

PRODUCED UNDER THE STATUTORY
REQUIREMENTS OF THE WELL-BEING
OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES)
ACT 2015

Blaenau Gwent Well-being Assessment

CONSULTATION DRAFT

BLAENAU GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD



BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS

Blaenau Gwent

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Blaenau Gwent

Well-being Assessment

2017

CONSULTATION DRAFT

Produced under the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

A welcome

Welcome to Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Assessment 2016.

The purpose of this document is to present an assessment of well-being which will help the newly formed Public Services Board for the area to set objectives for an exciting new plan for the local area.

This assessment of well-being is a vital part of journey to develop our plan, as it provides an accurate analysis, summarising the plethora of evidence that is available to us for understanding the economic, social, environment and cultural conditions for well-being.

This is an assessment which has been developed collaboratively with a wide range of partner organisations contributing evidence. It also benefits from significant input from local people, following the first phase of our really successful engagement programme, "The Blaenau Gwent We Want".

If you are reading this assessment, we really want you stay involved in this on-going exciting process of well-being planning. If you have not already done so, I would urge you, or the organisation you represent, to join one of our engagement panels.

The next step for us is to set well-being objectives which will start the process of us creating a plan for our area. This plan will be ready by April 2018 and focus on tackling the most important issues which will have a positive effect improving the economic, social, culture and environmental well-being of our wonderful area, both the present and future.

Councillor Steven Thomas

**Chair of Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board
Leader of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

Introduction

2.1 Overview

Blaenau Gwent is always changing, and as we play our part in those changes we need to think about making sustainable interventions today that will lead to positive, long-term outcomes for future generations.

The last 30 years have seen the area presented with a range of new social, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities as we have moved from our traditional industrial past, and looked to improve our immediate future.

The main issue driving this change has been the loss of the traditional economic base. Closing the coal and steel industries has led to an overall loss in jobs, as we move towards an economy where our manufacturing and service jobs have to compete with the world's emerging regions and countries.

Also, the way we live our lives has changed. We are influenced by technology, which has led to significant changes in the way we shop, communicate, enjoy our free time, and benefit from services such as health, care and education.

There have also been significant pressures worldwide, with factors such as population growth and a dependence on fossil fuels putting pressure on our environment. This has brought issues such as oil prices and climate change into every living room in Blaenau Gwent. However, the move away from our industrial past has had a significant improvement in our local environment and landscapes as our area regains the green landscapes of the distant past.

These are some of the central issues that our area has been challenged with, in the last 20 years. Some of these challenges have been difficult and still give us cause for concern and problems today, such as employment. Others, such as improvements in our environment and technological advancements have been more positive and have led to clear improvements in people's lives.

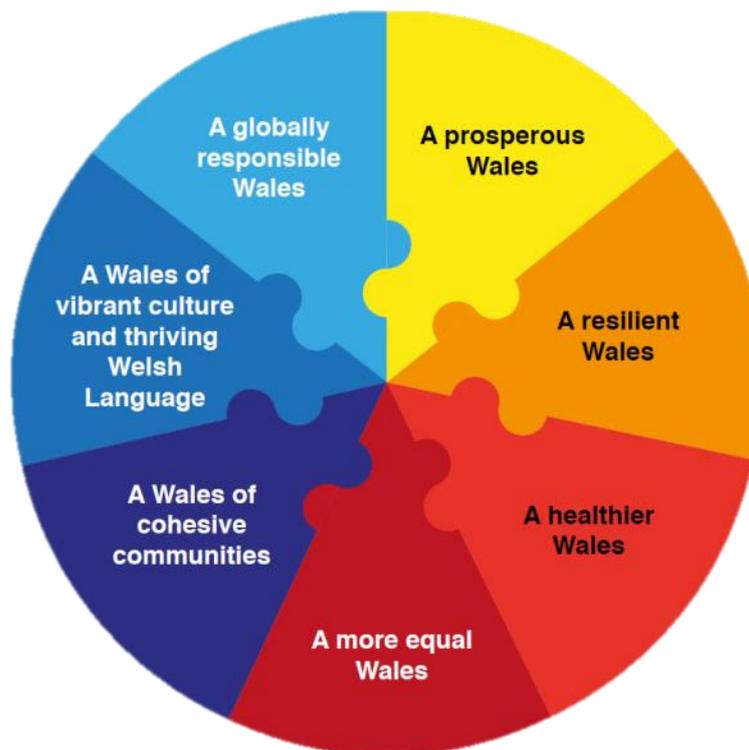
This document assesses the current well-being of our area. We cannot present all the evidence in one document, so this document will summarise the analysis of key issues which have been identified. Where appropriate further information will be available for consideration.

2.2 Context

In 2015, the National Assembly for Wales passed a new law for Wales called the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The legislation is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, and creating a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The ground-breaking piece of legislation places sustainable development at its core and places statutory duty on our public service sector (covered by the Act) to: think about the long-term; work better with people and communities and each other; look to prevent problems; and take a more joined-up approach. This is known as the five ways of working.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals for everyone to aspire towards.



Our Well-being Duties

The Act places a number of statutory duties on public bodies both as individual organisations, and as partners working together through a new partnership board called a Public Services Board.

This document relates statutory duties for work together through a Public Services Board.

The Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board was set up in April 2016 as a statutory requirement, and replaced the Local Service Board, which was established in 2009 to take forward the Single Integrated Plan.

***Note:** The current Single Integrated Plan is now the responsibility of the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board until its completion at the end of 2017.*

Each Public Services Board in Wales has a duty to prepare an assessment of well-being in its area by April 2017.

This assessment must then be used to prepare a Well-being plan. The plan must continue Well-being objectives for the public services board collectively, which are designed to maximise the Board's contribution to the Well-being goals for Wales.

To support Public Services Board in meeting their statutory requirements, the Welsh Government have provided both statutory and non-statutory guidance.

The Statutory Guidance, *Shared Purpose: Shared Future* **SPSF3** Collective Role (public services boards), in Chapter 2 provides guidance on assessing the state of well-being in the area.

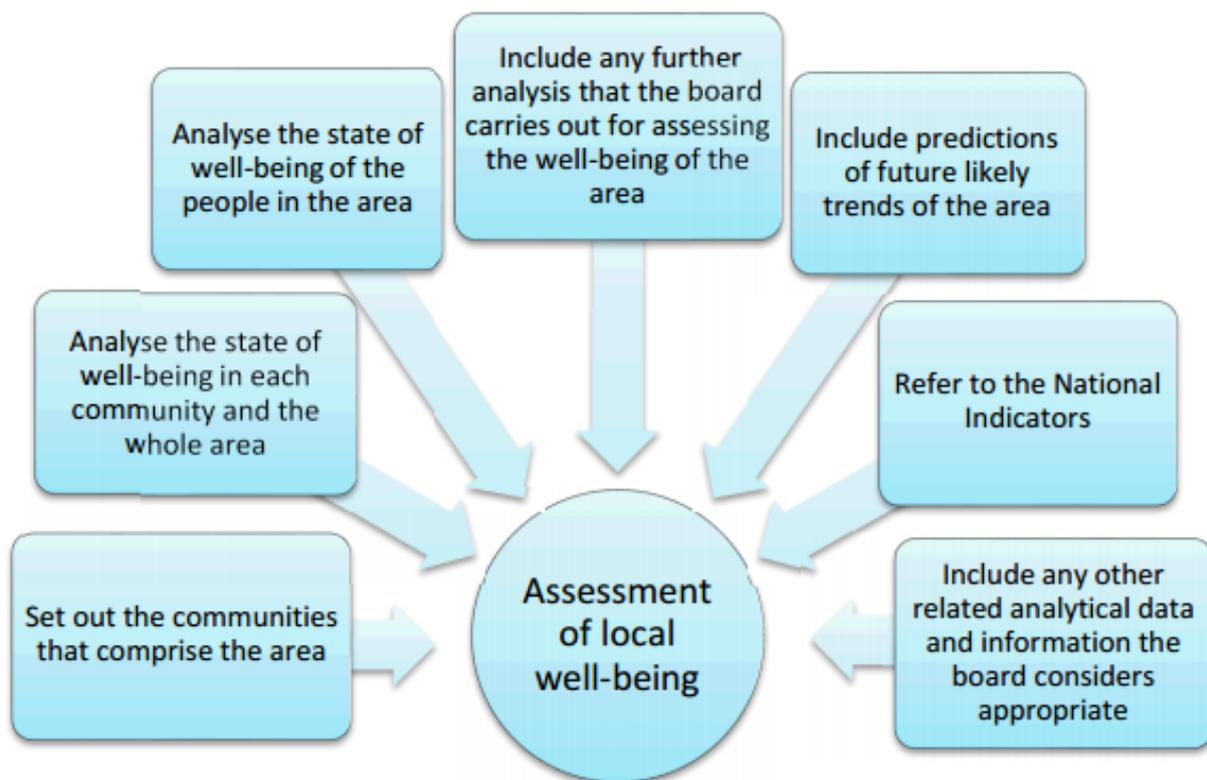
Furthermore, additional non-statutory guidance was provided to Public Services Boards on the use of evidence and analysis to support the assessment process.

Assessing the state of well-being in Blaenau Gwent

An accurate analysis of the state of well-being in our area is important, as it will play a vital role in helping the Public Services Board to develop the Well-being plans containing our local Well-being objectives.

There is an expectation that each assessment will use a broad range of evidence sources to help assess the state of well-being, for example census and statistical data; academic research; and qualitative evidence which captures people's opinions and perceptions as well as giving context to quantitative data (the story behind the data). These comparisons could take place at a national, regional or local level.

In preparing an assessment of well-being our Public Services Board must:



Source: P13, SPSF 3, Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Collective role (public services boards)

2.3 Approaching our assessment in Blaenau Gwent

At the Blaenau Gwent PSB meeting in July 2016 the Board agreed an overarching Well-being Assessment and Plan timetable to ensure it was able to meet statutory requirements outlined above.

The plan focused around the two specific strands of Analysis and Engagement both with vital roles in collating the data and information to help shape the assessment of well-being.

Situational and Response Analysis

The non-statutory guidance on the production of well-being assessments outlined an evaluative approach to carry out assessments, using a situational and response analyses approach.

Situational Analysis focuses around carrying out analysis, which outlines a broad picture of the economic, social, environmental and cultural conditions in an area. This type of analysis should look to include information from statistical sources, engagement and involvement exercise, and also credible research which has been carried out. This would be supported by further analysis to understand these conditions, giving more detail of conditions for different geographical communities and groups of people.

Response Analysis is more detailed in nature and focuses on helping partners understand from evidence what can be done to help achieve a defined objectives. This analysis will:

- enrich understanding of the factors that affect issues within areas;
- develop the understanding of how, and to what extent, existing services are addressing those issues;
- help to identify and appraise alternative approaches to delivery; and
- consider how future economic, social, environmental and cultural, trends will affect local areas.

There is no clear divide between where situational analysis finishes - if it does - and when response analysis begins, however for the initial process of assessing the well-being of an area, a situational approach will be used, whereby broad picture of the economic, social, environmental and cultural conditions of our area will be developed.

Blaenau Gwent Approach to Situational Analysis

The approach to situational analysis has looked to meet requirements of the statutory and non-statutory guidance.

Specific consideration has been given to the most effective way to take forward the analysis, through a standardised approach which paints a broad picture of an area's well-being using the common data set developed for the Welsh Government by the Local Government Data Unit Wales.

To facilitate a standard approach a 'Gwent Footprint' was purposed with the other four local authority areas in the region, as all areas have the same regional and national statutory partners i.e. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, and Natural Resources Wales.

To ensure this was taken for in the appropriate manner, the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) was formed with representation from statutory partners from the region and additional regional partners (e.g. invited partners from the PSBs) such as Gwent Police and Public Health Wales.

The groups remit was to identify and progress a consistent methodology and strategic approach that develops the key principles and actions enabling a regional approach for the undertaking of well-being assessments as required within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Furthermore, Welsh Government provided access to a 'regional grant' to support the production of situational analysis for 2016/17. GSWAG

successfully secured the grant from Welsh Government to commission analytical expertise from the Local Government Data Unit Wales (LGDU) to support the production of well-being assessments across the region.

The LGDU developed a regional product covering all five local authority areas pulling together key statistics on economic, social, environment and cultural issues. Following this the LGDU have worked with each local authority area on individual products to aid the development on local-based draft well-being assessments (which is this document).

Our proposed approach to Response Analysis

The Well-being Assessment for Blaenau Gwent will be used by the Public Service Board to identify a 'finite set of well-being objectives'.

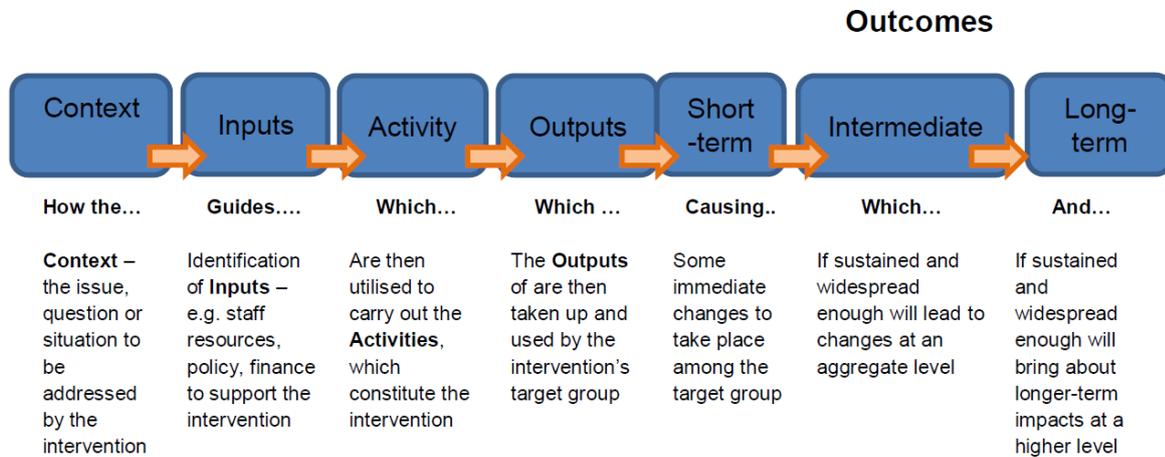
Following this, response analysis can be tailored for the well-being objectives, allowing for detailed investigation to be carried out to understand the issue, and identify potential actions for solutions.

This process will be carried out because it has become clear that it is not feasible to carry out a response analysis approach for the variety of economic, social, environmental and cultural conditions that contribute to the well-being of a local area.

In carrying out a response analysis it will be important to follow a model which allows for full consideration of the factors that are affecting a defined objective.

The proposed model to be used, which is supported by the non-statutory guidance for PSB on evidence and analysis, is a theory of change, logic model.

This model looks to aid decision-making by identifying the most effective options to tackle an issue by evaluating a number of key factors, including 'inputs', activities, outputs and outcomes as summarised below:





Our Approach to Engagement

Engaging people on developing this assessment has been seen as crucial by the Public Service Board, particularly as one of the five ways of working towards sustainable development is involvement. To ensure this, the PSB agreed that a specific engagement programme, called 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' would be implemented.

The engagement programme was launched as an on-going conversation whereby there would be plenty of opportunity for people to share their views on shaping the well-being assessment and the subsequent well-being plan. Each year there will be an Annual Programme of Engagement, with a number of Phases each year.

Phase one of the first Annual Programme was launched in August 2016 to get people involved in a conversation about our area in 2016, and what is wanted for our area in the future. The principle of the programme was to get as many people as possible to take part and have their views heard.

To help this, there were no set rules on how people could take part. People were encouraged to get involved by a variety of methods including attending local events, filling in questionnaires, using social media, sending back postcards, completing drawings, writing stories or poems, drafting future profiles, taking photographs, or holding their own events.

To support phase one an Inspiration Pack was developed with guidance on participation, and questions and topics for consideration. Also included were ideas, examples and templates to support participation.

Engagement activities held across our area, including:

- Four 'Blaenau Gwent We Want' sessions in our four main town centres, e.g. Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar
- National Play Day and Family Fun Days events around the area
- Three 'Splash' play events around the borough
- A special joint 50+ Network and Access for All Equality Forum
- Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum
- Children's Grand Council
- UNCRC Family Event
- Communities First Events

Also, a number of sessions were held by specific representative groups, including:

- Dementia Café
- Blaenau Gwent People's First
- Blaenau Gwent Stroke Group
- Sight Cymru
- Abertillery School Transition
- Mind
- Big Hafal Tea Party
- Snap Cymru
- Armed Forces Veterans Coffee Morning

The methods of participating in the first phase of the Blaenau Gwent We Want allowed for active engagement with people from a range of key representative groups including the general public, people with physical or mental disabilities, older people, children and young people, and carers. Further work continues to seek active engagement with representative groups.

Overall, involvement in the phase one of 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' was seen as positive with significant feedback including:

- Over 150 questionnaires returned
- Over 400 'BG We Want' postcards completed at events or posted back
- Over 300 drawings or illustrations submitted from children and young people.
- 16 large 'graffiti' sheets summarising some of the key sessions held across the borough
- 62 Future Trees completed by representative groups held by Communities First
- 42 Future leaves from the joint 'Access for All' and Older People event.

Approximately 1,000 residents were engaged with (across all groups) during the first engagement phase. The feedback was divided into individual 'statements'. Many respondents provided more than one statement, with over 2,500 individual well-being statements being provided.

The feedback from Phase 1 has been processed and is summarised in a [Feedback report](#), but more importantly is referenced throughout this well-being assessment.

Look out for information in the following chapters under the heading 'what we know from engagement' which will look to summarise key information captured from 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' in the relevant sections.



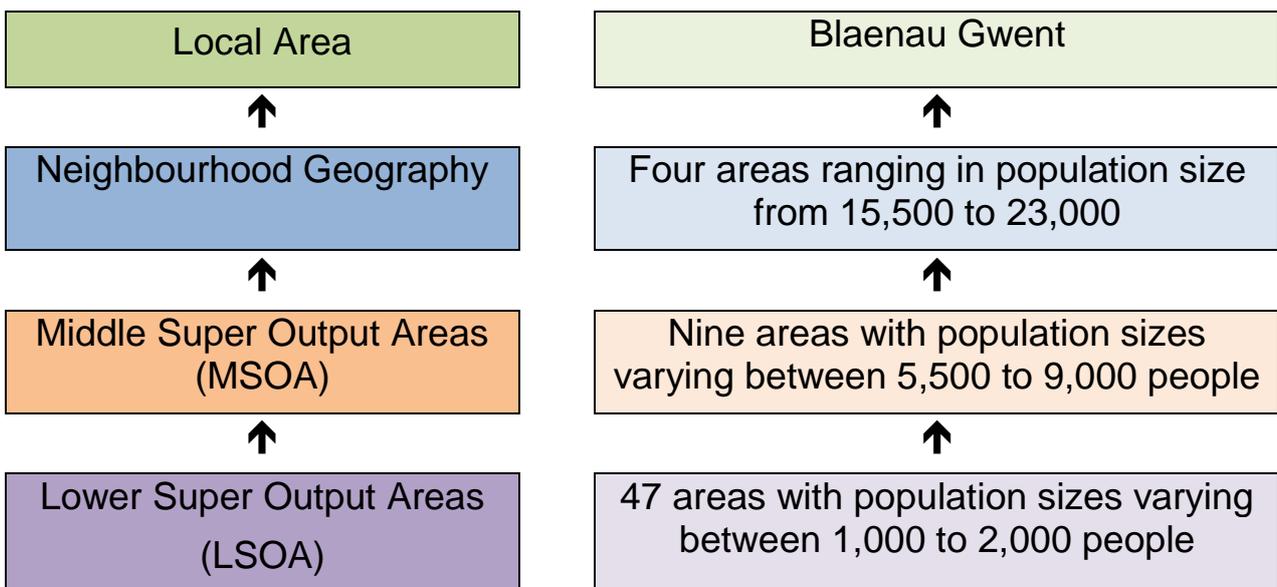
Defining our Communities in Blaenau Gwent



Blaenau Gwent’s communities and neighbourhoods have been shaped by our landscapes and social history. Our distinctive valley landscape has led to the area having town surrounded by neighbourhoods and settlements clustered around the valley floors and adjacent hill sides.

This assessment will be based around the area as a whole, and four specific geographic areas inside Blaenau Gwent, known as our neighbourhood geography (Single Integrated Plan 2013/17).

These four areas are made up of smaller geographical areas, and where appropriate (e.g. where the data is available) the assessment will consider smaller areas which fit within the four neighbourhood areas. These smaller geographies will be based on the national statistical geography and called Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). This will allow us, where it adds value, to present comparable statistical information to a low geographical level. The table below summarises hierarchy of the geography that is being used for this assessment.



Further details on our neighbourhood areas are provided subsequently in this assessment.

How this assessment is set out

The remainder of this document is focused on presenting a summary analysis of well-being for the Blaenau Gwent area.

There are five subsequent chapters. The first of the chapters acts as an introductory chapter and focuses on providing an overview of the area, outlining the communities within our area and the people that live within in them. It considers a broad overview of the Blaenau Gwent area summarising key statistical information, and outlining key future trends and summary information from the 'The Blaenau We Want' engagement programme. It chapter also provides an overview of the four neighbourhood areas in the area.

The remaining chapters are aligned to the well-being or sustainable development pillars i.e. Economic, Social, Cultural and Environment. Each of these chapters has a number of sections providing the relevant information.

These sections have a consistent format as outlined below:

- **Overview** - *Summary of headline statistics including graphs, tables and light commentary on trend.*
- **Story behind the data** – *Further detail and supporting level statistics, including any patterns identified by people and places.*
- **What we know from engagement** – *Information from engagement, mainly e.g. 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' or related work, or engagement activity that helps show citizen and community opinion.*
- **What we know from existing research** – *Information from credible research (secondary) and other sources e.g. national, regional or localised studies.*
- **What this tells us about Well-being in Blaenau Gwent** – *Summary of information and what it means for the area, now and in the future. Any options for considerations e.g. further analysis e.g. response analysis.*