

Local Government Performance 2011-12

We are pleased to present this, the seventh annual bulletin on local authority performance. This bulletin contains information on a range of local authority services. We have used the data to highlight the overall level and range of performance across Wales. The full data set is available on our website.

Overall performance

74% (28) of the 38 indicators which are comparable between 2010-11 and 2011-12 show improvement.

The gap in performance (between the best and worst performing authorities) narrowed in 55% (21) of the indicators.

Service improvement

Local authorities are often one of the largest employers in an area and provide a range of services for the communities they serve. The table below shows how these services performed in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.

Service Area	No of comparable indicators	% of indicators where performance improved	% of indicators where the gap narrowed
Education	9	89%	67%
Social Care	16	63%	44%
Housing	4	75%	50%
Environment & Transport	5	60%	60%
Planning & Regulatory Services	2	100%	100%
Leisure & Culture	2	100%	50%
Overall	38	74%	55%

On the following pages you will find information on the performance of local authorities as they deliver important outcomes for our communities.

Note

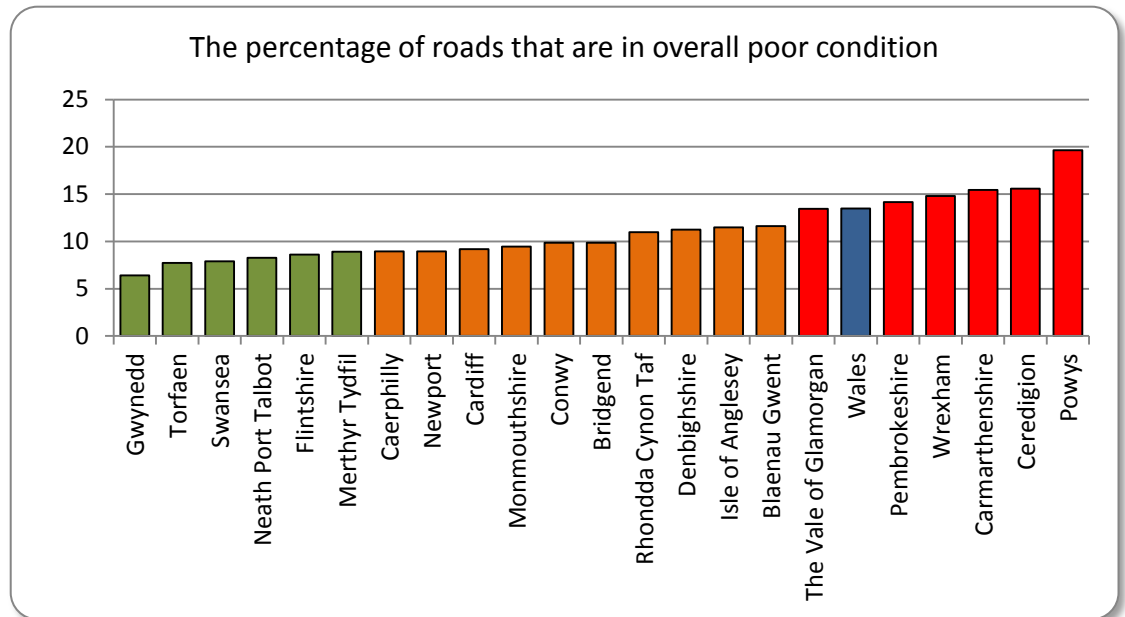
- Performance indicator titles have been simplified to aid understanding;
- We have rounded the data where this makes comparison easier;
- Authority names shown with a '*' indicate that the data has been qualified by the Wales Audit Office. There may be concerns over the accuracy of such data.

Providing a clean and safe environment...

Local authorities ensure that the places where we live and work are clean and safe.

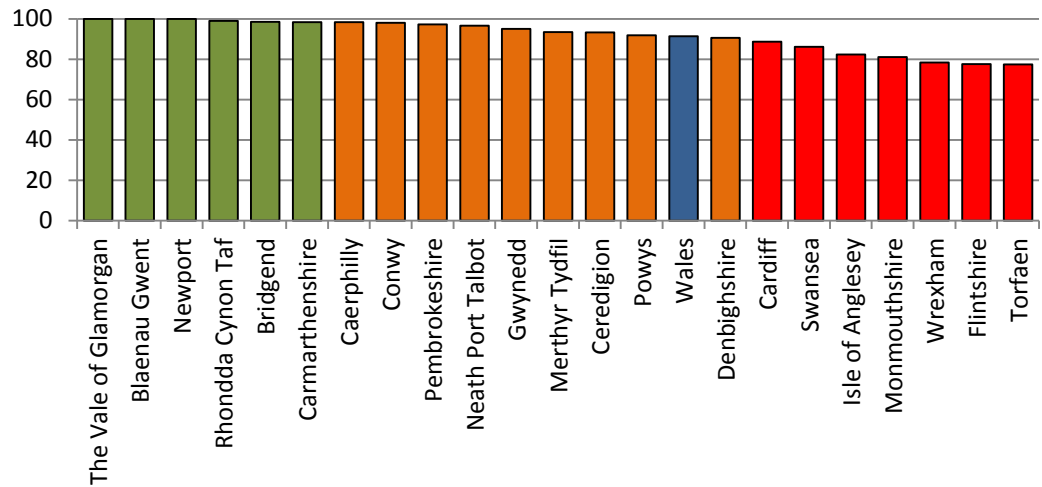
95.4% of highways and relevant land inspected was of a high or acceptable quality in 2011-12 (compared to 93.8% in 2010-11). This ranged from 83.3% in Blaenau Gwent to 100.0% in Torfaen.

In 2011-12, 13.5% of our roads were in an overall "poor" condition. This ranged from 6.4% in Gwynedd to 19.6% in Powys.



Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which can cause long lasting contamination, pollution and put human health at risk. Local authorities are required to clean up small scale fly-tipping incidents on public land within five days of them being reported. In 2011-12, 91.4% of fly-tipping incidents reported to local authorities were cleared within five working days (compared to 95.5% in 2010-11). This ranged from 77.4% in Torfaen to 100.0% in The Vale of Glamorgan and Blaenau Gwent.

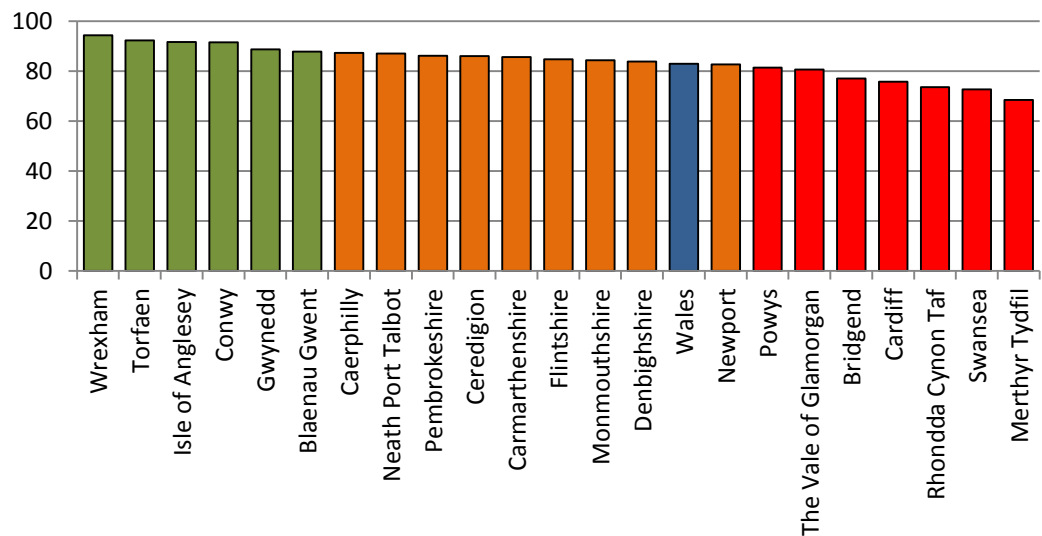
The percentage of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared within five working days



Note: A premises which is "broadly compliant" is one where there are no significant issues in terms of food hygiene. The term "broadly compliant" is defined fully in the performance indicator guidance on our website.

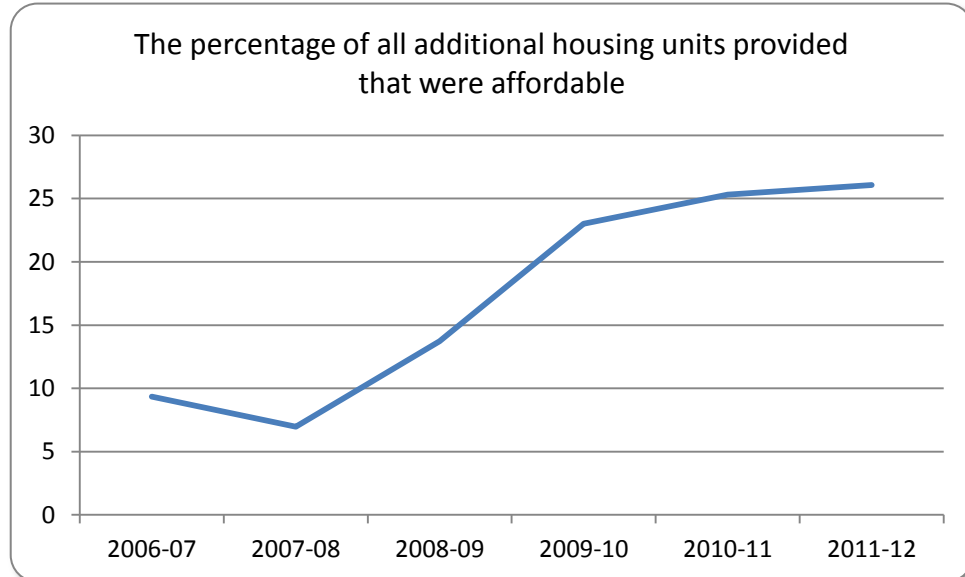
83.0% of food establishments were "broadly compliant" with food hygiene standards in 2011-12 (compared to 76.1% in 2010-11), ranging from 68.4% in Merthyr Tydfil to 94.4% in Wrexham.

The percentage of food premises that are 'broadly compliant' with food hygiene standards

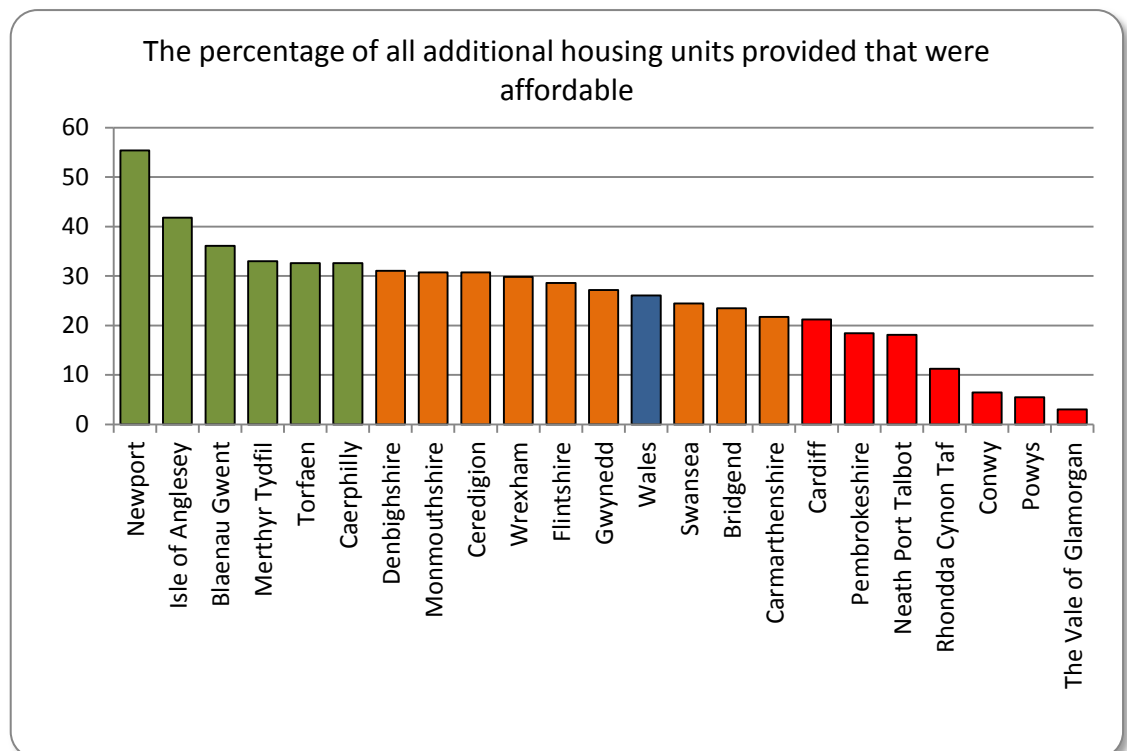


Providing affordable and appropriate housing...

Local authorities have a key role to play in ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of affordable housing to meet identified need. 26.1% of all additional housing units provided during 2011-12 were affordable housing – a further improvement on the 25.3% reported for 2010-11.



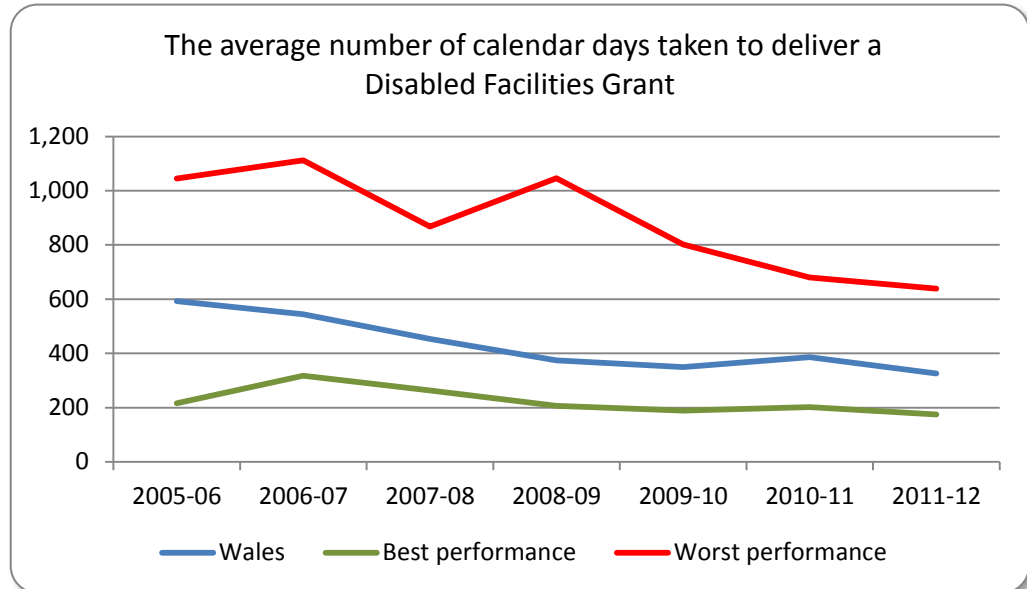
This ranged from 55.4% in Newport to 3.0% in The Vale of Glamorgan.



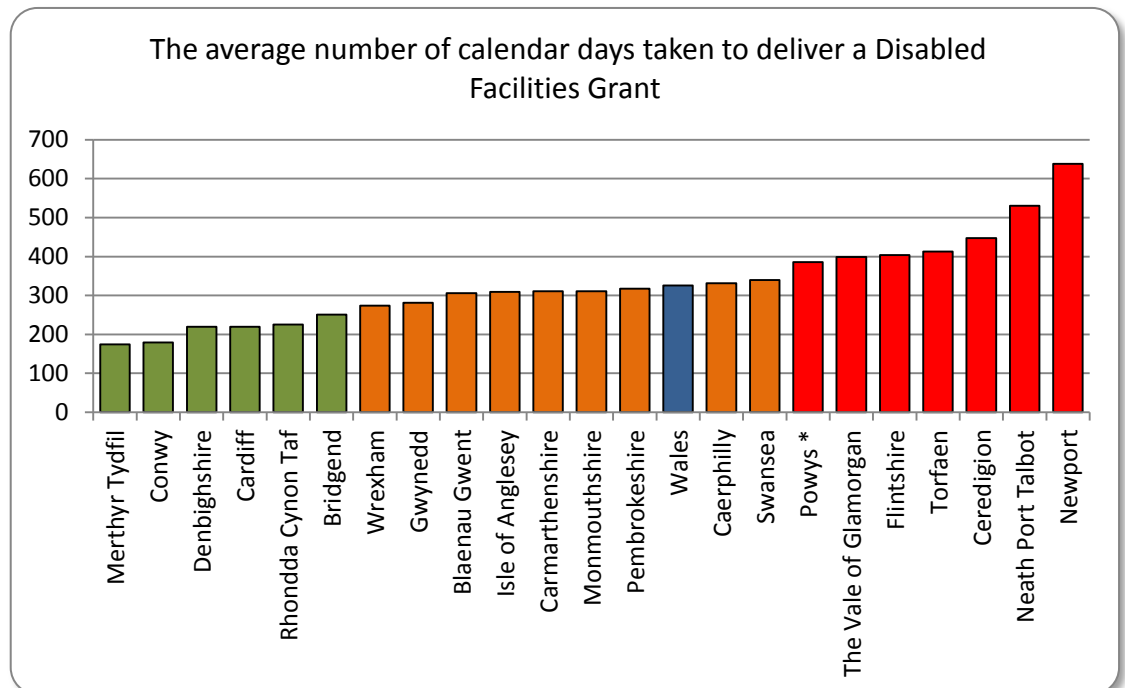
For disabled people of all ages, housing is a key enabler of independent living. Adapted housing enables people to maintain their independence, remain in their communities and exercise choice in the way they live their

lives. Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) can help towards the cost of adapting a disabled person's home.

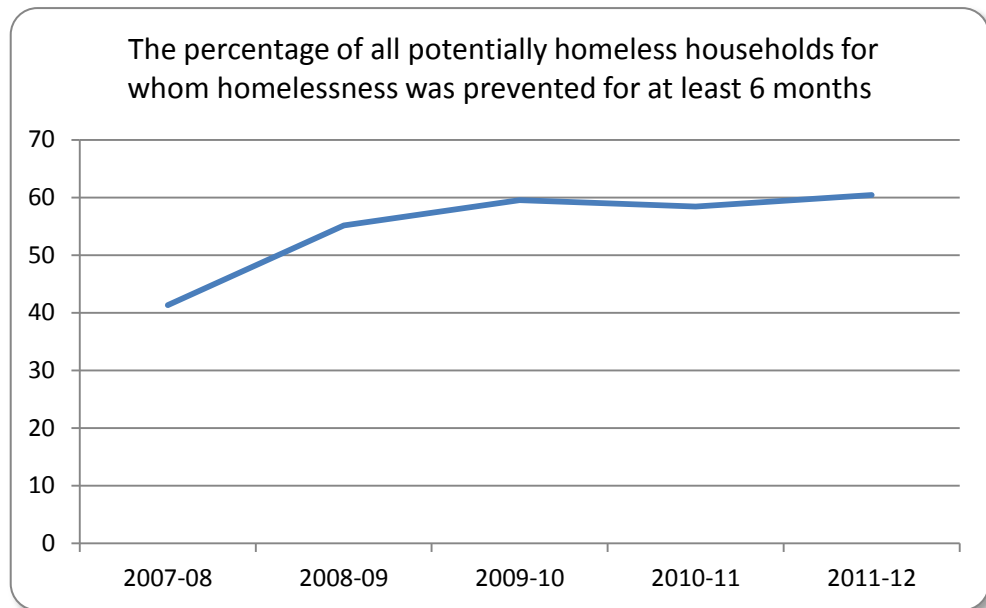
Local authorities took an average of 326 days to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant in 2011-12 (compared to 387 days in 2010-11).



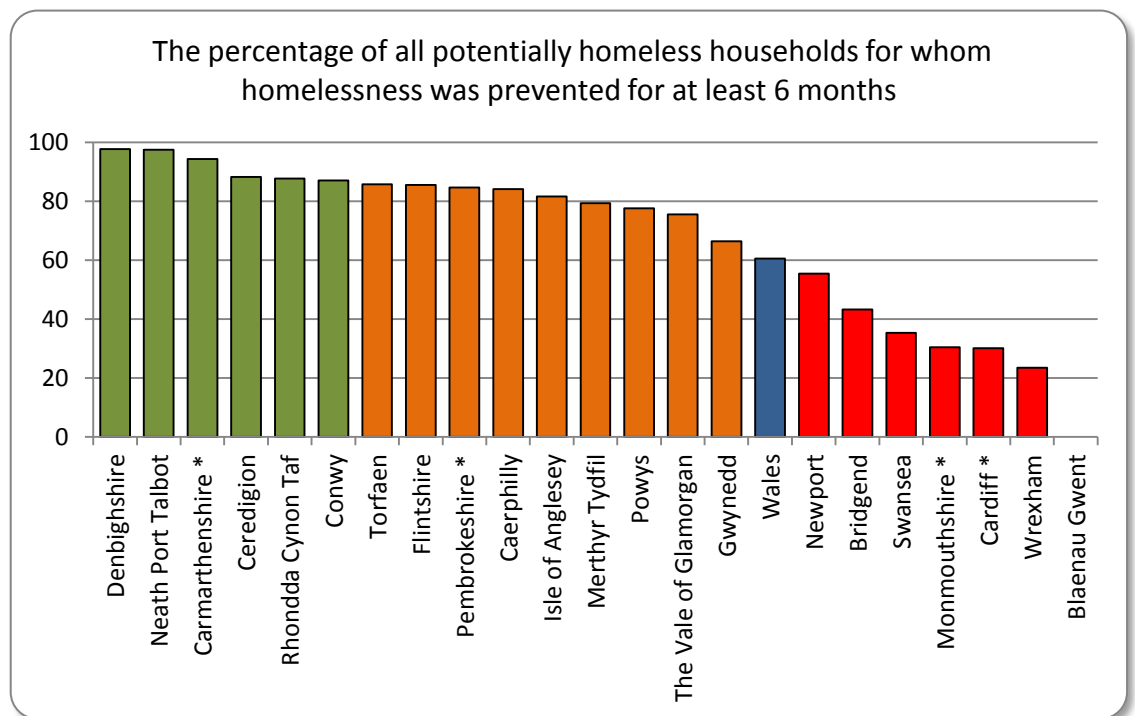
In 2011-12, the average number of days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant ranged from 175 days in Merthyr Tydfil to 638 days in Newport.



Homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of social exclusion. Action by local authorities prevented homelessness for at least six months for 60% of potentially homeless households in 2011-12 (compared to 58% in 2010-11).

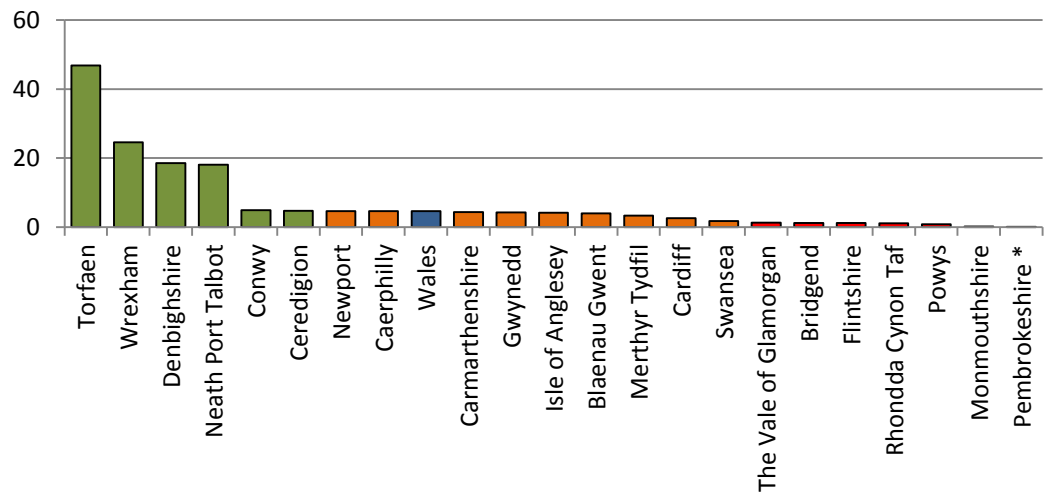


This ranged from 98% in Denbighshire to 0% in Blaenau Gwent.



Empty homes represent a potential housing resource that may be currently underutilised. Empty homes can be a focus for increased levels of crime, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and drug-abuse. 4.6% of long-term vacant private sector dwellings were returned to occupation through direct action by local authorities in 2011-12. This ranged from 46.8% in Torfaen to 0.1% in Pembrokeshire*.

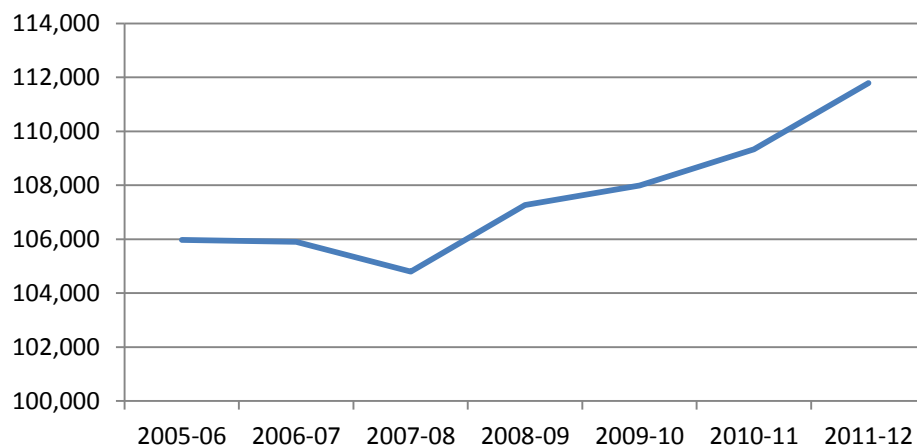
The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months that were returned to occupation through direct action by the local authority



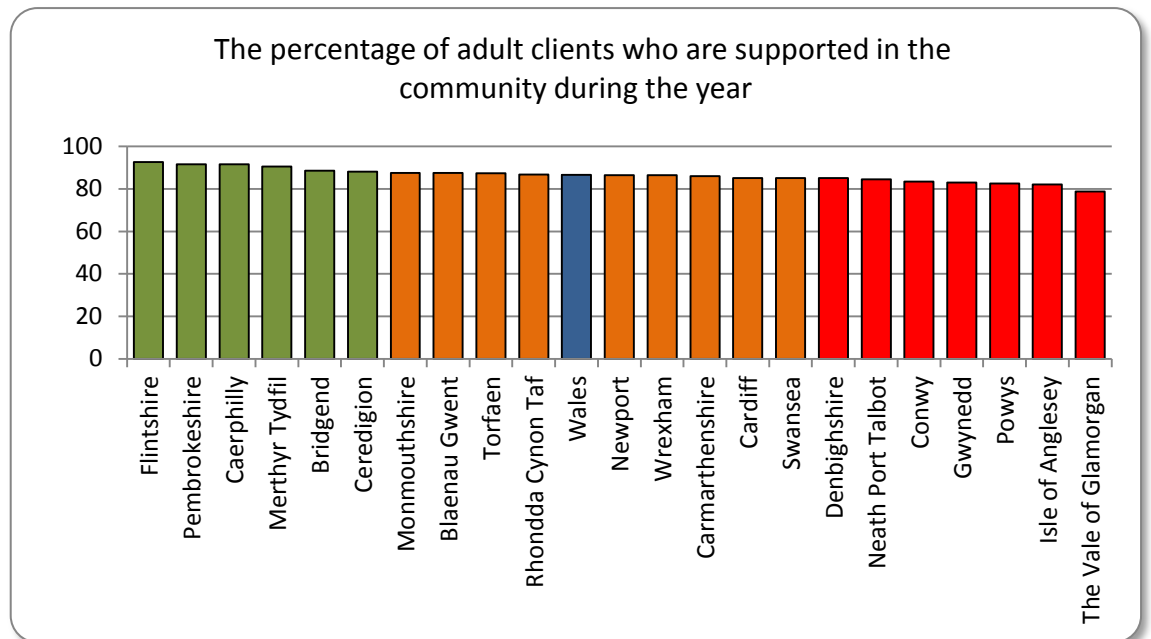
Supporting safe and independent lives...

Local authorities' social services provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. In 2011-12, local authorities supported almost 112 thousand people in the community or in residential homes.

The total number of adult clients supported either in the community or in care homes during the year

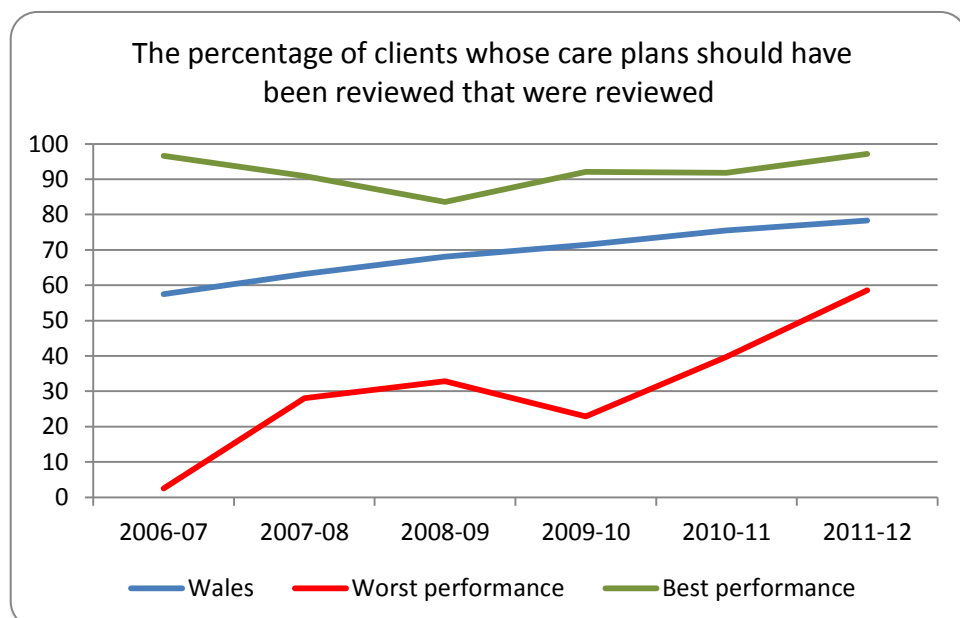


In 2011-12, 86.55% of people supported by social services receive that support in a community setting. This ranged from 92.67% in Flintshire to 78.80% in The Vale of Glamorgan.

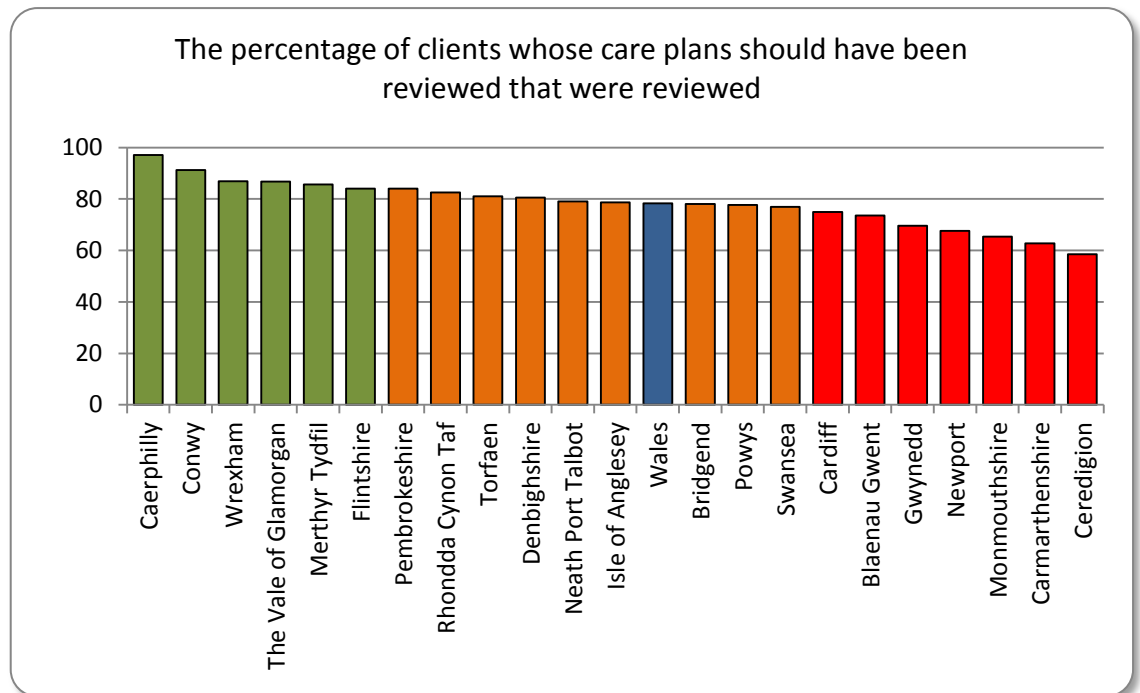


21.35 people aged 65 or over were supported in care homes for every 1,000 people aged 65 or over. This ranged from 27.72 in Rhondda Cynon Taf to 12.90 in Monmouthshire.

A 'care plan' describes the range of services which are put in place to meet individual's care needs. These should be reviewed regularly to make sure that the services being provided continue to be appropriate. 78.3% of care plans that should have been reviewed during the year were reviewed; a further improvement on the 75.5% reported for 2010-11.



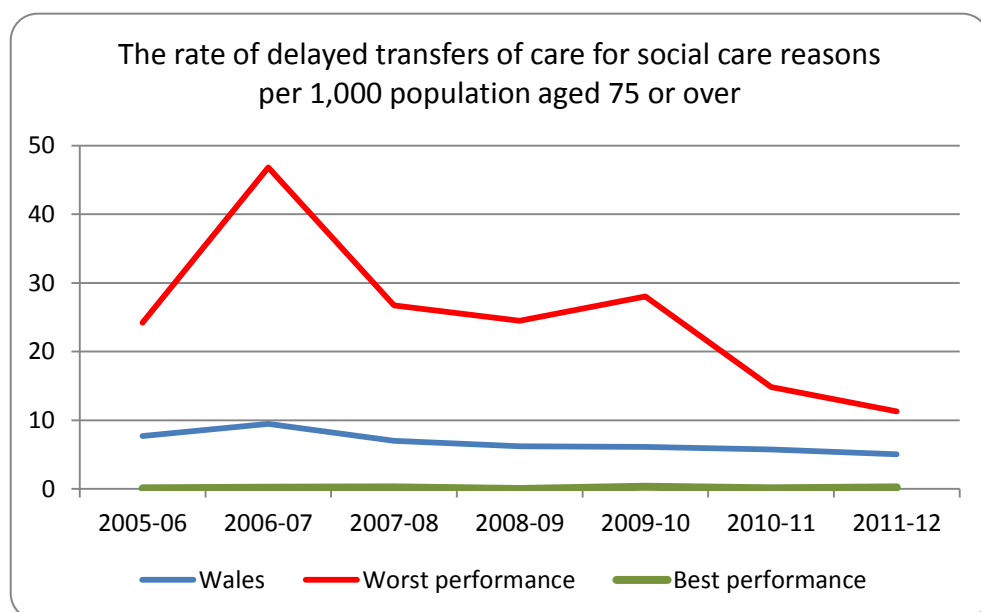
The percentage of care plan reviews ranged from 97.2% in Caerphilly to 58.6% in Ceredigion.



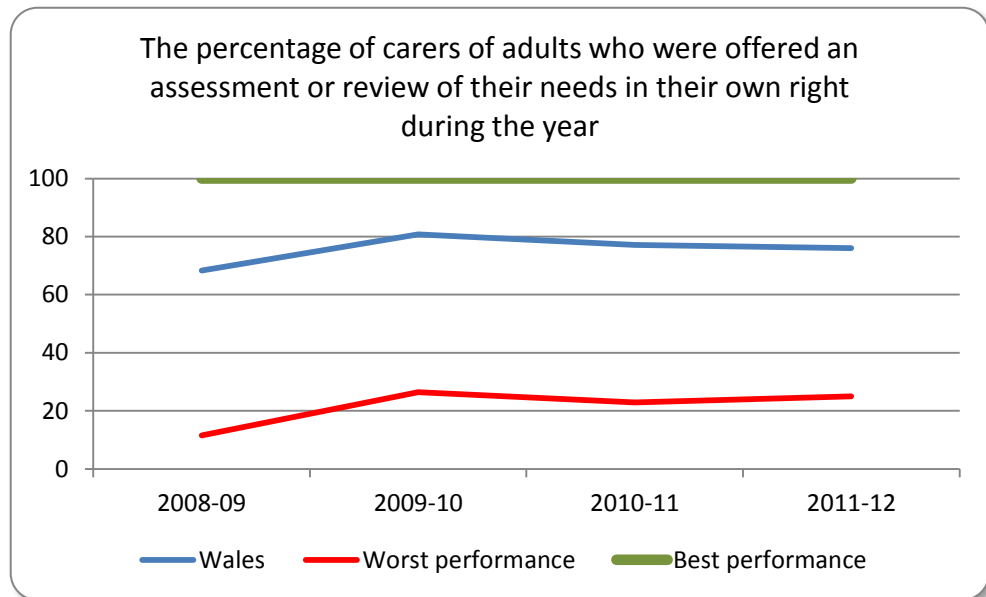
The risk was managed in 88.0% of adult protection referrals received by local authorities during 2011-12 (compared to 86.3% in 2010-11). This ranged from 100.0% in Carmarthenshire to 65.7% in Powys.

A delayed transfer of care – also known as “bed blocking” – arises when a person who no longer needs hospital treatment is unable to leave hospital and return to their own home or to a social care setting such as a residential home.

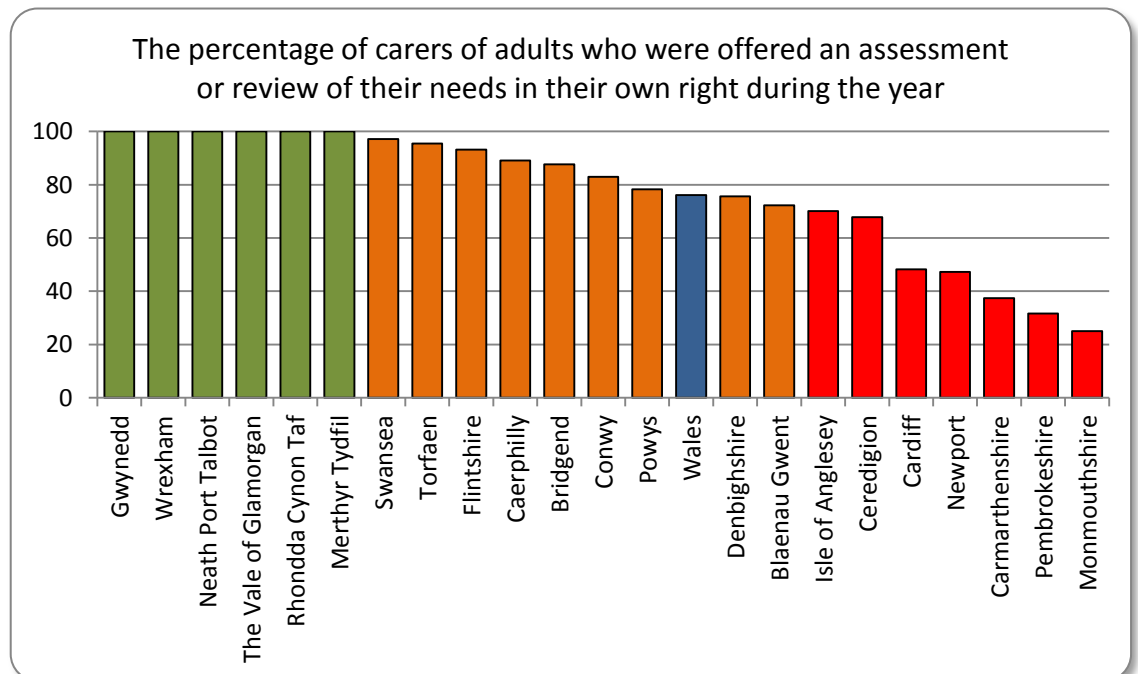
In 2011-12 the rate of delayed transfers due to social care reasons fell again to 5.03 per 1,000 population aged 75 or over (the lowest rate since 2005-06). Across Wales, this ranged from 0.22 per 1,000 population aged 75 or over in Conwy, to 11.28 in Cardiff.



76.1% of carers of adults known to social services were offered an assessment or review of their needs in 2011-12 (compared to 77.1% in 2010-11).



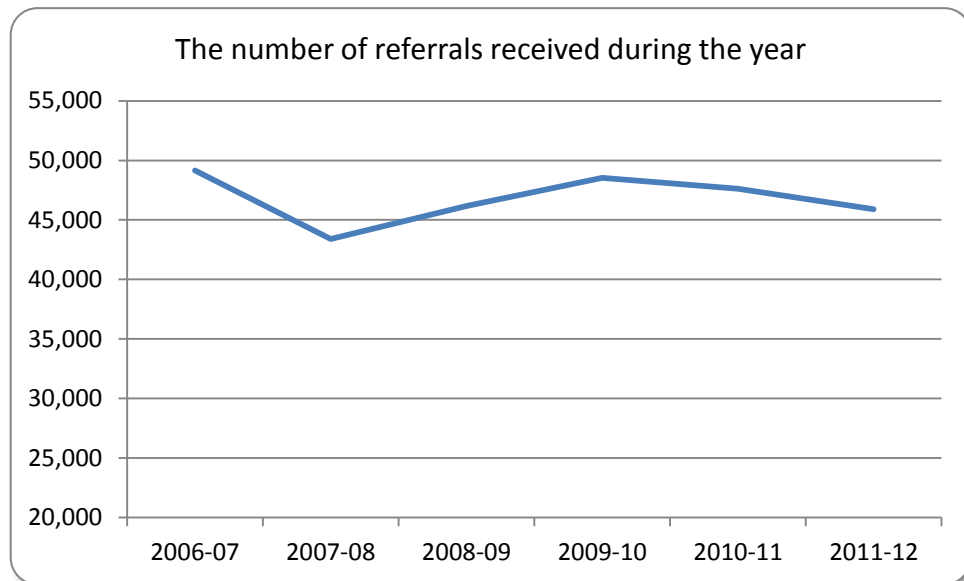
The percentage of carers offered an assessment or review of their needs ranged from 100% in Gwynedd, Wrexham, Neath Port Talbot, The Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, and Merthyr Tydfil to 25% in Monmouthshire.



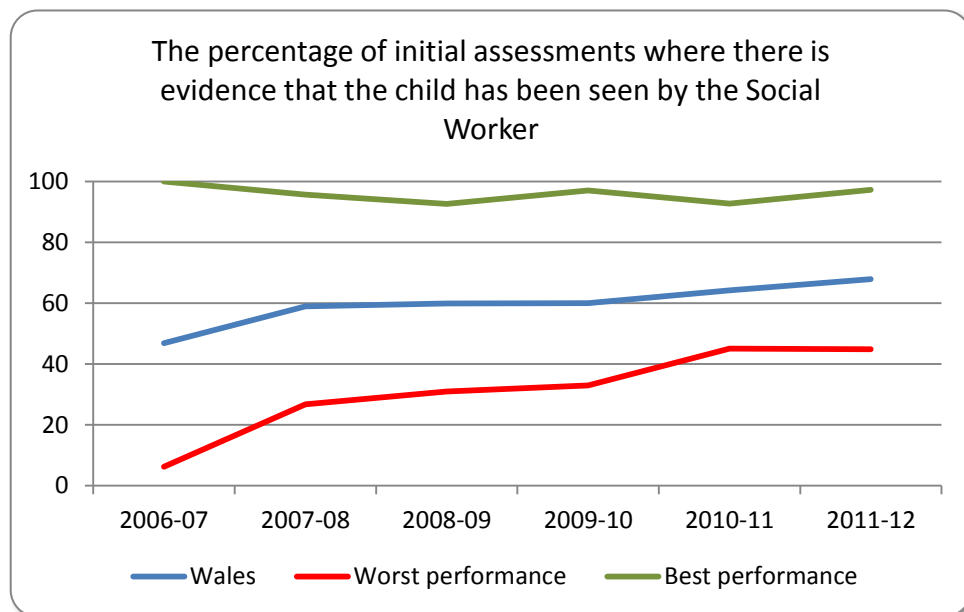
90.9% of young people who were formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19 (compared to 90.8% in 2010-11). This ranged from 100.0% in the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and the Vale of Glamorgan, to 72.7% in Wrexham.

Safeguarding children...

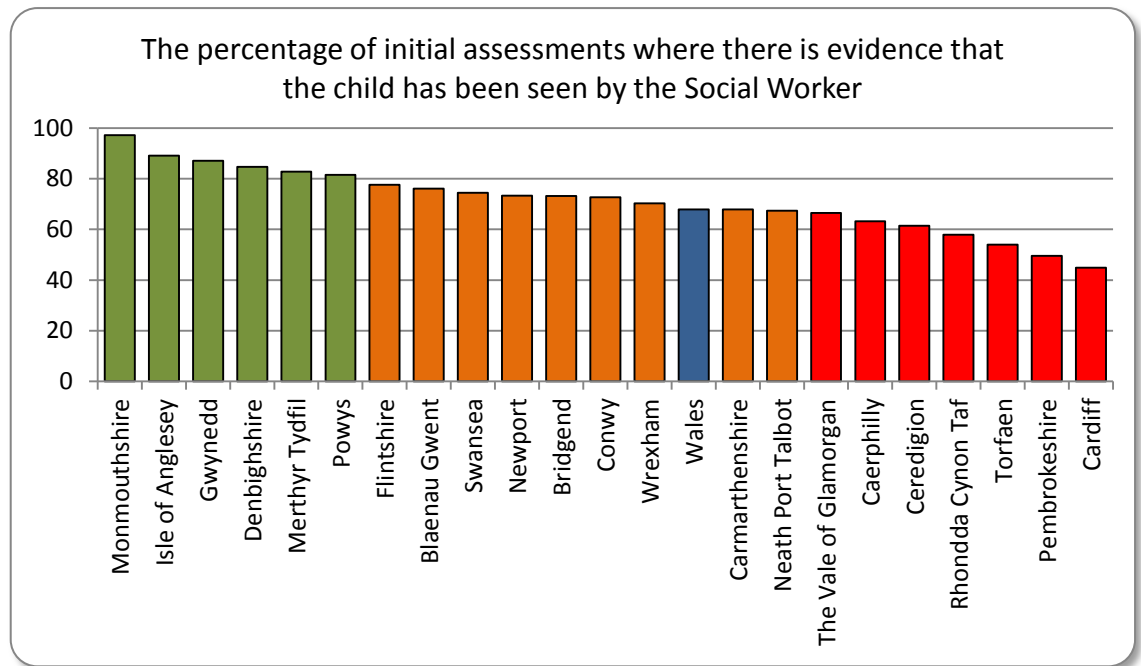
Local authorities received almost 46 thousand referrals relating to children in 2011-12. They provide a range of support to ensure that children remain safe and are supported in order to achieve the best they can in life.



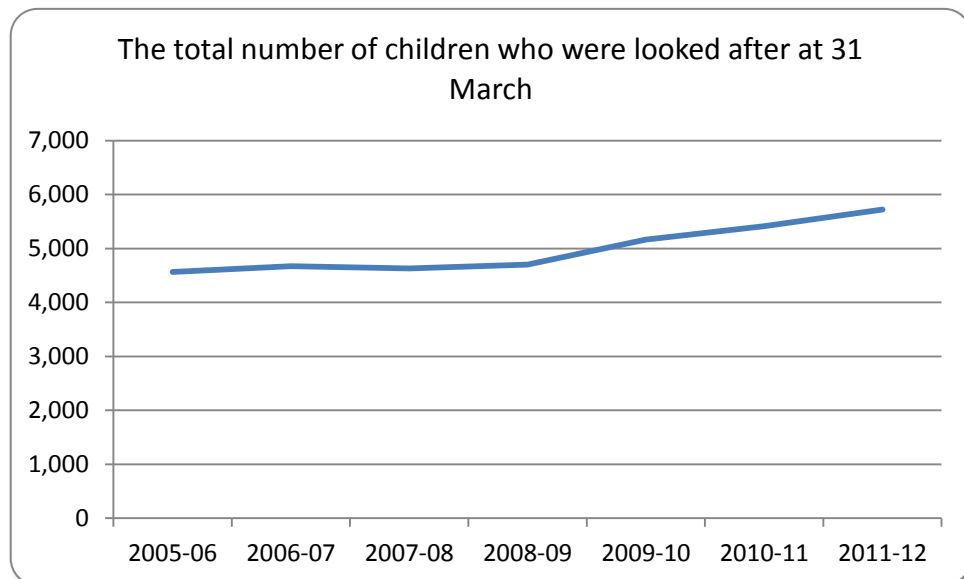
It is important that children's views are taken into account when planning for their care. There is evidence that the child was seen by a social worker in 67.9% of initial assessments (compared to 64.2% in 2010-11).



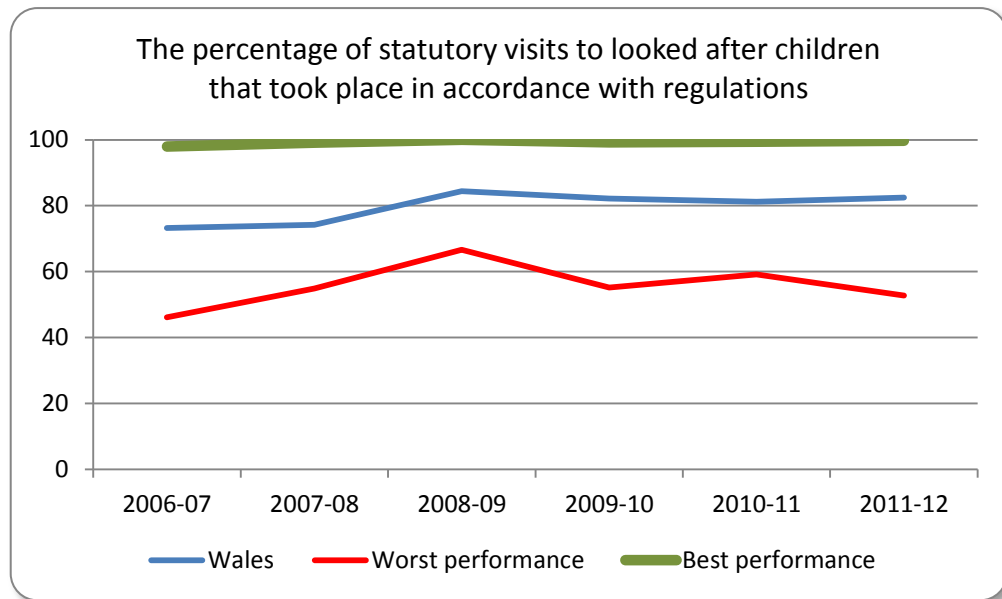
The percentage of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child was seen by a social worker ranged from 97.2% in Monmouthshire to 44.9% in Cardiff.



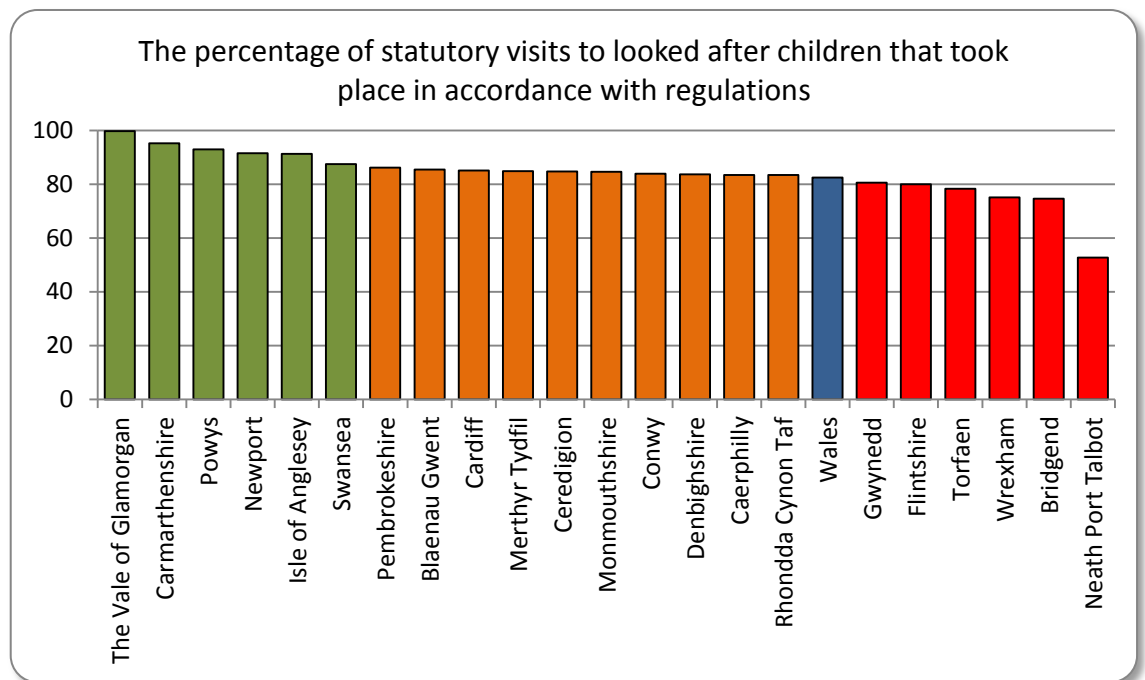
As corporate parents local authorities are required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of looked after children, and to ensure that they are given the same opportunities as their peers. There were over 5,700 children in the care of their local authorities at the end of March 2012.



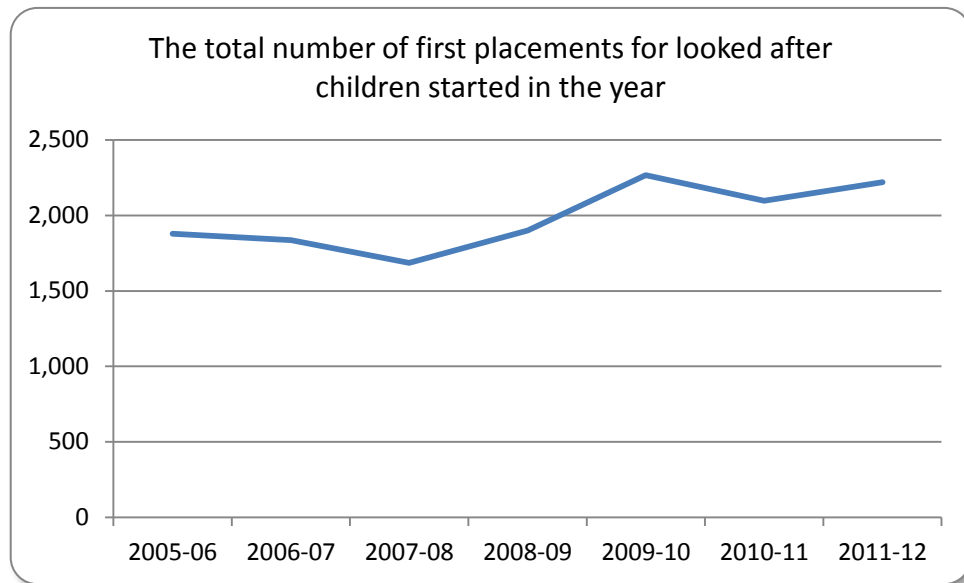
In 2011-12, 82.5% of statutory visits to looked after children took place in accordance with regulations (compared to 81.3% in 2010-11).



The percentage of statutory visits ranged from 99.7% in The Vale of Glamorgan to 52.7% in Neath Port Talbot.

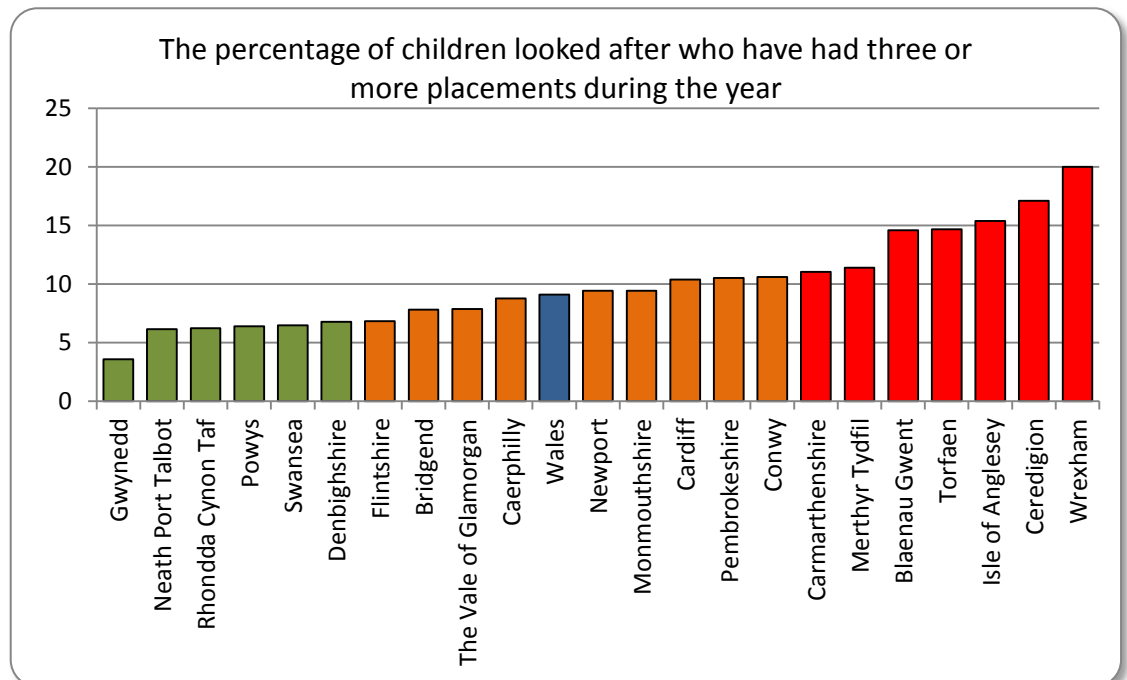


Over 2,200 children were placed in care for the first time during 2011-12.



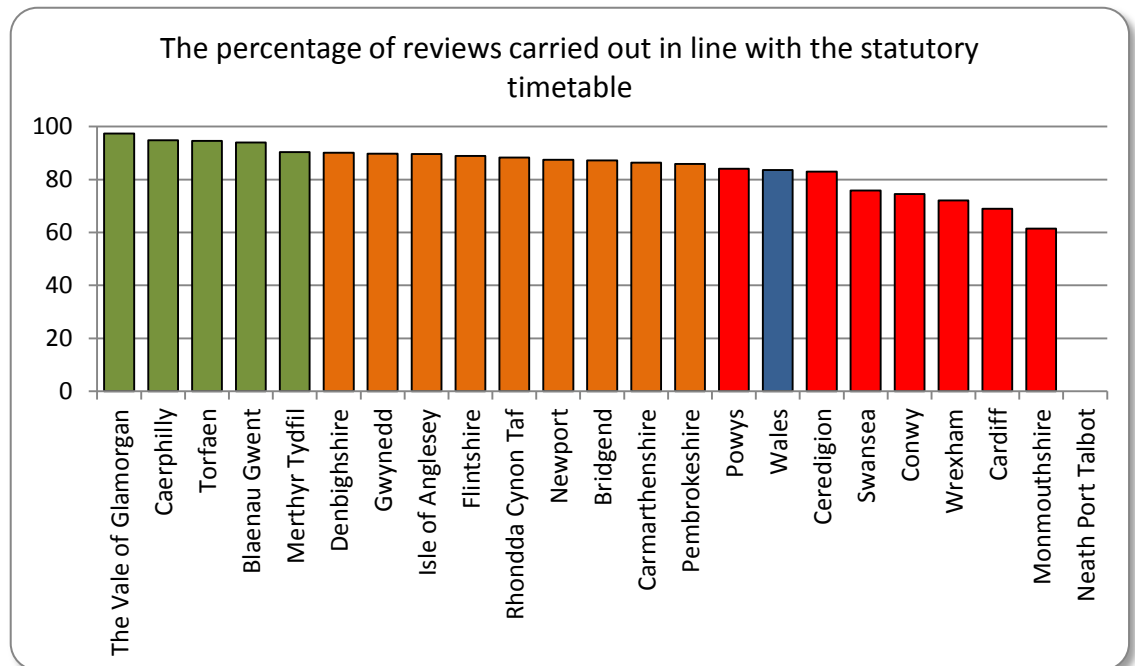
88.9% of these "first placements" began with a care plan in place (compared to 91.5% in 2010-11). This ranged from 100.0% in Flintshire, Powys, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, The Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Newport, to 57.8% in Neath Port Talbot.

Stability is recognised as important for the wellbeing of children in care. 9.2% of children looked after experienced three or more placements during 2011-12 (compared to 9.1% in 2010-11). This ranged from 3.6% in Gwynedd to 20.0% in Wrexham.



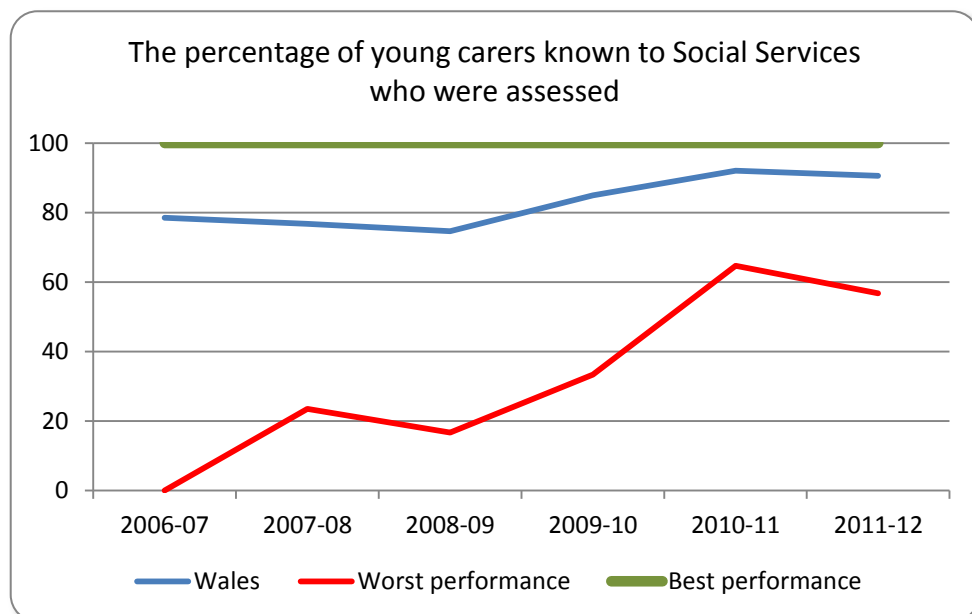
Note: Neath Port Talbot did not supply data for this indicator.

In 2011-12, 83.6% of children reviews were carried out within statutory timescales. This ranged from 97.4% in The Vale of Glamorgan to 61.5% in Monmouthshire.

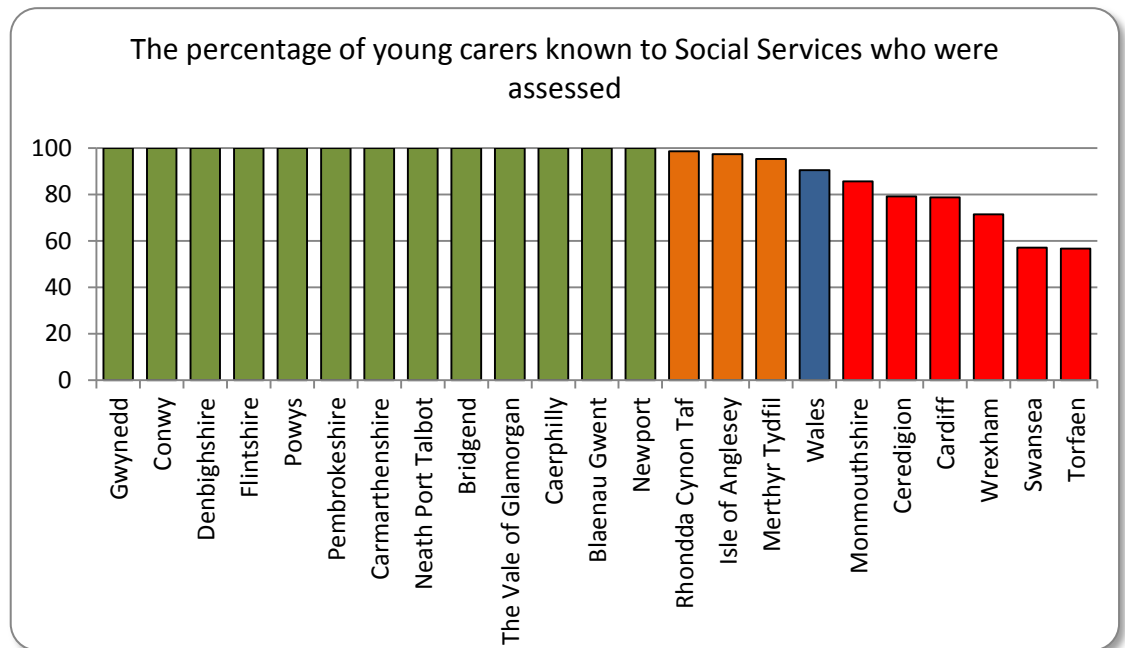


Children sometimes find themselves in circumstances where they have to provide significant support for other family members. As such, these young carers also need to be supported by local authorities to ensure their health and wellbeing is safeguarded.

In 2011-12, 90.6% of young carers known to Social Services were assessed to ensure their own needs were being met (compared to 92.0% in 2010-11).



The percentage of young carers assessed ranged from 100.0% in Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Powys, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, The Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, Monmouthshire, Ceredigion, Cardiff, Wrexham, Swansea, to 56.8% in Torfaen.



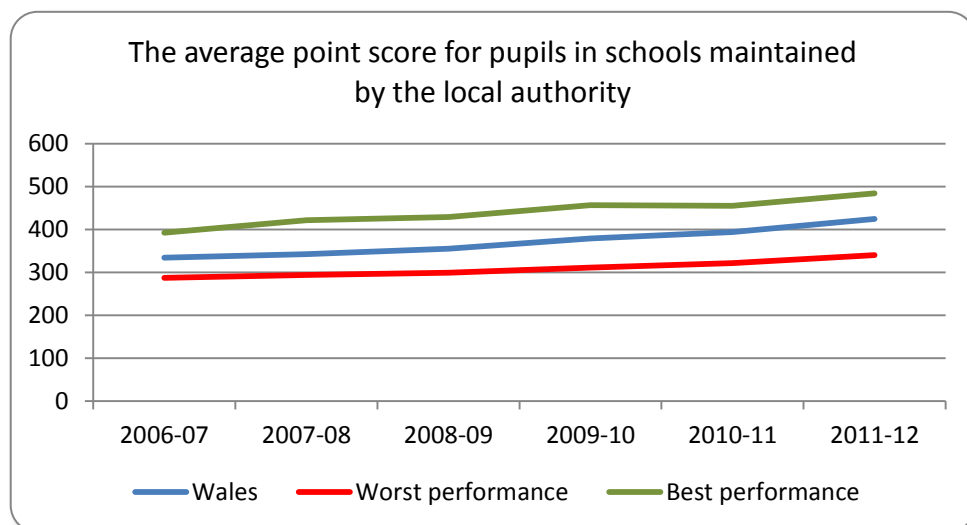
Educating children...

Local authority maintained schools educate around 460 thousand children each year.

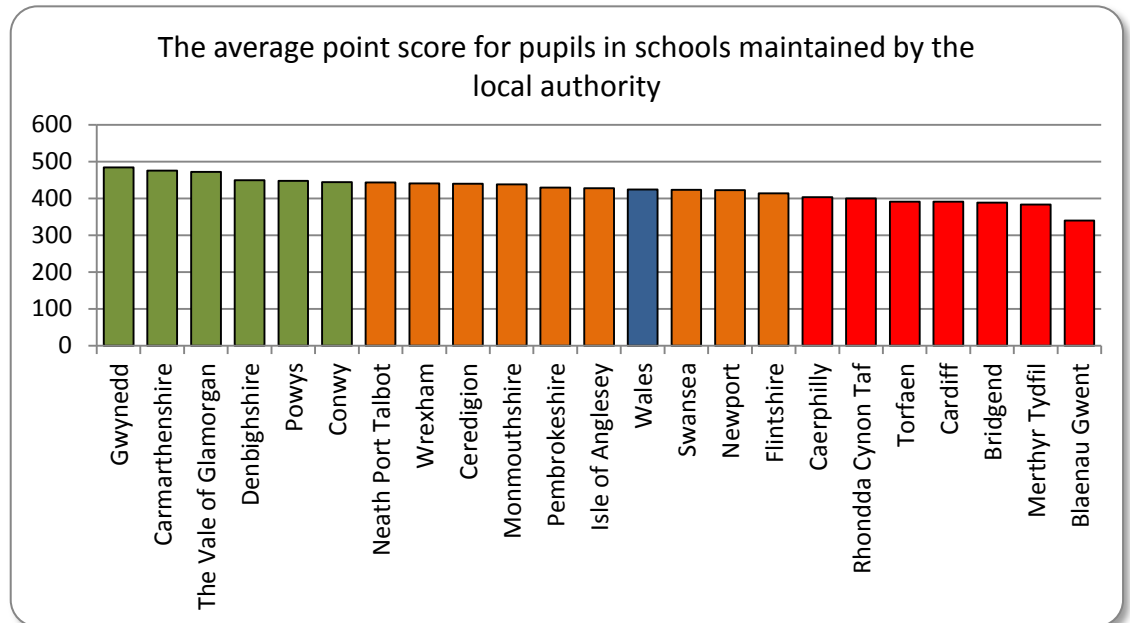
Good attendance is important if children are to learn. In 2011-12, pupil attendance at primary school increased slightly from 93.1% to 93.3%, whilst attendance at secondary school increased from 91.1% to 91.4%.

Note: Each qualification is given a score e.g. a GCSE has a score of between 6 and 58 points depending on the grade achieved (G to A)*

The average point score for pupils aged 15 or 16 in local authority maintained schools continued to rise (for the fifth successive year) to 424.4 points.

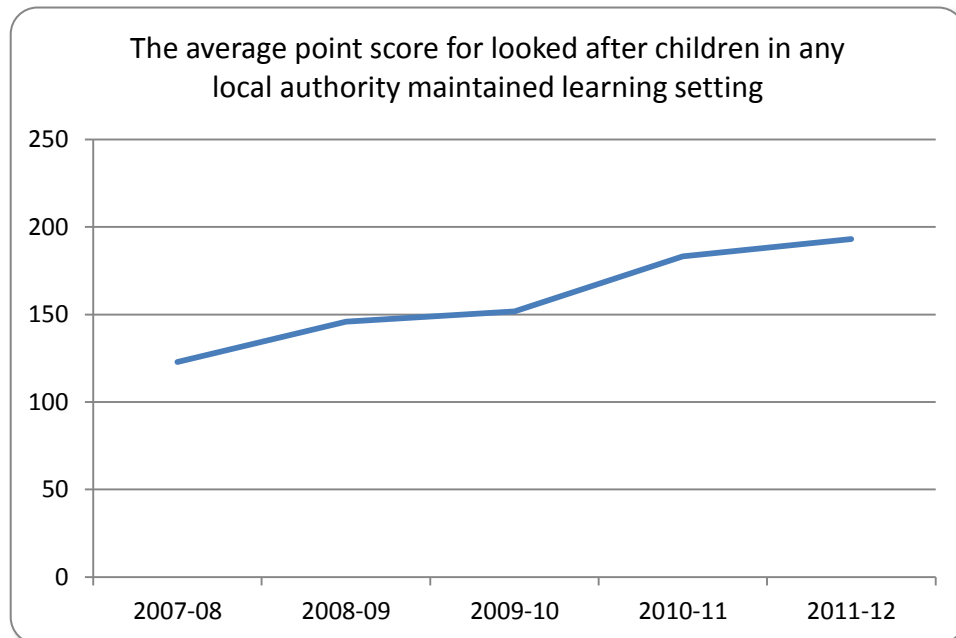


The average point score ranged from 484 points in Gwynedd to 340 points in Blaenau Gwent.

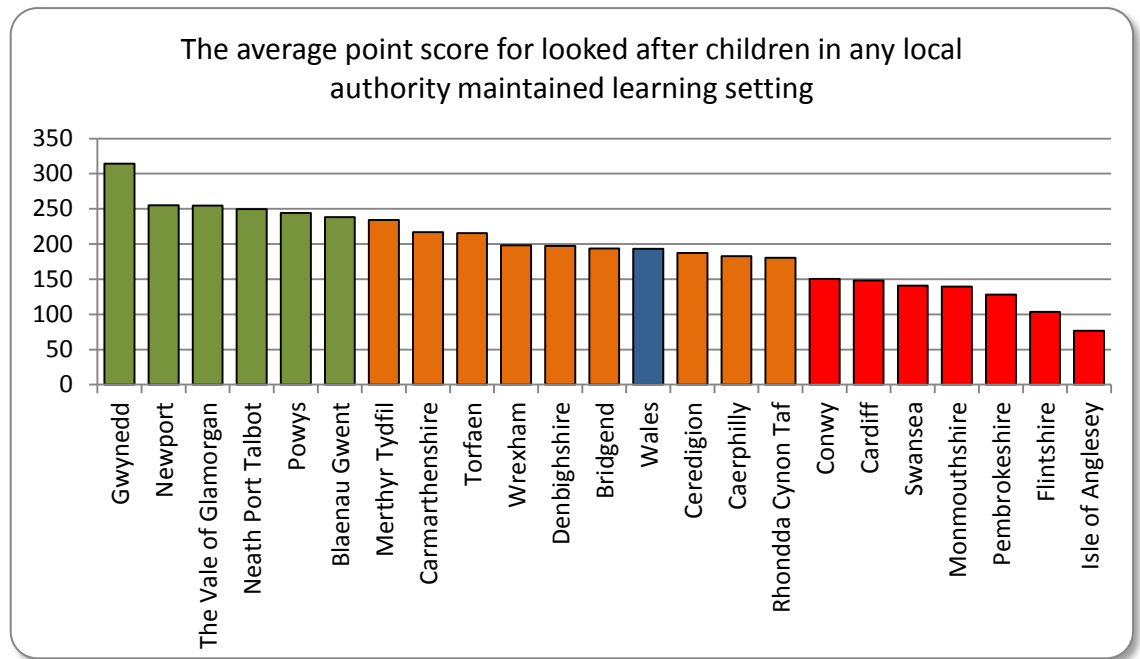


12.2% of children looked after experienced one or more changes of school in the last 12 months (compared to 14.2% in 2010-11). This ranged from 2.9% in Conwy to 25.6% in Merthyr Tydfil.

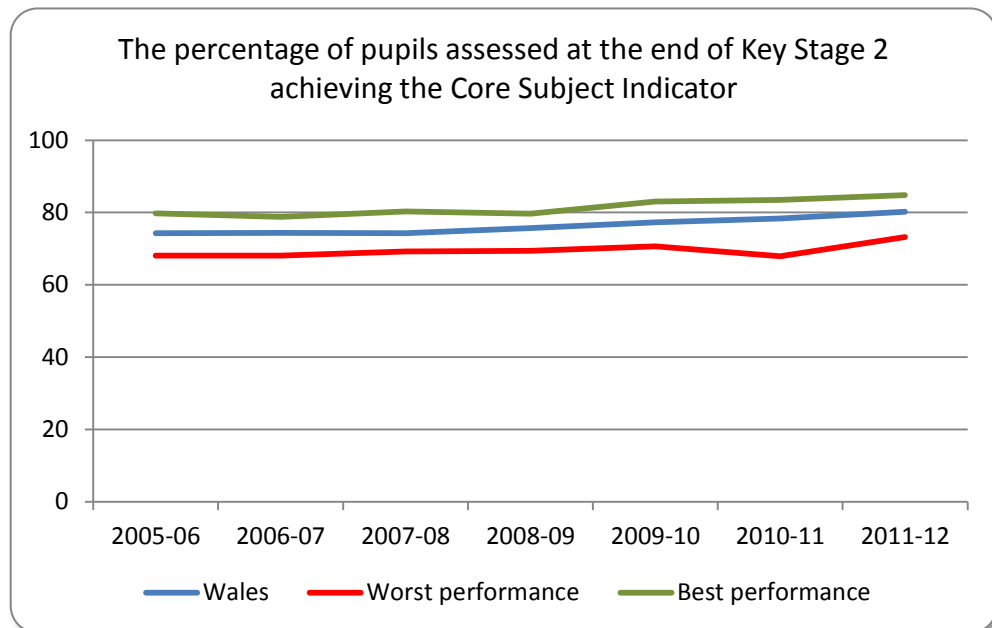
The average point score for children in care increased from 183.2 points in 2010-11 to 193.1 points in 2011-12.



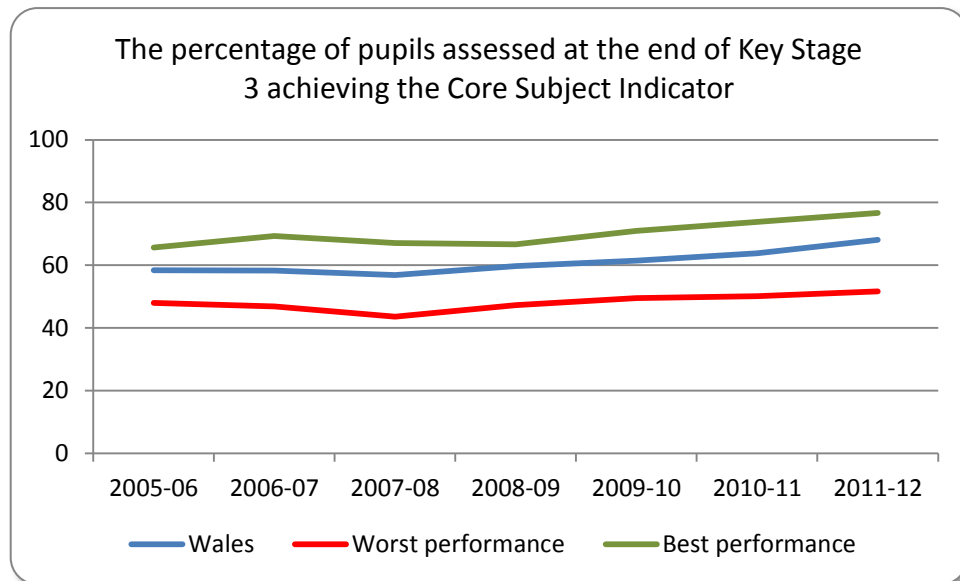
In 2011-12, the average point score for children in care ranged from 314.3 points in Gwynedd to 76.8 points in the Isle of Anglesey.



The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator increased from 78.4% in 2010-11 to 80.3% in 2011-12.



Over the same period, the percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator also increased from 63.8% to 68.1%.

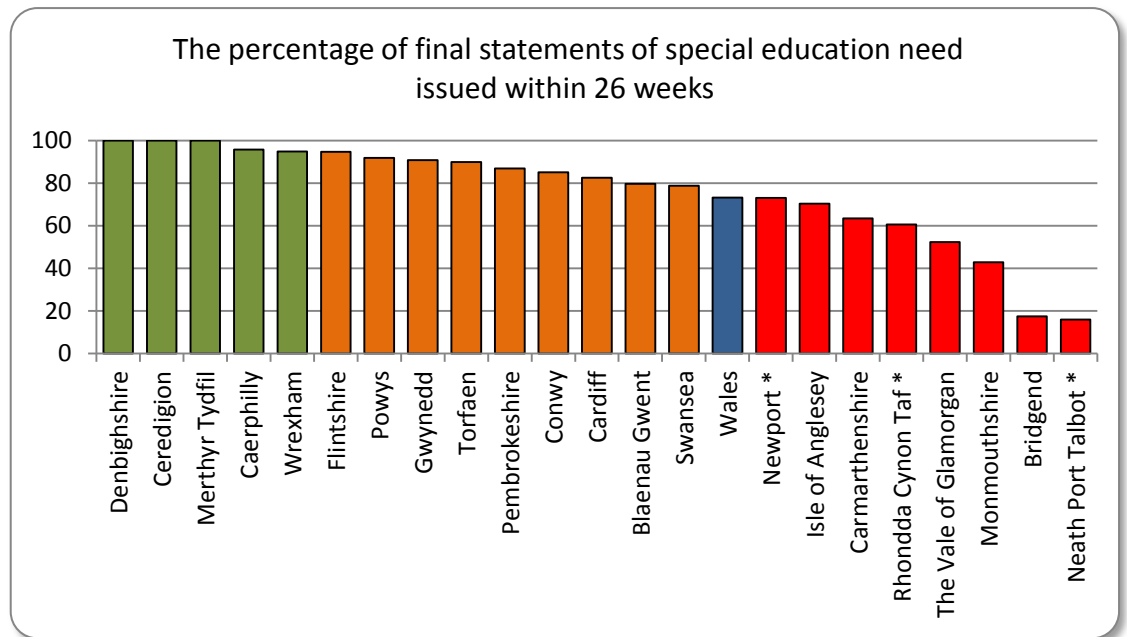


The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator ranged from 76.7% in Ceredigion to 51.6% in Merthyr Tydfil.

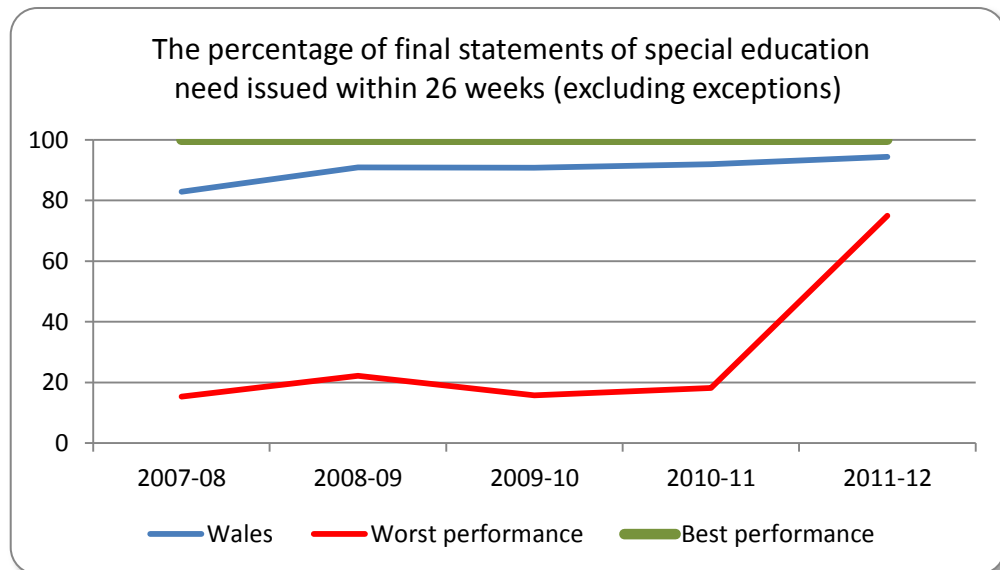
0.5% of all children leaving compulsory education aged 15 or 16 (who did not go on to full time education, training or work based learning) did so without a recognised qualification – the sixth successive improvement from 2.3% in 2005-06. For children in care, 3.5% of children left without a recognised qualification (compared to 6.5% in 2010-11).

Local authorities have statutory obligations in terms of assessment and statementing, to ensure that children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have appropriate support in place to enable them to reach their potential. SEN statements should usually be in place within 26 weeks of the request for an assessment (in some exceptional cases, this can take longer).

73.3% of all statements issued were issued within 26 weeks in 2011-12 (compared to 75.3% in 2010-11). This ranged from 16% in Neath Port Talbot* to 100% in Denbighshire, Ceredigion and Merthyr Tydfil.



Over the same period, 94.4% of statements (excluding exceptions) were issued within 26 weeks (compared to 91.9% in 2010-11).



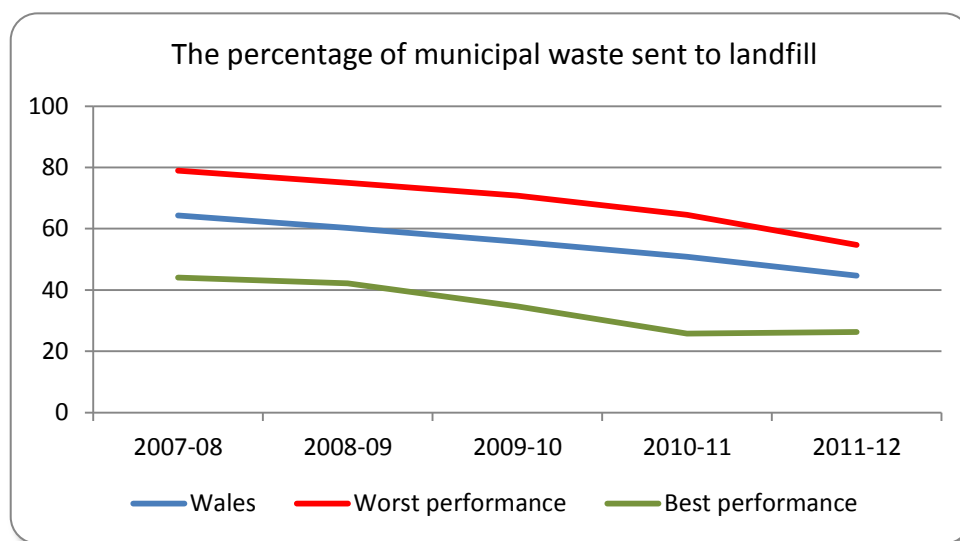
The percentage of SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (excluding exceptions) ranged from 75% in Neath Port Talbot* to 100% in the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly.

Working towards sustainable futures...

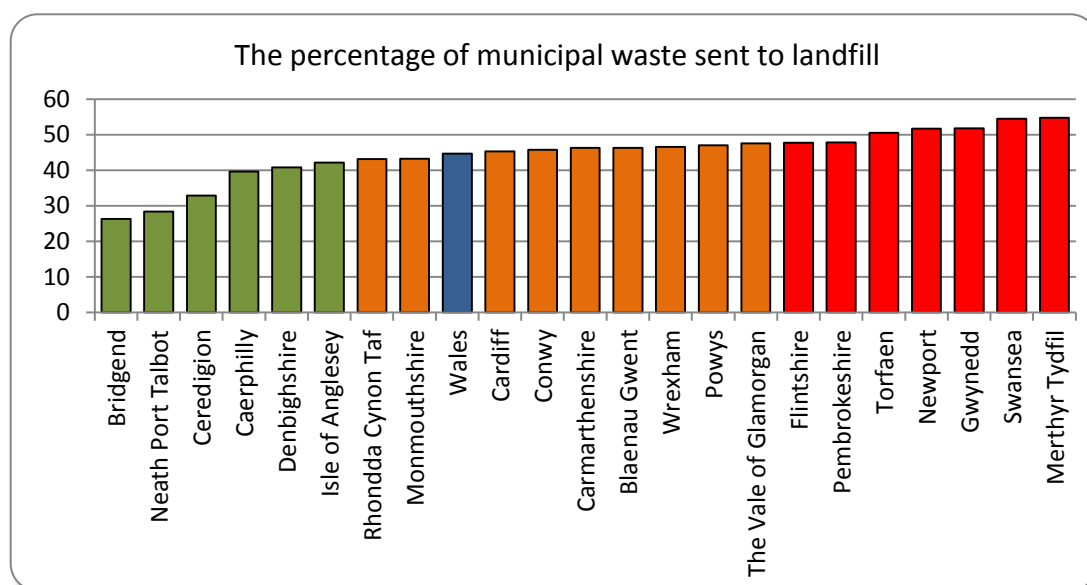
From promoting energy efficiency, to ensuring that resources are reused and recycled, local authorities play a big part in helping secure the future for the next generation.

Local authorities collect and process our waste. The amount of landfill space left in Wales is running out fast and landfill taxes mean we cannot afford to keep sending waste to landfill. Landfill can cause air, soil and water pollution. Developing ways of preventing waste, reducing waste going to landfill and increasing recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion will have a significant impact on our ability to combat climate change.

The percentage of waste sent to landfill continues to fall, with 45% being sent to landfill in 2011-12 (compared to 51% in 2010-11).



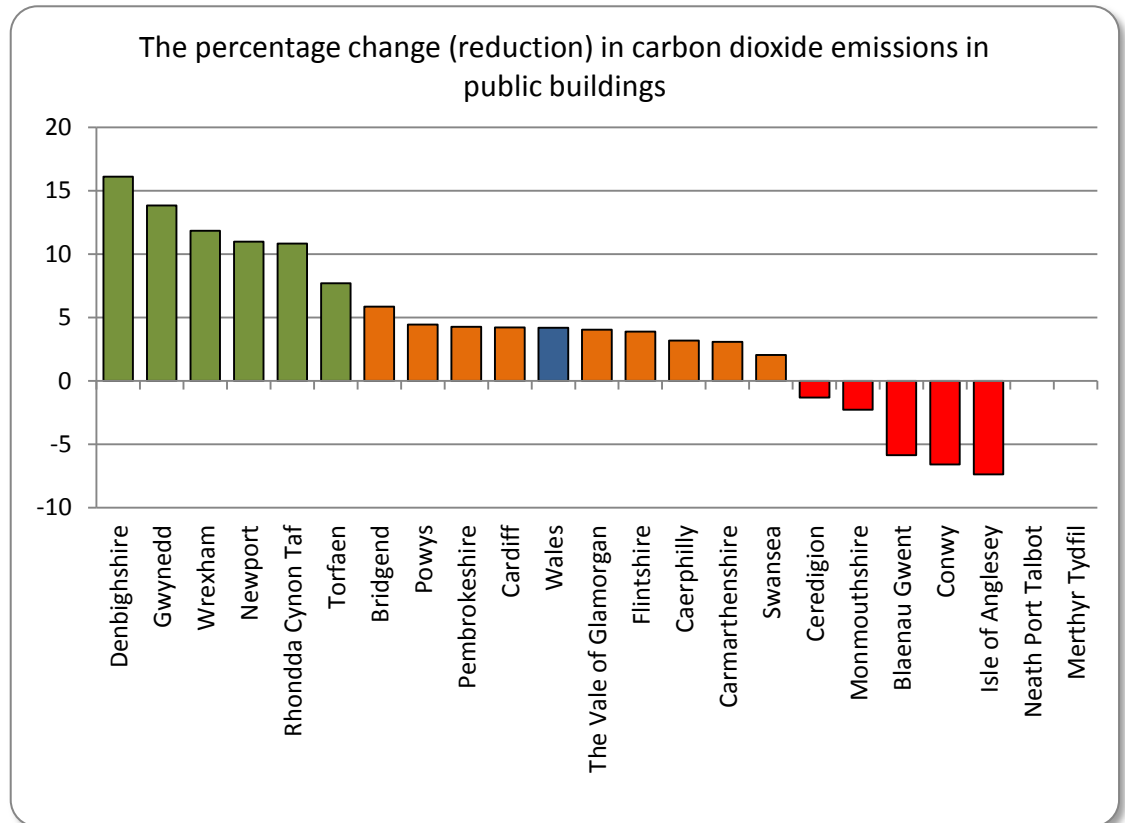
The percentage of waste sent to landfill ranged from 54.8% in Merthyr Tydfil to 26.3% in Bridgend.



48.53% of the municipal waste collected was reused or recycled in 2011-12 (compared to 43.63% in 2010-11). The percentage of waste reused or recycled ranged from 57.9% in Ceredigion to 41.8% in Neath Port Talbot.

Note: Neath Port Talbot and Merthyr Tydfil did not supply data for this indicator.

Local authorities have a key role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within their locality in terms of the way they manage their buildings. 2011-12 saw a 4.2% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from non-domestic public buildings. Across Wales, this ranged from a 16.1% reduction in Denbighshire to a 7.4% increase in the Isle of Anglesey.



Contact details

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The full performance indicator data set is published on our website (www.dataunitwales.gov.uk).

Notes

One of the key functions of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales is to collect, process, interpret and disseminate statistical data on local government services and activities in support of local government improvement.

The indicators quoted here are part of the Performance Improvement Framework for local authorities in Wales. The indicators reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Government and local government in Wales.

The National Strategic Indicator data, which is a sub-set of the data used here, was collected and published by the Welsh Government and has been audited by the Wales Audit Office.

Wales values are based on the base data submitted by the authorities. Where authorities have not supplied their base data, their figures do not contribute to Wales values.

Where appropriate, data has been rounded for the purposes of this bulletin. The complete data set is available on our website.

Guidance documents relating to the 2011-12 indicator sets are also available on our website (Public Accountability Measures) and on the Welsh Government website (National Strategic Indicators). These provide a detailed definition for each of the indicators along with their classification i.e. National Strategic Indicator or Public Accountability Measure.

The colours (red, amber and green) used in the performance ranking charts are based on the range of PI values. Green indicates performance was at a level within the top quarter of the performance range; red indicates performance was at a level within the bottom quarter of the performance range. Amber is used where the performance level falls between these two points.

In performance range charts, blue represents the Wales PI value, green shows the PI value for the best local authority performance, and red shows the PI value for the worst local authority performance.