



Partneriaeth
Ranbarthol
Gorllewin
Morgannwg

West
Glamorgan
Regional
Partnership



POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
2022 – 2027

CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE

If you require this information in an alternative format, please contact the
West Glamorgan Transformation Office via email at
west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk




1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as “a human being below the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

Source: [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\) - UNICEF UK](#)

There are a number of different laws across the United Kingdom that specify age limits in different circumstances.

In Wales, Children and Young People (CYP) include:

-  child protection - those aged under 18
-  the age of consent – age 16
-  the age of criminal responsibility – age 10.


Children have 42 rights under the UNCRC. These rights give CYP what they need to grow up happily, healthily and safely.

In 2011, Wales became the first country in the UK to make the UNCRC part of its domestic law. You can read more about this ground-breaking measure [here](#).

The rights of children in Wales have been set out in the following linked document - [Children's rights: Information for children | GOV.WALES](#)

The aim of this needs assessment is to ensure service providers have the information they require in order to meet the needs of CYP, and support them to grow up happily, healthily and safely.

Information from the report “Wales Children receiving Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census: cited 31 March 2020” outlines the following points:

-  There were 16,581 children receiving care and support included in the Children Receiving Care and Support (CRCS) Census on 31 March 2020, an increase of 161 (1%) compared with 31 March 2019. The overall number of children captured in the CRCS

Census has increased each year since data collection began in 2016-17.

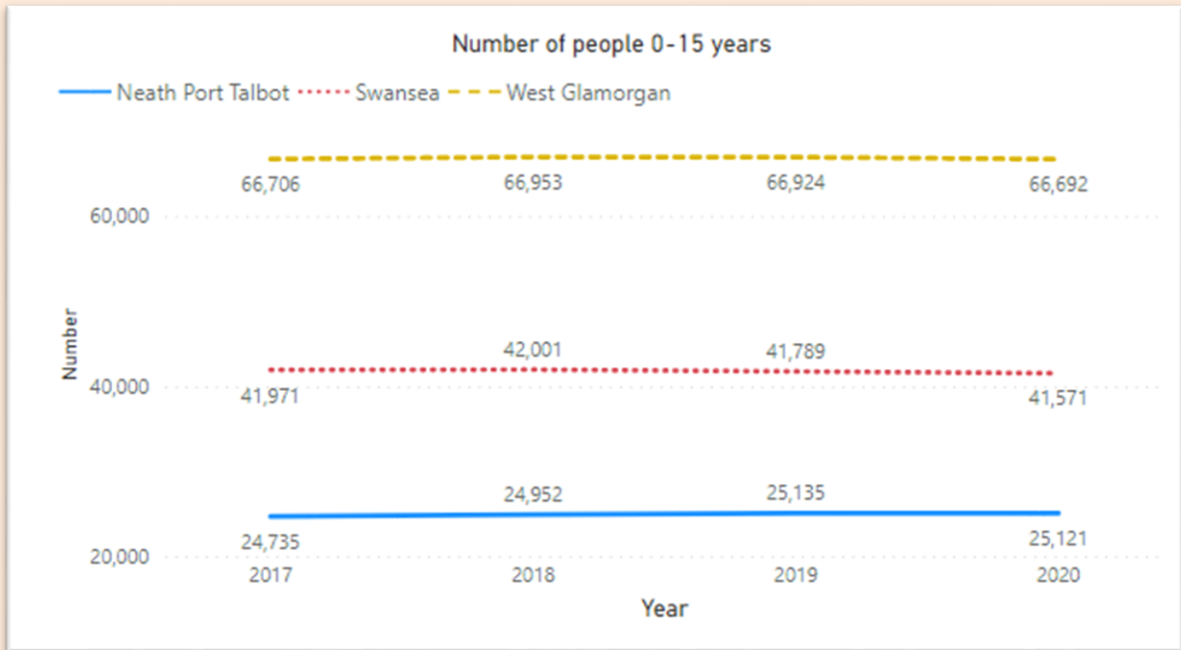
- 🌈 The rate of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census on 31 March 2020 equated to 263 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years, compared to 261 per 10,000 children on 31 March 2019.
- 🌈 Looked after children (LAC) or those children separated from their families. 6,935 children (42%) were looked after by a local authority and 2,311 children (14%) were on the Child Protection Register. There were 165 children who were both looked after and on the Child Protection Register (included in the children looked after total). The remaining 7,335 children (44%) were not looked after and not on the Child Protection Register.
- 🌈 The proportion of children receiving care and support who were looked after has increased each year since 2016-17, whilst the proportion of children who were not looked after and not on the Child Protection Register has decreased each year.
- 🌈 Over half of all children receiving care and support (53%) had a need for care and support due primarily to the risk of, or who experienced actual, abuse or neglect.

Source: [Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census: as at 31 March 2020](#)
[GOV.WALES](#)

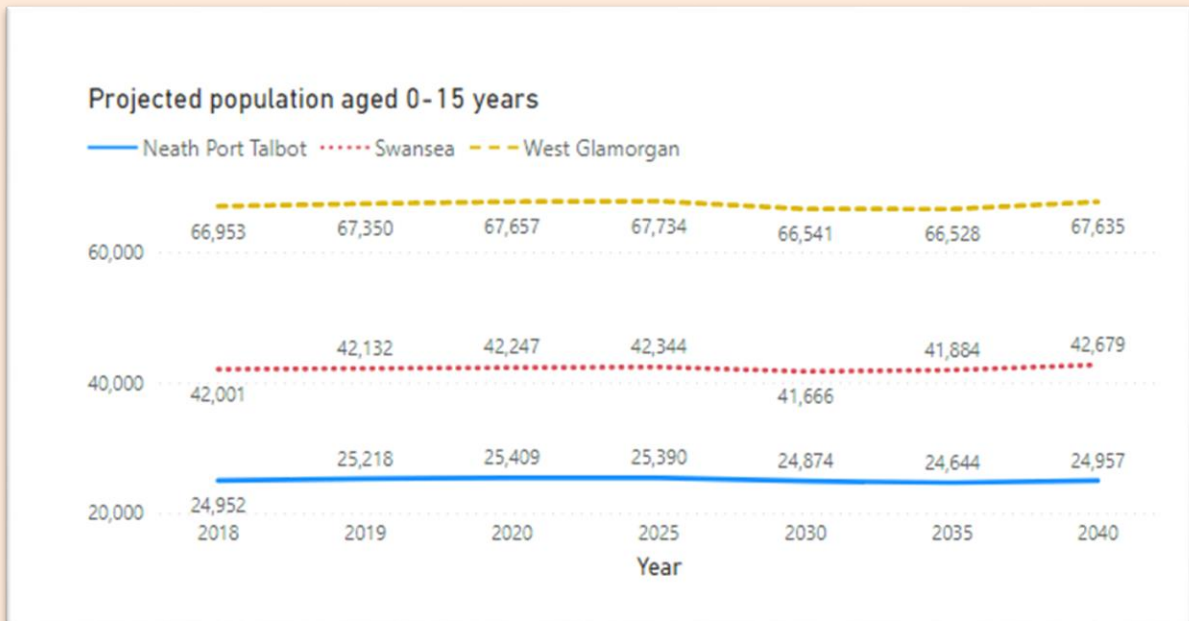
Under the guidance of the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, there is also a consideration to include young people in the core theme, so that services to help transition between child and adult services are as seamless as possible. The age range of the cohort is 18-25 year olds

Demographics

Data from StatsWales is indicated below. For 2020, the mid-year estimate for West Glamorgan children aged between 0 - 15 years is 66,692 (see below):



ased on projections produced by StatsWales, the population of those aged 0 - 15 years is expected to grow by approximately 2.5% by 2040:



In order to effectively assess impact of population growth on services, further analysis will be included following the release of the Census data for 2021, (late spring 2022).





2. LIFESTYLE FACTORS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people's experiences differ greatly depending on their circumstances, their location, family life and school life. The early years to adulthood journey can be punctuated with many services where an individual or family present with a need, but we must also be mindful of those who slip through the net.

We categorise children into many different cohorts, such as care experienced, children in need, and those who need protecting. Additionally, there are children who require services but are not "on the radar of" professional bodies.

In most areas of Wales, CYP experiencing distress with mental health emotional wellbeing and behavioural issues are waiting too long to get the help they need and are being 'bounced' between services who cannot agree who is responsible for their care. CYP, parents and carers and people who work with them, felt that services needed to improve. As part of the Mental Health Delivery Plan for 2019-22 a statutory framework has been devised called NEST/NYTH. It exists to plan a whole systems approach for mental health, wellbeing and support services that support babies, children, young people, parents, carers and their wider families across Wales with the following ethos: "Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trust". Sometimes, extra help is needed. If another service needs to become involved, it is called 'No Wrong Door' (Children's Commissioner for Wales)

The key messages highlighted for improvement in the "No Wrong Door" report is listed:

-  Services don't work together enough to make sure that CYP and their families get the right help at the right time.
-  Services don't talk and listen to CYP enough.
-  Some children and their families have been told that their needs are too complicated for one service. Others are told that their needs aren't serious enough for help.
-  Services are not very good at explaining what they do and how CYP can get help.

- 🌈 When CYP asked for help, they were told by services that they were "knocking on the wrong door". This means the service didn't think they could help them.
- 🌈 "No Wrong Door" means that children and young people should get the help they need when they ask for it.
- 🌈 A need exists for services to "wrap around" CYP and their families, not for them to have to navigate complicated systems.
- 🌈 Regions need to move rapidly towards a 'no wrong door' approach in responding to CYP's emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. This means that they should not keep being told that they are knocking on the wrong door when trying to access help. This could include early help panel or hub models, drop-in centres, models that make sure children and young people get the right help so that they don't need to go away from home to receive specialist care or plan for specialist residential care closer to home.

Source: [No Wrong Door: bringing services together to meet children's needs - Children's Commissioner for Wales \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NoWrongDoor_FINAL_EN230620.pdf)
 RPB English (childcomwales.org.uk) https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NoWrongDoor_FINAL_EN230620.pdf

"A large part of a 'no wrong door' approach is to recognise the need for all children experiencing severe distress, in whatever form that takes, and for services to respond in a way which meets the needs of the child.

Too often, access to any support is based upon a diagnosis. We believe more needs to be done to recognise neurodiversity and that while some children may not have a diagnosable condition, they may still need the support of neurodevelopmental services and others. The Together for Children and Young People (T4CYP) programme has had a significant focus on these aims as part of its work, but the programme is currently only funded to March 2022."

Source: [Children's Commissioner for Wales Annual Report 2020/21 \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](https://www.childcomwales.org.uk)










There are many national products that address the issues and pressures facing CYP. The aim of this assessment is to identify the lifestyle factors that this group encounters as part of their daily lives, and how we plan to

help them transition from one phase to another with the correct support being available when they need it.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The most influential experiences that affect children in later life is shaped by the sort of world they experience as children. ACEs have a significant impact on how children transition into adults.

Examples include:

-  Parental separation
-  Domestic violence
-  Mental illness
-  Alcohol abuse
-  Drug use
-  Incarceration
-  Verbal abuse
-  Physical abuse
-  Sexual abuse.

A more in-depth review can be found at: [Review of Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) policy: report | GOV.WALES](#)

Early Years - Exclusions

“The commissioner’s team undertook an investigation of exclusion in Foundation Phase education (ages 3-7) across Wales to determine whether a rise in casework indicated a widespread problem.

‘Inclusion in the Foundation Phase’, sets out research findings. It reveals 768 reported incidences of exclusion relating to Foundation Phase children in 2018- 9. “The true figure is likely to be higher as data was not made available by all local authorities. Investigations also revealed that on average nine Foundation Phase children per authority had been excluded more than once, with one child having been excluded 18 times in a one-year period.”

Source: [Children’s Commissioner for Wales Annual Report 2020/21 \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](#)

Childhood Obesity

According to the 2017/18 Child Measurement Programme for Wales, 11.9% of children aged 4-5 in Wales are obese, and a further 14.6% are overweight. The total of 26.5% of children overweight and obese is higher than England's 22.3% for the same age group. Data for 2018/19 and 2019/20 has not yet been released.

Deprivation is associated with obesity. 14.2% of children are obese in the most deprived fifth of areas compared with 8.2% in the least deprived fifth. This gap has increased in recent years.

Source: [Obesity Statistics \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-statistics/health-and-social-care/welsh-obesity-statistics/)

Loneliness

"The 'Age and loneliness' insight found that 23.3% of those aged 16–24 reported being lonely compared to 10.5% of those aged 75+.

Furthermore, that among 16–24-year-olds with a long-term illness or disability, the proportion reporting being lonely rises to 42.2%."

Source: [Who is lonely in Wales? | WCPP](https://www.wcpwales.org.uk/who-is-lonely-in-wales/)

The impact of COVID-19 has impacted CYP in respect of loneliness. The Children's Commissioner for Wales survey (January 2021) states:

"We asked about loneliness for the first time in this survey. It is noticeable that 12-18s are twice as likely to report feeling lonely 'most of the time' (28%) than those aged 7-11 (14%). Children without siblings report slightly higher levels of loneliness than the average for their age groups, although this was not as large a difference as may have been expected. For example, 17% of 7–11-year-olds without sibling's report feeling lonely 'most of the time', compared to an average of 14% for this age group. Amongst young people aged 12-18, those with four or more children in the home report similar levels of feeling lonely most of the time (32%) to those without siblings (31%)."

"I don't feel happy on my own" (8-year-old, North West Wales)

"I have nobody to talk to" (14-year-old, Central South Wales)

Safety

Information on safety is presented from the same survey. It states:

“All children and young people who stated that they feel safe only ‘some of the time’ or ‘not very often’ were asked a follow-up question about why they feel unsafe, with a drop-down menu of options to choose from. The most common reason by far for feeling unsafe across all groups is ‘People I care about could get unwell from coronavirus’. The least common reason for feeling unsafe is ‘I do not feel safe in my home’, although it is concerning that 173 survey respondents stated that they do not feel safe at home. It is also to be expected that some of the children who are least likely to feel safe may not have been supported to respond to this survey.”

“For all age groups, the reasons for feeling unsafe are very varied. Of the 12–18-year-olds who added comments on safety, 20% (33) mention concerns.”

“Ten young people raise concerns about their own safety and six younger children mentioned problems at home. A further 64 children and young people mention safeguarding concerns in the free-text section at the end of the survey. As mentioned in the methods section, we were able to follow two of these up with local safeguarding services as they added their names to their comment. Except for some fears common in childhood (spiders, monsters under the bed) concerns expressed by children reflect the debates we see in wider society worries about those they love catching covid-19, fears about being in situations where others are not abiding by the rules, and concerns about the secondary impact on their mental health and education. Small numbers also mentioned feeling not safe at home. Several are concerned about safety in shops, their community and in school.”

“People are not taking coronavirus as seriously due to the vaccine, so they aren’t being as cautious as they were during the first lockdown.”
(15-year-old, Central South Wales)

“If I leave the house I might catch it”
(9-year-old, West Wales)

“I worry about the coronavirus and I have nightmares that I can’t escape”
(10-year-old, North East Wales)

Source: [CoronavirusAndMe_Jan21_ENG_110221_FINAL.pdf](#)
([childcomwales.org.uk](#))

Community Involvement (Volunteering)

Involving young people in volunteering can seem a daunting prospect for some organisations but the benefits to organisations, the young people and the wider community can certainly make it very worthwhile. Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service’s ‘Involving Young Volunteers’ Information sheet is designed to help organisations understand how to involve young people aged 14-25 more as volunteers, and to navigate barriers that may stop a young person becoming a volunteer.

Source: [Involving-Young-Volunteers.pdf](#) ([nptcvs.wales](#))

Bullying

“There is no legal definition of bullying, but it is often described as behaviour that hurts someone else, physically or emotionally, and can happen anywhere - at school, at home or online.

Around one in five children aged 10 to 15 years in England and Wales (19%) experienced at least one type of online bullying behaviour in the year ending March 2020, equivalent to 764,000 children.

More than half (52%) of those children who experienced online bullying behaviours 1 said they would not describe these behaviours as bullying, and one in four (26%) did not report their experiences to anyone.

Being called names, sworn at, or insulted and having nasty messages about them sent to them were the two most common online bullying behaviour types, experienced by 10% of all children aged 10 to 15 years. Three out of four children (72%) who had experienced an online bullying behaviour experienced at least some of it at school or during school time.”

“School has a significant role in bullying. It is the place where children spend a lot of their time daily and interact with other children who may

display bullying behaviours. It can be a place where bullying takes place but also a place where children may seek direct help from their teachers or school staff.

In the year ending March 2020, 7 out of 10 (70%) children aged 10 to 15 years who experienced an online bullying behaviour said this was by someone from their school.”

Source: [Online bullying in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Research shows that 36% of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND) experience frequent bullying, compared to 25% of those without. The Anti-Bullying Alliance has worked to help schools reduce bullying, often referred to as disablist bullying. Since 2013, the organisation has been working with disabled young people to develop strategies and approaches that help to reduce disablist bullying.

Source: [Do children with SEND experience more bullying? \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

[All Together - Summary Report - FINAL_0.pdf \(effusion2.dh.bytemark.co.uk\)](https://www.effusion2.dh.bytemark.co.uk)

Cyber Bullying/Social Media

In the year ending March 2020, an estimated one in five children aged 10 to 15 years in England and Wales experienced at least one type of online bullying behaviour (19%). This equates to approximately 764,000 children.

Online bullying has been increasingly enabled by wider access to the internet and greater use of smartphones, social media, and networking applications. By comparison, twice as many children (38%) reported that they had experienced bullying behaviour in person.

A smaller percentage experienced a bullying behaviour by a telephone or mobile phone call (4%). As some children experienced multiple types of bullying behaviour, overall, 42% of children aged 10 to 15 years experienced some form of bullying behaviour in the year ending March 2020.

There was no significant difference in the proportion of girls (20%) and boys (17%) who had experienced an online bullying behaviour.

However, the prevalence of online bullying was significantly higher for

children with a long-term illness or disability (26%) than those without (18%). Asian or Asian British children were also significantly less likely to have experienced an online bullying behaviour (6%) than White children (21%), Black or Black British children (18%) and Mixed Ethnic group children (19%).

As the data used for this publication relate to the period prior to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, with children's isolation at home and increased time spent on the internet, the split between in person and online bullying is likely to have changed during this period.

Out of all children who had experienced a form of online bullying behaviour, slightly less than half (48%) stated that they had experienced two or more types of online bullying behaviours.

Source: [Online bullying in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Transition and gaps in services between childhood and adulthood

All young people need support as they move towards adulthood. Young people with learning disabilities/additional needs have the same hopes for a good adult life, but most will need additional help. The services that their families may have worked so hard to get for them will usually change when they reach the age of 18 (although the age differs depending on the service). The Children's Commissioner for Wales found that there is universally a huge task for young people and their families to navigate and negotiate the move to adult health and social services, college courses and the prospects of employment or other worthwhile activity after college. During their research, they heard from a few families that have been well supported through this period, with dedicated transitions support, including life skills development from local authority or voluntary sector projects. However, the majority had found this process confusing, difficult and anxiety inducing. Young people had not had the opportunities to be involved in this planning that they have the right to, with planning too often done 'about them' rather than 'with' them.

Key messages from young people and their families included:

- 🧩 Young people's participation in planning and decision-making appeared to be exceptionally low – this meant that their different priorities and specific interests could get missed.
- 🧩 Parents play a crucial role and are relied upon to do so, but often feel overwhelmed and anxious about the future – they need support and recognition.
- 🧩 Some young people face a considerable change in how much support they receive after the age of 18 due to different thresholds rather than a sudden change in need – contrary to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 🧩 Every service has diverse ways of transferring to over-18s services. Having a key worker or transition service is valuable.
- 🧩 Social isolation is a problem for many – even though friendships are rated as young people's top priority
- 🧩 There are limited opportunities for work and apprenticeships, with no supported employment opportunities – despite evidence suggesting this is particularly effective.
- 🧩 Young people, parents, and professionals all agree that young people with learning disabilities are still expected to slot into services that already exist, with limited options if that does not fit their needs.

Source: [Children's Commissioner for Wales \(2018\) 'Don't Hold Back' Transitions to adulthood for young people with learning disabilities](#)

3. SERVICES USED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The range of services used by CYP is extensive, and there are links to local well-being assessments which also need to be considered to bring clarity and assurance. More is required from services that have interdependences so that we are better placed to determine specific service needs.

An outline of key statutory services for CYP can be found below:

Hospital Services






Community Paediatric Service

The Community Paediatric service aims to promote the health and welfare of CYP (0-16 years, and up to 19 years in some circumstances)

living in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot areas. It is a specialist child health assessment and diagnostic service staffed by Specialist Child Health doctors, in conjunction with therapy and nursing staff.

The service works in partnership with families, Allied Health professionals, Education, social services and voluntary organisations.









Community Paediatricians (children's doctors) help with concerns about:

-  Development
-  Communication
-  Disabled children
-  Bedwetting
-  Complex health needs.

Children living in the Neath Port Talbot area can access clinics at Neath Port Talbot Children's Centre and at Ysgol Maes-y Coed special school (for CYP attending this school).

For children living in the Swansea area, there are clinics at Hafan Y Mor Children's Centre and at Ysgol Crug Glas and Penybryn special schools (for CYP attending these schools).

Services offered include:

-  Neuro Developmental assessment clinics
-  Multidisciplinary Team clinics
-  Paediatric Nocturnal Enuresis (bed wetting) service
-  Social Communication Assessment clinics
-  Developmental Coordination Difficulties assessment clinic
-  Monitoring of children with lifelong neuro-disabling conditions
-  Clinics in special schools for children with complex needs
-  Medical assessment for hearing loss.

General Paediatrics


There are three inpatient ward areas within Morriston Hospital: Oakwood Ward, Ward M (Surgical) and the Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU).


Play Team

CYP who are admitted to Morriston hospital have access to WiFi, board games, toys and DVDs. A play co-ordinator and a wider play team also help patients create art projects.

General Paediatric Outpatient Care

Some of the services provided include:




-  Paediatric Cardiology - Children with confirmed or suspected heart problems are seen at both Morriston and Singleton hospitals. There are three consultants in the department who have specialist expertise in children's heart problems. All three consultants work on the neonatal intensive care unit at Singleton and have been trained in children's cardiology and are able to perform ultrasound scans of children's hearts. There are three specialist physiologists who help with the specialist tests that are often needed in to investigate children with suspected heart problems.

-  Paediatric Diabetes - Swansea Bay now offer CYP that suffer with Type 1 diabetes free access to the DigiBete app. The DigiBete app is loaded with educational videos and resources about Type 1 diabetes that are there to help support children and their parents manage their condition with all content approved by clinicians.

Paediatric Allergy Service

The allergy service looks after CYP with allergic diseases. It is a team of three, two consultant paediatricians and an allergy clinical nurse specialist. The team is also part of the South West and Wales Allergy Network and works closely with Allergy Specialists in Cardiff.

The service sees children up to the age of 16 years. Patients are most often referred to the service by their GPs. Face-to-face, virtual and nurse-led clinics are held weekly to treat children with a variety of allergic conditions, including:

-  Anaphylaxis
-  Food allergy
-  Pollen Food Syndrome

- 🌸 Difficult to control hay fever
- 🌸 Chronic urticaria and angioedema (hives and swelling)
- 🌸 Latex allergy
- 🌸 Venom allergy
- 🌸 Penicillin allergy.

Paediatric Rheumatology

Paediatric rheumatology is a broad and specialised field, and there is no paediatric rheumatologist based within the region. In recent years, a rheumatology service for children in South West Wales was established and based in Cardiff. Dr Dana Beasley, a general paediatrician in Swansea, acts as link and sees children and young people referred with possible rheumatologically issues in the Swansea area. She works closely with the Cardiff team who provide advice, treatment and multidisciplinary team input. The Cardiff team also come to Swansea for joint network clinics four times a year.

Most patients with rheumatologically conditions can be managed as outpatients in the community. Should admission be required, this would be on the paediatric ward in Morriston Hospital.

Cymru Versus Arthritis provide support for patients in Wales. Their website [versusarthritis.org](https://www.versusarthritis.org) contains useful information about a number of conditions, including hypermobility and common aches and pains.

Paediatric Neurology

Paediatric Neurologists are specialist clinicians who have expert knowledge and training in the diagnosis and management of neurological disorders affecting CYP. They care for patients from foetal life to adulthood (16-18 years). They see children with a variety of conditions including epilepsy, strokes, brain infections and tumours. Swansea is one of the British Paediatric Neurology Association's specialist Paediatric Neurology centres.

Emergency admissions are seen at Morriston Hospital and outpatient referrals are seen in Morriston, Singleton and Neath Port Talbot Hospitals. The team also provide outreach clinics to other hospitals, mostly in Hywel Dda Health Board. Joint clinics are held with various

other specialists E.g. paediatric neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons, adult neurology.

Paediatric Respiratory Team

The Paediatric Respiratory Team provides care for children with respiratory conditions across Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and surrounding areas. It treats children up to the age of 16 years and receives referrals from the primary care, emergency department and general paediatricians within the department. It is part of the South Wales Respiratory Network and works closely with the Paediatric Respiratory Consultants in Cardiff. We run face-to-face respiratory clinics every week at three sites, Singleton, Morriston and Neath Port Talbot Hospitals to provide clinical care closer to the home and offer virtual appointments to the follow-up patients for: Asthma, Pre-school wheeze, recurrent chest infections, hay fever, complex respiratory disorders including bronchiectasis, interstitial lung disease, trachea-oesophageal fistula, immunodeficiency, primary ciliary dyskinesia, and neuromuscular disorders.

Cystic Fibrosis Service

The Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Service has close links with the CF paediatric team at UHW and the adult cystic fibrosis team at Llandough Hospital. The CF clinic is run at Morriston Hospital once a week on Wednesday mornings as part of a Multidisciplinary Team approach. CF patients are reviewed annually by the CF team at UHW. Patients between the ages of 16-18 are seen jointly in the adult transition clinic awaiting their transfer to the adult CF services.

Children's Emergency Unit (CEU) Morriston

The Children's Emergency Unit at Morriston Hospital is co-located with the Paediatric Assessment Unit to form a dedicated Children's Emergency Unit (CEU). This was established to protect children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The unit will accept patients aged 0-16.

Neonatal Services

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is based at Singleton Hospital. It is one of the three large NICUs in South Wales. The NICU provides

specialist intensive care for new-born babies of all gestations and maturity.

The newly refurbished NICU unit has been designed to be compliant with latest healthcare standards in the UK and is equipped with modern equipment and advanced monitoring technologies required to care for the sickest and the most vulnerable babies to a high standard.

There is a team of dedicated and experienced doctors, nurses and support staffs who work hard to provide quality family centred care. Specialist surgical services for the region are provided at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

In addition to serving local population in the Swansea Bay area, the NICU routinely receives referrals for the most critically ill neonatal babies from the rest of the South West Wales region including Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

Admissions

Admission services provided by the Health Board for CYP are categorised in two ways, planned or non-planned.

The table/graph below shows data from the Health Board's Intelligence Unit. It demonstrates the demand placed on admissions to hospital for 0–17 year olds.

Initial analysis shows that there has been a drop in admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Admissions to hospital 0-17 years

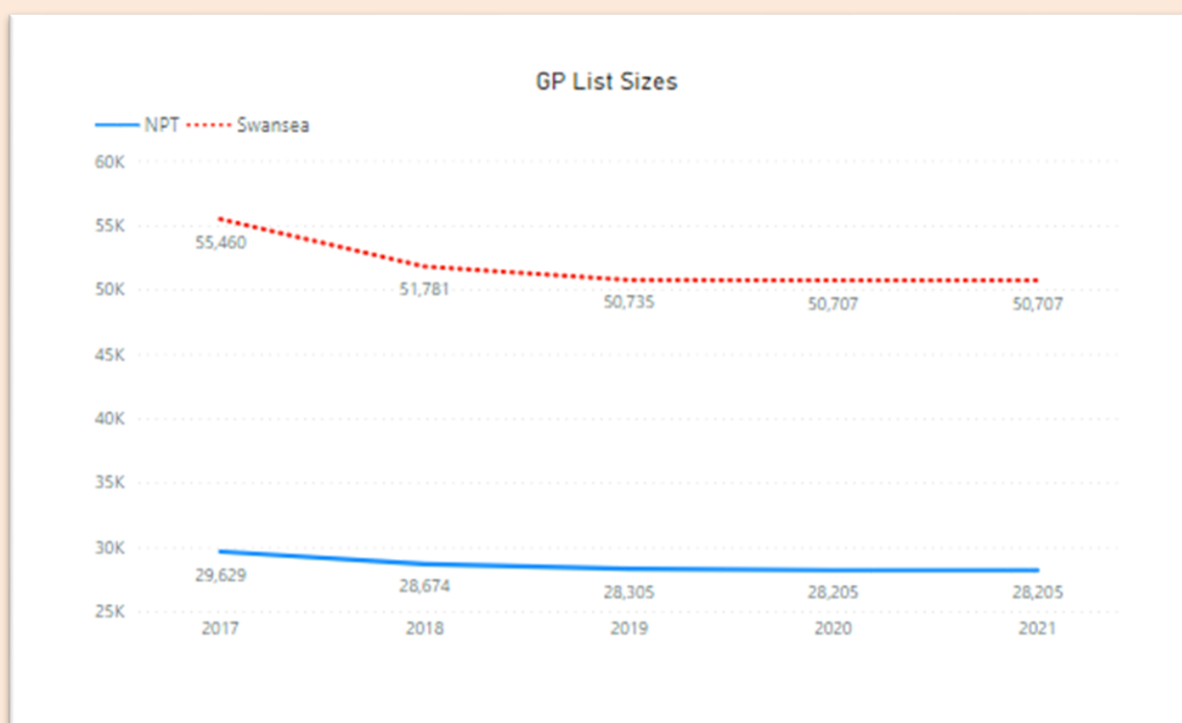


Regionally, there has been a significant fall in dealing with elective and non-elective cases of surgeries for CYP due to COVID-19.

This will have an impact on the backlog of operations that have to be rescheduled.

Primary Cluster Areas

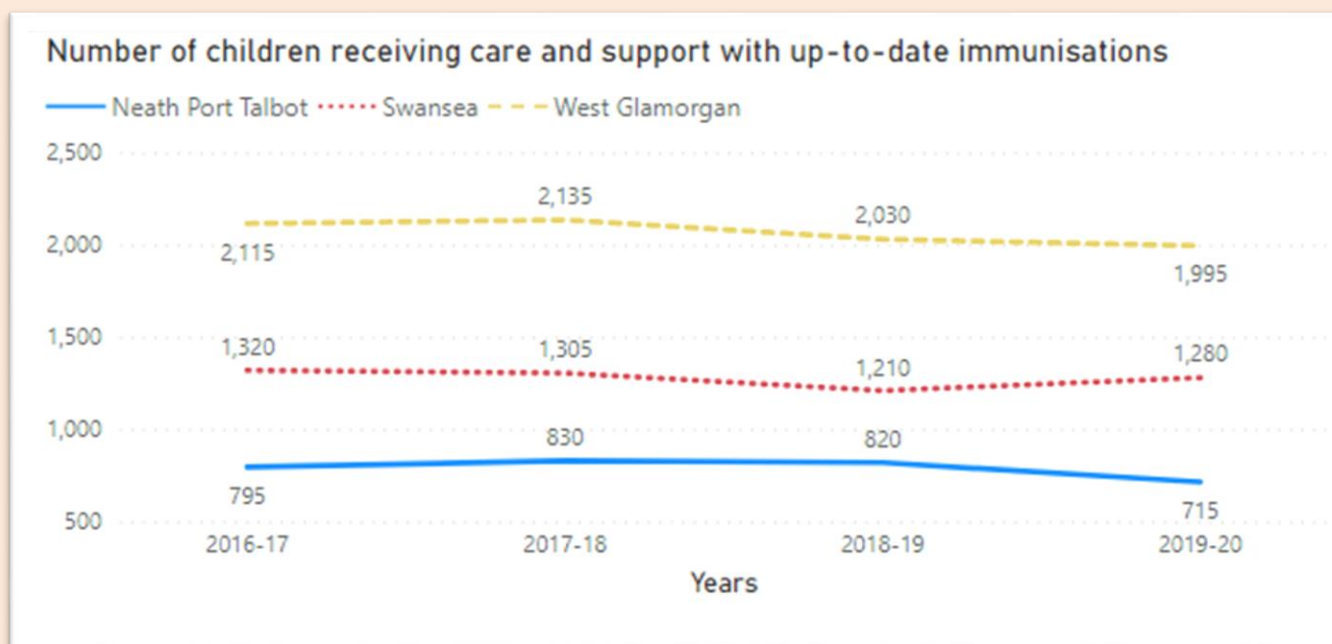
The following data from the Health Board's Intelligence Unit shows that there has been a drop in the numbers of registered 0–19 year olds on GP lists within the region.



Further analysis is required to determine the reasons for this.

Vaccinations/Immunisation programmes

The latest recorded data taken from Stats Wales shows the number of children receiving care and support who are up to date with immunisations. This does not reflect the general population of 0–17 year olds in the take-up of vaccinations across the region.



Other Health Care Services

Other aspects of health, including Mental Health, Oral Health are detailed in their respective chapters. Information on how children are affected is included, where it is available.

Emotional and Mental Health

CYP people are facing challenging times, and there is increasing demand on services for support with their mental health. Progress has been made to ensure that the emotional and mental health of CYP is a shared priority for the West Glamorgan partnership. Utilising a commissioning approach, acknowledging the support provided by the voluntary sector and the existing relationships with the sector, there is multi-agency agreement that CYP's emotional and mental health is everybody's business.

There has been new guidance published this year to develop services that support CYP, including the Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan for 2019-22 (NYTH/ NEST Framework), and the Statutory Framework on embedding a whole school approach to Emotional Health & Wellbeing.

These are strategic drivers for agencies and form the basis of a Children and Young People's Emotional & Mental Health Delivery Plan.

The feedback from agencies is that an increasing demand for both emotional and mental health services has been seen as the pandemic has progressed, and particularly as schools have re-opened.

Partners agree that we are still learning about the emerging impact of the pandemic on people’s emotional health and wellbeing. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) introduced the schools in-reach service during 2020/21, and the predominant themes are of anxiety, emotion regulation, anger, self-esteem, and resilience. The CAMHS has seen a slight increase in referrals. However, as seen in the table below, acuity levels of young people presenting are a lot higher at referral.

	Full Year @ 31/03/2021	Full Year (forecast) as @ 31/03/2022
Number of CAMHS- Referrals	1701	2278
Number of CAMHS Assessments	774	730

* Data above provided by CAMHS and includes Primary and Specialist CAMHS and Eating Disorder activity

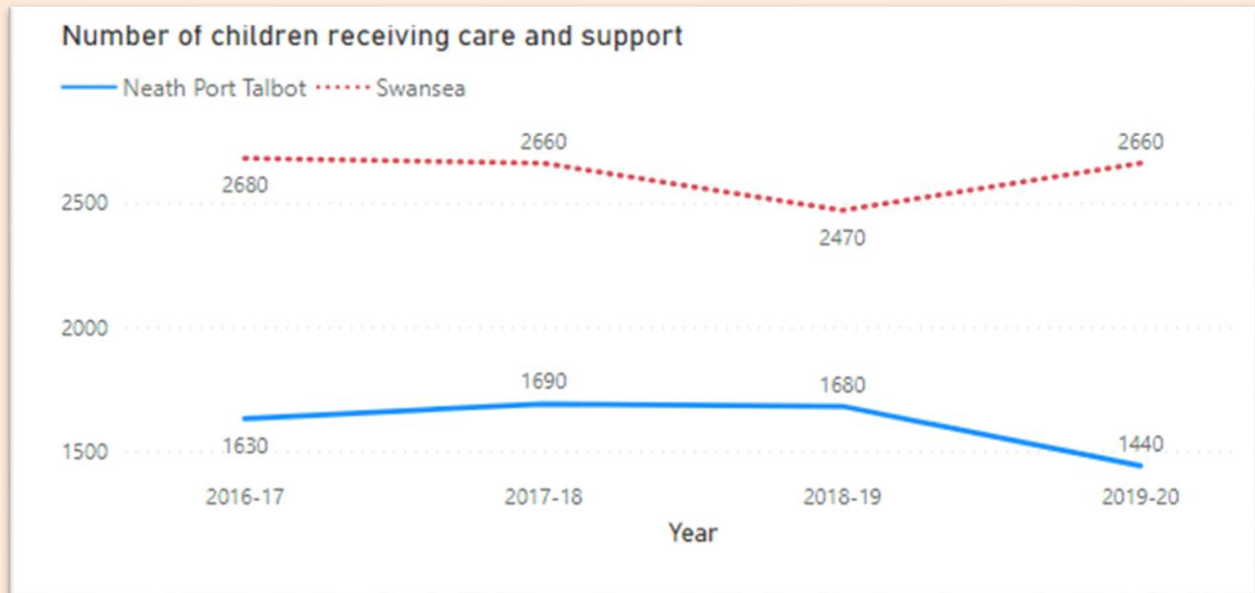
Social Care Services

The services provided by Social Services in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot are similar in type, but not in delivery. The data gathered from 2020/21 is now recorded through the Social Services performance framework outlined in the SSWBA (2014). Historical data is recorded and sourced from Social Care Wales.

Information and data are available for Looked after Children and children on the Child Protection Register. The data captures the number of contacts (referrals) made to the local authorities’ Social Services departments, how those contacts are dealt with, and where it led to a service being provided.

The number of referrals that the West Glamorgan region recorded between 2016/17 and 2018/19 is not available directly from Neath Port Talbot or Swansea due to data collection systems being changed at the

time of compilation. However, to demonstrate demand over time, Social Care Wales has captured the number of children receiving care and support from Social Services in West Glamorgan, which is shown in the following table.



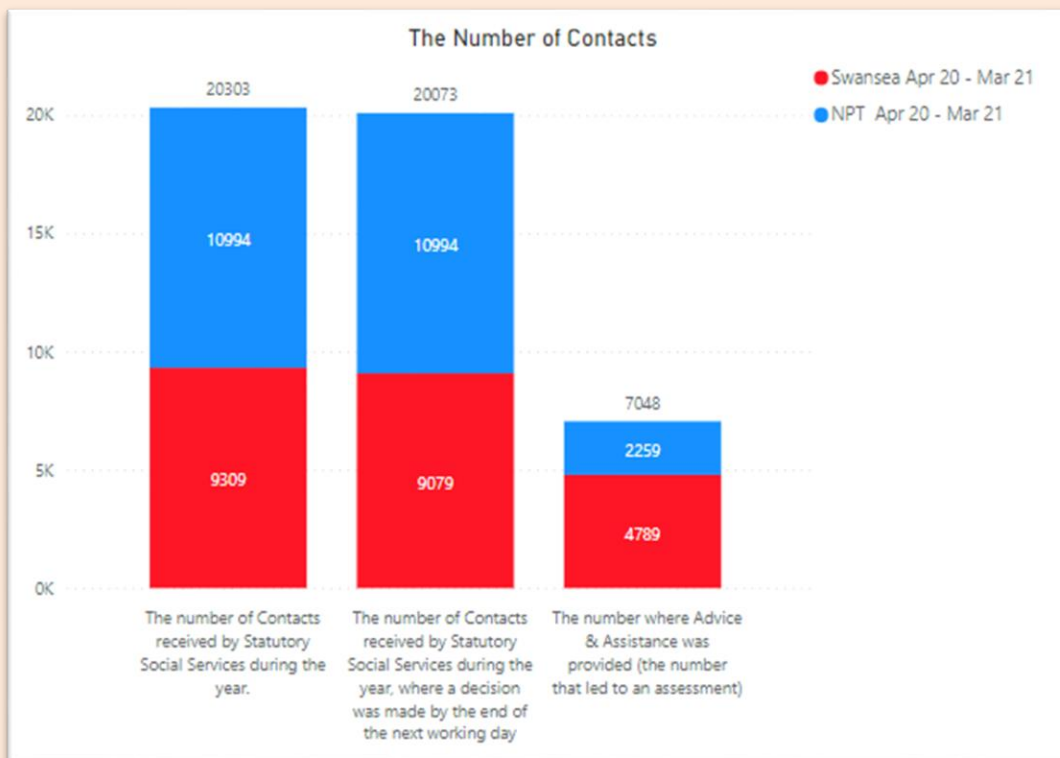
Number of Contacts (Referrals) made to Social Services

For contacts (referrals) made to Social Services, the information for 2019/20 is not held on the Social Care Wales data catalogue platform. However, in 2020/21 the region recorded 20,303 contacts, with Swansea recording 9,309 and Neath Port Talbot recording 10,994 contacts.

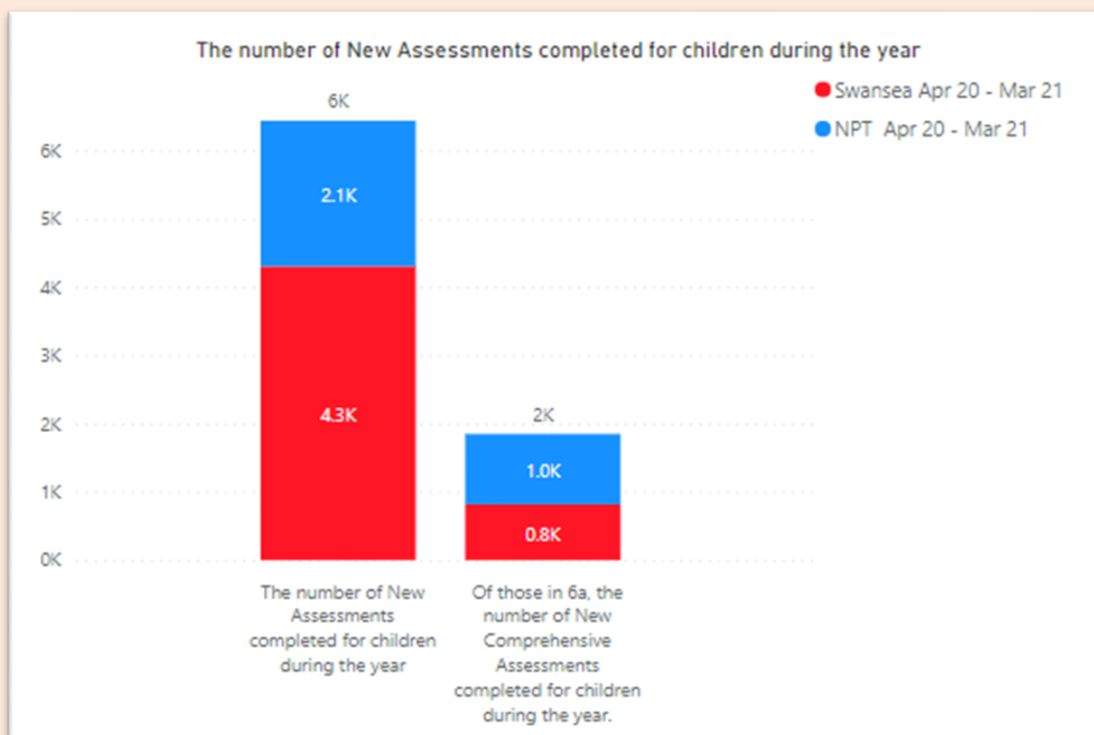
As COVID-19 affected services and resources, it is unclear if the numbers truly reflect the situation that would have been recorded under more normal circumstances.

Changes to the way Social Services recorded information for key indicators of the SSWBA (2014) is another reason why comparing previous data is difficult. Analysis of the new data sets will see this situation improve over the next five years.

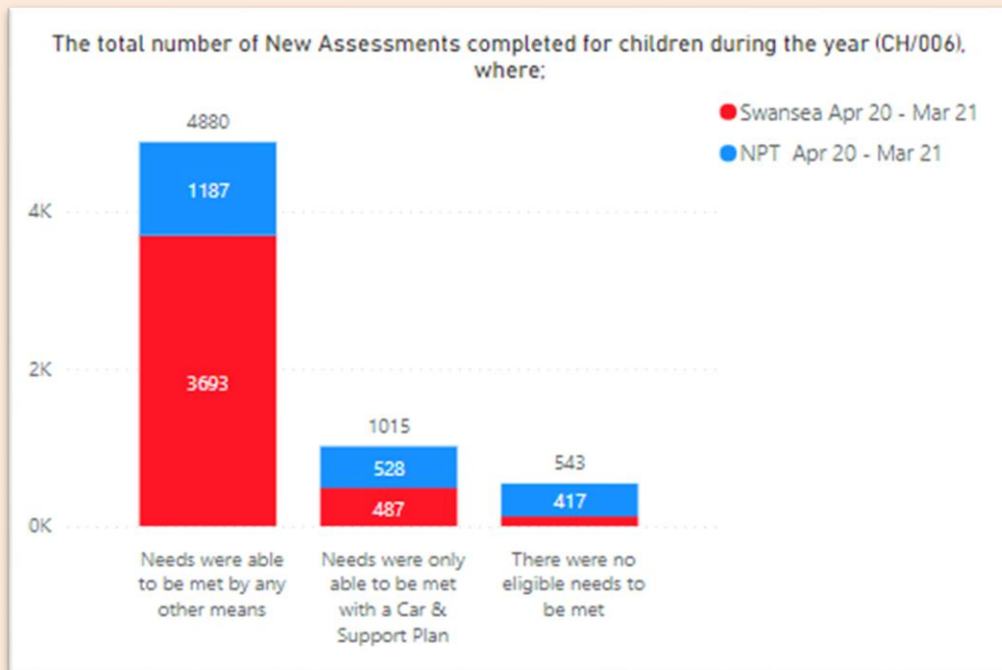
The table below shows the number of contacts split into the number of contacts received by Statutory Social Services made to Swansea and NPT in 2020/21, and the number where advice and assistance was provided:



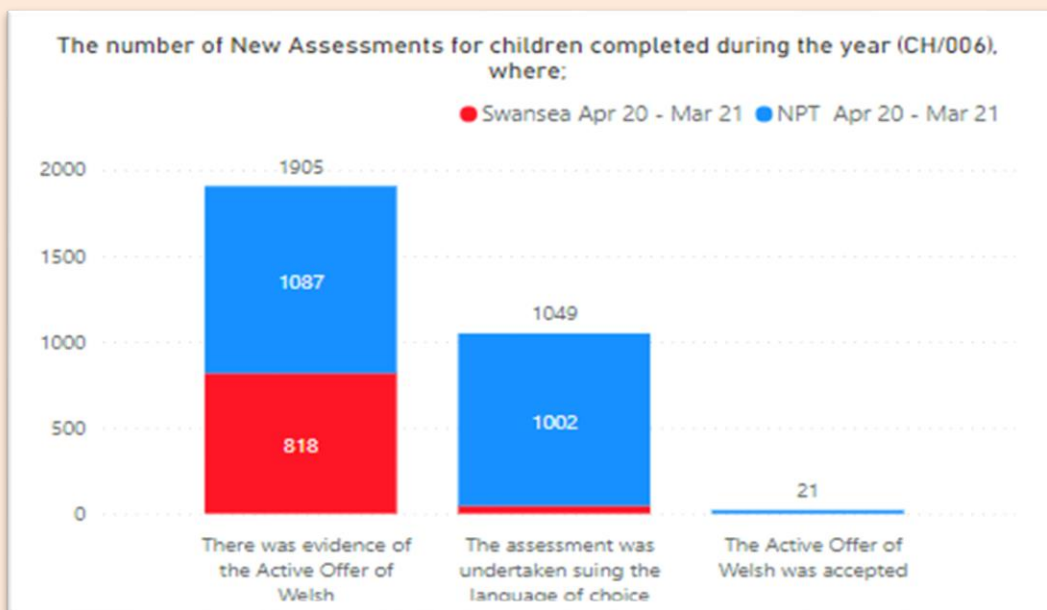
The number of new assessments completed during 2020/21 were recorded as 6,438. Of these, 1,848 led to a new comprehensive assessment during 2020/21.



The total number of new assessments (4,880) and how the needs were met for children during the year (2020/21) is shown below.

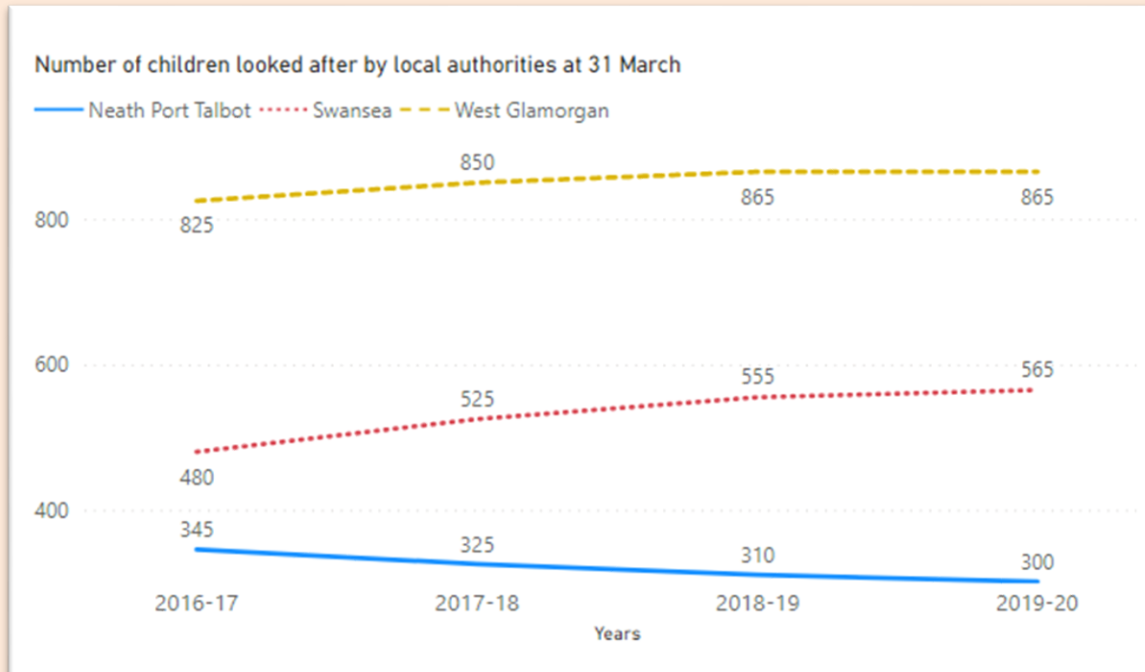


The following graph shows where there was evidence of an 'active offer' of Welsh, where the assessment was undertaken using the language of choice and the number of instances where the active offer of Welsh was accepted.



Looked after Children (LAC)

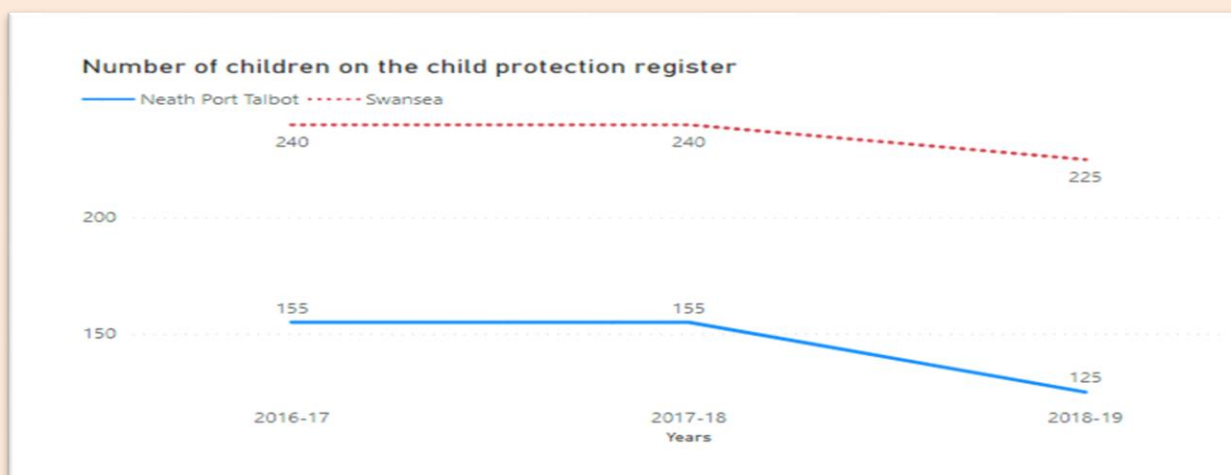
The number of Looked after Children in the West Glamorgan region between 2016/17 and 2019/20 is shown in the table below.



The numbers of Looked after Children in 2020/21 may be impacted by the issues surrounding the impact of COVID-19 and is not a true reflection of actual figures. Swansea recorded 550 LAC, whereas Neath Port Talbot recorded 294.

Children on the Child Protection Register

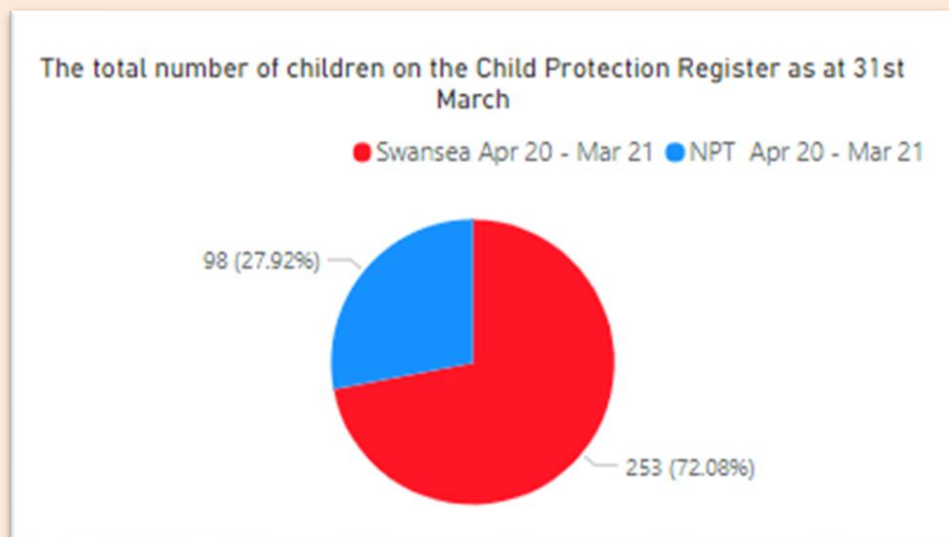
The number of children on the Child Protection Register in the West Glamorgan region between 2016/17 and 2018/19 is shown in the table below.



The numbers of children on the Child Protection Register in 2020/21 is lower than in previous years. Is it currently too early to determine whether this is linked to COVID-19 restrictions.

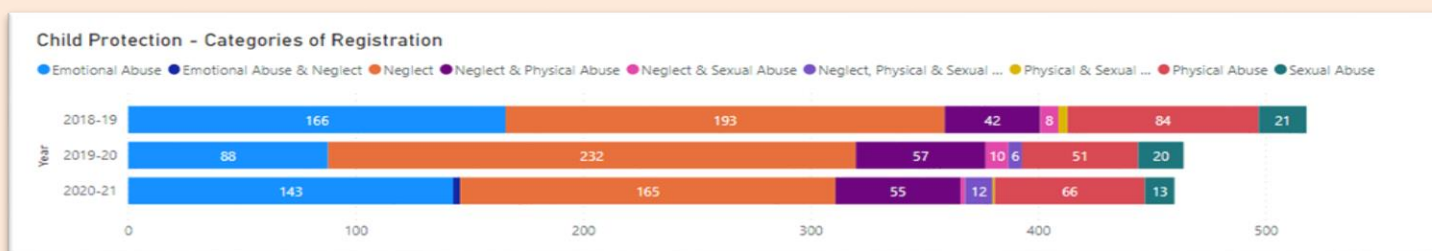
The latest data available for 2022/21 from the Child Protection Register records 98 children in Neath Port Talbot and 253 in Swansea. For Swansea, the figures are about the same as they had been pre-pandemic. This may reflect the impact of their model of practice and strengths-based approach and implementation of their Integrated Safeguarding Hub.

For Neath Port Talbot, this figure has remained stable since 2019.



The following table shows the data for categories of registration for children on the Child Protection Register. The most prevalent category is 'neglect', then 'emotional abuse'. But adding the categories of 'neglect' and 'neglect and physical abuse' together, this becomes the most prevalent risk to children.

Area	Year	Emotional Abuse	Emotional Abuse & Neglect	Neglect	Neglect & Physical Abuse	Neglect, Physical & Sexual Abuse	Neglect & Sexual Abuse	Physical & Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
West Glamorgan	2018-19	166	0	193	42	0	8	4	84	21
West Glamorgan	2019-20	88	0	232	57	6	10	0	51	20
West Glamorgan	2020-21	143	3	165	55	12	2	1	66	13



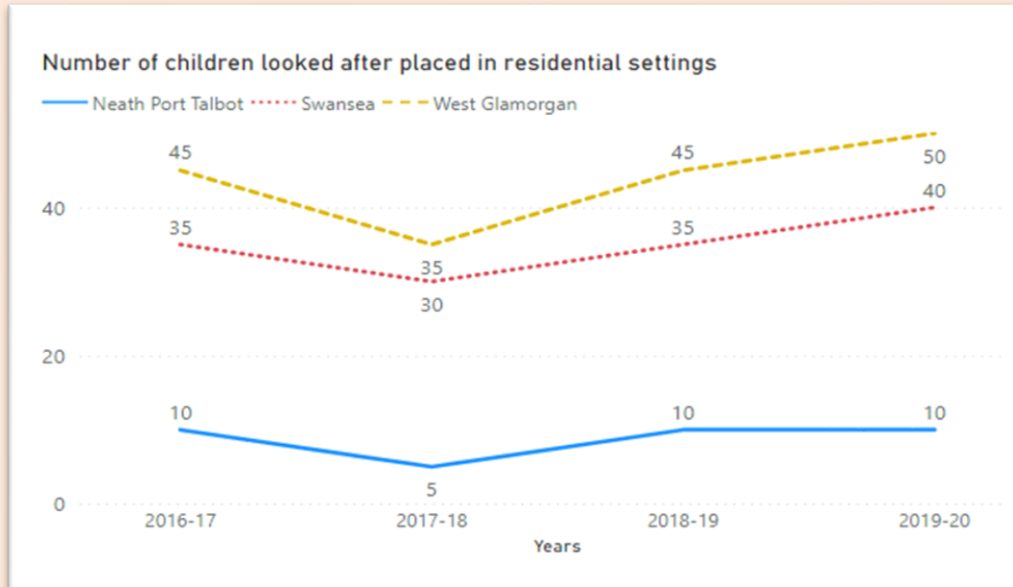
The most prevalent risk factors under these categories are, across the region, domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and neglect – under which sit the numerous typologies of neglect.

Whilst the other categories of abuse captured in the table reflect a stable picture, further work is required to understand the significant increase in the category emotional abuse and the reduction of cases registered under the category of neglect and sexual abuse, which have fallen by just over 25% and under 50% respectively (compared to the previous year). The pandemic may explain this, however, an uplift in numbers would be expected as schools and services resumed more normal business as COVID-19 measures relaxed. Neglect figures may reflect inconsistencies in how cases are formally categorised. The sexual abuse figure has been notably low for some time and is currently the subject of ongoing research and wider work through the [Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA\)](#) and [Welsh Government’s National Action Plan Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse](#).

Children’s Care Homes

The number of children in the local authority care homes for West Glamorgan for 2019/20 is 50.

The graph below refers to all residential providers, not just local authorities. There is one residential unit in Swansea (Ty Nant) and a secure unit in NPT (Hillside).



The most recent data from Social Care Wales shows that the demand for children’s care homes, other regional placements and out of county placements fluctuates.

Care Leavers

Possible exit routes out of local authority care or accommodation are listed below:

- 🎁 The young person reaches the age of 18, at which point the Care Order expires.
- 🎁 The young person reaches the age of 16 and is not subject to a Care Order but is accommodated under S76 of the SSWBA. At this point, the young person can sign themselves out of the system. This must be ratified via a LAC review meeting. Sometimes the decision for the young person to cease to be Looked After is in relation to a planned move on to another form of placement. Placement in other types of arrangement for LAC who are over the age of 16 will be made because they are the best way to meet the assessed needs and intended outcomes set out in the young person’s Part 6 Care and Support Plan, and in the Pathway Plan (which subsumes the young person’s Care and Support Plan at the age of 16). These will be outcomes connected to preparing the young person for leaving care and helping them make the transition to more independent adult living.

The placement options are likely to include:

- 🌈 supported lodgings
- 🌈 supported living accommodation
- 🌈 independent accommodation with floating support from housing support workers.

A LAC review of the Care and Support plan whereby the legal status is a Care Order and Placement with Parents arrangements determines that sufficient progress has been made to enable the local authority to no longer need to share parental responsibility for the child with the parents, and a decision is then made to either go back to court to seek a step down to a 12 month Supervision Order, or the revocation of the Care Order. Plans for ongoing support are put in place to ensure the child and family remain sufficiently supported during this process.

Early Years

In Swansea, the positive impact that the Flying Start programme has on key early years indicators is demonstrated through examination of the Foundation Phase Profile (FPP). The FPP is used to track and monitor children's development during the 40 weeks that they attend childcare.

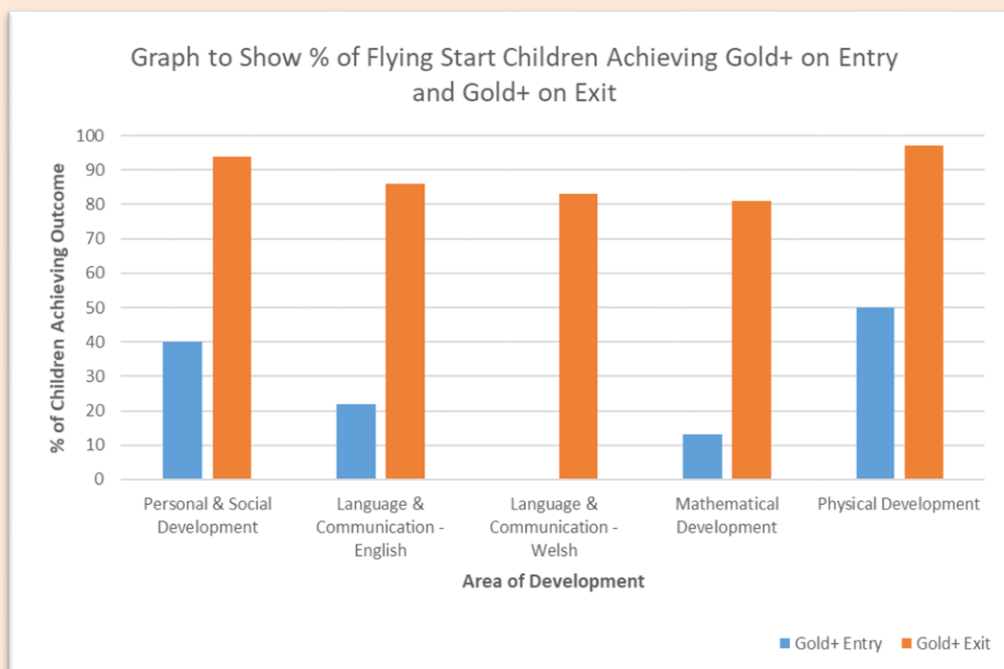
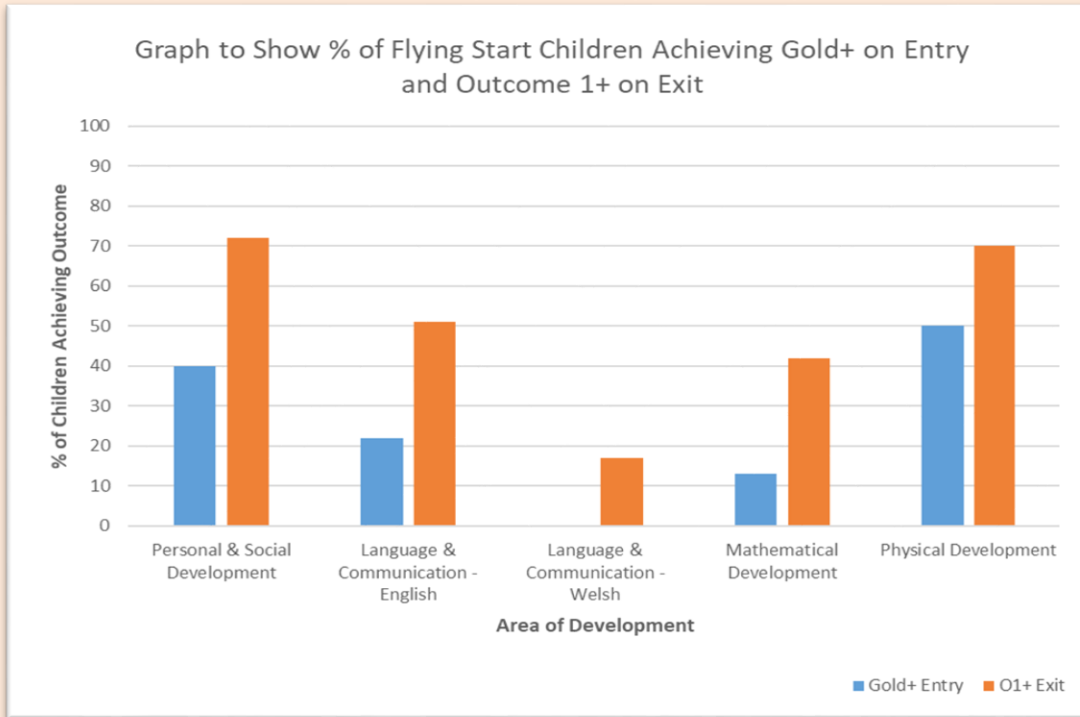
Childcare Workers observe and record children on entry. They then continue to observe and record throughout the child's entitlement before making a final, on exit judgement. The average expected outcome for a child aged 2 years (on entry to Flying Start) is Gold. The average expected outcome for a child aged 3 years (on exit from Flying Start) is Outcome 1.

The following graphs show the on entry and on exit FPP Outcomes of children attending Flying Start in 2018 - 2019. The Outcomes in the graphs below show children achieving at least the Outcome noted - E.g. Gold+ incorporates children achieving Outcome Gold or more (Outcome 1, Outcome 2...).

The data collected suggests that on entry in the category of 'Personal and Social Development', 40% of children were performing at their age expected Outcome, whilst on exit this figure rose to 72%. Similarly, in

‘Language and Communication’, 22% of children were performing at their age expected Outcome, in contrast to 51% on exit. In ‘Mathematical Development’, there was a 29% increase and in ‘Physical Development’, a 20% increase in children achieving their age expected Outcomes.

The following information pertains to Swansea only:



The graphs show the on entry/on exit comparisons for children who attended Flying Start childcare in Swansea between 2018 – 2019, which show the positive impact that the Flying Start programme is having on children's lives in Swansea.

Information on early years indicators for Neath Port Talbot will be presented in the next iteration of the PNA.

Education

Where possible, parents seek to avoid changes of schools for their children to promote their child's educational stability and opportunities.

This principle applies equally to a local authority holding Parental Responsibility as Corporate Parent. Indeed, this principle is often particularly important for a LAC. Having invariably suffered considerable disruption in their family life, it is often vital that they keep the same school where there are staff and children who know them best. There are situations where it is in the child's interest to change school, but it is generally important to keep any changes to an absolute minimum.

PLASC is the Pupil Level Annual School Census and is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained primary, middle, secondary, nursery and special schools. This normally takes place each January using the second Tuesday of the month as a census date. It is the most important of the annual data returns as it's used for many purposes, including funding. PLASC data is used to help contextualise school performance data and is used by Estyn to provide context for school inspections. PLASC contains data items about pupils on roll in each school on the census date. The main data contained in the census is data about individual pupils, school staff data about the school.

As presented in the table below, there are currently 45,764 learners who are statutory school age attending school.

Pupil Level Annual School Census summary data by local authority (pupils aged 5 to 15 in primary, middle or secondary schools)

Area	Year	All pupils (1)	Black, Asian and minority ethnic (3)	Eligible for free school meals (3 year average)	English as an additional language (A, B or C) (2)	Special educational needs - School Action	Special educational needs - School Action Plus	Special educational needs - Statemented
Neath Port Talbot	2020-21	17,249	1,090	4,209	216	2,184	1,329	687
Swansea	2020-21	28,515	4,512	6,301	1,902	3,987	2,290	1,269
West Glamorgan	2020-21	45,764	5,602	10,510	2,118	6,171	3,619	1,956

This data is broken down into specific categories, with 5,602 learners from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities 2,118 learners are from communities whereby English is not their first language. There are 6,171 learners who have additional learning needs that are supported within the school setting, and a further 3,619 learners who have support in school and with other services such as Educational Psychologists and 1,956 learners with statements, some attending the Special Teaching Facilities to meet their needs.

One of the largest vulnerable groups which increases year on year are those learners who are entitled to free school meals (FSM), which equates to 10,510, although it is estimated that there are many families who do not claim for FSM.

The PLASC data survey results published for the academic year 2020-21 shows that the number of children eligible for FSM has increased from 9,791 in 2019-20 to 10,510 in 2020-21.



The PLASC data will collate all the details of learners on the school register on the date of the annual collection. This data will determine the level of funding available to individual schools, and is impacted by numbers of pupils with FSM, Additional Learning Needs and Looked after Children.

Educated at Home

The number of pupils that have elected to be home educated has risen during the two years associated with the COVID-19 pandemic - with a rise of approximately 47%

Area	2018	2019	2020	2021
Neath Port Talbot	173	199	251	245
Swansea	157	137	234	245
Total	330	336	485	490

Fixed Term Exclusions

From the following table, it is evident that the number of fixed term exclusions has dropped significantly over 2020 and 2021. This reduction is associated with the school closures where pupils were not physically attending school.

Area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<input type="checkbox"/> Neath Port Talbot				
Totals	1002	1189	1049	682
<input type="checkbox"/> Swansea				
Totals	1003	1418	943	763

School Attendance

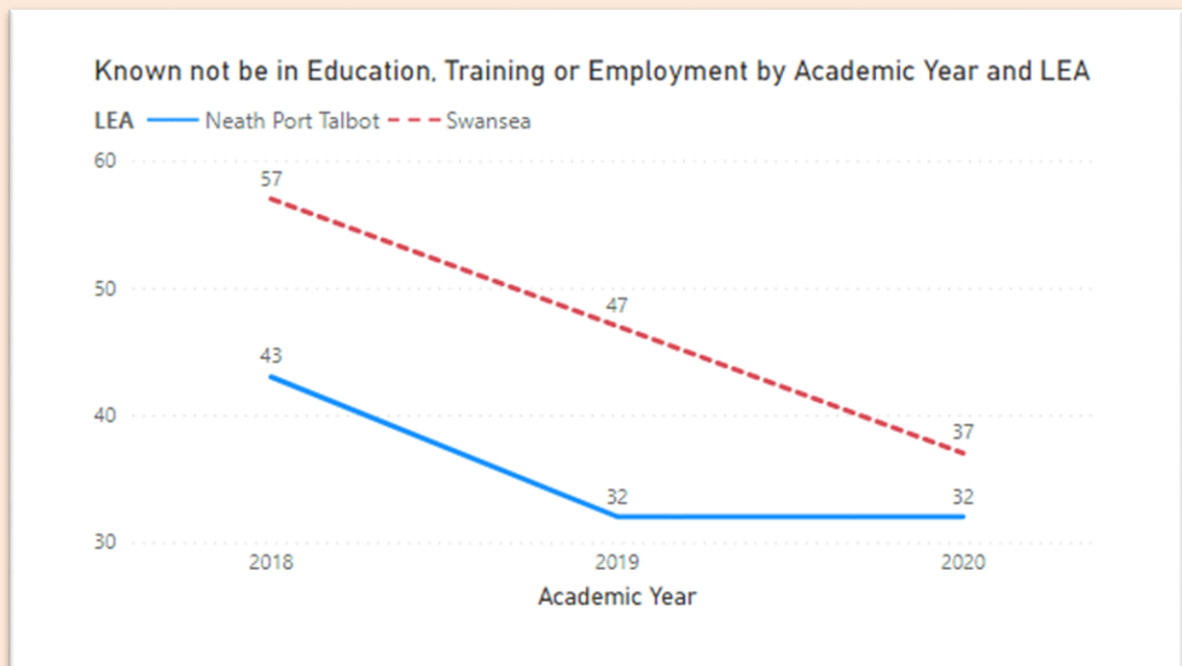
The pandemic has affected the data in the last two years, and attendance data is incomplete for both years due to schools being closed in the lockdown periods.

Area Phase	Neath Port Talbot				Swansea			
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Primary	94.14%	94.02%	93.83%	91.18%	94.64%	94.66%	92.69%	91.93%
Secondary	93.48%	93.46%	92.51%	87.88%	94.14%	93.99%	91.71%	86.58%

Predictions of future demand on services are difficult to forecast on this data due to the continued impact of COVID-19. It is also difficult to compare data year on year due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, which has obviously had a significant impact on both exclusion numbers and attendance percentages.

CYP known Not to be in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)

The latest data from Careers Wales shows that in the academic year 2020, the number of individuals known not to be in Education, Employment or Training is 59 for the West Glamorgan region. The NEET data on the graph below shows the number of pupils who leave school at the end of year 11 and do not have a positive post 16 destination, and are therefore classified as NEET.



The Cam Nesa Project, supported by the European Social Fund, ran in Swansea. This helped young people into EET and provided additional lead workers.

Swansea has also been working with the secondary schools to implement early identification of young people who may be at risk of NEET. Within these meetings with partners including, schools and Careers Wales, it has been possible to identify young people in need of support to help them transition to EET and as a result have been able to offer the support earlier to ensure that they have a successful transition.





In Neath Port Talbot, the Neath Port Talbot Youth Service employed Youth Workers to support young people identified by their schools, and discussions both within and outside of the school environment. A decision was made to change the way in which the Youth Workers support young people to enable them to continue working with the young person beyond the end of year 11. This has resulted in young people getting support when they need it during the summer holidays and during September and October, when young people transition into a post 16 destination.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children

As the identification and prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation is a priority within West Glamorgan, systems have been developed to identify and record the number of known cases to both local authorities. Both local authorities hold their own database of all those children and young people who are being monitored under the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Protocol. Recently improvements to data collection in the region means that information on Child Sexual Exploitation, harm outside the family home (including Criminal Exploitation and/or Serious Youth Violence) and missing persons is now captured.

In West Glamorgan, there are 29 children and young people who are being monitored under the CSE protocol. This information is a snapshot in time from 31st March 2021, where there were 29 children subject to a Protocol; 10 CSE, 18 concerning harms outside the family home and one Missing Person.

On 31st March 2020, there were:

-  21 children subject to a Protocol
-  7 CSE
-  12 concerning harms outside the family home
-  2 Missing Persons.

Swansea began recording and reporting on this information in 2019, with no data recorded prior to March of that year. A multi-agency data set and analysis is being developed and will be available in April 2022.

While there has only been a slight increase in the number of CYP subject to a Protocol between 2020 and 2021, it is acknowledged that the pandemic has impacted services that work with CYP. In some cases, it has been harder to identify early indicators of exploitation due to fewer prevention services being in place.

Although there has been a reduction in the number of CYP subject to the CSE Protocol, there has been a shift in CYP being exploited online (one as young as 8), which is probably due to restrictions enforced by the pandemic.

Prior to 2020, it was anticipated that the number of CYP subject to the CSE Protocol would have been higher. Services are now better equipped to differentiate between exploitation risks - previously those at risk of criminal exploitation would often have been monitored under the CSE protocol. In Swansea, the significant impact that criminal exploitation and serious youth violence can have on a young person's record is acknowledged. Also, that there are a high number of children and young people being exploited by local criminals, as well as County Lines activity.

In Neath Port Talbot there has been a steady increase since 2020 in children subject to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), whilst the number of children subject to the CSE protocol has remained steady year on year. There is a notable increase in the number of reports relating to CSE and CCE across NPT. This is due to awareness raising and the early efforts to embed the contextual safeguarding approach. Many of those children and their families reported for concerns relating to harm outside the family home are now supported via early help.

In Swansea, the response is reflected in the increased number of CYP being monitored on the 'Risky Behaviour' protocol between 2020 and 2021. In addition, there is awareness that the term 'Risky Behaviour' suggests blame on young people and changing this terminology is currently in process. In Neath Port Talbot, a review led to revised systems and paperwork to remove reference to risk behaviour in 2019, with the introduction of operational and strategic groups to oversee a local response to harm outside the family home, in line with the principles of the contextual safeguarding approach.

Due to the increasing concern around exploitation, there are specialist services available to CYP who are criminally exploited or subject to serious youth violence – however, at present there are no specialist preventative services available to children at risk of sexual exploitation.

A concern is how the number of Missing Person (MISPER) reports received for CYP placed by other local authorities is having a significant impact upon services across the partnership. This becomes more acute by virtue of the fact Swansea and NPT local authorities are often not

informed by the placing authority that the child has been placed within the region.

Foster Care

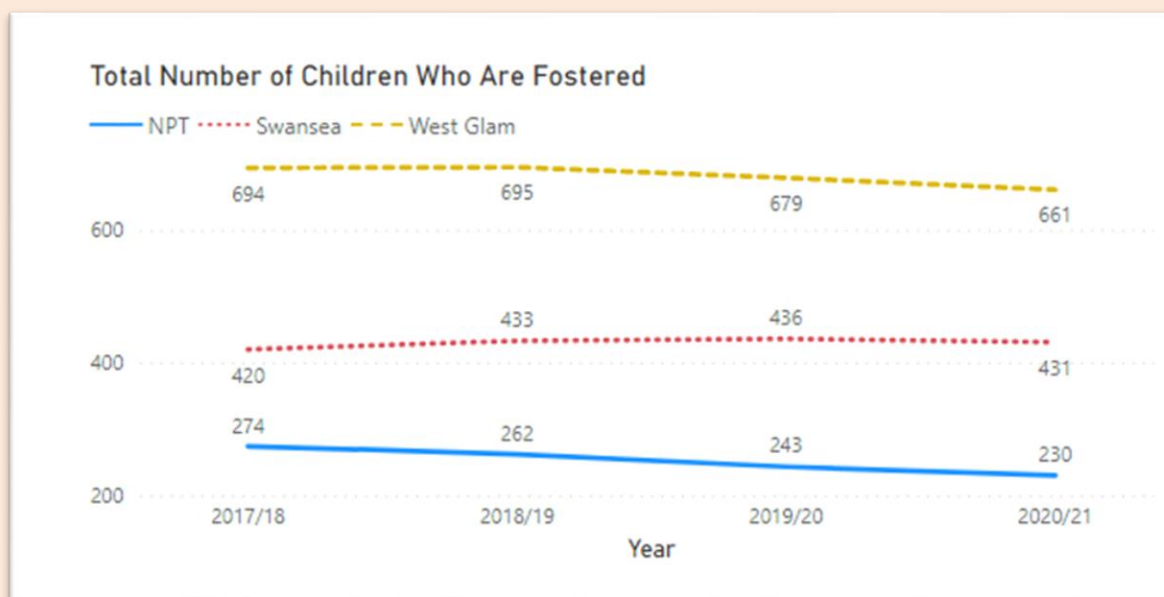
There are many different types of fostering, depending on the needs of the child. Sometimes children only stay with a foster family for a few days, while others will live with their foster family for their entire childhood and beyond.

Typical types of Foster Caring include;

- 🌸 Placed with own LA
- 🌸 Placed with other LA
- 🌸 Placed Kinship Foster Carers
- 🌸 Placed with Kinship Carers under Sec 26
- 🌸 Placed with Independent 3rd Sector Foster Carers
- 🌸 Placed with independent Commercial Provider Foster Carers.

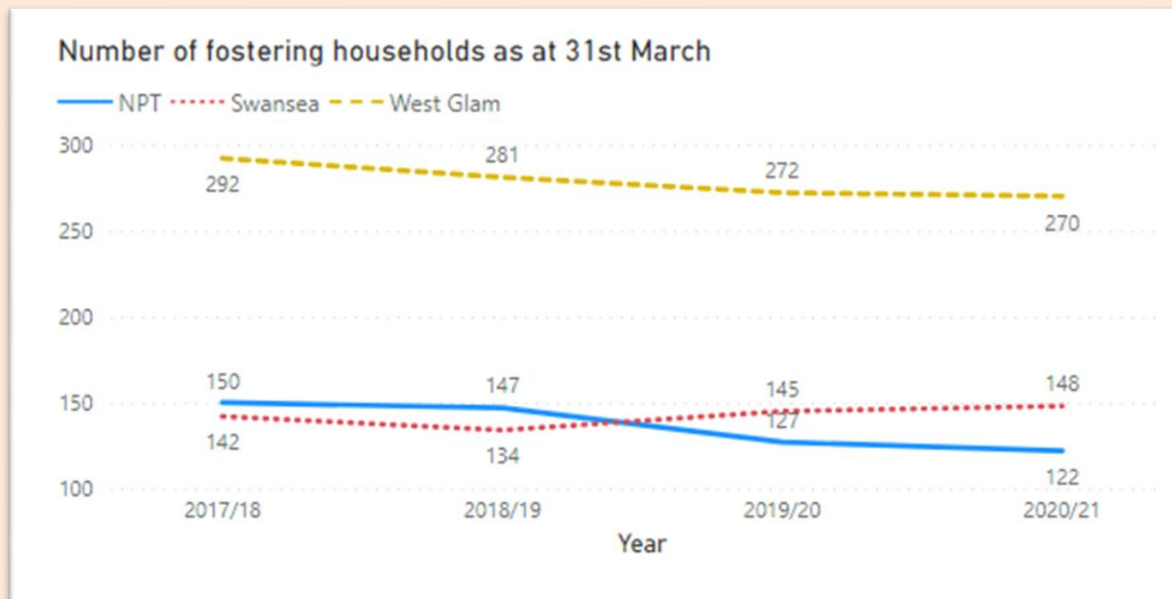
Key indicators captured by the regional fostering services show evidence of trends over time, as outlined below.

The total number of children who are fostered in West Glamorgan currently is 661. This has declined slightly over the last few years.

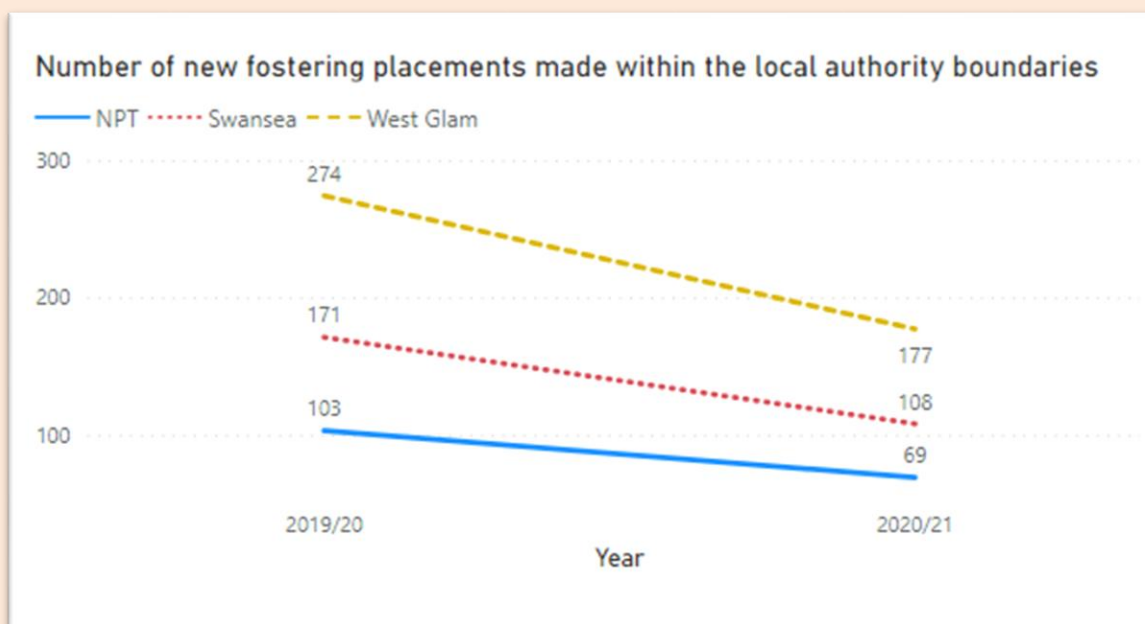


The number of fostering households in West Glamorgan is currently 270, which is a decline overall from 292 in 2017/18.

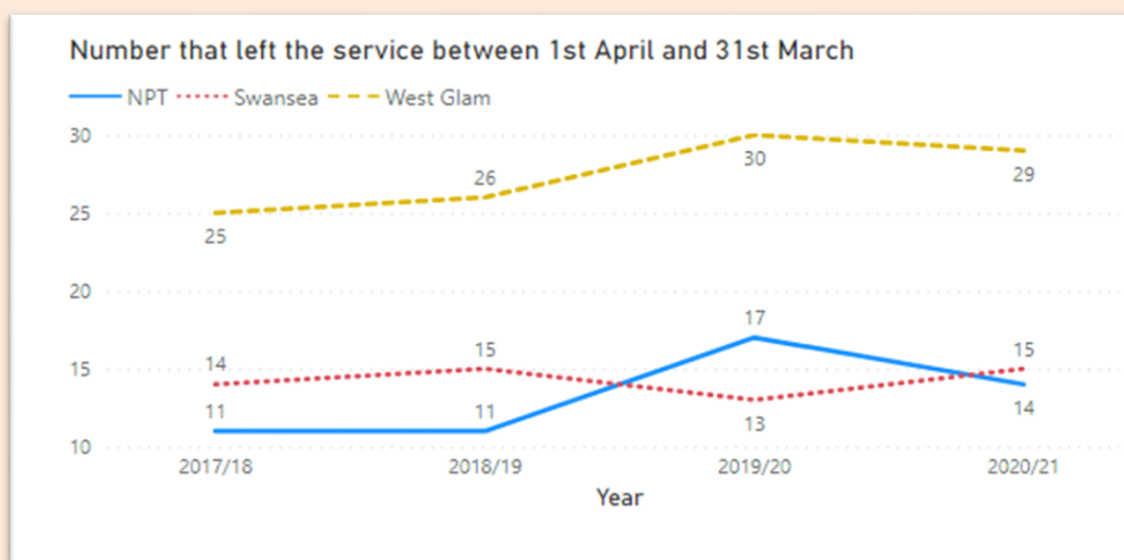
Both local authorities have an ambition to increase the number of carers registered with their own service so they can (i) meet more of the need for foster care locally, (ii) have stronger options to make more effective placement matching decisions, and (iii) reduce the need to use independent agencies.



The number of new foster placements made within the boundaries of West Glamorgan as of 31st March 2021 is 177. This shows a decline in the previous year where it was 277. Analysis of the data will show the reasons why this is the case, which may be relating to how many were placed with relatives outside of the local authority boundary. A significant factor affecting recruitment since March 2020 has been the impact of the pandemic.



The number of households that left the service in 2021 in West Glamorgan is 29. This is a gradual increase in the number who have left the service from the reported 2017 figure of 25. The main reason reported for fostering households leaving the service in the last fiscal year was Special Guardianship Order (SGO) made. Whilst this negatively affects the approved carer figures, SGOs indicate positive permanency outcomes for children.



Swansea Council will be looking to both reduce the current Looked After Children population in residential settings and look to recruit more foster carers to take up this extra demand.





Apart from new foster carers, more carers are required to replace the Carers that leave for many reasons (e.g. age, health, moving out of the area), so pivotal to this is the Foster Wales recruitment strategy.

Neath Port Talbot are focussed on recruiting additional foster carers to meet the demand of the looked after population. This is being done through regional and local recruitment campaigns. Some decrease in approved carers is due to them offering children and young people permanence within their home (e.g. Special Guardianship Orders) in addition to retirement. New foster carers are needed to replace them.

Whilst there is always a need to recruit new carers, the service places a high value on current carers and views the retention of the fostering community as a priority. The aim is to invest further in the in-house therapeutic service and to offer practical support (recently appointing two outreach workers) help foster carers achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.

There is also an extensive training programme that supports personal and professional development of foster carers.

West Glamorgan continue to require the use of independent fostering agencies to meet the needs of children looked after across the authority. Whilst services continue to recruit carers across all areas of fostering, they are currently not meeting the demand. Services in the region are committed to analysing data from referrals and performance reports to target recruitment where the needs are greatest. Currently West Glamorgan are focusing marketing activity on recruiting foster carers for:

-  Children and young people with complex needs
-  Parent and child placements
-  Sibling placements, long term
-  Teenagers.

The region has appointed a Foster Wales Regional Development Manager (RDM) for fostering services. This post works nationally regionally and locally to support increased recruitment in the region. In addition, this role supports services across the region with learning from

best practice nationally and regionally, builds regional relationships in working together; supports shared learning experiences and encourages regional approaches to make best use of resources.

In 2021, all fostering services in Wales were rebranded to Foster Wales. Services in the region were renamed to Foster Wales NPT and Foster Wales Swansea. Both services are working in conjunction with the RDM and Regional Marketing Officer (RMO) to increase recruitment across the region.

Fostering services in the region now have a dedicated website (this went live in July 2021) for recruitment of foster carers. Ongoing work is being undertaken locally as well as nationally to ensure these websites are highly ranked on internet searches.

Fostering services continue to work to ensure high quality content is contained on the website to allow the public to have a clear understanding of the support that is provided, with clear call to actions at every opportunity. The region is continuing to work on boosting the core offer of support to carers to promote in recruitment campaigns.

Adoption Services

[Western Bay Adoption Service](#) co-located in February 2015 and formally began operating as a regional service in April 2015. With Swansea as the host local authority based in Port Talbot Civic Offices, the service continues to develop and establish itself within the wider National Adoption Service Community.

The service is divided into a 'functional' model with three distinct operational teams, and one Business Support team namely:

- (1) Recruitment and Assessment
- (2) Twin Tracking and Family Finding
- (3) Adoption Support
- (4) Business Support Team.

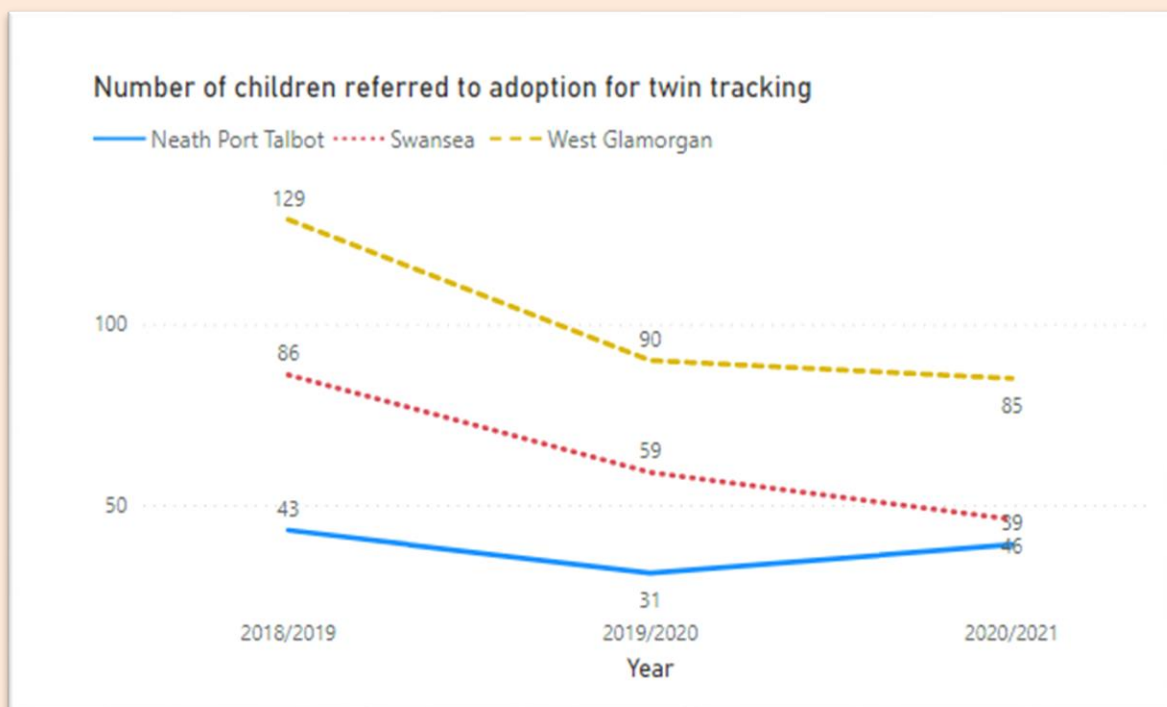
The teams within the model are made up of workers from each of the three local authorities namely Swansea Council, Neath Port Talbot CBC

and Bridgend. For the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) figures shown are only for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

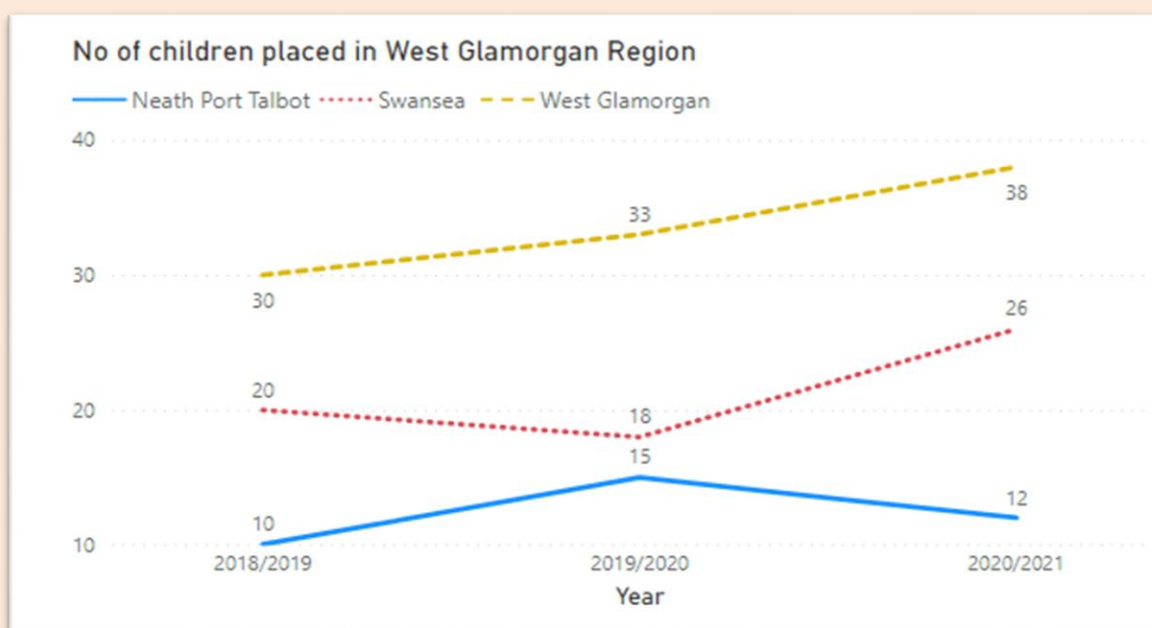
The key priorities of the Regional Adoption Service are:

- 🌈 Placing more children
- 🌈 Increase recruitment of adopters to meet the number and needs of children waiting, including use of
- 🌈 'Adopting Together' for children who wait the longest
- 🌈 Continue to embed the Adoption Register for Wales
- 🌈 Continuing to improve adoption support
- 🌈 Continue to implement the Adoption Support Framework and investment plans
- 🌈 Continue to raise adoption awareness.

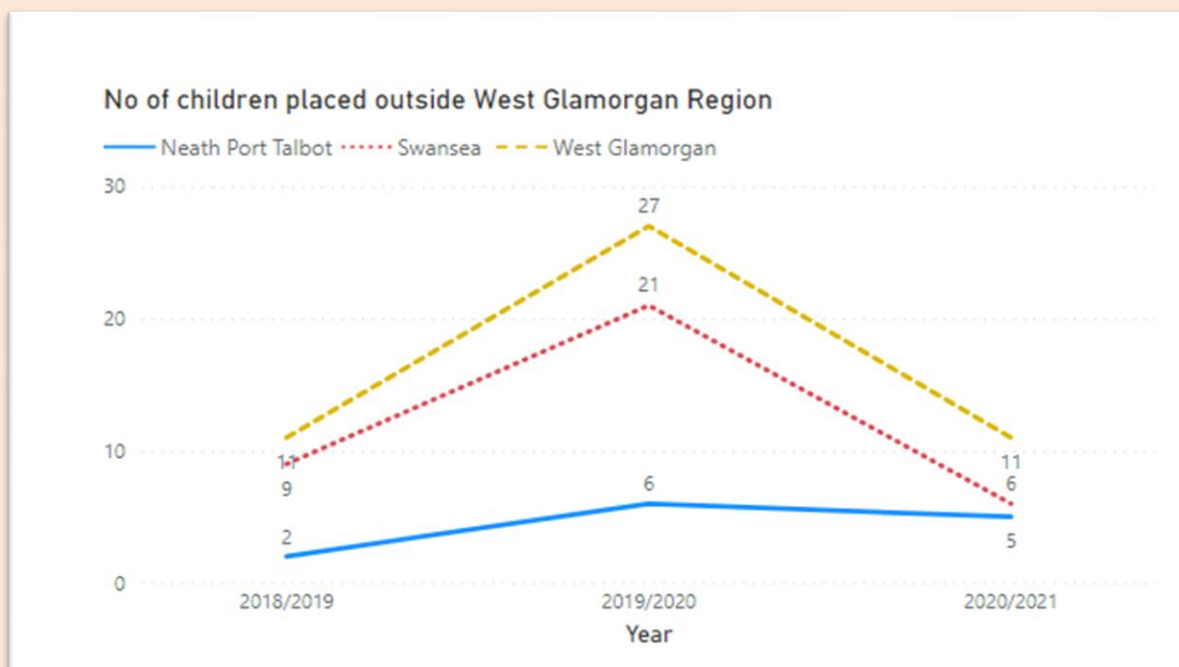
Figures for the Regional Adoption Service show that the number of children referred for twin tracking in the region has declined from 129 in 2018/19 to 85 in 2020/21.



The number of children placed in the West Glamorgan region has increased from 30 to 38 over the last 3 years.



The number of children placed outside the region has also seen a difference. In 2019/20, the number of children adopted outside the region was 27, which was improved to 11 in 2020/21.





Housing

Children and young people will have a range of different housing needs depending on their circumstances. This may involve specialist housing and accommodation with services in place to help individuals to live safe and healthy lives, such as residential care for children with higher needs. It may also include adaptations to homes to make it easier for children and young people to access and live independently in their own home.

A new regional housing forum was established in 2021 to improve collaboration between housing, health, and social care sectors across West Glamorgan. The Regional Housing Forum [RHF] is developing a strategic approach to integrating services and addressing high priority challenges where housing, health and social care need to align, such as homelessness prevention and integrated support services. Membership of this forum includes representation from housing associations, registered social landlords, tenants, carers, services users and partner organisations including local authorities, health board and third sector organisations.

The needs of the CYP population will be integral to the ways of developing housing need to ensure safe and secure accommodation is provided by members of the forum.

Young Carers

A Young Carer is a child or young adult who takes responsibility for someone who is ill, disabled, elderly, experiencing mental distress, or affected by substance misuse or who has substantial responsibility for caring for a sibling.

Please refer to 'Carers who need Support' chapter of the PNA.







Partnership Working

Some examples of work with the voluntary sector in Neath Port Talbot include:




- 🌈 Strategic and operational groups at various levels, including:
 - the CYP Leadership Group chaired by Andrew Thomas (Director of Education). This feeds into the Public Service Board.
 - The Youth Engagement Strategy
 - Digital Inclusion Strategy Working Group
 - Childcare settings.
- 🌈 Linking in closely with a Digital Inclusion Ambassador to upskill third sector volunteers to promote digital skills.
- 🌈 Flying Start work with childcare settings and third sector partners including Women's Aid and Bereavement Support.
- 🌈 Supporting childcare settings with new developments and sustainability.
- 🌈 Support the Third Sector Partnership Working Group.
- 🌈 Communities for Work+ (CFW+) working with key partners, to provide a whole person approach to support.
- 🌈 The St. David's Day fund links to other third sectors that work with carer leavers to help ensure a full package of support that responds to individual need.
- 🌈 Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending has relationships with a range of third sector partners to share strategic knowledge, develop programmes and pilot new and different approaches.
- 🌈 Families First is the programme within Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) where the Third Sector are commissioned to deliver services. As part of the last commissioning exercise (2017), there was Third Sector involvement throughout the process.

Some examples of the work in Swansea with the voluntary sector:

CCG Projects based in Third Sector buildings:

-  Phoenix Centre, Townhill
-  Bonymaen Family Centre
-  St. Teilo's Family Centre
-  Clase Family Centre
-  EYST
-  Topic House.

CCG Projects delivered in Third Sector projects:

-  Dyfatty Community Centre
-  Seion Newydd, Morriston
-  Various community centres as outreach throughout the County.

The CFW+ engagement team works with Third Sector organisations to engage with citizens, these include community groups, interest groups and residents' associations.

Further specific examples of partnership working can be found below:

Jig-So

Jig-So is a team of midwives, nursery nurses (health), family facilitators and early language development workers (Local Authority). This partnership project has been developed to support young parents with their parenting journeys, many of whom are 18 or younger. They provide ante-natal and post-natal support to parents, and provide spaces for parents to support each other as peers. Young parents often feel that they face discrimination due to stereotypes and assumptions about their backgrounds, behaviours and capabilities

Source: [RightWaySocialCare_Final-Amendments.pdf \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/RightWaySocialCare_Final-Amendments.pdf)

YoVo and Lleisiau Bach/Little Voices

YoVo is a youth council of care-experienced young people in Neath Port Talbot. The group collaborated with Lleisiau Bach/Little Voices to undertake research with care-experienced young people to ask about the information they received before meeting and living with new foster carers. The young people's research found that 30% of children were not

given prior information about foster care. Before meeting foster carers less than 25% of children had information on things like, siblings living with them, location or where they would go to school. Children wanted more information prior to going into foster care. YoVo presented their research to Neath Port Talbot Corporate Parenting. As a result, foster carers are now asked to update information booklets. These are given to CYP before placement. Social Workers make sure booklets are kept up to date

Source: [RightWaySocialCare_Final-Amendments.pdf \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](#)

Gypsy Traveller (GT) Community

In Swansea, throughout the course of the last three years, work has been undertaken with 59 families. These comprise of 124 adults and 150 CYP.

There has been an increase of families accessing housing in the community. The families would rather remain on their traveller site, however, there is not enough space for all community members. They state they have no choice other than to move into housing. This in turn can add to the feelings of isolation and increases mental health issues within the population as they move away from the network within their own sites and struggle to settle into new communities.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing family gatherings, an increase in depression and anxiety within the GT community has also been reported.

Swansea Council have a GT Wellbeing Family Lead Worker based in the Early Help Hub. The Lead Worker engages with GT communities through holistically supporting families. This includes setting up and maintaining regular attendance at school whilst families are residing in Swansea. The Lead Worker is able to respond to any specific cultural needs or issues that may exist for children, young people and families in the community. The aim is to focus on raising academic achievement and improving wellbeing and life chances for all GT CYP in Swansea.

Families are visited and supported in their place of residence in Swansea, whether at the roadside, in designated sites or in houses. This includes supporting families who are well established in Swansea, as

well as those who have a highly mobile lifestyle. Support is provided to parents to enable them to become confident in engaging within the education system and other partner agencies, such as housing and health professionals to ensure that all the needs of their children are met.

GT CYP are actively encouraged to take part in the [‘Travelling Ahead Project’](#), and to participate in other activities that help shape the delivery of services. An advocate role for GT young people via their Family Lead Worker who is able to help give a voice that ensure that their views are heard and noted, is in place.

There are challenges in encouraging families to consider accessing secondary education and college opportunities. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a number of families have chosen EHE over and above remaining in secondary school.

Within Education, the EAL (English as an additional language) and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) specialists support schools to develop and embed inclusive provision for all minority ethnic learners, including those from GRT backgrounds. In addition, a GT education group is in place that fosters a collaborative approach between education officers and the Early Help Hub team.

Literacy issues had a further impact on the information received in respect of the pandemic and the options of vaccinations, as well as the ability to access GP services as they all became electronic. Education also became a challenge due to fears of not only catching COVID-19, but also spreading it to family members. Support has increased during this time around accessing GP services and seeking support from other services. Women often engage with midwifery and health services in respect of parenting, but overall access to local health provisions is poorly taken up within the community until a crisis point is reached.

In Neath Port Talbot, The Wallich have been an active partner in supporting the GT community. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, onsite visits did not resume until July 2021, but from July 2021 to January 2022

the Wallich reports they supported 32 families on Cae Garw and Briton Ferry local authority run caravan sites. 15 families were supported by 'Bricks & Mortar', which helped with increasing financial benefits and securing other grants.

Neath Port Talbot has a well-established GT population, and currently have the third highest population of GT communities in Wales. According to a recent local authority survey, 219 individuals self-identified as being of Gypsy Roma or Traveller identity. Due to fear of prejudice, it is known that many community members are reluctant to share their identity, therefore the best estimate is that there are around 250 Gypsy Roma and Travellers living in Neath Port Talbot.

Due to cultural beliefs, many GT learners leave school before Year 10. The Vulnerable Learners Service lead on actively promoting educational support to young GTs.

In the academic year 2020-21, they:

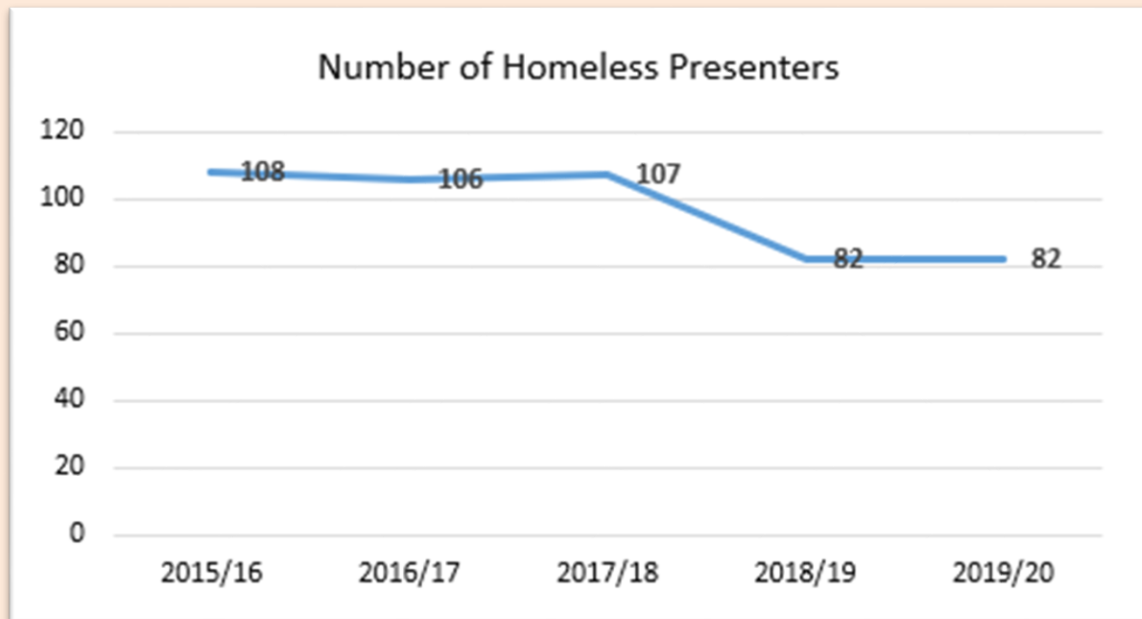
- 🌸 assisted with primary education for their children with the Vulnerable Learners Service supporting 54 children attending primary schools
- 🌸 supported 13 young people in the same academic year from primary to secondary school
- 🌸 supported learners progressing from Secondary Education to post 16 education
- 🌸 Supported the introduction of the Young Apprentices Scheme (14-16) vocational courses in college which is viewed by GT parents as positive in terms of gaining skills to equip learners for careers/life.

Prospects for continuing into post-16 education are therefore greater as learners can transition to the next level of their qualification in college.

Youth Homelessness

In Swansea, the graph below highlights the number of young people who presented to the youth homeless service between April 2015 – March 2020. Overall, there were 485 presentations over the 5-year period.

The graph suggests that there has been a decrease in the number of presentations in more recent years. The Youth Homeless Service introduced a new method of recording statistics in 2017/18. The change means young people who receive information and advice only are recorded as part of early intervention work, to avoid the need for a full homelessness assessment. This is the reason behind a decrease in the figures in 2018/19 and 2019/20.



It does not appear from the data that COVID-19 restrictions impacted on presentation through the pandemic.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC):

Over the last five years, Swansea has seen an increase in the number of UASC cared for by the local authority. This is linked to the increase across the UK of families seeking asylum. There is a mandatory National Home Office scheme in place where over the coming months every local authority will be allocated unaccompanied asylum seekers to care for.

Equivalent data for Neath Port Talbot relating to this section will be gathered and presented in the next iteration of the assessment.

4. SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has outlined the following actions that could be evidenced in local planning to help with the future well-being of CYP.

Recommendations for Regional Partnership Boards:

1. As part of the region's national response to CYP's mental health and well-being needs following this period of lockdown, all Regional Partnership Boards should plan and implement a 'no wrong door' approach to mental health and well-being. This could include integrated teams, panel and hub models to provide timely joined-up help, drop-in centres and plans for integrated residential provision where needed. All Boards should review their current Area Plan to ensure they are taking sufficient action to address the needs of CYP with complex needs, and that local authorities and local health boards are truly working in partnership towards this. This should include consideration of the Plan since the pandemic and how this may impact the remaining years of the Area Plan, and longer-term strategies.
2. Regional Partnership Boards must ensure they are compliant with the newly amended Part 9 statutory guidance by:
 - Ensuring funding is not seen as 'held' by either the health board or the local authority, and that these arrangements are subject to a written agreement between partners. The funds should be owned by the whole region and all services should feel they have an equal stake
 - As a result of new statutory requirement for section 12 duties to extend to Regional Partnership Boards, all Boards should review their current arrangements for engagement and coproduction with CYP. RPBs should use the 'The Right Way' framework for taking a children's rights approach to working with CYP, alongside the National Participation Standards. This must include the Board itself hearing directly from CYP, and for CYP to be empowered to shape the work of the Board.

- As part of their duty to support effective, integrated transition arrangements from children's to adult services, Regional Partnership Boards should publish multi-agency transition protocols, if they have not already, for CYP with learning disabilities, considering how they deliver an approach so that the current multiple and pervasive issues of cross-local authority border and cross-sector disparities in transition arrangements are integrated as far as possible.
3. Regional Partnership Boards should work with the Together for Children and Young People Programme to explore how they can better organise and publicise the role and work of the Regional Partnership Boards to make it more accessible to families. This should include accessible descriptions of multi-agency pathways for children with complex needs, as well as those projects which are of direct relevance to children and their families.
 4. Regional Partnership Boards should work with citizen and third sector representatives who work with CYP with complex needs to make sure they are sufficiently involved in meaningful work as part of the Board and feel fully valued as equal partners by the statutory members on it.
 5. Regional Partnership Boards should develop a memorandum of understanding with Public Services Boards on potential cross-over issues where these related to CYP, which includes an agreement on how to approach those issues which would benefit from joint working between Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards, such as having arrangements in place for funding applications or joint commissioning.







Source: [No Wrong Door: bringing services together to meet children's needs - Children's Commissioner for Wales \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](#)

Local prevention plans from Health, Social Care and the Third Sector

Each local authority is responsible for submitting Children Community Grant (CCG) proposals each year, which set out approaches and plans that encompass the prevention agenda on the CYP cohort of the community. Some of this work will encompass working with Third Sector partners and Swansea Bay UHB.


For this assessment the overarching principles are highlighted to provide a brief outline on key areas of work. It must be recognised that there are differences between them, but the headline themes are consistent in each local authority.

The main overarching themes are

-  Early years including early help
-  Edge of Care, including youth justice and employment
-  Transition into adults
-  Speech Language
-  Mental Health
-  Disabled children.


A key element to the progression of the CCG activities is the involvement and participation of partners, and crucially the involvement and participation of children.

Both areas have a participation and engagement strategy that is defined in each CCG grant, but a brief outline of each is highlighted below:

-  In Neath Port Talbot, they have begun to work on a joint community engagement strategy. This will focus on four key themes:
 1. Developing the CCG brand and raise awareness of the support available, not just among families in Neath Port Talbot, but also among key stakeholders and partners who could refer families for support.
 2. Giving families a voice in shaping delivery plans and the future vision for the CCG.
 3. Identifying and engaging hard to reach families.

4. Engaging with key partners and stakeholders.

Source: CCG Plan for Neath Port Talbot

 In Swansea, community engagement is a key focus across all CCG activity. This has been further improved over the last 12 months with programmes finding new and effective ways of engaging and involving specific target groups. CCG programmes have also continued to work together to:

- engage and involve local communities in shaping delivery moving forwards, sometimes in new and different ways.
- continue to use client feedback, involvement and co-production to inform a long term vision and delivery:

All delivery through the programme is carried out in line with the Swansea approach to co-production, *‘a relationship where professionals and citizens share power to plan and deliver support together, recognising that both have vital contributions to make to improve the quality of life for people and communities.’*

A Co-production Strategy has been developed with citizens which underpins the journey for implementation of this area of work

Source: CCG Plan for Swansea.

Mental Health Services

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) have struggled to meet demand locally over recent months due to staffing and resources. They report the most prominent issues for CYP to be anxiety, suicidal thoughts/ ideation and low mood. Young people have become socially isolated during the pandemic. This may further enhance feelings of loneliness and social anxiety as we move out of the pandemic. This has had a severe impact on children and young people’s mental health. The right support will be important to prevent these issues impacting on their wellbeing and escalating into their adulthood.

School closures meant that while placements were offered to the most vulnerable and key workers, many CYP didn’t get support that may have prevented their needs escalating. A strategy was developed, but school

uptake on this was mixed. Services have been adapted to try and manage this demand and continue to provide support as identified below.

- 🌸 A well-established multi-agency CYP Emotional and Mental Health Planning Group. This has a number of subgroups.
- 🌸 The group has clearly set out priorities and is leading on the development and integration of the NEST Framework and the Whole Schools Approach
- 🌸 Recent developments have included the [tidyMinds](#) website and the roll out of the [Kooth](#) online – a wellbeing and counselling website.
- 🌸 The group has established a Winter Emergency Plan to support identified areas of concern and high-pressure points.
- 🌸 Actions within the plan have overseen the use of additional funding for the winter period. This has included additional funding to Third Sector organisations to undertake a range of Emotional Health and Wellbeing projects, additional money to our schools counselling model, additional staff training and additional promotion of the services available to children, young people, families and professionals. Significant actions are being taken to support children and young people currently waiting for an assessment with CAMHS, which has included the triaging of those on the waiting list and utilising partners to provide bridging support.

Regional Partnership and Third Sector Support

Several projects are supported by the Regional Partnership.

The following list gives a flavour of the support provide through regional funding.

Services that provide support for Children & Young People through Regional Funding				
Therapeutic Counselling Services for CYP	To provide services to meet the growing demand for sexual violence support and counselling for CYP.	New Pathways	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional

				Health & Wellbeing
Bouncing Back Plus	To provide deliver DBT/CBT sessions to CYP, combining coping skills and physical exercise to build resilience and reduce depression & anxiety indicators.	Action for Children / Ospreys in the Community	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
CHYPS Play and Activities Project	To provide child-led planning and delivery of play and activities programmes including workshops, group work, trips and fun activities sessions to CYP impacted by domestic abuse.	Swansea Women's Aid	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Wellbeing Worker	To provide wellbeing support to young people who require housing-related support.	Dewis Ltd	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Farm Ways to Wellbeing	To deliver community and targeted family wellbeing sessions through a safe outdoor space for CYP and parents.	Swansea Community Farm	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Brighter futures – ACE recovery	To provide early intervention and support to children who have experience multiple Adverse	Faith In Families	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional

	Childhood Experiences [ACE].			Health & Wellbeing
Care for our children	To improve mental health well-being and prevent mental ill-health for children and young people with Chinese heritage.	Chinese in Wales Association	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Wellbeing Activities CYP	To improve the mental health of BAME CYP - including refugees and asylum seekers – through wellbeing activities, health talks and creative workshops.	African Community Centre	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Swans supporting the mental health of children & young people	To provide education and mental health support to, children and young people through in-schools projects and out of school youth work activities.	Swansea City AFC Community Trust	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
The Play Room Project	To provide CYP with play therapy, one to one and group therapy, counselling and family support.	The Family Therapy Place	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Creative Connections	To deliver weekly creative wellbeing activities for CYP including those who have been	Swansea Music Art Digital (Swansea MAD)	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing

	disproportionately affected by COVID-19			
Counselling for near miss suicide cases	To provide immediate support to people who present as near miss suicides	Jac Lewis Foundation	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Circus Development Project (Edge of Care / Care Experienced)	To deliver creative, integrated interventions to support young people on the edge of care/care experienced, to reduce the need for more intensive forms of support.	Circus Eruption	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Services
Interplay's Wellbeing 4 Early Years – 4 -11	To provide early intervention and prevention support for children aged 4-11 with emotional difficulties, wellbeing or mental health issues and those with learning disabilities, autism and behavioural issues.	Interplay	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Services
Interplay's ENSpir & Wellbeing Project 12-18	To improve confidence and wellbeing for 12-18 year old with emotional difficulties and wellbeing or mental health issues, those with learning	Interplay	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Services

	disabilities, autism and behavioural issues.			
Swansea Autism Movement CIC	To provide peer to peer support to develop the resilience and wellbeing of our autism community by connecting families through activities, providing regular contact with peers experiencing similar challenges.	SAM	Children and Young People	Third Sector CYP Services

5. CONCLUSION AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

There are a range of complex issues impacting on CYP in West Glamorgan according to this assessment. While there appear to be less young people who are homeless and a lower number who are NEET, other issues such as loneliness, cyber bullying and emotional well-being and mental health are on the increase.

There are a number of challenges that this assessment highlight in relation to this area, including access to specialist resources across the workforce, improving the data that informs our transformation journey, and collaborative working with partners such as police, local authority, schools and health (something highlighted by the No Wrong Door report). We have learned from recent successes and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic but it is clear that more needs to be done to support the rights and needs of CYP. It is worth noting that much of our wider transformation agenda is, in principle, based on an “all age” requirement but the needs of CYP in these areas is not always clear or represented in those services/transformational programmes.

We recognise that what is required is a significant period of transformation change across the partnership, which includes cultural changes, better integration of service provision and piloting new models of care that can help us to better support our population. This includes a strong emphasis on prevention as a priority (for example, prioritising keeping families together safely to prevent the need for statutory intervention which will ultimately lead to better outcomes and fewer children needing to be looked after by the local authority). These are priorities for Welsh Government, the Children’s Commissioner for Wales, RPB and our partner organisations, but what is missing is a better representation of the ‘voice of the child’ and the views of CYP, parents, carers, families and other members of our population.

A key area is to address the issues highlighted by this Chapter in relation to emotional well-being and mental health. We are clear our commitment to transformation must include:

- 🌸 A strategic approach to supporting CYP driven by the health and care needs of our population, including a person-centred, strengths-based and trauma informed approach to working with CYP, parents, families and carers;
- 🌸 A strategic planning approach which incorporates the national, regional and local priorities and activities across CYP services as well as the key dependencies with other areas of transformation (e.g. capital investment in accommodation solutions);
- 🌸 Embedding the principles of co-production and taking a range of approaches to participation and engagement with CYP (to identify and hear the ‘voice of the child’, and understand their lived experiences, prioritising our programme of work based on the needs of our population);
- 🌸 Taking a regional, collaborative approach to the major transformation challenges, such as implementing the NEST/NYTH Framework across multiple sectors, services and organisations;
- 🌸 Recognising the factors that impact on CYP (such as poverty, substance misuse, digital exclusion, etc.) which need to be addressed with our partners and stakeholders.

From the qualitative and quantitative information, we have identified some national elements to include in delivering the needs of the population, as well as localised elements where there are some gaps or improvements required.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has been very active in developing a range of actions and recommendations to Welsh Government in their latest annual report. These are very useful barometers in terms of what the needs of the cohort are and the areas where the partners of West Glamorgan need to focus.

Many of these actions will resonate with all service providers...

“National Key drivers

These are the recommendations we've made to the Welsh Government in our annual report.

Family environment and alternative care

1) The Welsh Government must bring forward a roadmap by 1st April 2022 setting out the timescale and actions they will take to safely phase profit out of children's social care provision.

2) The Welsh Government must swiftly bring forward statutory entitlements and policies for care leavers as a coherent package.

Recommendations to Welsh Government are listed:

- Amend the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 , to secure all care leavers' entitlement to a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25*
- Extend the statutory entitlements of the 'When I'm Ready' post 18 living arrangements scheme to young people leaving residential care.*

Progress development of national standards to address concerns of quality, sufficiency and suitability for semi-independent accommodation for care-experienced young people up to the age of 25. Work with care leavers and local authorities to produce clear financial information that is available nationally. Consider what amendments may be required to the

Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act, to strengthen the inspection and regulation of care and accommodation provision for under 18s 3) *Welsh Government must:*

- *Strengthen Wales' corporate parenting role through legislation and guidance, to ensure Wales' care system is rights based and enables children to thrive in care. .*

Oversee, support, resource and monitor the widespread roll out of the Protocol to Reduce the Unnecessary Criminalisation Of Looked After Children, s4) Demonstrate progress to further enact the Youth Justice Blueprint, particularly the secure accommodation elements.

5) Welsh Government should directly engage with CYP with caring experience to ensure the Unpaid Carers strategy adequately reflects their needs and promotes their rights.

Education, Citizenship and Cultural Activities

6) All relevant staff involved in the delivery of the new Curriculum for Wales should receive high quality professional learning and national guidance to develop their knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCRPD.

7) Develop and fund a national offer for high quality professional learning. By September 2022 a specialist RSE lead practitioner identified who can oversee a whole-setting approach to integrate RSE with the curriculum.

8) All young people, including those taking vocational qualifications, with their input need clear and accessible information directed to them about how their qualifications will be awarded in 2022.

9) Circulation of the concluded Learner Travel Review. Welsh Government to publish its findings and set out the actions that will be undertaken.

10) Welsh Government should work with stakeholders, schools and CYP to ensure the ambition of the whole-school approach to emotional and

mental well-being is matched by resource, capacity and a whole-system support network

11) Elective Home Education: The Welsh Government must bring forward primary legislation to meet in full their commitments to the three tests for this policy area:

- that children are accounted for*
- receive a suitable education and their other human rights; and*
- that to ensure this, every child should have the opportunity to be seen and their views and experiences listened to.*

12) The Welsh Government must act in two areas:

- To address the EWC registration issues through new legislation.

- Undertake a full review of the current regulations for independent schools a13) Welsh Government must set a clear policy aim and action plan to prevent exclusions being issued to children under 8 years old that includes alternatives.

Adequate Standard of Living

14) Welsh Government must continue the Together for Children and Young People programme to support the implementation of a No Wrong Door approach, and the NEST whole-system model, including the specific work within these models for improving support for neurodiverse children.

15) (Transitions guidance) The Welsh Government must ensure through the published guidance that there is adequate resource for the new executive lead and key worker roles in every Health Board in Wales.

16) Welsh Government should publish new guidance for all health boards which ensure every child in Wales has access to independent health-related advocacy should they need it.

17) The Programme for Government to 2026 contains ambitious intentions to reform social care and integrate it with health care. Early work on this priority must address the longstanding issue of Continuing

Care, and CYP and their families must be a part of finding those solutions.

18) Welsh Government must carry out their review of food entitlements in schools without delay, to include eligibility for free school meals, and ensuring that school breakfasts are reaching as many children as possible including those in most need of this provision.

Source: [Annual Report 20/21 - Children's Commissioner for Wales \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](https://childcomwales.org.uk)

Improvement Going Forward

Key areas requiring consideration are outlined below:

Co-production

Further work is required to achieve effective and meaningful co-production, and the need to develop the ability for CYP to shape the services they receive.

Co-production with Gypsy Traveller communities also needs to be strengthened in order to empower people to contribute to service design and operation.

Data

There are gaps in data collection where there is a need for information to understand the current numbers not only in the services provided but also in the assessment of the wider population. We need to develop and harness a culture of sharing data more easily and is accessible and it once source of the truth. We recognise it is critical to look beyond the numbers and use qualitative information to fully understand the needs of children and young people and those who care for them.

Education

Elective home-educated CYP – statutory guidance from Welsh Government is required to ensure all children and young people within the LAs are visible and receiving the right services and supported.

Local provision

Fostering services in the region are committed to ongoing completion of recruitment and retention strategies to enable them to focus on identifying the needs of the service and planning effective recruitment targets. The region has worked together to put in place strategies and a plan with targeted recruitment campaigns and regional initiatives.

Increasing local authority placement sufficiency is a target that both local authorities are committed to achieve. This will support children and young people being supported to live in their local area alongside Welsh Government's commitment to reducing the level of profit in the provision of children's care.

Emotional wellbeing

To co-ordinate and shape well-being, mental health, counselling for under 18s, and post 18 services, including transition

Housing

Develop provision for sustainable settings for CYP in need of support, linking in with learning disabilities and mental health support.

Supporting children and young people to remain with their family

To identify and assess as early as possible those children who need care and support (including help to achieve emotional well-being and resilience).

Preventing the need to become looked after by helping CYP and families to use their individual and collective strengths and resources in their communities; and provide timely prevention and early intervention services prevents needs escalating and becoming critical.

Where children are not able to remain living with their parents, promoting keeping families together through the use of Special Guardianship Order.

- 🌈 Working collaboratively on a regional basis and retaining a child-centred approach to the most complex cases - including agreeing how packages of health, educational and social care support are jointly funded.