in work, through for example:

- Providing opportunities for adults to improve their basic skills in literacy and numeracy.

- Working with local colleges, universities and training providers to raise awareness of courses and support available to adult learners.
- Making sure that programmes and courses to learn new skills are part of a co-ordinated pathway leading to employment.
- Promoting a wide range of volunteering opportunities.
- Supporting people with long-term illnesses and disability to re-enter and sustain employment.
- Building clear and effective career pathways for young people.
- Ensuring there are enough childcare places.
- Providing access to work, for example, through transport initiatives.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The 'Employability' working group has been established to better co-ordinate these actions across partner agencies.</p> <p>Adult Education has delivered 810 varied learning opportunities throughout 2013/14, delivered to 2,723 individual Learners, of which over 78% have completed.</p> <p>Adult Education's 'Bridges into Work' programme has supported and delivered employment focused training to 837 additional Participants. 34%(288) of these are aged between 16 and 24 and are not in employment education or training (NEET).</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Looked after Children's Team, a 'Preparation for Employment' course has been piloted with three programmes run to date for children and young people who are looked after.</p> <p>A European Social Fund project across five Local Authority areas is in place to develop a shared culture across organisations that encourages staff to support people to recognise the importance of work and how it will improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Working with Job Centre Plus and Careers Wales, projects such as 'Bridges into Work', 'Jobs Growth Wales' and 'Your Future First' aims to get young</p>	<p>The percentage of economically active people who are unemployed has stayed relatively stable over the last five years, with the 2013 figure being 11%. The employment rate (for those aged 16 - 64 years old) has been rising since 2009 and is now 64%.</p> <p>This remains lower than the average for Wales and masks that a diverse picture of employment exists across the County Borough. Recent research using the Census (2011) data, found that in two areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf, 20-22% of people had never worked. In a further five areas, 15-20% of people had never worked. In 2013, the average percentage of workless households in RCT (23%) is only just above the Wales average of 21%.</p> <p>Of the 2013/14 'Bridges into Work' cohort (837 people):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 88% (742) have achieved a qualification. ● 13% (109) have entered employment. ● 6% (55) have been referred to further learning. ● 32% (276) have other positive outcomes, which include an employment interview, progressing to voluntary work and having a better CV. <p>The 'Preparation for Employment' pilot programmes resulted in over 76% of the cohort (33 young people) having a positive outcome including progressing to employment, college, a training provider, apprenticeship or university.</p>	<p>The upcoming round of European funding will provide an opportunity to further co-ordinate this work, supporting people into employment and providing opportunities for more inward investment which, in turn, provides jobs and work experience.</p> <p>The community-based opportunities for skills development will be increased through focussed work with Communities First and Job Centre Plus.</p> <p>The service provision to support specialist learning disability employment opportunities will be reviewed and reconfigured accordingly.</p> <p>Roll out six 'Your Future First' programmes and continue to provide transitional support to those aged 16 and above, particularly to young people with multiple or significant barriers to overcome.</p>

people into training and sustained employment.

In Communities First areas, there are a range of activities such as 'work clubs', employment skills training, volunteering opportunities, job fairs and mentoring projects that provide guidance and practical help to job seekers.

Most partner organisations are offering work experience and / or apprenticeship schemes to enable people to secure better future job prospects.

In the 2013-14, 'Your Future First', with transitional support to those aged post-16 years old, supported 171 young people into education, employment or training and closer to the labour market.

The percentage of 16, 17 and 18 year olds leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment has fallen over the last year.

Supporting people in financial need

People in financial need receive the right advice and support

Action 1: Work together to encourage and enable residents to gain the confidence, skills and access to equipment to get online and make the most of digital technology.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>'Get RCT Online' was launched by Communities 2.0 (a Welsh Government project) as a campaign to help people and organisations get the most out of digital technology. The campaign links to many agencies providing low cost equipment and practical support to people to 'get online'.</p> <p>A joint project across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil, funded by the European Social Fund and supported by the Welsh Government, aims to improve the broadband provision and information management systems across schools. The project has the overall outcome of improving educational attainment and attendance across the region.</p>	<p>From 2009-2014, 4261 people in RCT were helped to get online by Communities 2.0 and its partners.</p>	<p>Following a recent themed meeting of the Prosperity Partnership on 'a digital RCT', a task group is being convened to consider how businesses can take advantage of the roll out of 'Superfast Broadband' (through BT) in RCT.</p> <p>A Digital Strategy is also currently in development, based on digitalisation in public services; digital infrastructure; skills; inclusion and the economy.</p>

Action 2: Work together to develop an approach to ease the potential impact of the “Welfare Reform Bill” for the most vulnerable in our communities.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>In 2013/14, highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to develop local employment schemes to support people back to work as the best way of avoiding the impact of the welfare benefit changes piloting shared accommodation schemes, through the Council's in-house social lettings agency, to provide affordable housing options to meet the 	<p>387 people have improved their financial capability.</p> <p>288 unemployed people entered work following support from work/enterprise clubs.</p> <p>In 2013/14, the Citizen Advice Bureau delivered advice services to in excess of 12,000 individuals, with just under £5million of benefits income secured for local people during the year and around £9</p>	<p>Implement the recommendations of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Working Group</p> <p>Continue to monitor and evaluate the impacts of the welfare reform changes on residents, the Council and its workforce and other Public Sector and Third Sector partners</p>

<p>increasing housing needs of homeless people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing Council funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau to help more people to deal with the cuts and changes to their welfare and housing benefits through financial advice and money management • helping more people enhance their financial capabilities through targeted Communities First training programmes • undertaking awareness raising workshops and campaigns for front line workers, elected members and residents to help prepare them for the changes <p>There is work ongoing with all key internal and external stakeholders including housing associations, private landlords, housing advice, Citizens Advice Bureau. We have implemented all Housing Benefit changes as part of welfare reform and visited those households worst affected to ensure that changes are understood, managed and mitigated wherever possible.</p> <p>With our partners, we have also promoted the use of discretionary housing payments (DHP) to maximise expenditure, assisting those that are in the most need to manage the housing benefit changes that have impacted upon them.</p> <p>In addition, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Welfare Reform Scrutiny Working Group to monitor the work of the Council in identifying and responding to the challenges of Welfare Reform and assess its impact on residents, the Council and its workforce and other Public Sector and Third Sector partners.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Council Agenda - 23 July 2014</p> <p>million of client debt handled by their advisers. The Council's in house Welfare Rights Team also secured around £4million in benefit gains for local people in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>Over 1600 individuals and families have been assisted with DHPs with many making changes or adjusting to the housing benefit changes by moving, downsizing, finding employment.</p>	<p>Continue to consider the most effective use of the existing social housing stock in the context of the welfare reform changes, through establishing working groups to further develop the recommendations of the Strategic Review of the Social Housing Stock undertaken in 2013/14. This work will cover, for example, considering re-configuration of some social rented units, utilising sheltered housing for general needs accommodation and evaluating local lettings policies.</p> <p>Continue to promote DHPs to assist those in the greatest need and those wishing to move by meeting removal costs, deposits, rent in advance etc. (where appropriate and necessary).</p>
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Action 3: Promote energy efficiency initiatives that support people to escape fuel poverty, through for example:

- Ensuring that national schemes are delivered locally and that we maximise the funding available for the area.
- Developing targeted approaches to fuel poverty in defined local areas where specific community needs are identified.
- Promoting energy advice services to households to encourage changes in how energy is used and to ensure that residents are well informed in terms of tariffs and grants available.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Uncertainty over 'Eco' funding and reductions in cost per tonne of carbon savings has meant that schemes have been hard to get off the ground in 2013/14.</p> <p>However, bids were submitted to WG under the 'Arbed' scheme and the 'Heat and Save' scheme has also continued in 2013/14. These schemes, along with the Council's own interventions through the provision of private sector grants, has meant that the target has been met.</p> <p>The Home Energy Advice Service was established in 2013. The aim of the initiative is to improve the health and well-being of residents through the provision of a tailored energy advice service within people's own homes.</p>	<p>During 2013/14, over 1700 energy efficiency measures were installed in private homes, with over 1500 homes benefitting from improved domestic energy performance.</p> <p>41 homes had an excess cold hazard reduced to an acceptable level.</p> <p>The benefits of delivering a proactive Home Energy Advice Service are longer term but can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention minimises the requirement for reactive services, such as housing enforcement and acute health care. • The instances of chronic illness and hospital admissions are reduced. • Maximises take up of energy efficiency funding in the borough, thereby improving the condition of the housing stock. The NEST scheme recognised that RCT has the highest number of referrals so also attracted the highest level of investment, despite the scheme managers not actively targeting the programme in this area. 	<p>Continue with 'Heat & Save Scheme' to provide discounted energy measures to private households.</p> <p>Continue to provide energy efficiency behaviour advice and signposting households to other grant assistance.</p>

Homes & Communities

People in Rhondda Cynon Taf live in safe, appropriate housing in sustainable and vibrant communities

Action 1: Work together with communities to deliver housing and community regeneration action; including the reoccupation of empty properties in targeted areas and developing public spaces that are safe, attractive and encourage social interaction and community cohesion.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>A Cwm Taf Empty Property Strategy was produced for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>The 'Houses into Homes' Empty Properties Initiative (funded by Welsh Government) provides funding to support initiatives to bring long term empty properties back into use. This has proven very successful in Rhondda Cynon Taf, with many houses being transformed.</p> <p>Throughout the year a targeted campaign has been undertaken in relation to long term empty properties for enforcement action, with awareness raising and delivery of the Houses into Homes scheme. We held an empty property event in September 2013 for prospective investors and empty property owners.</p> <p>Officer working group established to develop a Methodology and Area Assessment Matrix in order to identify areas that would most benefit from housing and community regeneration action intervention.</p> <p>As well as a local Strategic Equality Plan and a Multi-agency Diversity Forum, there is also a regional Community Cohesion officer working to improve levels of equality and community safety.</p>	<p>Houses into Homes Loan Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 383 loan enquiries / expressions of interest have been dealt with. • 48 empty property owners have submitted loan Application Forms. • Out of the fund allocation of £1,931,584, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil had received applications for the full allocated amount by March 2014. • In RCT £578,610 of loans have been approved and transferred to applicants for the bringing back into use of over 50 units. <p>Proactive Housing Enforcement has resulted in 94 empty properties being brought back into use and 212 interventions in total.</p>	<p>To deliver a holistic and effective borough-wide empty property service which includes advice, guidance, financial incentives and enforcement.</p> <p>To undertake a programme of targeted action in relation to certain types of empty properties, including vacant properties in areas of high housing demand and those properties that are having a detrimental impact on the sustainability of lower demand areas.</p> <p>To develop and implement innovative models to bring empty properties back into use including Housing Association self-funded, low cost homeownership models, and private sector leasing schemes.</p> <p>Using agreed methodology, identify neighbourhoods that would benefit from targeted action and obtain Cabinet Approval for the development of specific action plans.</p> <p>A local focus on tackling hate crime and incidents and ongoing delivery of the Strategic Equality Plan.</p>

Action 2: Work together to increase the supply of affordable housing across the County Borough through for example:

- Developing new social rented accommodation through the Social Housing Grant programme;
- Using developer funding effectively;
- Returning empty properties back into use.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>The 2013/14 Social Housing Grant (SHG) main programme allocation was £2,330,443. The Council and its Housing Association (HA) partners were in a position to benefit from the extra funding that was available throughout the year and, as such, total Social Housing Grant spend for the year in RCT was £5,688,532. This represents a spend outcome of 244%.</p> <p>Throughout the year development work has been undertaken with HA partners to establish new schemes to increase the supply of affordable housing. This has included the development of an Empty Property Scheme using a combination of private funding, HA funding and SHG with Cynon Taf Community Housing Group and Carbis Properties. And also an empty property scheme with Rhondda Housing association and Newydd Housing Association. These schemes should be operational in 2014/15. Discussions have been held with private companies around the use of pension funds.</p> <p>In relation to securing affordable housing as part of new private sector developments, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 planning applications responded to during the year • 16 Section 106 agreements with affordable housing signed during the year. 	<p>91 new affordable housing units were delivered in 2013/14.</p> <p>92% of new homes delivered were let within 2 weeks of completion date to households on the Common Housing Register showing that they were the right type and in the right location to meet housing need effectively.</p> <p>In relation to securing affordable housing as part of new private sector developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 215 affordable housing units secured during the year on Section 106 sites. • 33 affordable housing units delivered during the year through Section 106 agreements. 	<p>Continue to ensure the most effective use of the existing social housing stock in the context of the welfare reform changes, through establishing working groups to further develop the recommendations of the Strategic Review of the Social Housing Stock undertaken in 2013/14. This work will cover, for example, considering re-configuration of some social rented units, utilising sheltered housing for general needs accommodation and evaluating local lettings policies.</p> <p>To continue to maximise the use of social housing grant through effective commissioning.</p> <p>Create opportunities to deliver non-SHG funded new affordable housing supply including re-use of empty properties.</p>

Action 3: Enable a supply of supported housing that responds to the needs of identified vulnerable groups.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>2013/14 highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening two new supported living schemes in Penygraig and Ynysybwl in June 2013. The two schemes have been refurbished to modern housing standards to accommodate up to 35 adults with learning disability and mental ill health. • Retendering externally commissioned supported living accommodation, securing enhanced service quality at reduced cost. • Commissioning the development of an extra care housing accommodation for 40 older people in Talbot Green. The scheme is planned to open in Autumn 2015. • Piloting, with a local Housing Provider, a new model of community based outreach housing related support to older people. • Working with local Housing Provider to redevelop the former Martins Close site to provide 24 hour supported accommodation for single homeless adults. • Working with local Housing Provider to redevelop property at the Grange to provide 24 hour supported emergency accommodation for single homeless young people 	<p>The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months increased from 88.34% in 2012/13 to 93.66% in 2013/14.</p> <p>The number of people in residential care has remained stable over the past 3 years as we support more people to live independently in their own homes.</p>	<p>To continue to develop a market position statement, commenced in 2013/14, to inform future commissioning intent to assist providers' understand future service needs.</p>

Action 4: Consider health and sustainable development in all planning, policy and strategy development to encourage and promote healthy and sustainable environments and behaviours.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
Health and sustainable development are considered	It's difficult to see the benefit of this at present, as	The development of the draft Future

<p>in the preparation of the Local Development Plan and requests for planning permission.</p>	<p>there is a lack of emphasis and co-ordination on creating sustainable environments.</p>	<p>Generations (Wales) Bill is helping us to scope how this action could be developed for Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p>
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Action 5: Support communities to becoming more sustainable. For example, through being more energy efficient, producing less waste and using fewer natural resources.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>We are working within our own organisations to encourage this, through, for example, energy saving measures provided to households, recycling initiatives and targets and the roll out of hydro power schemes.</p>	<p>It is difficult to see the benefits of our actions at present. Recycling has increased and many households have become more energy efficient. We will continue to monitor this to understand how our actions are having a positive impact on people's behaviours and our environment.</p>	<p>The development of the draft Future Generations (Wales) Bill is helping us to scope how this action could be developed for Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>The extension of the Welsh Government sponsored 'Cynefin' project and a Natural Resources Wales trial is also assisting in providing examples of this.</p>

Action 6: Work with communities to deliver the agreed changes to the Welsh Government Communities First Programme; through embedding the new cluster working arrangements to make sure there is a greater focus on working together with local communities to achieve improvements outcomes in prosperity, learning and health.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>During 13/14, the following 8 new Communities first clusters were established Porth Cluster; Mid Rhondda; Rhondda Fach; Rhondda Fawr; Lower Cynon ; Upper Cynon; Taf; Pontypridd.</p> <p>In excess of £5 million in Communities First Funding was secured for 2013/14 and 2014/15.</p> <p>Each Cluster through an agreed local delivery plans aims to contribute, alongside other programmes, to narrowing the education/skills, economic and health gaps between our most deprived and more affluent areas.</p>	<p>Over 15,000 unique participants have been supported by the Communities First programmes during 2013/14</p> <p>387 people have improved financial capability.</p> <p>288 unemployed people entered work following support from work/enterprise clubs.</p> <p>1465 people gained an accredited qualification.</p> <p>246 people have improved mental health.</p> <p>6,509 people participated in physical activity.</p>	<p>To continue to build stronger links between Communities First, Families First and Flying Start programmes to achieve better outcomes for people living in poverty</p>

(more detailed breakdown of figures are available)

The Citizens Advice Bureau has implemented a new engagement and outreach service to vulnerable people across all Communities First Clusters.

Economy

Businesses are supported to thrive and grow in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Action 1: Continue to deliver the major improvement schemes in Pontypridd and Aberdare town centres that will act as hubs for regeneration not only of the towns themselves, but also for neighbouring towns and villages.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>During this year, we have made substantial progress on the Aberdare and Pontypridd town centre regeneration projects, completing the public realm parts of the scheme. Part of the scheme was completing notable projects, such as the Old Town Hall in Aberdare and Bank Chambers at Taff Street Pontypridd.</p> <p>The schemes have led to closer working with business. We have established a Pontypridd Business Forum, worked together to establish a 'Shopmobility' scheme at both Aberdare and Pontypridd and organised and delivered social media training for the businesses.</p> <p>Other partners, such as Town Councils, Police, Community Groups, Chambers of Trade have been involved, as they can also add value to town centre vitality. We have worked with some of these partners on the 'meanwhile use' of vacant retail units and worked with Pontypridd Town Council on a maintenance schedule for the town centre.</p> <p>More people are being attracted to the town through the initiation of the Pontypridd Lido restoration and dry play development. We have initiated a programme of community, educational and volunteering activities that will ensure that local communities benefit from the opportunities presented by the Lido. We have also met with students to get an evaluation on the town centre, which helped to market it in the student guide.</p>	<p>The Aberdare and Pontypridd regeneration projects have so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supported 33 businesses, • created 37 jobs; and • brought back into use 3320 square metres of business floorspace through the delivery of the Townscape Enhancement Programme (TEP) and the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). <p>We now have lower than National and UK average vacancy rate figures for Pontypridd and Aberdare and there is consistent improvement on footfall figures at Pontypridd.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore Pontypridd Lido to create regional visitor attraction to contribute to the economic growth of the Pontypridd area. • Continue to deliver improvements to Aberdare and Pontypridd town centres through TEP and THI projects. • Begin to develop and deliver a package of improvement projects in the Pontypridd area supported by the Welsh Government's 'Vibrant and Viable Places' Programme • Support BID development in Pontypridd, bringing the process to ballot stage. • Deliver new technology app and loyalty scheme for key town centres.

Action 2: Support the growth and development of local businesses and entrepreneurs in the area by reviewing current arrangements of support, then working with partners to maximise the options available.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>As a result of a review into Business Support, we developed and rolled out a new Business support toolkit. The focus has been on finding out what businesses need and want, so we have also held a Business Club focus group with existing members and undertook a member survey.</p> <p>As a result of this work, we launched a property and land availability service for business and have developed an action plan with the Council's Procurement Team to identify areas of opportunity.</p> <p>We have also supported 'Vattenfall' in the development of the Pen y Cymoedd Windfarm to ensure business opportunities available for Local business and the Community Development fund is influenced to target jobs and economic development.</p> <p>The Local Investment Fund (LIF) is an EU funded business grant scheme, which we have been working with businesses to evaluate. We have also secure a 6 month extension.</p> <p>During this year, we have completed the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) schemes in Miskin / Penrhiwceiber, with the aim of improving and regenerating the area for the community.</p> <p>We have continued to deliver the South East Wales Community Economic Development Programme to support and develop social enterprise businesses. This is also an EU funded, regional collaborative, meaning several Local Authorities are involved in supporting and awarding funds to social enterprise..</p>	<p>This year, we have delivered support to business via the LIF/Capital Programme, with 108 businesses supported: 86 jobs created.</p> <p>Delivered a programme of 14 Business Club events with over 771 attendees including collaborative events. Through this programme, businesses have been supported to start up and expand and jobs have been created and safeguarded.</p> <p>Collaborative business club events have been held to widen potential opportunities for business.</p> <p>We have delivered support to social enterprise businesses by supporting 29 social enterprises and creating 17 jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance our relationship with businesses and further tailoring business support to develop closer relationships. • Build closer working relationships with Welsh Government to ensure seamless business support delivery. • Identify key business 'clusters' which will support growth in Rhondda Cynon Taf and across South East Wales (cluster being a grouping of businesses with similar or related activities). • Develop a project to investigate reasons for 'start up' business failure. • Work with partners to develop business support programmes through the new European Union funding programmes.

Action 3: Work together to set out a development framework that will maximise the benefits of the forthcoming round of European Union Structural Funds (also known as the new Convergence Programme) for the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>Over the last year, we have worked closely in collaboration with the 10 South East Wales Councils and launched a Regional Strategic Framework setting out regional priorities and providing a basis for further development and funding opportunities. This has involved collaborating with partners in our own Local Authority and building an evidence base for clear priorities for the upcoming round of funds.</p> <p>This work has led to an EU funding prospectus setting out regional themes and providing clear leadership for the development of projects and programmes for the new round of funding.</p>	<p>It is difficult to measure the impact of regional collaboration at this point in its development, but this joint approach has meant that the 10 South East Wales Local Authorities are in a strong position to move forward with the next round of European Union funds. Each programme will have its own measures of success in place when agreed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specific project proposals for discussion with the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). • Develop the local elements of a draft package of the South East Wales regional collaborative project proposals for discussion with WEFO. • Start the implementation process of the EU funded programmes.

Action 4: Make investing in Rhondda Cynon Taf an attractive proposition by ensuring opportunities exist for the development of major, new commercial development in the area.

What have we done in 2013/14?	How do we know we're making a difference?	What's next?
<p>This year, we have developed a mechanism to deliver local employment opportunities via planning legal agreements and drafted Supplementary Planning Guidance.</p> <p>A step forward was that the committee resolved to approve planning permission for a new shopping and leisure development at Talbot Green.</p> <p>We have enabled the start of the Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Energy project.</p> <p>The impact of these actions is that local economic development will lead to more jobs for more local people.</p>	<p>There is currently no opportunity to deliver the social clauses public sector contracts enjoy in private sector contracts. The Supplementary Planning Guidance attempts to allow for social clauses and mechanisms in private development. This will lead to better opportunities for communities.</p> <p>The new development at Talbot Green will be starting Summer 2014. This will improve the area and prospects for employment.</p> <p>The Community Infrastructure Levy is a new way of getting money from development, which the Council can then spend on necessary infrastructure like roads. The levy has been accepted by the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate.</p>	<p>Consult on the SPG before being adopted by Cabinet.</p> <p>Continue work with the Talbot Green developer to deliver Phase 2, which is the Town Centre developments.</p> <p>Work to adopt and implement the levy to secure financial contributions towards infrastructure provision in RCT.</p>

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

This section of the document looks specifically at the most up-to-date, available data for the measures set out in 'Delivering CHANGE'. This section also notes where measures should be removed or changed.

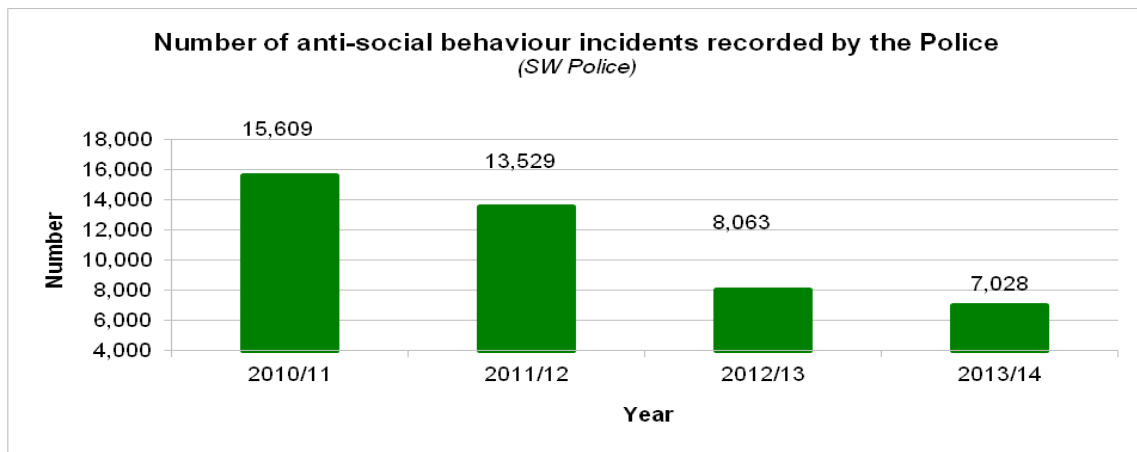
This year, we have developed the [Cwm Taf Data Observatory](#)¹, a joint project with Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board and the Data Unit~Wales. This website is providing us with up-to-date access to local data. This is being continuously developed to best meet the needs of both Local Service Boards. But as we have noted in the evaluation of 2013/14, we will continue to improve the way we gather and analyse information in order to better understand the needs of our communities and the impact we are having on the outcomes of the Single Integrated Plan.

SAFETY

Anti-social behaviour

1. Number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the Police.

- *Provided by:* South Wales Police.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



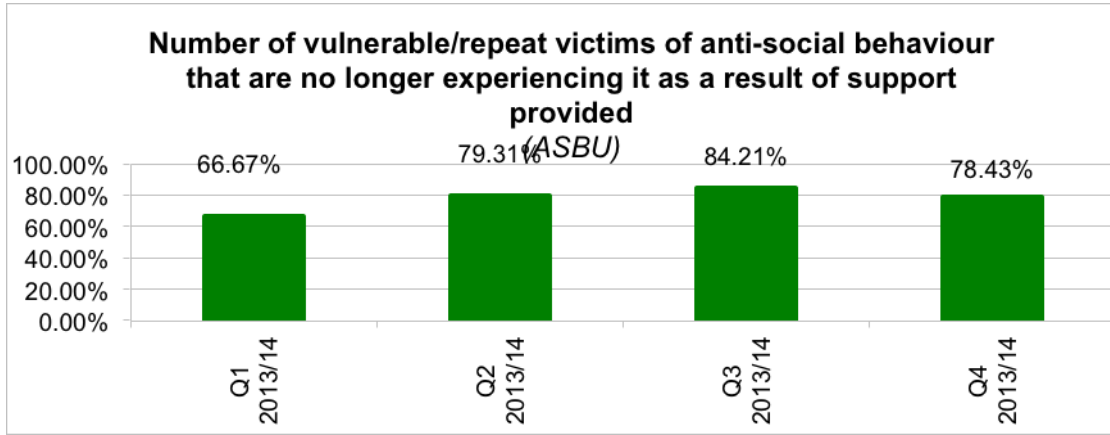
2. Percentage of respondents that report anti-social behaviour is a problem in their communities.

- *Provided by:* In the past, the Community Safety Partnership.
- *Frequency:* Infrequent.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, removed due to lack of data since 2012.

3. Number of vulnerable / repeat victims of anti-social behaviour that are no longer experiencing it as a result of support provided.

- *Provided by:* Safety Partnership, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, changed to 'percentage'.

¹ Cwm Taf Data Observatory: <http://cwmtaf.infobasecymru.net/145/>



Substance Misuse

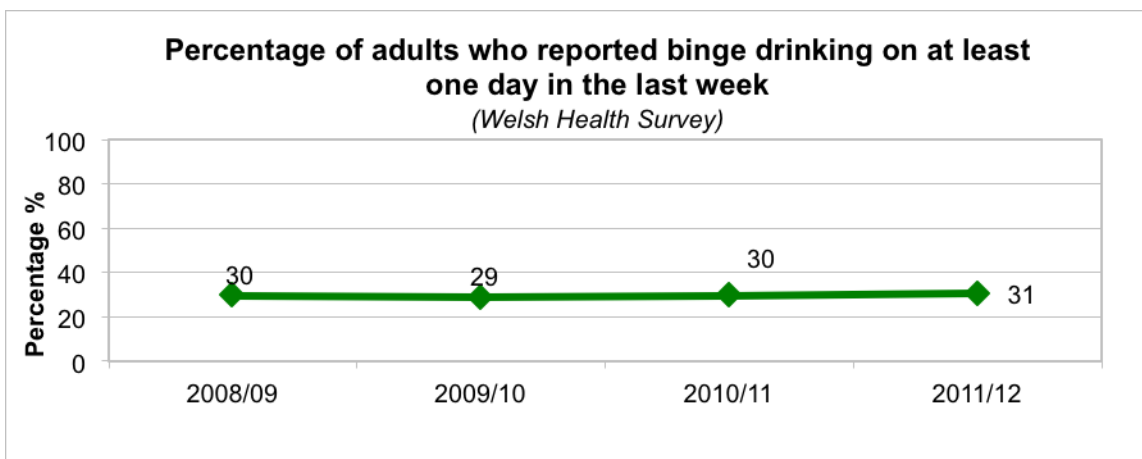
1. Percentage of adults who drink alcohol above guidelines i.e. above 14 units a week for women / 21 units for men.

- *Provided by:* national Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



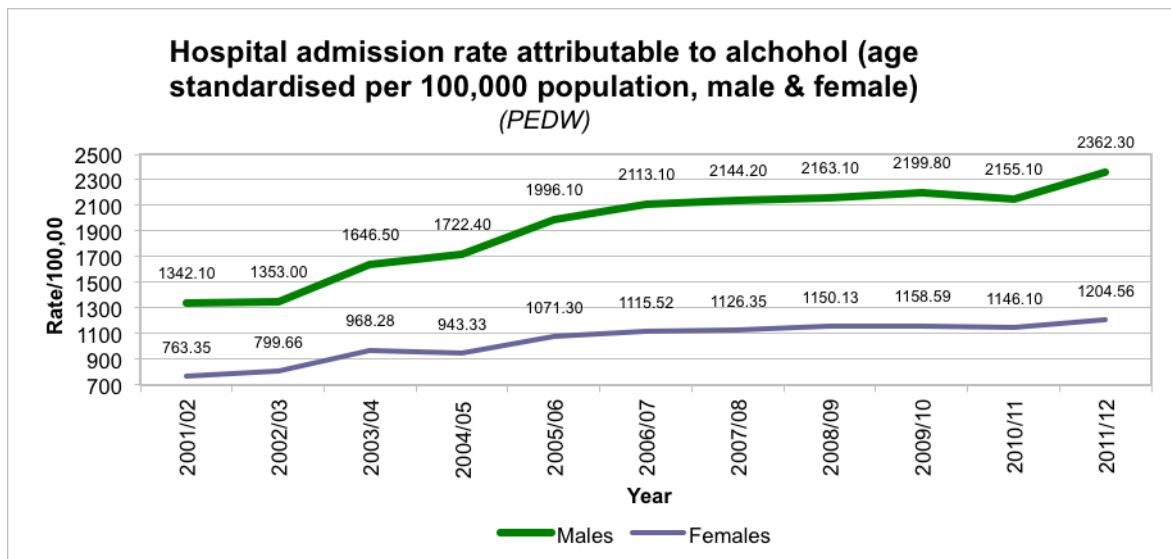
2. Percentage of adults who reported binge-drinking on at least one day in the past week.

- *Provided by:* national Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



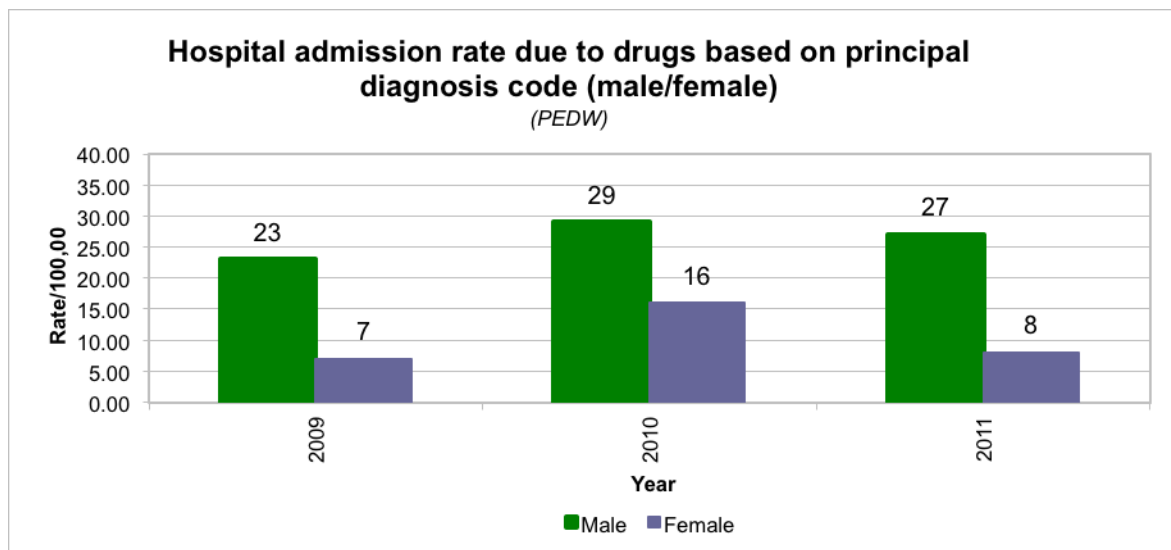
3. Hospital admission rate (age standardised 100,000 population) attributable to alcohol (males / females).

- *Provided by:* Health maps Wales.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



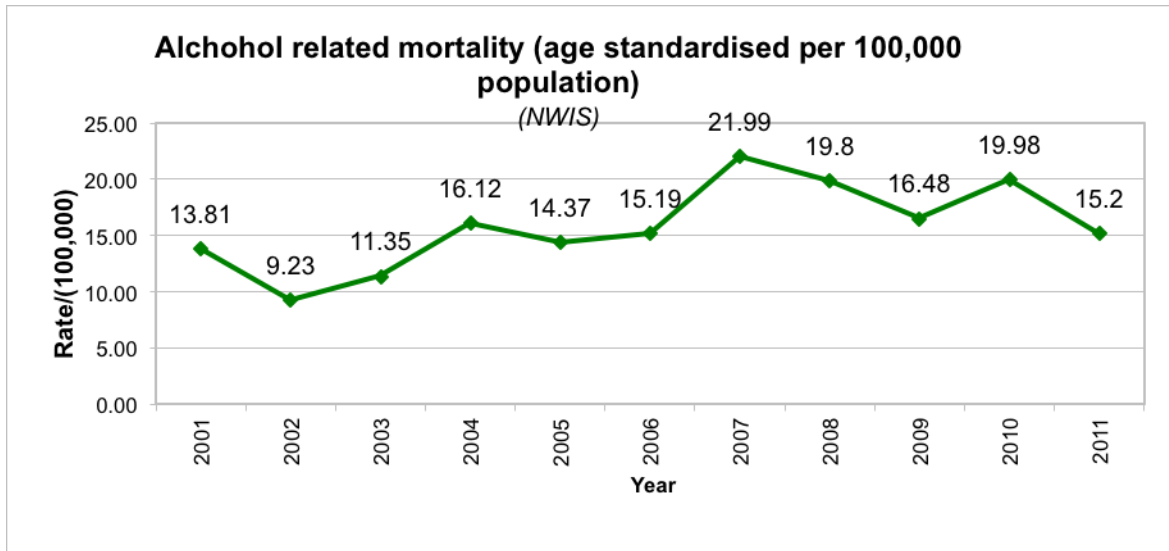
4. Hospital admission rate attributable to drugs (males / females) - based on principle diagnosis code.

- *Provided by:* previously by Public Health Wales.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, removed due to not being collected since 2011.



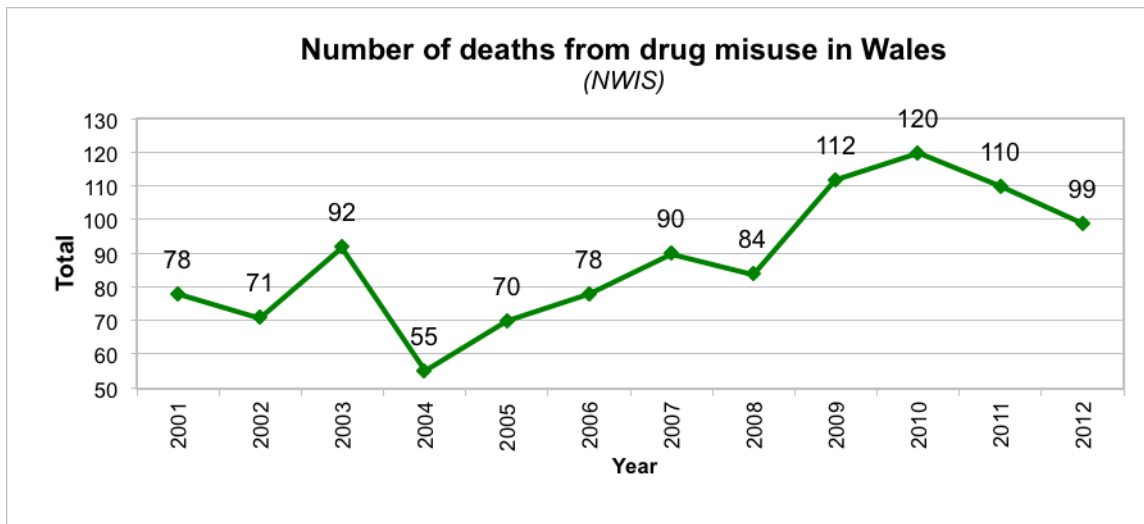
5. Death rate from alcohol (death rates - age standardised, per 100,000 population).

- *Provided by:* Health Maps Wales.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



6. Number of deaths from drug misuse in Wales.

- *Provided by:* ONS.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, removed. As this figure is for Wales, it has little value for us in RCT.



7. Number of people who engage with services, and complete a therapeutic programme.

8. Number / percentage of people reporting a reduction in their misuse of problematic substances between start of treatment, the most recent review and exit from treatment.

9. Number / percentage of people reporting that their quality of life has improved between start of treatment, the most recent review and exit from treatment.

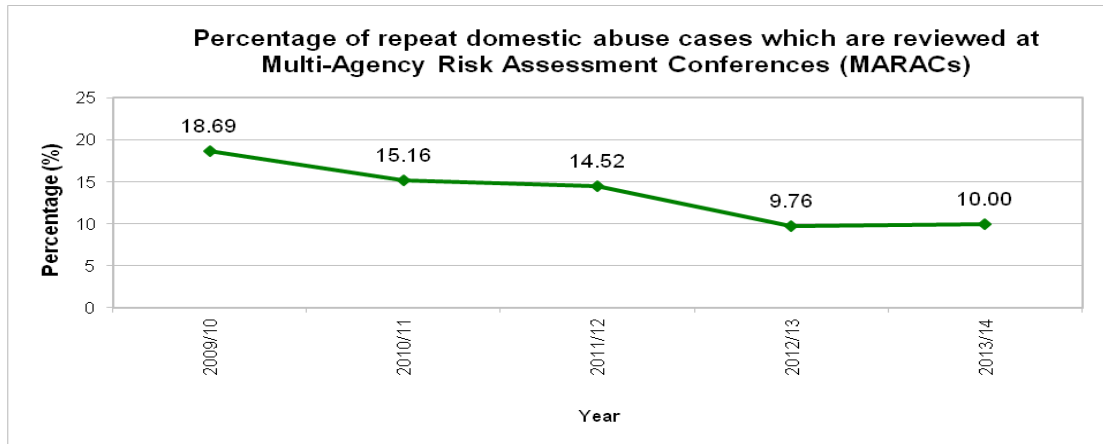
- *All Provided by:* Area Planning Board, through RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, changed to the following to reflect Council performance measures.

- Percentage of service users reporting a reduction in their substance misuse. (2012/13 data: 63%; 2013/14 data: 59%)
- Percentage of service users reporting an improvement in their quality of life. (2012/13 data: 55%; 2013/14 data: 53.81%)

Domestic abuse

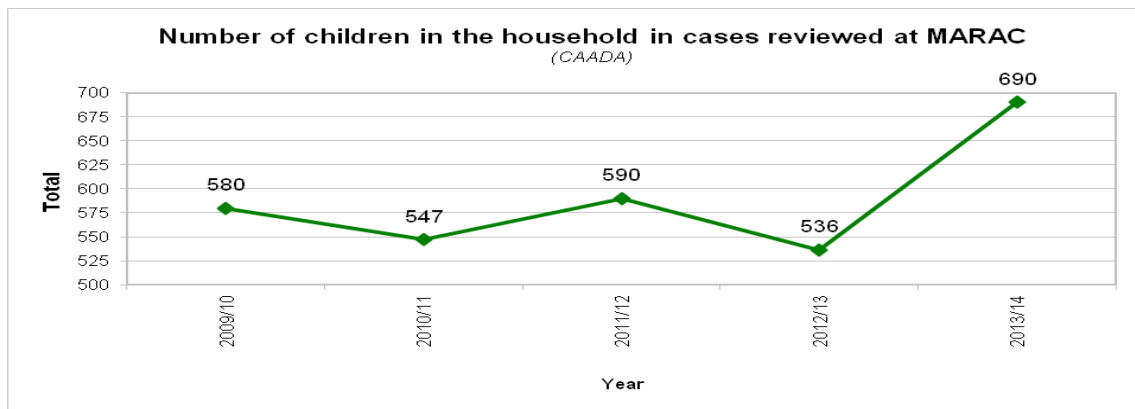
1. Percentage of repeat domestic abuse cases which are reviewed at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

- *Provided by:* MARAC Co-ordinator, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



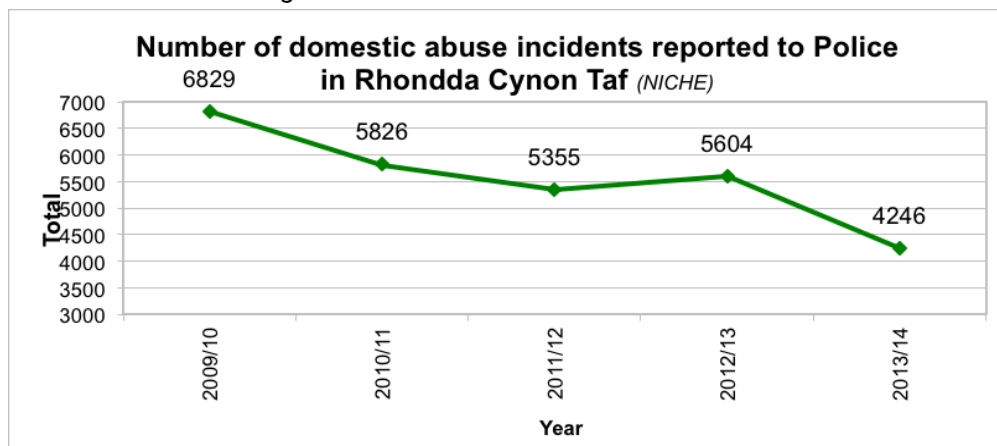
2. Number of children in the household in cases reviewed at MARAC.

- *Provided by:* MARAC Co-ordinator, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Police in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- *Provided by:* South Wales Police.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



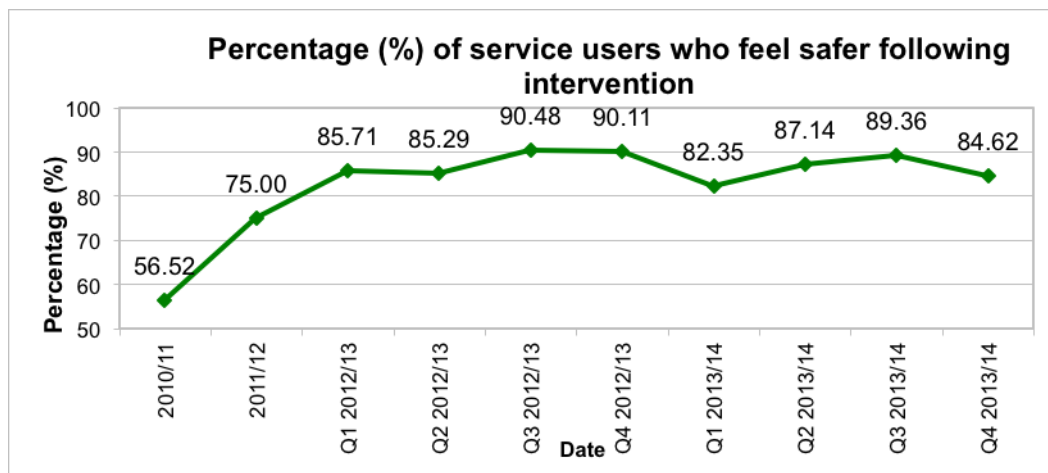
4. Proportion of Specialist Domestic Violence Court cases which result in a conviction in Pontypridd court.

- *Provided by:* Her Majesty's Court & Tribunals Service (HMCTS)
- *Frequency:* Monthly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

**During 2012/13 - 347 successful outcomes out of 406 cases finalised.
During 2013/14 - 398 successful outcomes out of 465 cases finalised.**

5. Percentage (%) of victims who feel safer after receiving a service (only currently measured through the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service).

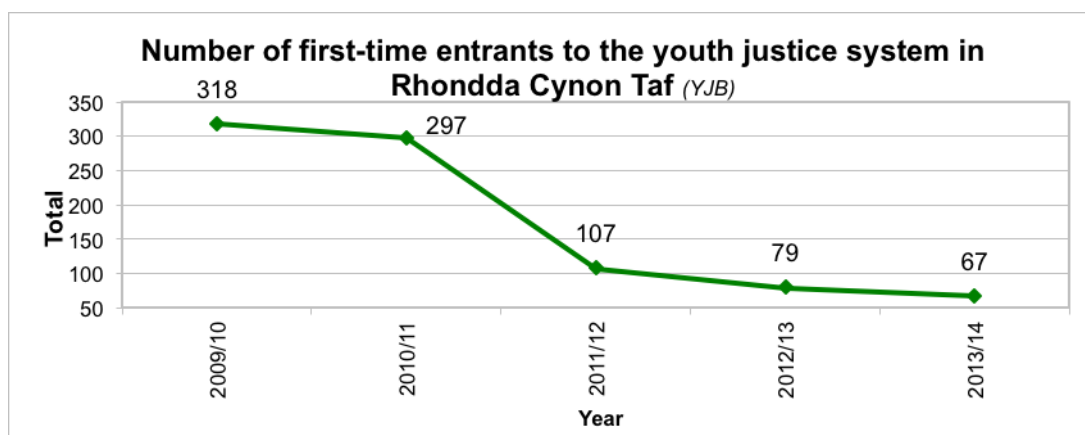
- *Provided by:* RCT CBC / CAADA.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



Offender Management

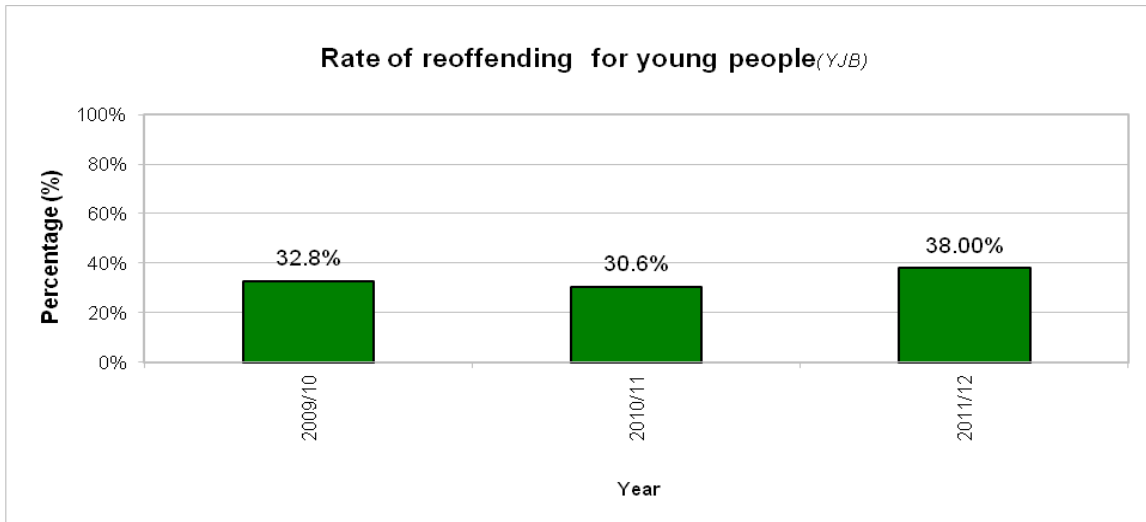
1. Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.

- *Provided by:* Youth Offending Service, Cwm Taf.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



2. Rate of reoffending: young people.

- *Provided by:* Youth Offending Service, Cwm Taf.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Rate of reoffending: adults.

- *Provided by:* N/A
- *Frequency:* N/A
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, removed. This data is not available. The data for Integrated Offender Management / Prolific Priority Offenders is more appropriate.

4. Number of individual offenders that have ceased / reduced offending behaviour whilst participating in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme.

- *Provided by:* N/A
- *Frequency:* N/A
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Full data for this measure is not available at present. Changes in the way the IOM and PPO schemes are run and monitored are taking place and thus, this information should soon be available.

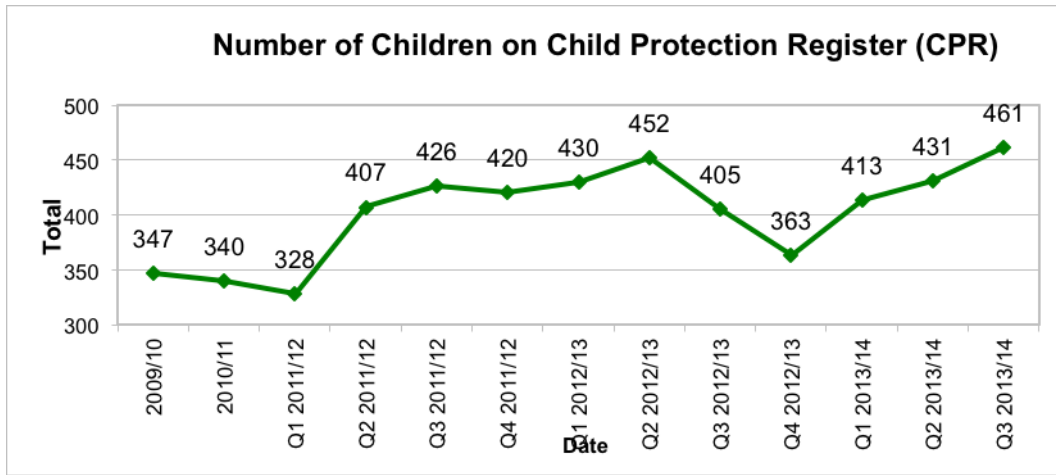
5. Number of individual offenders that have ceased / reduced offending behaviour whilst participating in the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) scheme.

- *Provided by:* N/A
- *Frequency:* N/A
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Full data for this measure is not available at present. Changes in the way the IOM and PPO schemes are run and monitored are taking place and thus, this information should soon be available.

Safeguarding

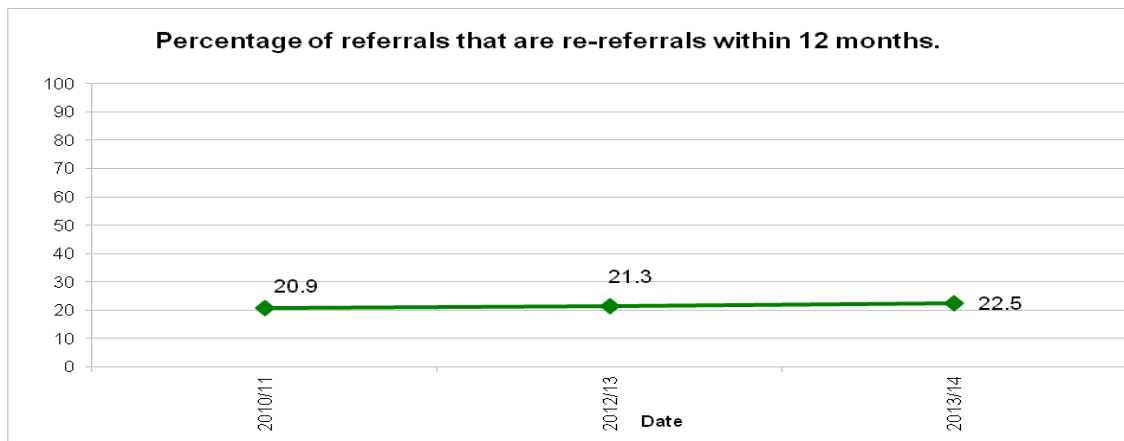
1. Number of children on the Child Protection Register.

- *Provided by:* Children's Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



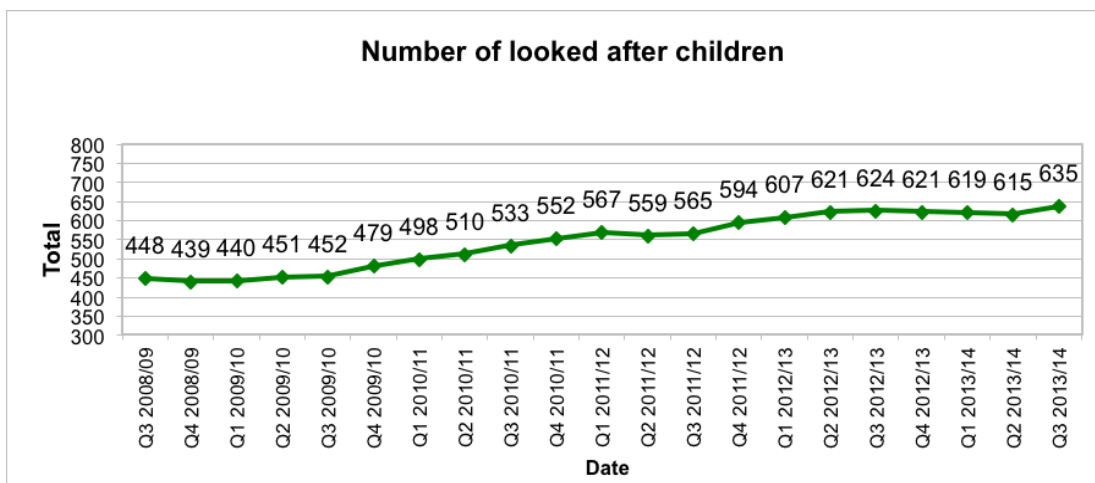
2. Number of children subject to repeat child protection referrals within 2 years.

- *Provided by:* Children's Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, changed to reflect Council measure i.e. "Percentage of referrals that are re-referrals within 12 months."



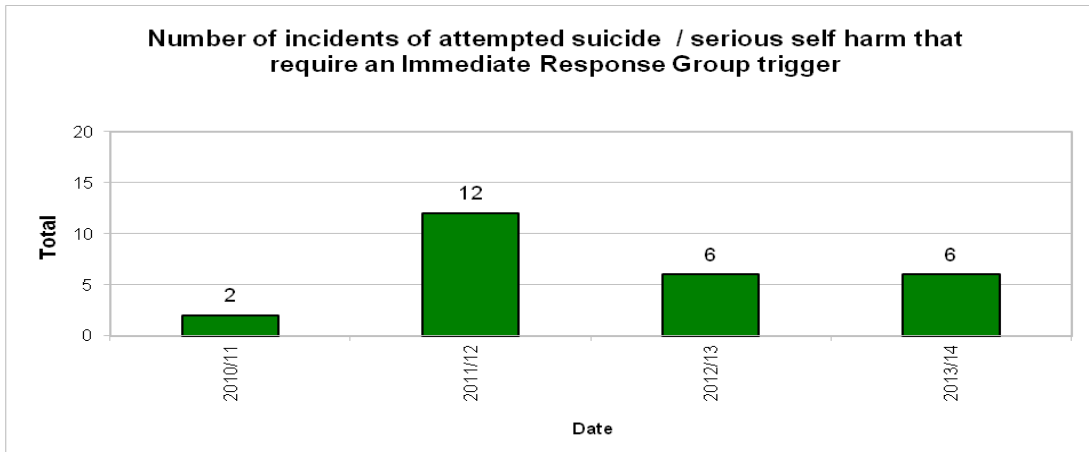
3. Number of looked after children.

- *Provided by:* Children's Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



4. Number of incidents of suicide / self harm that require and Immediate Response Group trigger.

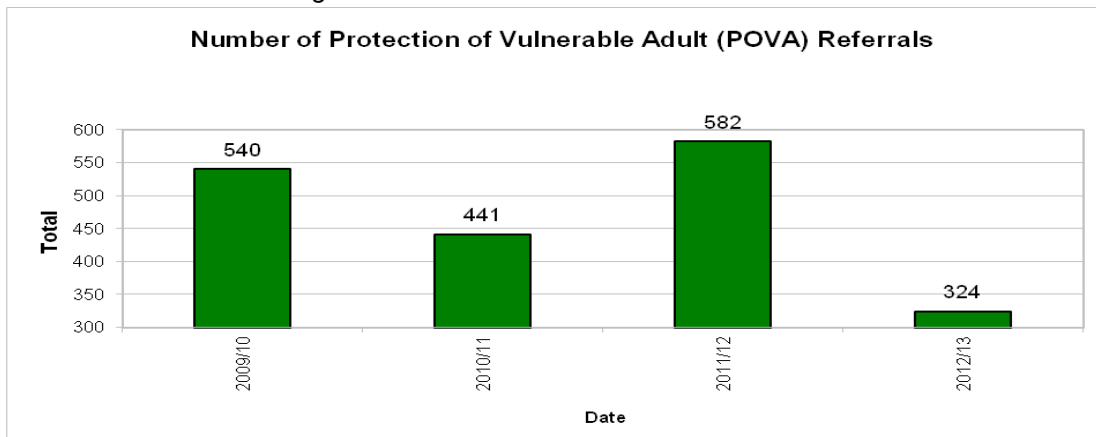
- *Provided by:* Children's Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



Note - *Data from 10/11 not full year (November onwards)

5. Number of Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) referrals.

- *Provided by:* Adult Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



6. Number of adults subject to repeat Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) referrals within 2 years.

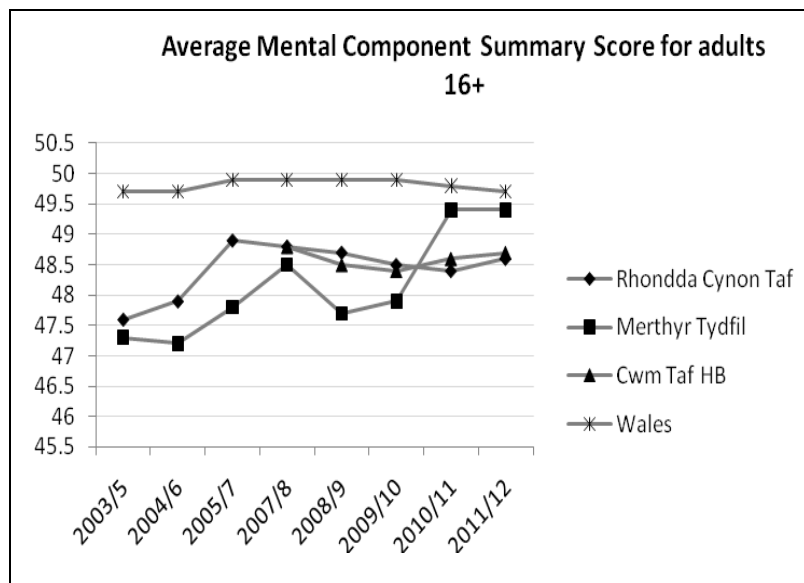
- *Provided by:* Adult Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, this has been removed as data is not yet available.

HEALTH

Emotional wellbeing & mental health

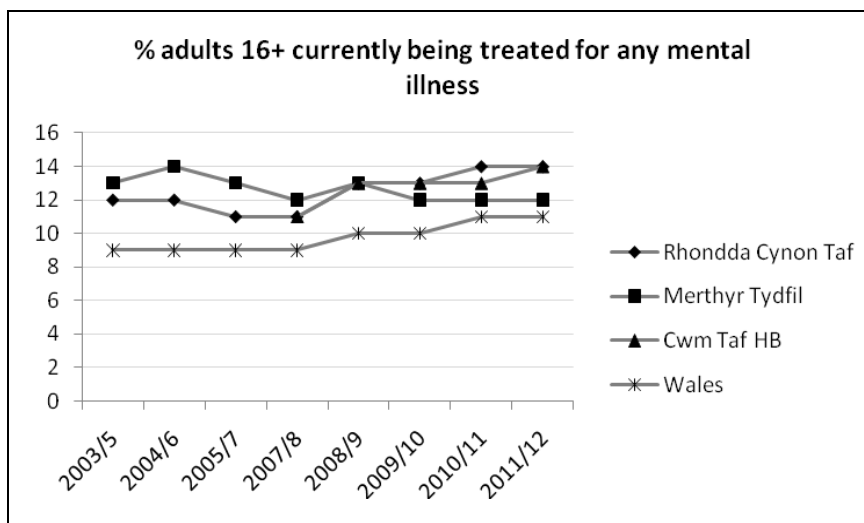
1. Average mental component score for Rhondda Cynon Taf and Wales (adults 16 years and over).

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



2. Percentage of adults (16 years old and over) reporting being treated for a mental illness.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Percentage of young people scoring 6 or higher in terms of life satisfaction in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children survey.

- *Provided by:* Health Behaviour in School Aged Children Survey.

- *Frequency:* Every 5 years.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

In 2010, 83% of the surveyed young people in Cwm Taf scored 6 or higher in terms of life satisfaction. This survey is only carried out every 5 years.

4. Percentage of young people, responding to the Viewpoint survey, reporting that they feel happy and hopeful.

- *Provided by:* Youth Service, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Bi-annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

The Viewpoint survey asks children and young people “Thinking about how you feel about life in general, how would you describe yourself over the last few months?” (numerator = 6,824 in 2010/11 and 5,888 in 2012/13)

Responses	2010/11 (%)	2012/13 (%)
I feel happy and hopeful most of the time	60	55
I feel OK about most things, but worried about other things	30	35
I often feel worried, upset or distressed about things	10	10
Total	100	100

(Viewpoint 2013, pp52)

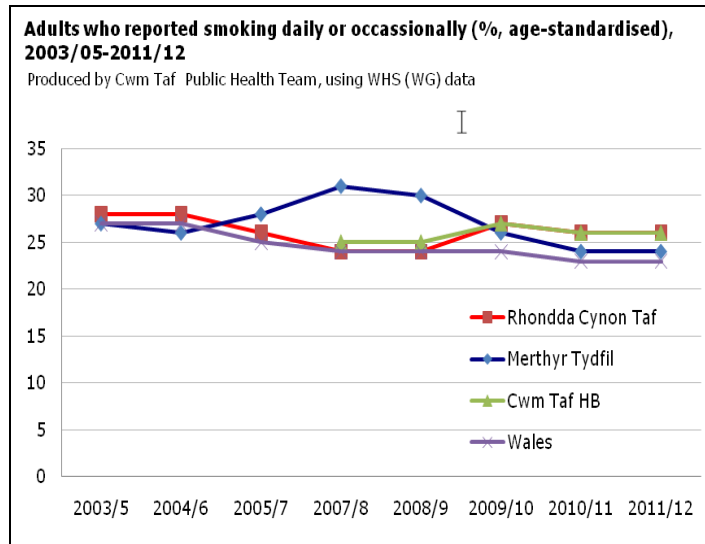
5. Number of General Practitioner practices that are able to provide specialist assessment and a stepped range of interventions to support patients experiencing 'mild to moderate' mental illness.

- *Provided by:* Cwm Taf University Health Board.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, as all GPs are now providing this service. Data continues to be collected for submission to the Cwm Taf Mental Health Partnership Board and Welsh Government.

Smoking

1. Percentage of adults who smoke (aged 16 years old and over).

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



2. Percentage of 15/16 year olds smoking weekly.

- *Provided by:* Health Behaviour in School Aged Children Survey.
- *Frequency:* Every 5 years.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, wording changed. See below.

Percentage of 11-16 year olds smoking weekly. (Health Behaviour in School Aged Children)

In 2010, 5% of the surveyed young people in Cwm Taf reported smoking at least once a week. This survey is only carried out every 5 years and has relatively small sample sizes.

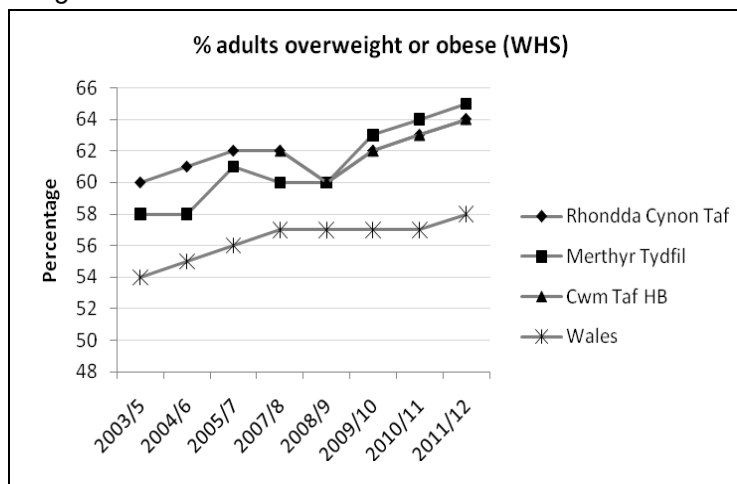
3. Percentage of women smoking during pregnancy.

- *Provided by:* Public Health Wales.
- *Frequency:* Frequency sporadic.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, reviewed for frequency.

Obesity

1. Percentage of adult population who are overweight or obese.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

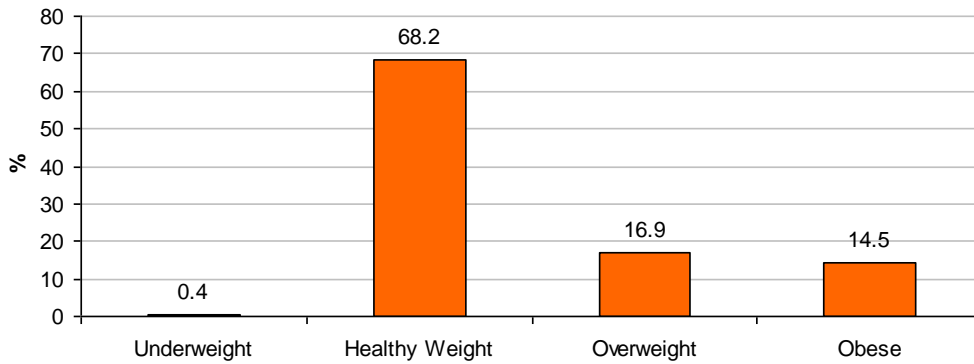


2. Percentage of children and young people who are overweight or obese.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.

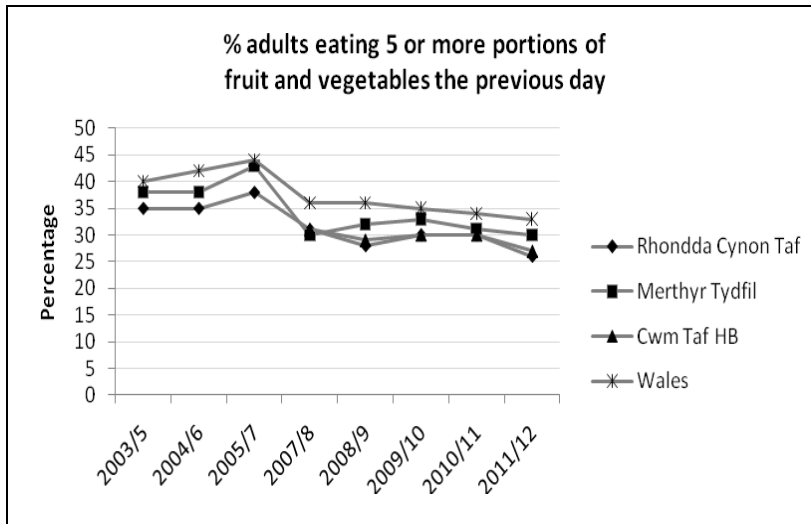
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes. This measure has been replaced with the new Childhood Measurement Programme.

Childhood Measurement Programme (children aged 4 - 5 years old) 2011/12



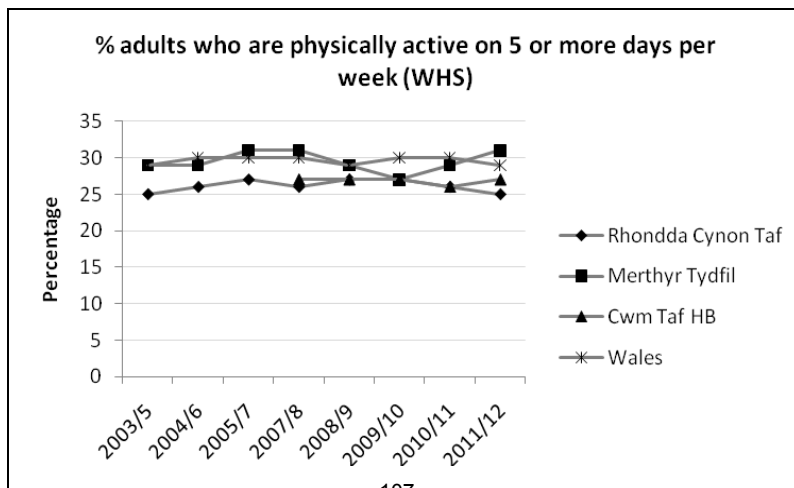
3. Percentage of people eating 5 or more fruit or vegetables per day.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



4. Percentage of adults meeting physical activity guidelines.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



5. Percentage of young people meeting physical activity guidelines.

- *Provided by:* Viewpoint / Health Behaviour in School Aged Children Survey.
- *Frequency:* Bi-annual / every 5 years.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

Percentage (%) of young people meeting physical activity guidelines (5 sessions of 60 minutes in the past week).

In 2010/11, the *Health Behaviour in School Aged Children* survey reported that **41%** of children and young people met the physical activity guidelines across Cwm Taf. In the same year, the *Viewpoint* survey found that only **26%** of children and young people surveyed met the same guidelines.

The below shows the results of the 2012/13 *Viewpoint* survey.

In an average week, on how many occasions do you participate in physical activity / exercise for a total of 60 minutes? (numerator = 6213-6265)

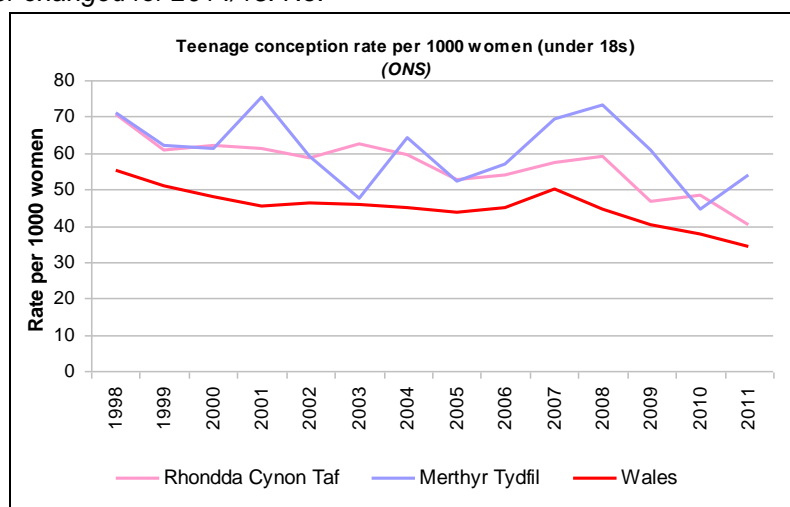
Responses	None	About half an hour	About an hour	More than an hour	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Monday	25	26	23	26	100
Tuesday	25	24	24	26	100
Wednesday	26	23	24	27	100
Thursday	26	24	23	28	100
Friday	28	24	22	27	100
Saturday	26	21	19	34	100
Sunday	30	21	19	29	100

Viewpoint 2012/13 (pp48)

Sexual health

1. Teenage conception rate of young people under the age of 18 years old.

- *Provided by:* Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



2. Percentage of the population aged under 25 years old diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).

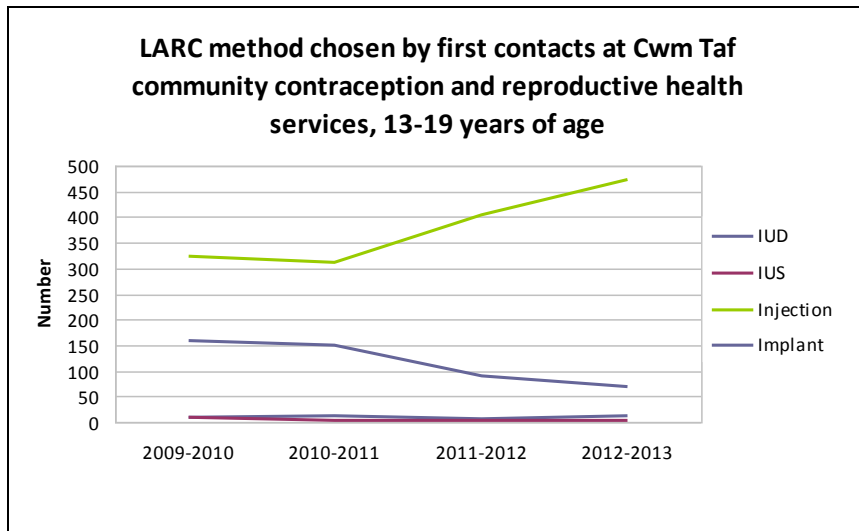
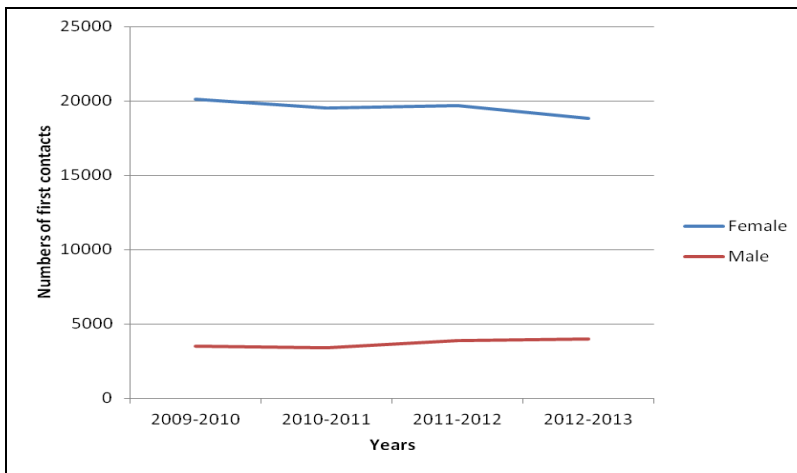
- *Provided by:* Public Health.
- *Frequency:* Annual.

- *Removed or changed for 2014/15: Yes. This measure has been removed, as valid data is only available at an all Wales level.*

3. Number of young people accessing contraceptive services.

- *Provided by: Welsh Health Survey.*
- *Frequency: Annual.*
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15: Yes, this is just the below measure. The measure that counts Long Acting Reversible Contraception methods chosen is thought to be a better measure. Both are shown below.*

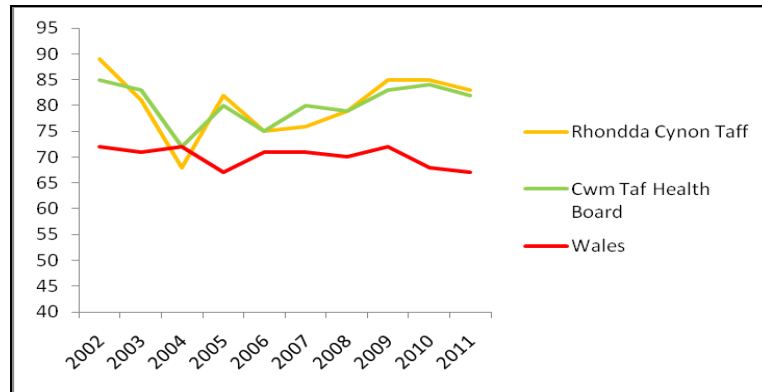
Attendance at community contraception and reproductive health services, 15-24 years of age, 2009-2013, Cwm Taf



Vulnerable Children & Families.

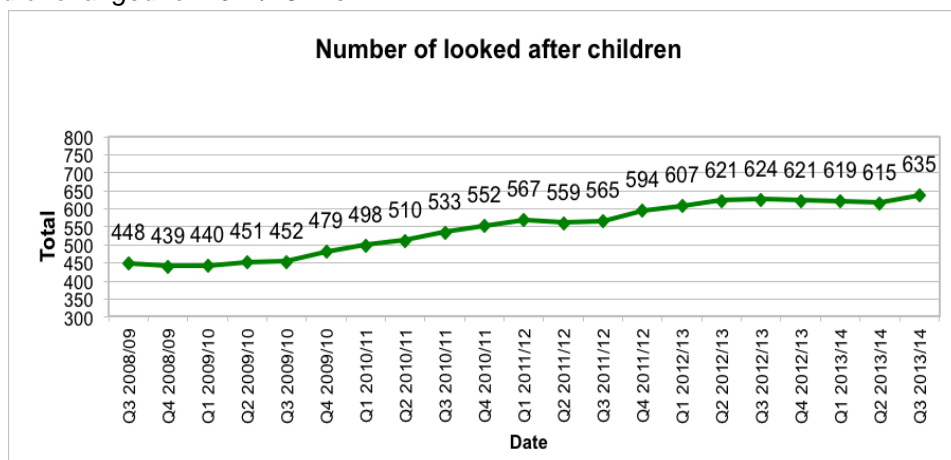
1. Percentage of low birth weight babies.

- *Provided by: Health Maps Wales.*
- *Frequency: Annual.*
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15: No.*



2. Number of children becoming looked after.

- *Provided by:* Children’s Services, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Percentage of children entitled to Flying Start part-time childcare that take up their entitlement.

- *Provided by:* RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes This measure appears in the Wales Programme for Improvement Children’s Services Plan as “Percentage of children taking up their Flying Start entitlement”. This was a new measure for 2012/13.

For 2013/14, 84.65% children took up their Flying Start entitlement.

4. Percentage (%) of children and young people demonstrating positive health outcomes following TAF.

- *Provided by:* RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No, in development.

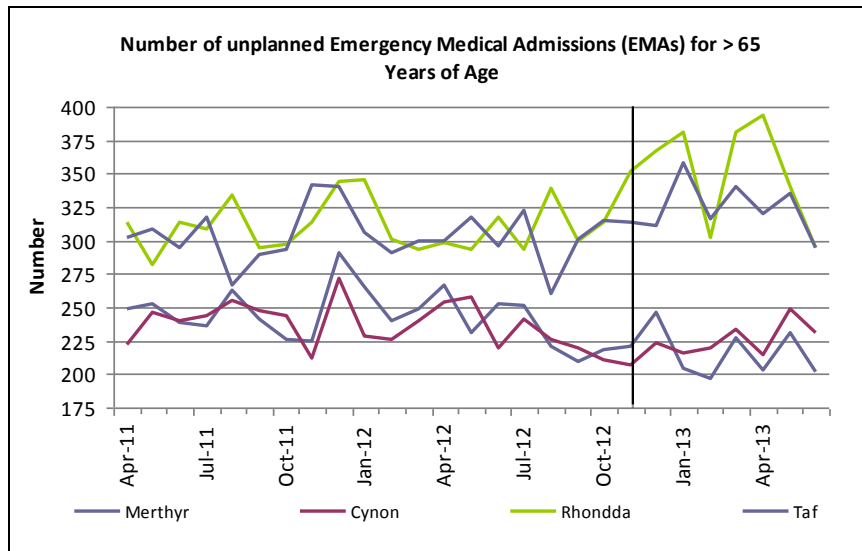
5. Percentage (%) of children and young people demonstrating improved parenting following TAF.

- *Provided by:* RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Quarterly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No, in development.

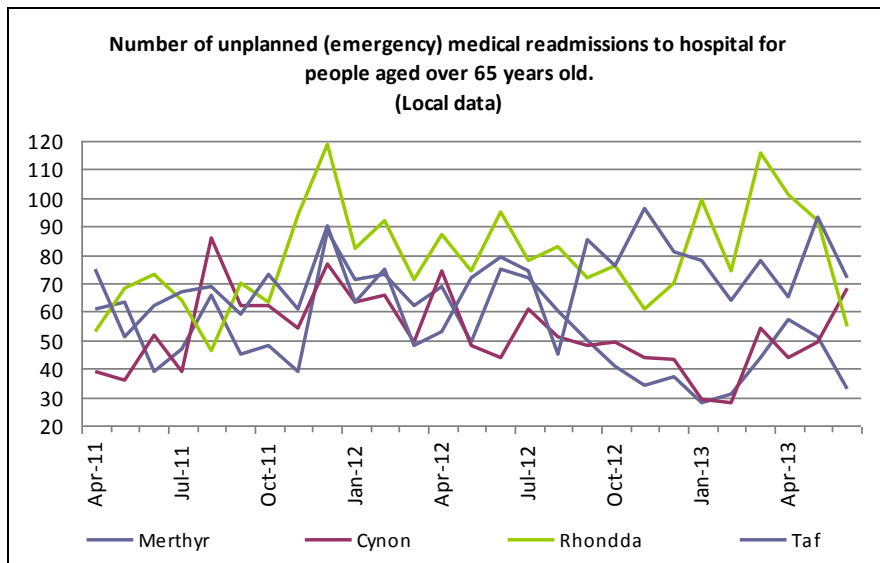
Vulnerable Adults

1. Number of unplanned medical admissions / readmissions to hospital for people aged 65 years old and over.

- *Provided by:* Cwm Taf Health Board.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, this has been split into two measures, see below.

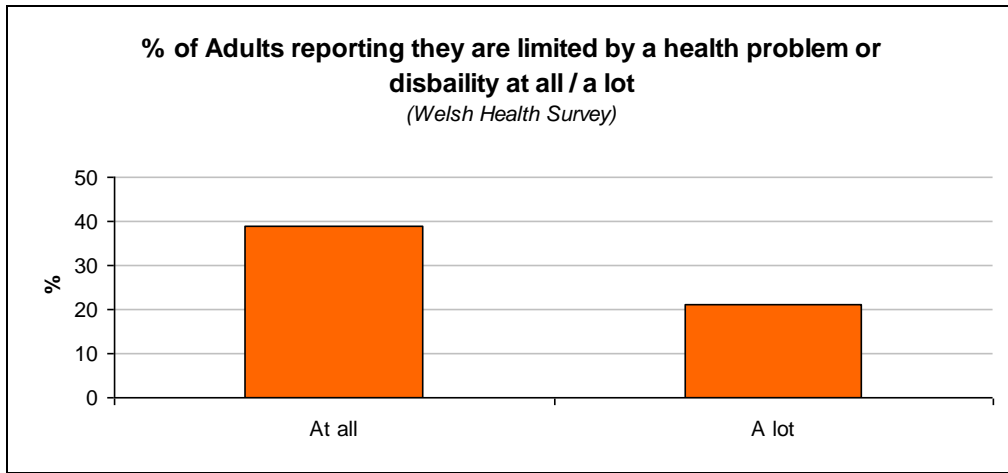


The black line denotes the start of the '@home' service.



2. Percentage of people reporting limiting long-term illness.

- *Provided by:* Welsh Health Survey.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, wording changed in survey, see below.



(Due to a change in the question asked, this data is not comparable to previous years)

3. Differences in dependency levels before and after a reablement service.

- *Provided by* :N/A
- *Frequency*: N/A.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15*: **Not yet available.**

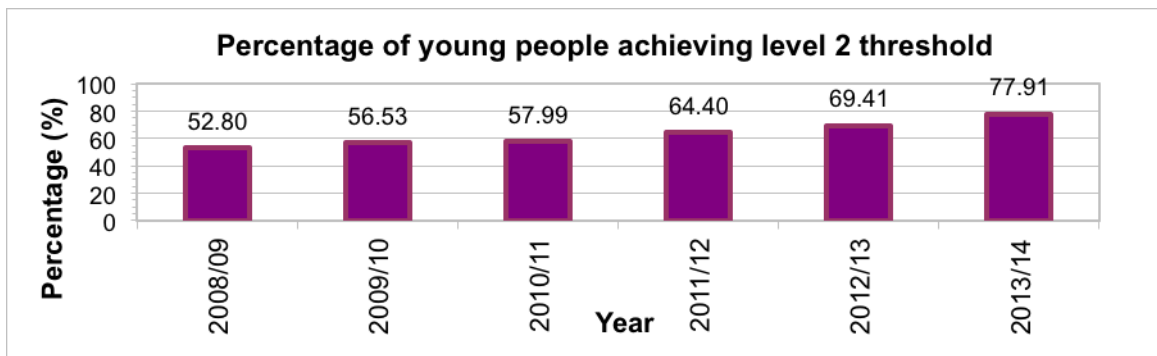
PROSPERITY

Education & Employability

Note: Education data is for the previous academic year.

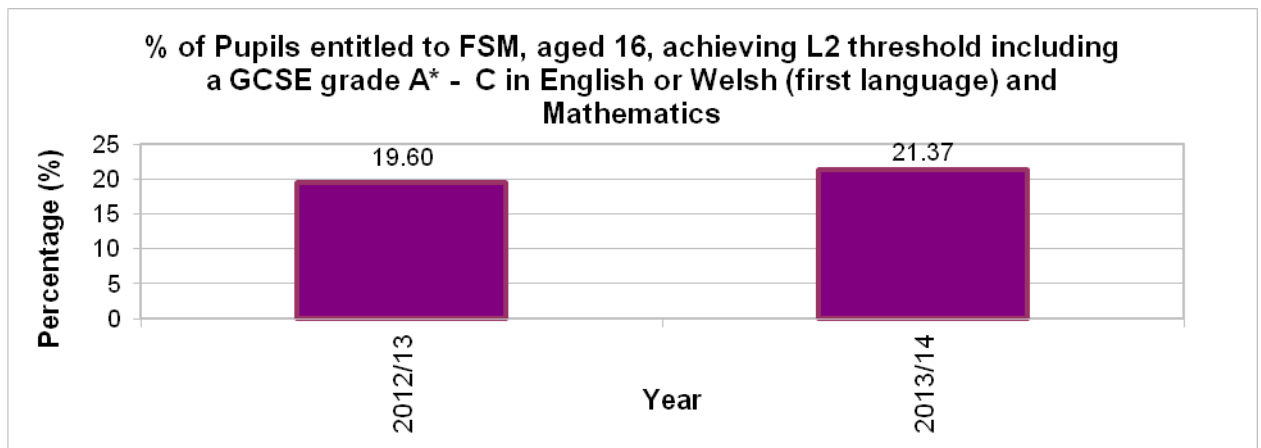
1. Percentage of young people achieving level 2 threshold.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



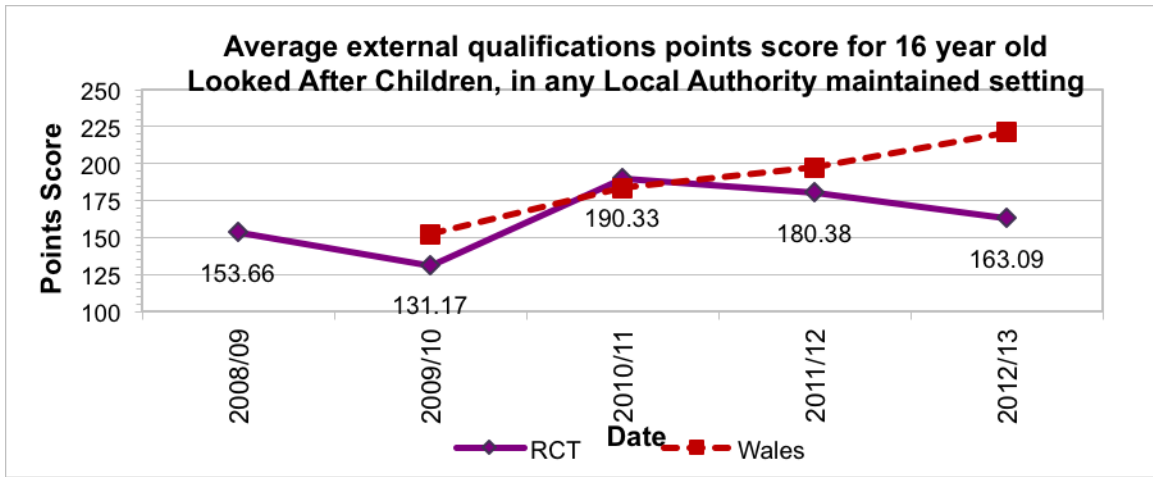
2. Percentage of young people achieving level 2 threshold, who are eligible for free school meals.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Percentage of young people achieving level 2 threshold, who are looked after.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes. Available measure is below.

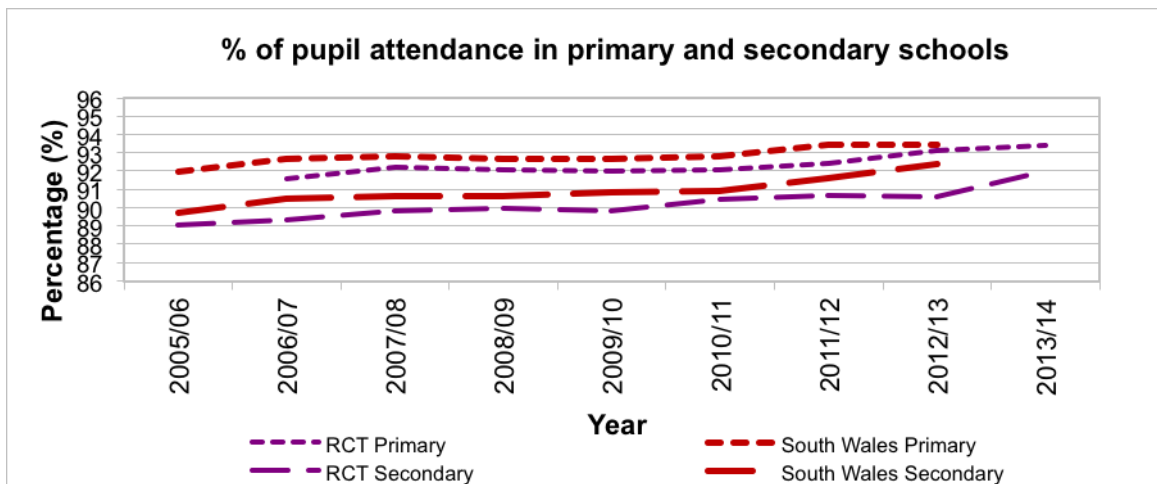


4. Percentage of pupils at the end of year 6 that have a reading age / numeracy score at or above their chronological age / expected level.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, to “percentage of primary school pupils with a standardised score of 95 or more in National Reading Tests in English.”

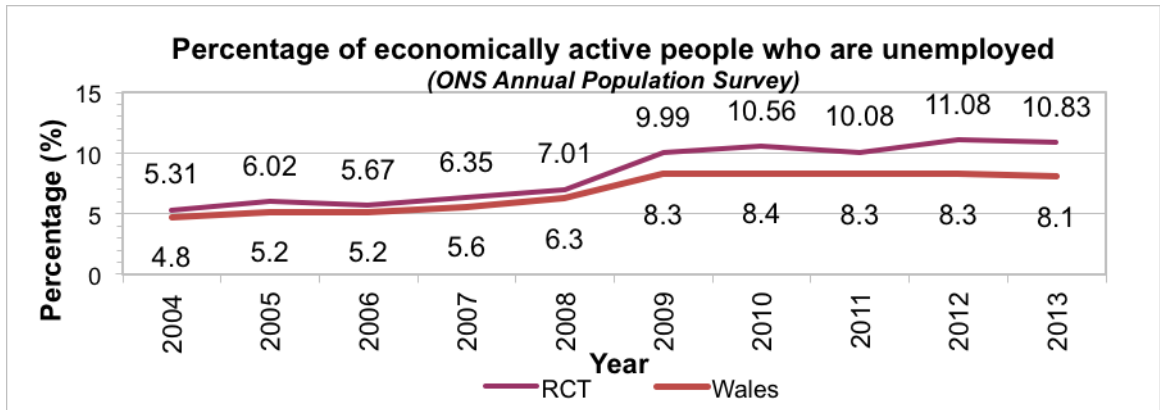
5. Average attendance rate of children in primary and secondary schools.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, to “percentage of pupils attendance in primary and secondary schools”.



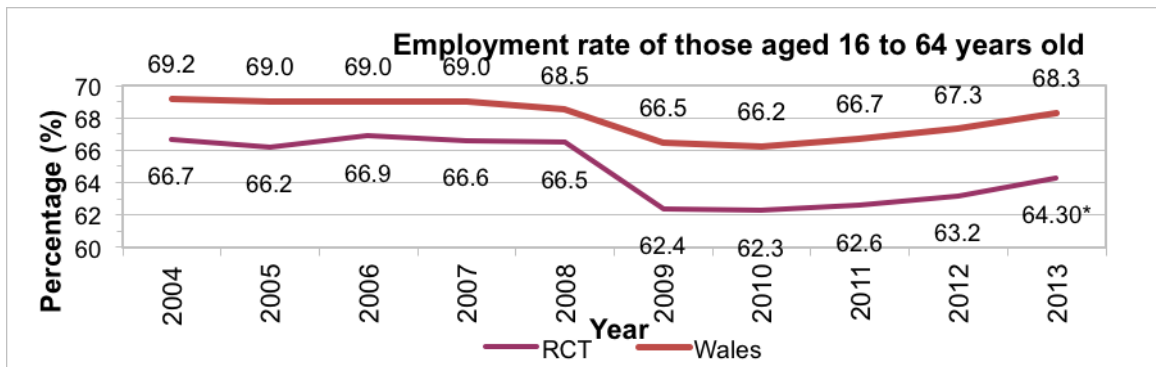
6. Percentage of economically active people who are unemployed (Jan – Dec).

- *Provided by:* Cwm Taf Data Observatory.
- *Frequency:* Monthly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



7. Employment rate of those aged 16-64 years old (Jan – Dec).

- *Provided by:* Cwm Taf Data Observatory.
- *Frequency:* Monthly.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



8. Percentage of young people aged 16-18 years old who are NEET.

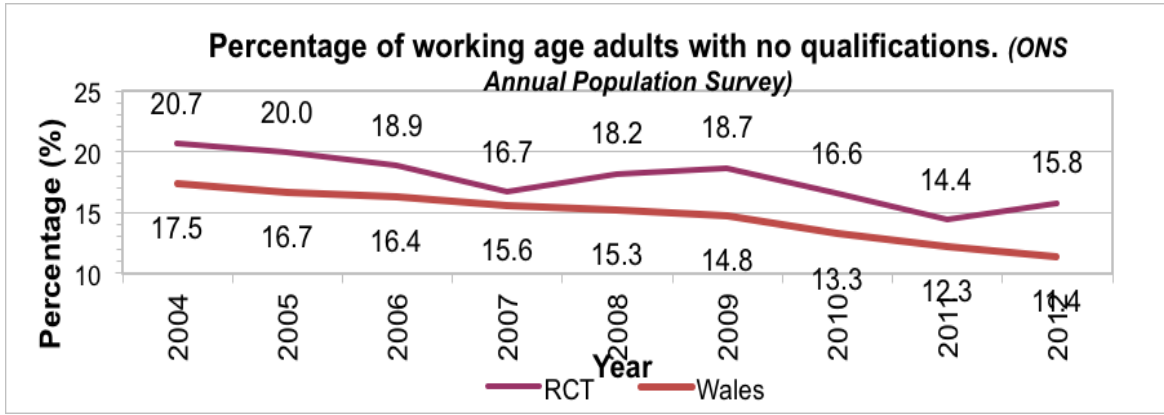
- *Provided by:* Careers Wales, included in WPI Education Plan.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

For the academic year 2012/13, the percentage of 16 year olds leaving school known not to be in education, employment or training was 4.1% (a 0.5% drop from the year before).

The percentage of 18 year olds leaving known not to be in education, employment or training was 5.6% (a 3.4% drop from the year before).

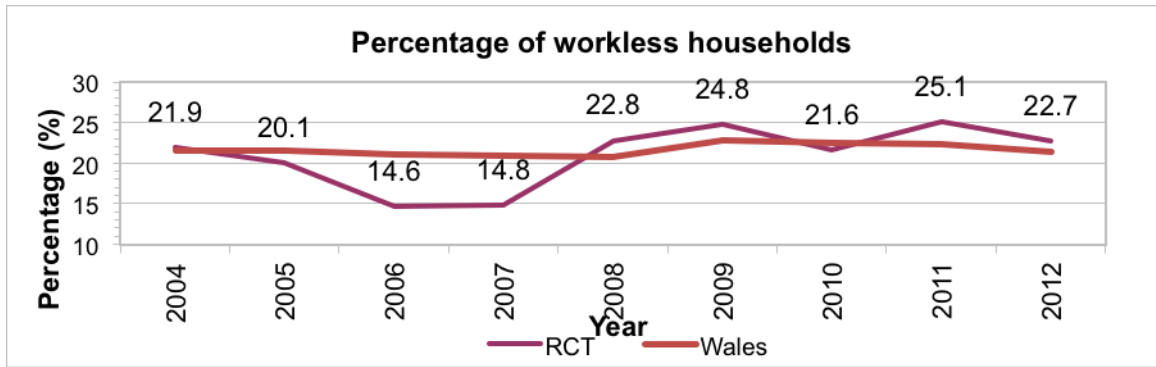
9. Percentage of working age adults with no qualifications.

- *Provided by:* Cwm Taf Data Observatory.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



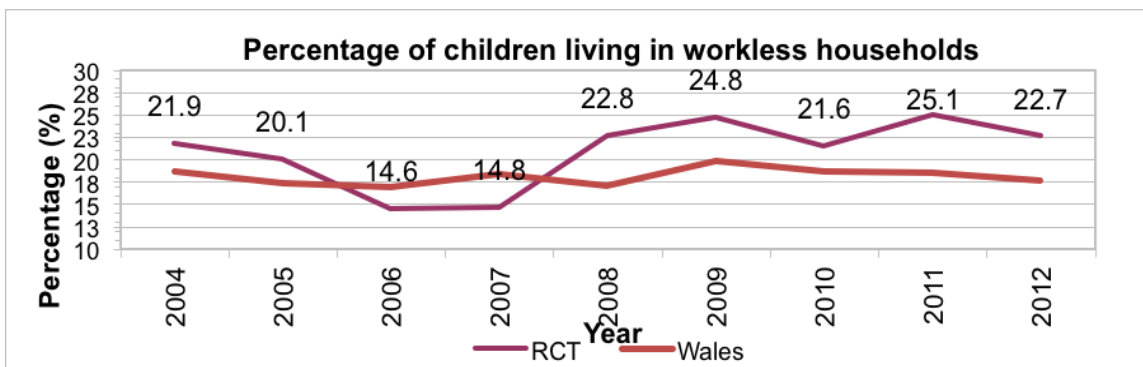
10. Percentage of workless households.

- *Provided by:* Office for National Statistics.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



11. Percentage of children living in workless households.

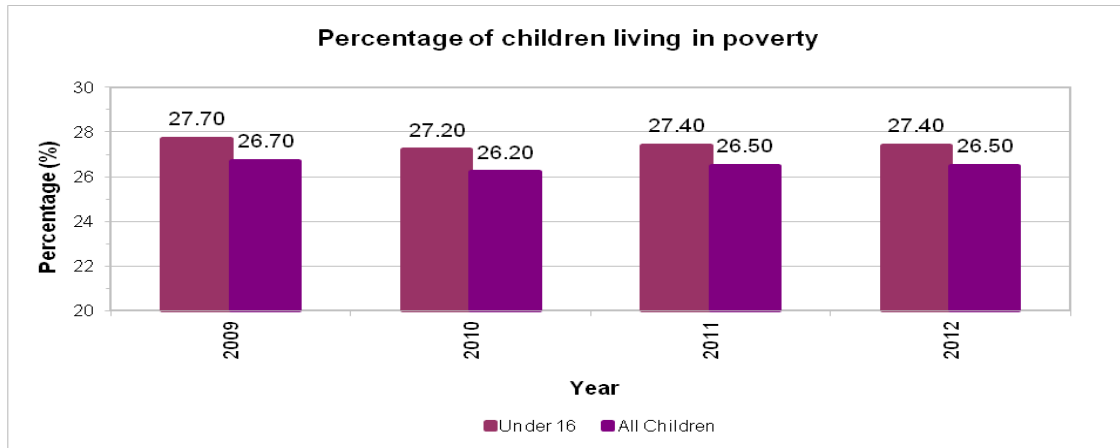
- *Provided by:* Office for National Statistics.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



Supporting people in financial need.

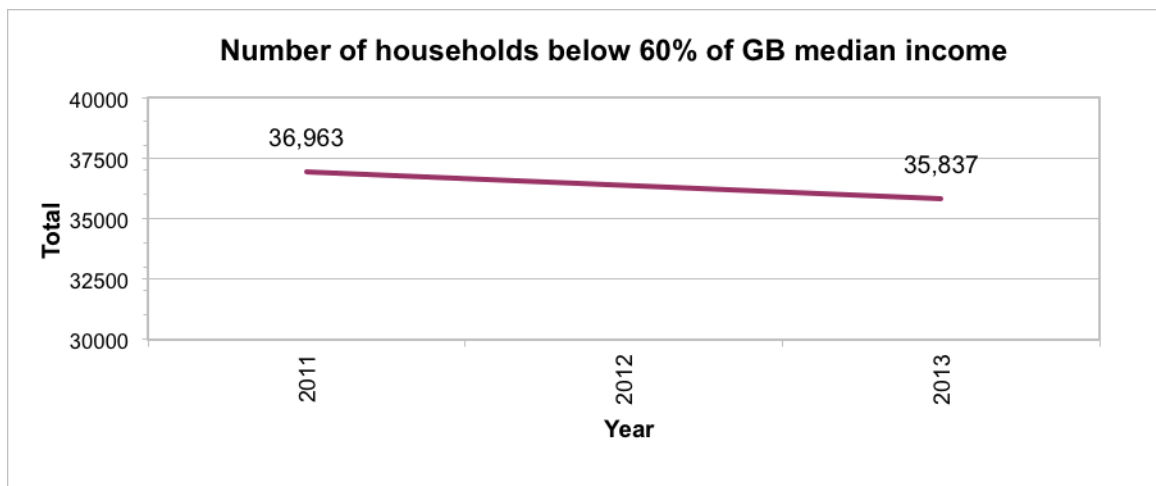
1. Percentage of children living in poverty.

- *Provided by:* Education, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, this measure looks at the percentage of children living in households below 60% of median income.



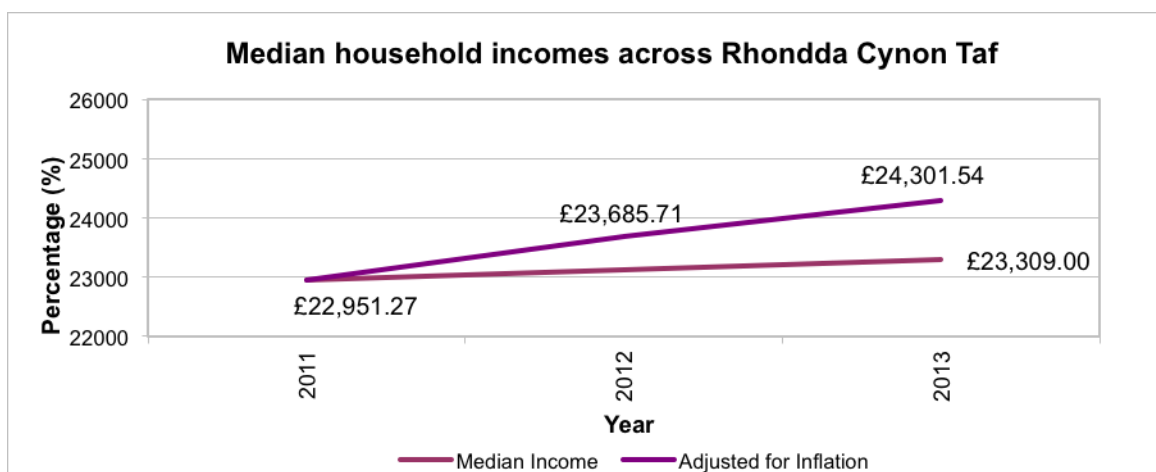
2. Percentage of people living in relative income poverty.

- *Provided by:* CACI Paycheck data.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, changed to “number of households below 60% of GB median income”.



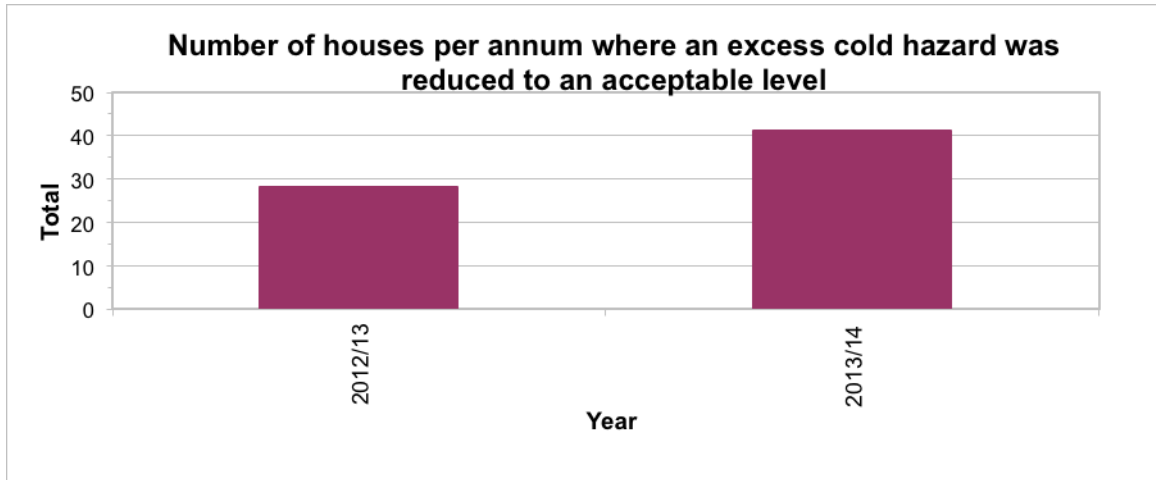
3. Average household income across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- *Provided by:* CACI Paycheck data.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, changed to “median household income”.



4. Number of houses per annum where an excess cold hazard was reduced to an acceptable level.

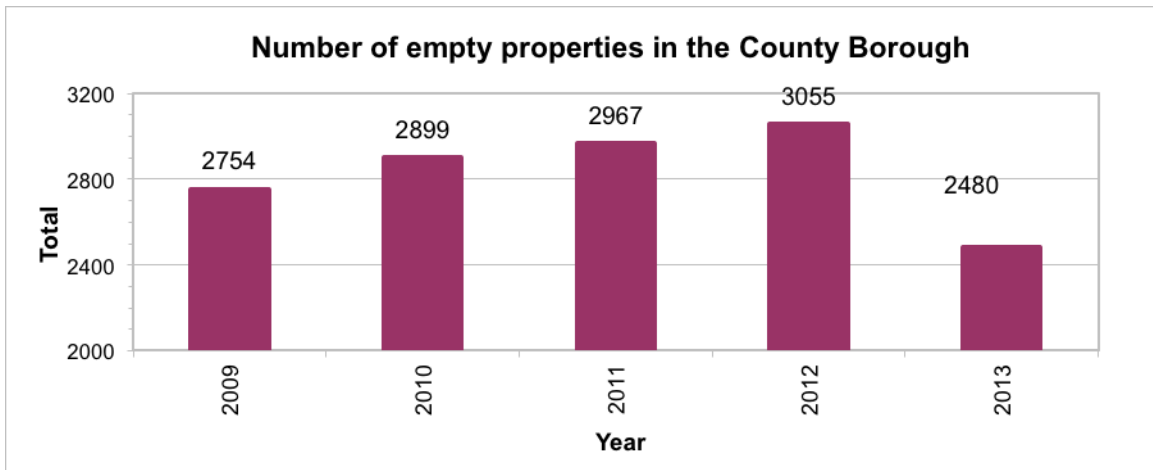
- *Provided by:* Housing, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



Homes & Communities

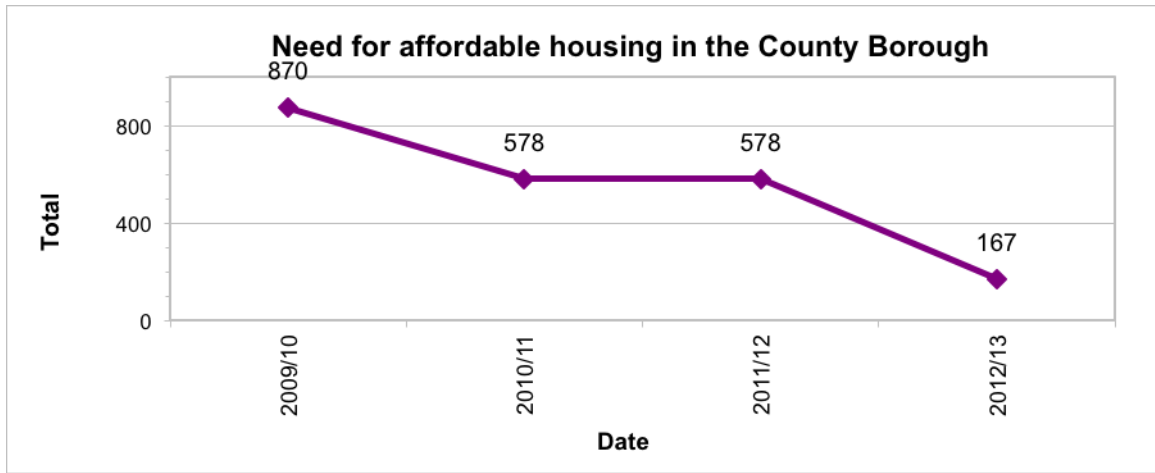
1. Number of empty properties in the County Borough.

- *Provided by:* Housing, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, change wording – “Number of private sector empty properties in the County Borough (1st April snapshot)”



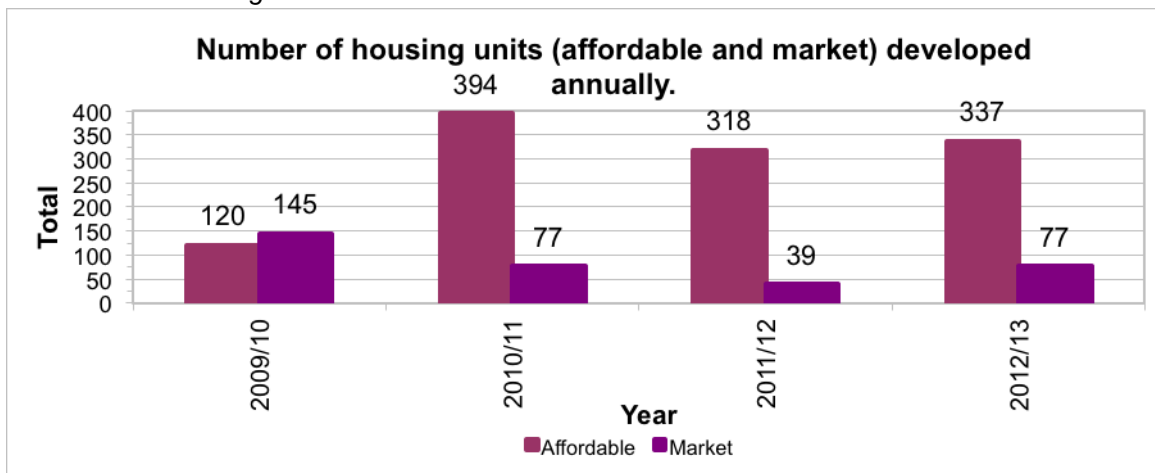
2. Need for affordable housing in the County Borough.

- *Provided by:* Housing, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



3. Number of housing units developed annually.

- *Provided by:* Joint Housing Land Availability Survey (RCT CBC).
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



4. Percentage of respondents satisfied with the cleanliness of their community.

- *Provided by:* Residents' Survey, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, under review depending on residents' survey.

5. Percentage of respondents who strongly agree / agree to statements about their local area.

- *Provided by:* Residents' Survey, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, under review depending on residents' survey.

6. Percentage of young people who reported they are asked their views on things that affect them most / some of the time.

- *Provided by:* Viewpoint, RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Bi-annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.

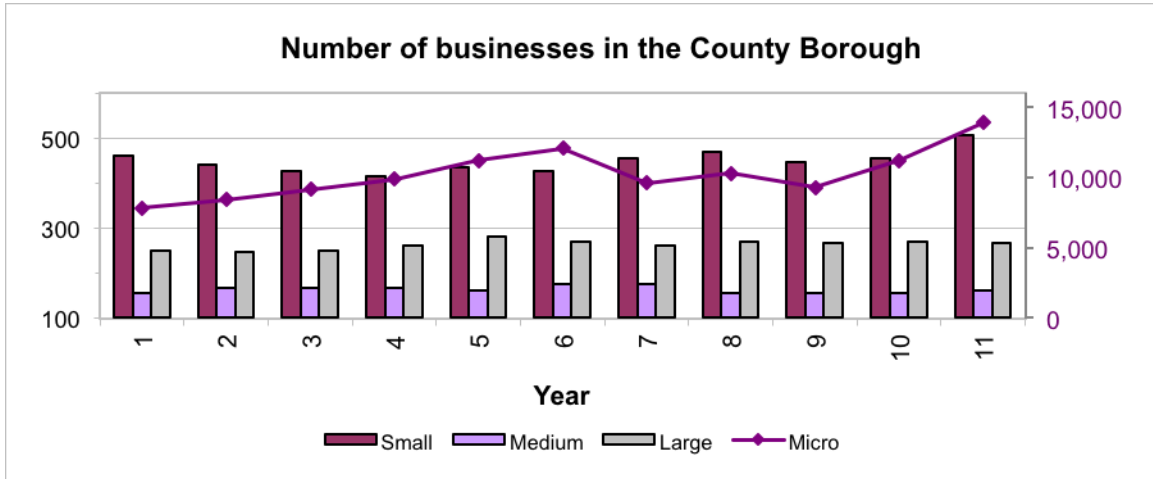
During 2013, of 5,562 young people responding, **42%** said they *did* get asked their views about the things that affected them, 'most of the time' or 'some of the time'.

However, again only **10%** stated that this happened 'most of the time' and **28%** said 'not at all'.

Economy

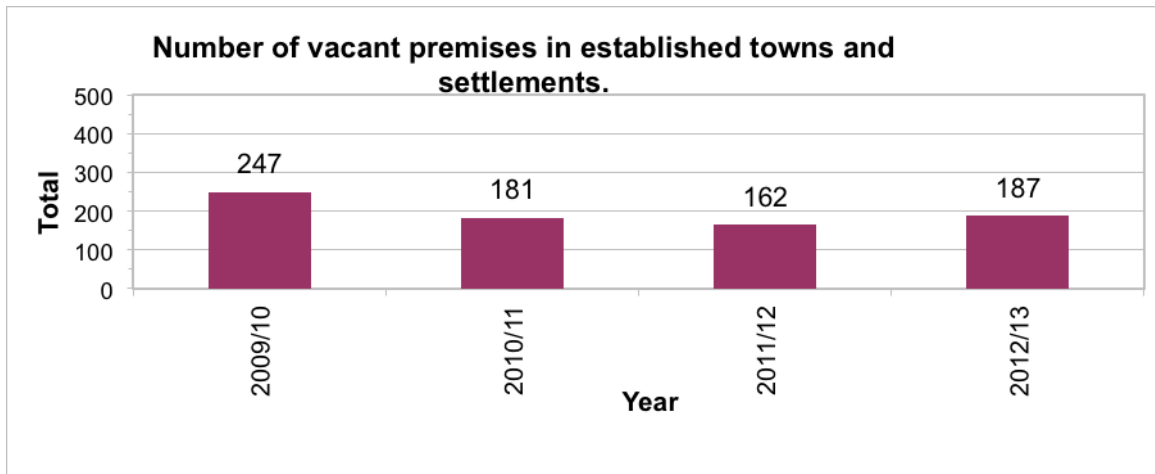
1. Number of businesses in the County Borough.

- *Provided by:* Stats Wales.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, change wording – “Number of enterprises in RCT by employment size band.”



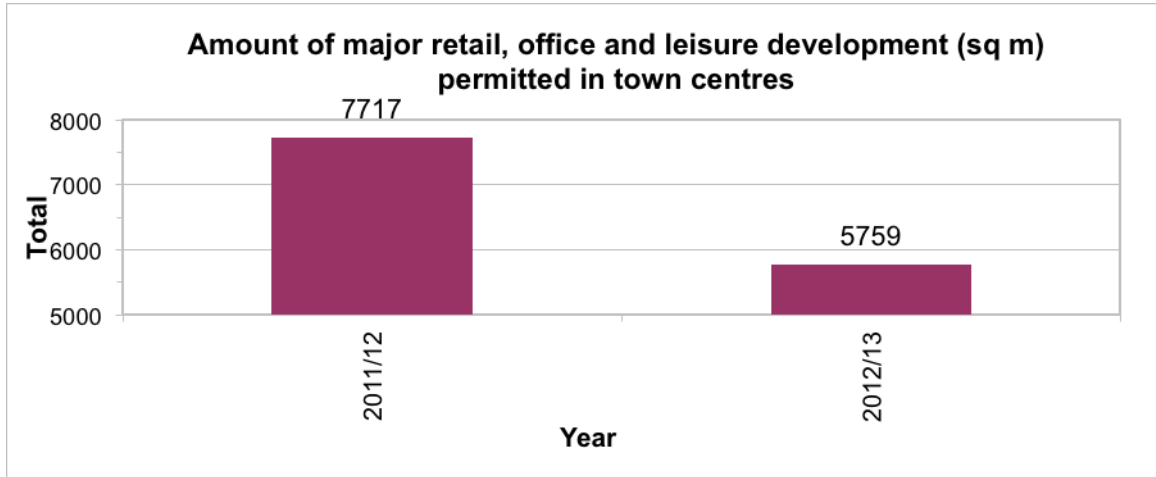
2. Number of vacant retail premises in established towns and settlements.

- *Provided by:* RCT CBC.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



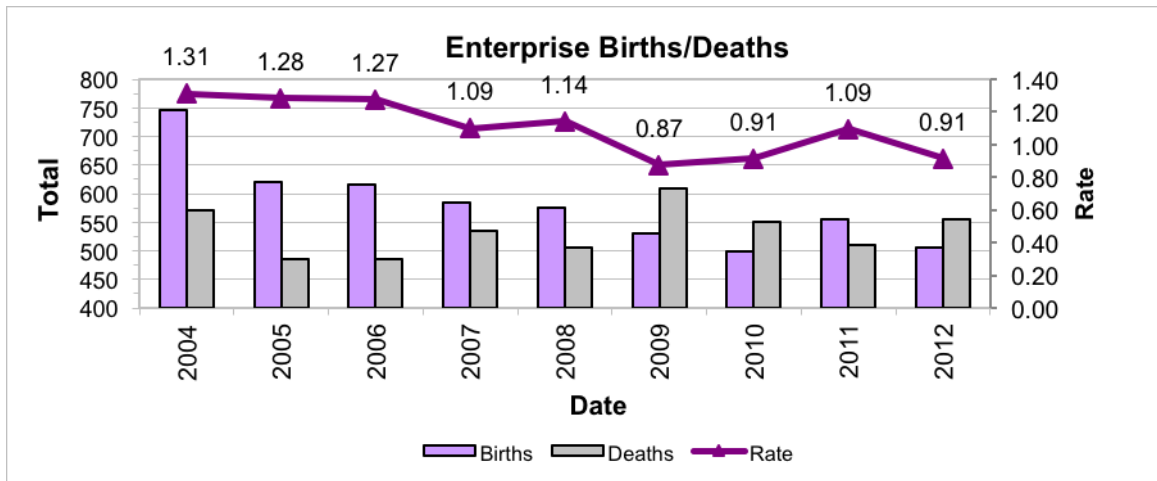
3. Amount of new floor space permitted and / or developed in major commercial developments in Rhondda Cynon Taf per annum.

- *Provided by:* Local Development Plan reporting (RCT CBC).
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* Yes, wording changed to “Amount of major retail, office and leisure development (sq m) permitted in town centres.”



4. The rate of births (start ups) and deaths (closures) of small-to-medium enterprises.

- *Provided by:* Office for National Statistics.
- *Frequency:* Annual.
- *Removed or changed for 2014/15:* No.



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