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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Population assessment update

April 2017 (Issue 5)

Report published!

The full report includes 12 chapters and over 300 pages of information about the care and support needs of people in North Wales. It's available in Welsh and English, as a summary, easy read and young person's version online here:

http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/91335

What's next?

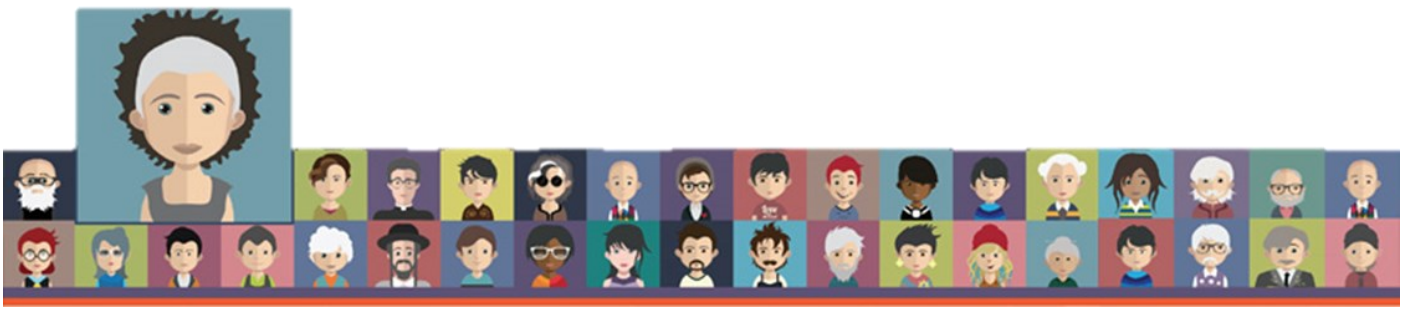
We're now sharing the findings of the report. Future newsletters will include a spotlight on each of the chapters. In this newsletter we're taking a closer look at what we found out about the care and support needs of children and young people.

Next, we will write a regional area plan setting out the range and level of services councils and local health boards propose to provide or arrange in response to the population assessment. This has to be finished by 1 April 2018.

Spotlight on… children and young people

Please let us know if you would like to be involved putting together the regional plan.

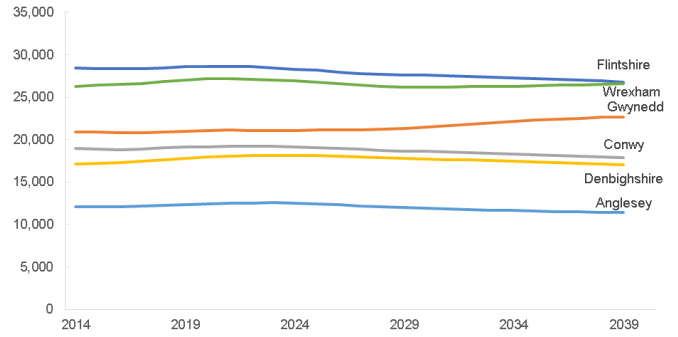
We would also love to hear how the report is being used and any suggestions for how we can improve future reports.



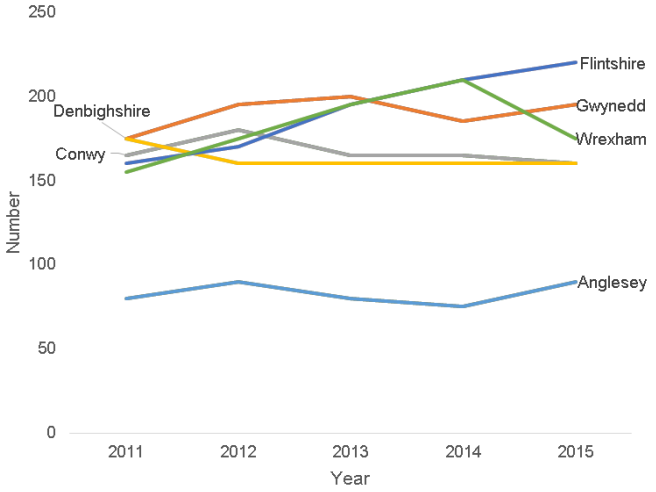
What we found out

- There are **124,000** children age 0-15 in North Wales. We expect there will be the same number in 2039.
- There has been a fall in referrals to children's services, but this may change as eligibility changes. Most referrals are from the police or within the council and half are due to abuse or neglect.
- In the last five years there has been a **9%** increase in the number of children on the child protection register.
- There are **1,000** children looked after by councils in North Wales and the number is increasing. Councils have to try to place children with family or friends before other placements which is changing the demands on fostering services.
- There are more disabled children and children with very complex needs.
- Most children are healthy but we still need to promote healthier lifestyles and prevent adverse childhood experiences.
- Sexting and online bullying are an increasing problem.
- The number of young offenders is decreasing but more young people are reporting that they are victims of crime.
- Many people are concerned about children's mental health including a rise in self-harm and eating disorders.

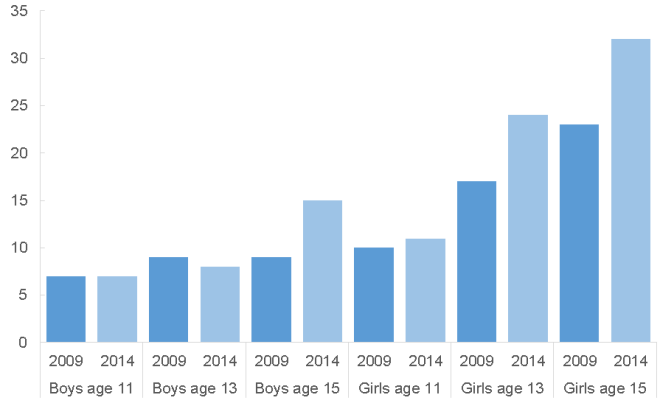
Population projection, children aged 15 and under



Number of children looked after by county, North Wales



Percentage of children feeling low more than once a week, Wales



What did children and young people who are looked after tell us?

- The things that are important to them are friends, being active, health, family, hobbies and interests, feeling included, phone and Wifi.
- The things they find hard are: motivation, getting a job, staying healthy, socialising, feeling confident, fitting in, being independent, talking about what you want in life and challenges they face due to disability.

What we think should happen

- Focus on prevention and early intervention to improve the health and well-being of children and families.
- Work together to support disabled children and children with complex needs.
- Work together to improve children and young people's mental health.
- Provide parenting support to break cycles of inappropriate parenting and raise parents' confidence in their skills to raise their children in a positive and nurturing environment.
- Promote Family Information Services and the information, advice and assistance they provide.
- Work together as a region to share good practice, for example, in how fostering services can best support kinship / connected persons carers.
- Continue work on the new duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

"Be quicker when a cry for help is given..."

- Parent of disabled child

We need more research into...

- How to collect data in the same way in all areas
- Advocacy services
- Trafficking and child sexual exploitation
- How adult services will need to change to meet the needs of more disabled young people with complex needs in future
- The needs of younger children and looked after children with mental health problems.
- Restorative approaches and good practice

UN convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC)

All children and young people have rights. These rights are the things that children need to be safe, healthy and happy, including the right to play. Supporting children's right to play provides a whole range of benefits to children and the communities in which they live. More information about children's right to play is included in each council's Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Themes

- Children & young people
- Older people
- Health, physical disabilities & sensory impairment
- Learning disability & autism
- Mental health
- Carers
- Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence
- Homelessness
- Veterans
- People in the secure estate

More information

Population assessment toolkit:
https://socialcare.wales/resources/population-assessment-toolkit

Part 2 Code of Practice:
http://www.ccwales.org.uk/codes-of-practice-and-statutory-guidance/

Area plan guidance:
http://gov.wales/topics/health/socialcare/act/code-of-practice/?lang=en

Dewis Cymru (services available to meet the needs identified in the assessment)**:**
https://www.dewis.wales/

Contact us

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Background to the population assessment

The population assessment pulls together information about people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers in North Wales. It aims to show how well people's needs are being met and the services we will need to meet them in future. Local authorities in North Wales worked together with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), supported by Public Health Wales, to produce the assessment which is a requirement of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014).

The population assessment will be used to make decisions about the services we need to provide in North Wales to meet people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers. It will help us make decisions about where to use our resources, meet other requirements of the act and inform the work of the Regional Partnership Board.

We have used all kinds of evidence to identify what's needed and asked people what they think is important including people who currently use care and support services, the North Wales citizen's panel, and staff who deliver services in the local authorities, health, private and voluntary sectors.