



**Partneriaeth**  
Ranbarthol  
Gorllewin  
Morgannwg

West  
Glamorgan  
Regional  
**Partnership**



POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
2022 - 2027

INTRODUCTORY  
CHAPTER

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## WHAT IS A POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT?

The Population Needs Assessment (PNA) is a joint exercise undertaken by health and social care partners to gather information on people's wellbeing and the barriers that prevent them from achieving a sense of wellbeing. It also aims to determine people's care and support needs (including gaps in such provision) in order that services can be developed and targeted accordingly.




[Part 2 of the Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) indicates that PNAs must be compiled on a regional basis and made available in the form of a report. The [first PNA](#) was published in 2017 prior to Bridgend's departure from the 'Western Bay' region.

We now have an opportunity to refresh the content as the 'West Glamorgan Regional Partnership' (RPB) in line with the prescribed five year cycle outlined in the Act.

Similar to the previous iteration of the PNA, the assessment will be divided into prescribed core themes. These are:

-  Carers who need support
-  Older People
-  Children and Young People
-  Mental Health
-  Learning Disability
-  Autism
-  Health and Physical Disability
-  Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
-  Sensory Impairment

There is also a requirement to consider the following cross-cutting themes and wider topic areas:

-  Substance Misuse
-  Military Veterans
-  Gypsy and Traveller Communities
-  Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities
-  Asylum seekers and refugees
-  Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities
-  Homelessness
-  Transport
-  Welsh Language
-  Socio-economic Duty
-  COVID-19 (including Long COVID)
-  Safeguarding







Where available, references to the cross-cutting themes will be woven into the main body of each core chapter to ensure interdependencies are captured.

The inter-relational aspects of the Well-being Assessments will also be considered. These are due to be published by Public Service Boards as required by the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

In addition, Market Stability Reports (MSRs) must also be produced by the RPB across a similar timeframe (by June 2022). This requirement aligns with the local government electoral cycle, and places MSRs within a strategic planning and commissioning cycle which includes regional PNAs and Area Plans. PNAs provide data about the need and demand for care and support within the RPB area, and the type and level of services required, whereas MSRs will provide an assessment of the sufficiency of care and provision and of the stability of the market for regulated services. Together, they will help inform and shape the strategic Area Plan for the region.

## WHAT IS THE ASK?

The PNA requires all RPBs to gather and analyse information that will aim to identify:

-  the extent to which there are people in the region who need care and support
-  the extent to which there are carers in the region who need support
-  the extent to which there are people whose care and support needs are not being met
-  the range and level of services required to meet the care and support needs of the population, and the needs of carers
-  the range and level of services required to prevent people from needing care and support or higher levels of care and support
-  the actions required to provide services through the medium of Welsh.

## OUR POSITION

Like all providers of Health and Social Care services, the RPB's constituent organisations have experienced a turbulent 18 months. The COVID-19 emergency dominated all aspects of service delivery, and the necessary decision to marshal resources to support the frontline response inevitably reduced the amount of capacity available to progress the region's intended programme of work. This included the development of the PNA, which was revised and reconfigured as outlined below:

The COVID-19 crisis called for an urgent gear change in terms of our planned activities. Escalating pressures and diminished resources led us to a more 'back to basics' solution, meaning that time would be dedicated to developing a clear and robust database of measures that would serve as a **meaningful starting**

**point** for further development over time. This is being coordinated by the regional Research, Innovation and Improvement (RI&I) Hub, with ongoing input from organisations and communities.

The results of the Census 2021 also form part of this thinking. These will be available in March/April 2022 and will influence our statistics significantly, allowing us to create as accurate a population profile as possible.

With all of these factors in mind, it has been agreed that the most sensible and practically manageable approach at this time is to view the PNA as a ‘subject in motion’, rather than a single snapshot in time. It will develop and evolve as and when new data/research emerges and relevant consultation/engagement findings are published. Our aim, therefore, is to begin by establishing a **reliable and consistent baseline of measures** for each of the themed categories.

## CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION

With the region still very much in ‘crisis-mode’ at the time of writing, we have been especially mindful of consultation fatigue and the importance of ensuring engagement efforts are not duplicated across agencies. There have been requests from various quarters for information on people’s experiences during the pandemic, as well as more general health and well-being related matters.

Our approach has involved:

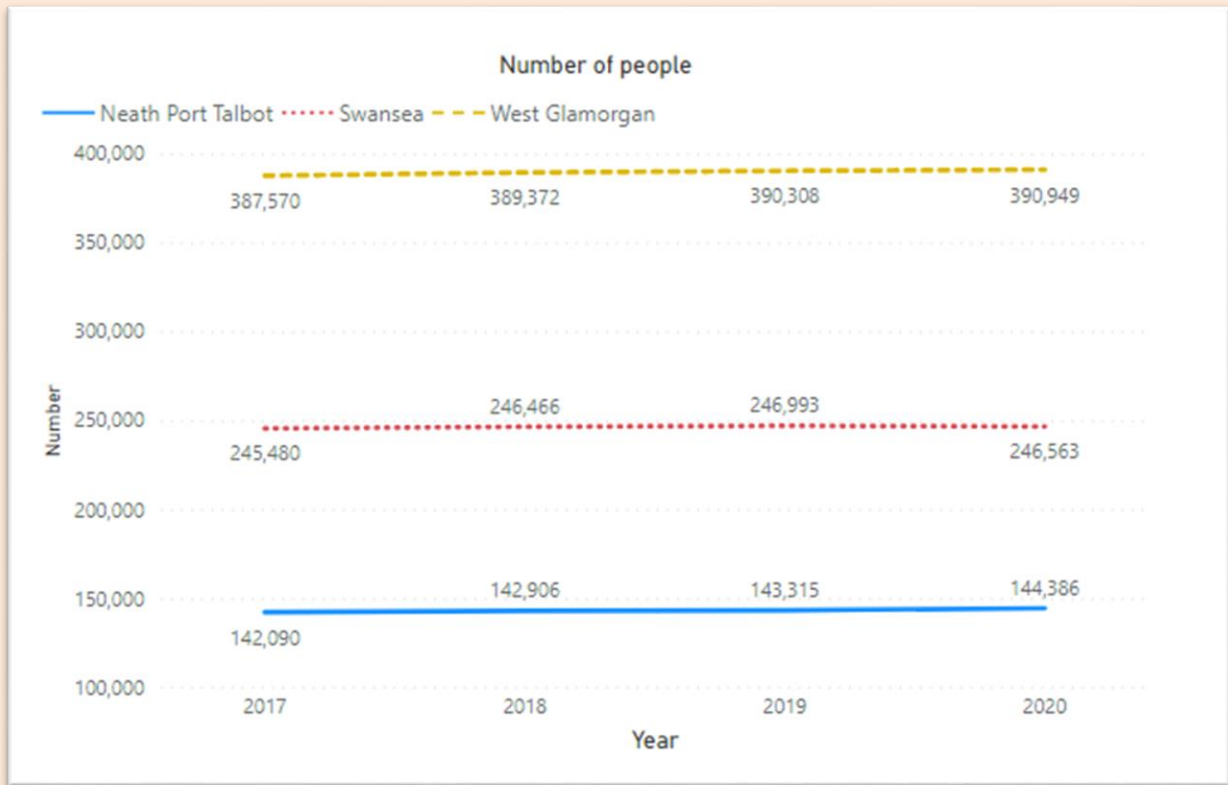
- 🌐 Linking with the PSB Well-being Assessment engagement mechanisms. Neath Port Talbot’s ‘Let’s Talk’ survey and Swansea’s Assessment of Local Well-being.
- 🌐 Gathering intelligence from relevant local, regional, national and international engagement activities pertaining to each of the themed chapters.
- 🌐 Connecting with existing groups and forums who are able to contribute to and comment on the content of relevant PNA chapters.
- 🌐 Engaging via our series of virtual ‘Possibilities for People’ public engagement events.
- 🌐 Developing a suite of resources designed to support services and organisations to co-produce effectively. This piece of work was led by the West Glamorgan Co-production Group and comprises a framework, toolkit and charter.



## OUR REGIONAL PROFILE

The West Glamorgan region comprises of a population of approximately 390,949. The latest data is published by [Stats Wales](#) from their population estimate published in June 2021. It is made up of the two local authorities of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, with populations of 144,386 and 246,563 respectively.

The following table demonstrates the population growth from 2017 – 2020.

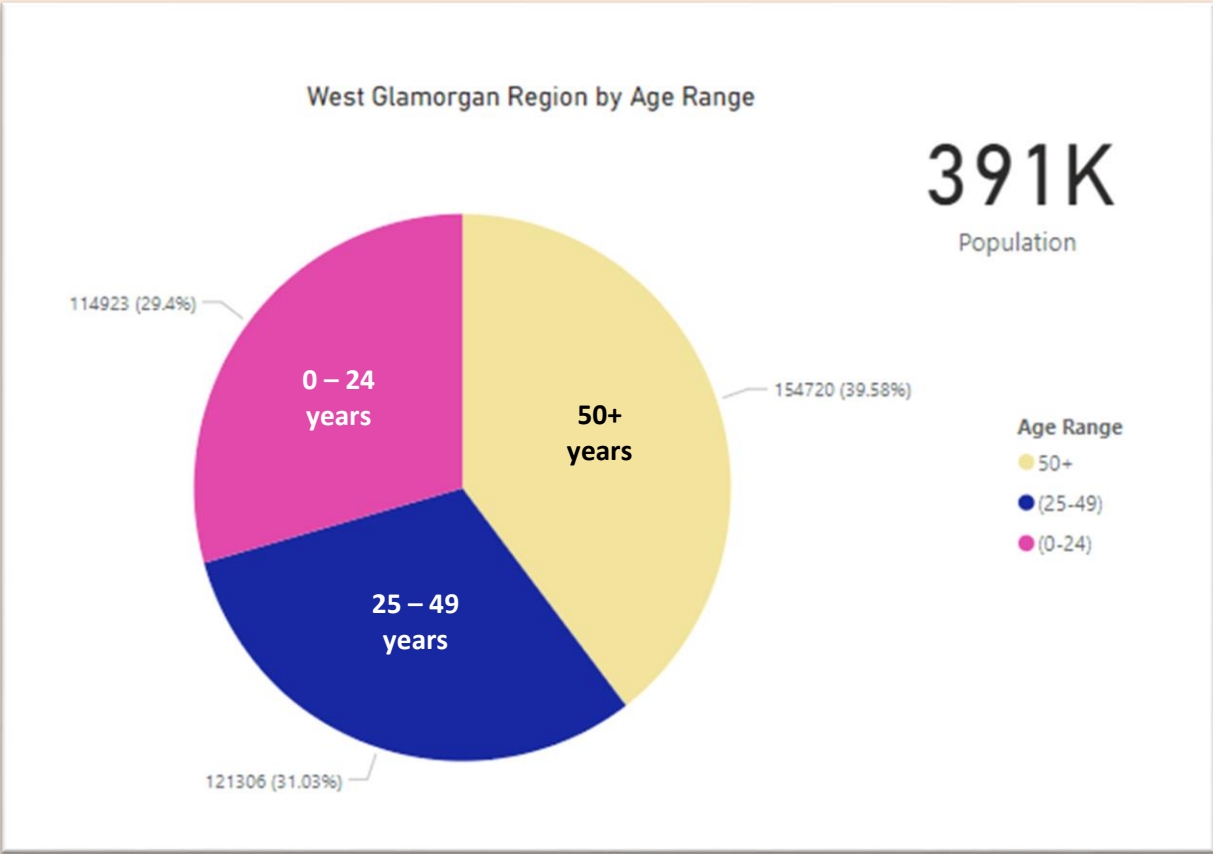


The following tables show the gender profiles (male and female) by local authority area, as well as the region as a whole from 2017 - 2020.

Year	Neath Port Talbot	Swansea	West Glamorgan
Mid Year 2017	69,971	122,620	192,591
Mid Year 2018	70,395	123,050	193,445
Mid Year 2019	70,608	123,163	193,771
Mid Year 2020	71,200	122,688	193,888

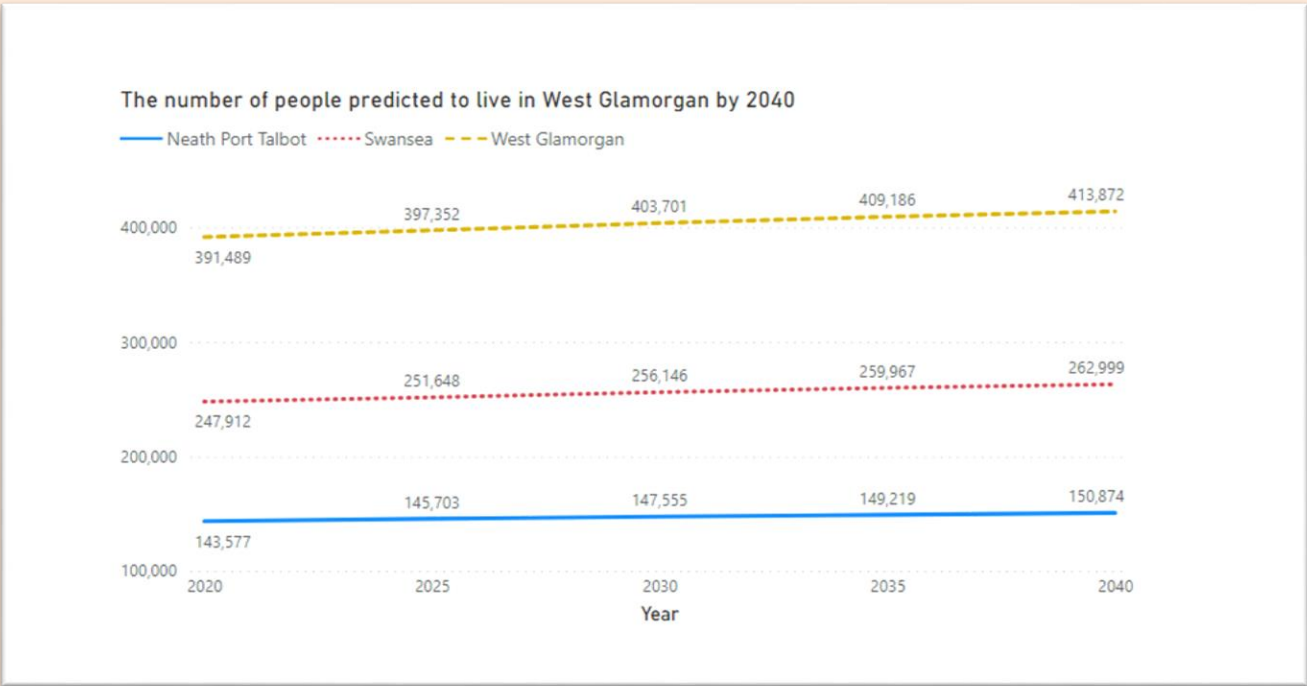
Year	Neath Port Talbot	Swansea	West Glamorgan
Mid Year 2017	72,119	122,860	194,979
Mid Year 2018	72,511	123,416	195,927
Mid Year 2019	72,707	123,830	196,537
Mid Year 2020	73,186	123,875	197,061

The current population age range (based on three categories) for 2020 is as follows, with the over 50s making up a largest proportion of people living in West Glamorgan.



In terms of projected population changes for West Glamorgan, growth generally falls in line with previous predictions with an overall growth of 5.72% between 2020 and 2040. This means an additional 22,383 people living in the region.

However these figures are based on projections from the 2011 Census. Due to the effects of the pandemic and limited migration between countries and Brexit, the 2021 Census data may present a different picture.



The Health Board that services our region is Swansea Bay University Health Board. The Health Board employs approximately 12,500 staff and has three major hospitals providing a range of services: [Morrison](#) and [Singleton](#) in Swansea, and [Neath Port Talbot Hospital](#) in Baglan, Port Talbot. Community hospitals and primary care resource centres providing clinical services outside the main hospitals.

There are 49 GP practices within the region, along with 72 dental practices (including orthodontists), 31 optometry practices and 92 community pharmacies.

In terms of the Welsh language profile, the population data from Stats Wales shows the differences in Welsh language competency between the two local authorities.

Measure	Area	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Percentage of adults (16+) that speak Welsh	Swansea	10.67	9.29	9.00
Percentage of adults (16+) that speak Welsh	Neath Port Talbot	18.08	19.81	15.40
Percentage of adults (16+) that have some Welsh speaking ability	Neath Port Talbot	9.51	8.40	13.82
Percentage of adults (16+) that have some Welsh speaking ability	Swansea	15.18	17.71	22.55
Percentage of adults (16+) that cannot speak Welsh	Neath Port Talbot	72.41	71.80	70.78
Percentage of adults (16+) that cannot speak Welsh	Swansea	74.15	73.00	68.44

The information above highlights a decline in the percentage of adults who are able to speak Welsh within the region. Neath Port Talbot did see a rise in 2017-18, but this declined the following year.

There is however an increase in the percentage of adults indicating that they have some Welsh speaking ability.

Welsh language provision must be factored in to services being delivered by all partners within the region in line with the [Welsh language standards](#). This also links to the [Mwy na geiriau / More than just words](#) 'Active Offer'. A Strategic Framework for Promoting the Welsh Language in Health, Social Services and Social Care' was published in 2016 by the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

A new vision, strategic framework and set of actions building on the work undertaken to date is currently under development.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

As highlighted previously, the information presented in the themed chapters form a baseline of what will become a process of continuous iteration.

This has been a tremendously challenging undertaking, and it is fair to say that detail is lacking in a number of areas. As more up-to-date data becomes available, this will feed into the chapters. This will include the ONS Census 2021 data. The Census-based local authority population estimates are due to be published in late spring / early summer, with all outputs released by March 2023.

The next step will be to focus on the gaps identified and apply the valuable learning we have acquired during this initial phase of development. It should be noted that this process will vary for the different chapters, given some of the themes align directly with the regional programmes within the West Glamorgan governance. For example, children and young people, older people, mental health, carers, learning disability and autism.

The remaining chapters (sensory impairment, health and physical disability, and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence) do not directly align with the remit of our regional programmes, though elements of the findings will offer insights in relation to the interdependences across the various themes (e.g. a person with a learning disability may also have a sensory impairment).

The chapters, however, will be shared with all key partners who are involved in the local planning and delivery of services across the region in order to inform their future planning arrangements.