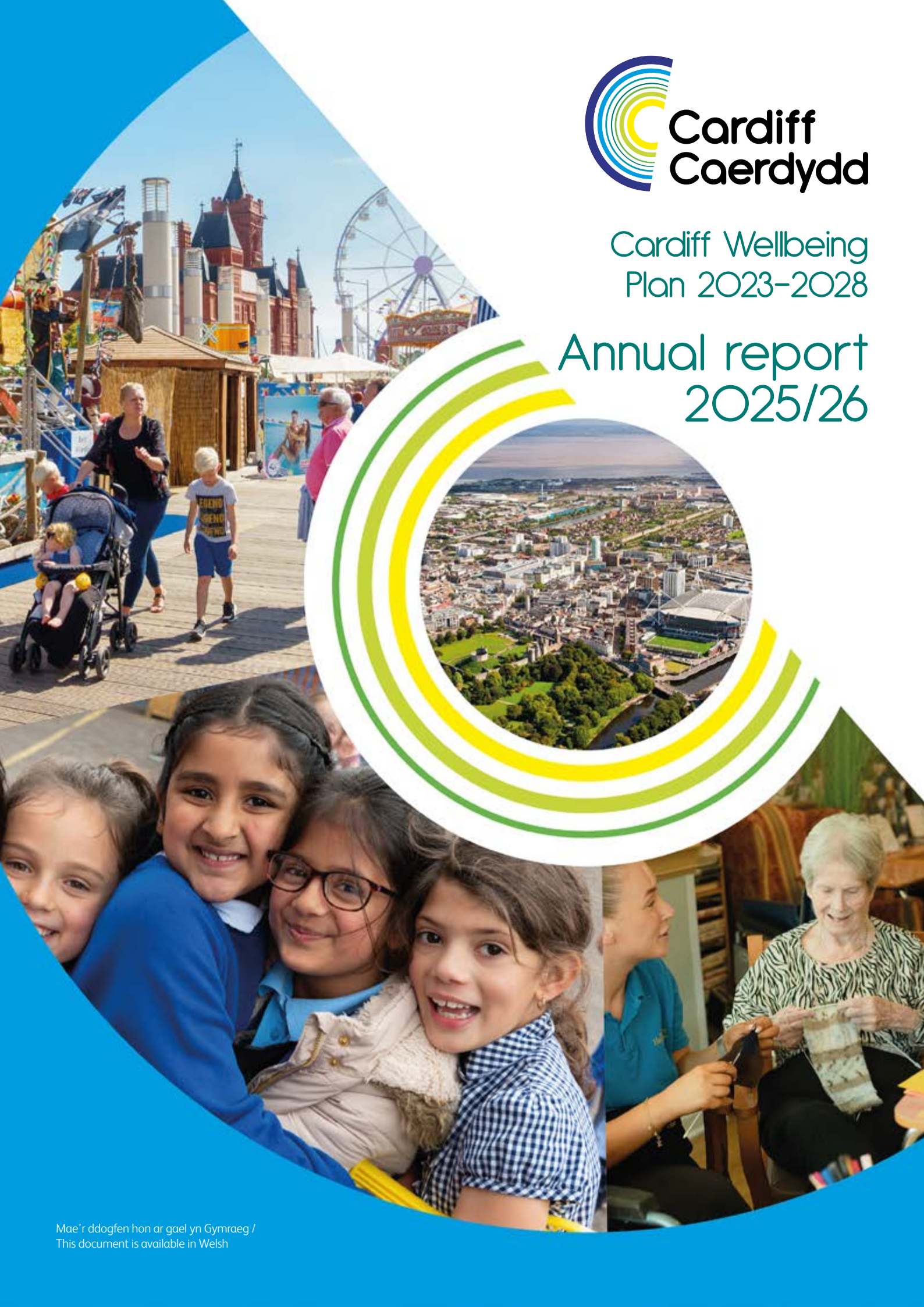




Cardiff Wellbeing
Plan 2023-2028

Annual report 2025/26





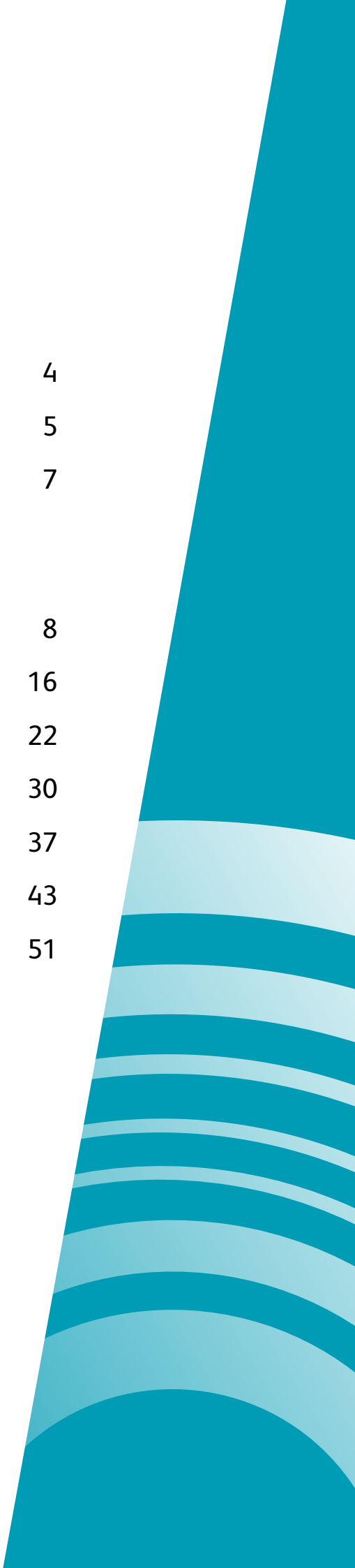


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Foreword

Over the past year, the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) has continued to make progress in delivering its Local Wellbeing Plan (2023-2028), working collectively to improve wellbeing across the city and support better outcomes for our communities.

There remains much to be proud of. Cardiff continues to demonstrate the value of strong partnership working, with progress made in a number of key areas. This includes the city becoming the first in the UK to be re-accredited as a UNICEF Child Friendly City, reflecting a sustained commitment to embedding children's rights and ensuring that young people's voices are heard. More broadly, partners have continued to strengthen early intervention, improved how services work together, and expanded access to opportunities for people across the city. As a capital city, Cardiff also continues to play an important role in supporting economic activity, cultural life and national identity.

However, this progress sits alongside a set of ongoing and deeply rooted challenges. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to be felt across many communities, contributing to financial insecurity and widening inequalities. Demand for public services remains high, often increasing in both scale and complexity, particularly in areas such as housing, health and social care. These pressures are compounded by the long-term effects of austerity and the pandemic, alongside the growing urgency of the climate and nature emergencies. Taken together, these challenges highlight the limits of traditional approaches and the need to do things differently.

A consistent theme throughout the year has been the importance of prevention - intervening earlier, better understanding need, and addressing the underlying causes of poor outcomes, rather than responding only when issues have escalated. While there has been progress in this area, it is clear that going further will require a stronger, more joined-up approach across organisations, services and places.

In recognition of this, the PSB has taken steps to strengthen how partners work together, including agreeing to adopt a Total Place approach. This represents a renewed focus on collective action - using data and insight more effectively, aligning resources, and working in a more coordinated way to address the most complex and costly challenges facing the city. By focusing on shared priorities, priority groups and places, this approach aims to improve outcomes for citizens while making better use of the resources available across the system.

Public services continue to operate under significant pressure, and there are no simple solutions to the challenges ahead. However, this year has reinforced the strength of partnership working in Cardiff and the shared commitment of organisations to work collaboratively in the interests of the city. Building on this foundation, the PSB will continue to develop its approach, ensuring that collective effort is focused where it can have the greatest impact for the people and communities of Cardiff.



Councillor Chris Weaver
Chair, Cardiff Public Services Board

Introduction

About the Annual Report

This annual report outlines the work that the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) has undertaken over the past 12 months to deliver its [Local Wellbeing Plan 2023-28](#).

The annual report is complemented by a detailed update on progress against the Cardiff PSB's priorities for partnership working outlined in the Wellbeing Plan (Appendix A), as well as the 'Cardiff in 2026' report (Appendix B), which provides a trend analysis of each of the Plan's wellbeing indicators.

What is Cardiff PSB?

Cardiff's PSB brings together the city's public service leadership and decision-makers, including those from the Local Authority, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Welsh Government, the Third Sector and the Fire, Police and Probation services. The purpose of the PSB is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Cardiff by strengthening joint working across the city's public services.

What is a Wellbeing Plan?

The Wellbeing Plan sets out the Cardiff PSB's priorities for action for the period 2023 to 2028. The plan focuses on the areas of public service delivery which fundamentally require partnership working between the city's public and community services, and with the citizens of Cardiff.

The Wellbeing Plan should therefore be seen as a complementary document to the strategic plans of each PSB member, focusing on delivering 'collaborative advantage' in areas of city life and public services which cut across all public and community services.

The Plan contains 'Wellbeing Objectives', areas for action that the Cardiff PSB have identified as being most important. It also contains 'Priorities' or the steps that the city's public services, together, will take forward over the five years of the plan. The Cardiff PSB's Wellbeing Objectives are:

1. Cardiff is a great place to grow up
2. Cardiff is a great place to grow older
3. Supporting people out of poverty
4. Safe, confident and empowered communities
5. A capital city that works for Wales
6. One Planet Cardiff
7. Modernising and integrating our public services



How is the Wellbeing Plan delivered?

Delivering the Wellbeing Plan's priorities for partnership working requires action across multiple timescales and levels, from the immediate and operational, to the long-term and strategic.

To deliver on the priorities for partnership working, a review of partnership governance on a Cardiff and Vale regional footprint was undertaken in 2023, to ensure clarity over responsibilities and accountabilities for delivery. Each priority is aligned to a relevant 'Delivery Board', with a line of sight to the Cardiff PSB or Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board (RPB).

Where the RPB leads on oversight and delivery of partnership priorities (in Wellbeing Objectives 1 and 2), this is clearly indicated.

How is progress measured?

The progress made in the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan is reported as follows:

- An update of the progress made in the delivery of the priorities for partnership working identified in the Wellbeing Plan, contained within this Annual Report and at Appendix A.
- An update of how the city is performing against the outcome indicators identified in the Wellbeing Plan, contained within this Annual Report¹ and in the Cardiff in 2026 report (Appendix B).

The latest data is also available on [Cardiff's online City-wide Dashboard](#). The Dashboard brings together a number of datasets, grouped by different themes, to present a picture of life in Cardiff. The data can be viewed over time and, where available, compared with other areas or broken down to sub-Cardiff level.

¹ Within each Wellbeing Objective, the latest available data is presented against each city-level outcome indicator, together with the date to which the data relates. As data is sourced from a range of datasets, the reporting period varies between indicators. In addition, recent comparable data is noted, as well as a sparkline to represent the data trend. It is important to note that the timescale utilised for the sparkline varies for each outcome indicator, whilst the vertical axis always starts at zero. A summary assessment is also included to highlight the key messages emerging from the data. For more detail, see the 'Cardiff in 2026' report which provides a detailed trend.



City-Level Outcome Indicators: An Overview

Cardiff continues to evolve as a growing, diverse and dynamic capital city. The latest population estimate indicates that 383,900 people live in Cardiff, an increase of around 87,000 since 1991. Population projections suggest that the city's population will continue to grow to around 413,000 by 2034, although at a slower rate than has been experienced in recent years. At the same time, Cardiff's population is becoming older and increasingly diverse, with the number of residents aged 65 and over projected to increase by around 10,500 over the next decade. These demographic changes will continue to shape demand for services and influence wellbeing across the city.

Across a range of measures, outcomes compare favourably with Wales and there are signs of positive change in a number of areas. The proportion of children living in relative low-income families has fallen from 20.3 % to 19.6 % before housing costs, the latest available data shows that 32 % of adults volunteer, sustainable travel has reached a record high of 56.9 %, and per-capita carbon emissions remain lower than previously recorded levels at 3.8 tonnes. While these improvements vary in scale and pace, they suggest that progress continues to be made across several aspects of wellbeing in Cardiff.

However, the evidence presented in this report also highlights a number of significant challenges. Personal wellbeing is lower than previously recorded levels, with fewer people reporting high levels of life satisfaction, happiness and a sense that the things they do in life are worthwhile, alongside increasing levels of anxiety. Healthy life expectancy has fallen to 60.1 years for males and 59.5 years for females, while 15 % of people are estimated to be living in materially deprived households. The number of people sleeping rough has also risen from 21 to 40 over the past year. Together, these findings highlight the continuing impact of poverty, financial insecurity and housing pressures on many residents.

Taken together, the evidence suggests that Cardiff continues to make progress across many aspects of wellbeing, but that this progress is not always experienced equally. Differences in outcomes between communities and population groups remain evident across a range of measures, particularly in relation to health and wellbeing. While these disparities are long-standing, they continue to shape life chances and experiences across the city and remain a key challenge for public service partners.

Wellbeing Objective 1

Cardiff is a Great
Place to Grow Up





Introduction

Cardiff continues to offer many children and young people a positive start in life, with a wide range of opportunities to grow, learn and succeed. However, the lasting effects of the pandemic, rising cost of living pressures and increasing levels of need continue to shape the experiences of children and families across the city. Inequalities remain, with some children and young people facing barriers that affect their wellbeing, development and life chances.

In response, partners across the Cardiff PSB are working together to reduce these inequalities through a strong focus on early intervention and prevention, alongside more coordinated, inclusive and trauma-informed approaches to support. This shared approach aims to ensure services are joined-up, accessible and responsive to need.

Together, partners aim to ensure that all children and young people in Cardiff feel safe, supported and able to thrive.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact		Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage of children in low-income families	Relative Low Income (Before Housing Costs)	2024/25	19.6 %	20.3 % (2023/24)	
	Relative Low Income (After Housing Costs)		26.8 %	28.3 % (2023/24)	
	Absolute Low Income (Before Housing Costs)		19.6 %	22.2 % (2023/24)	
Mental well-being: children & young adults and adults	Mean Score (Aged 11-16)	2023	23.8	23.3 (2021)	
	Age-Standardised Average (Adults)	2022/23	48.8	Not currently available. Latest data is not comparable with previous years.	
Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 who are a healthy weight (or underweight)		2024/25	76.6 %	79.5 % (2023/24)	
Percentage of students (aged 11-16) who are physically active for more than 60 minutes, less than 3 days a week by family affluence score ²		2023	19	18 (2021)	
Percentage of children cycling/ walking to school ³		2024	59.1 %	58.6 % (2023)	
Percentage uptake of MMR2 by age 4 (second dose Mumps, Measles, Rubella vaccine)		2024/25	83.2 %	80.9 % (2023/24)	
Percentage of students (aged 11-16) who currently smoke at least weekly		2023	2.1 %	1.8 % (2021)	
Percentage of Year 11 and Year 13 school leavers that are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Year 11	2025	1.8 %	2.9 % (2024)	
	Year 13		3.9 %	3.1 % (2024)	
Number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System		2025	38	34 (2024)	

² Percentage Point Difference between More Affluent Families and Less Affluent Families

³ Please note: Prior to 2024, Cardiff Council was responsible for collecting this data. Since then, Public Health Wales (PHW) has assumed responsibility for data collection. The PHW survey methodology differs slightly from that used by Cardiff Council, as does their sample size.

What the Data Shows

Overall, the data presents a mixed but generally positive picture for children and young people in Cardiff. There have been improvements in a number of key outcomes, including reductions in measures of child poverty and lower Year 11 NEET rates, while mental wellbeing remains above the Welsh average. Cardiff also continues to perform well in a number of areas, including youth justice outcomes. However, progress is not consistent across all indicators; despite remaining above the Welsh average, the proportion of children aged 4-5 who are a healthy weight (or underweight) declined in the latest year. In addition, Year 13 NEET has increased and vaccination uptake remains below target levels despite recent improvements. Significant inequalities also continue to shape outcomes, with many of the greatest challenges concentrated in the city's more deprived areas, including child poverty, healthy weight, physical activity, vaccination uptake and youth employment outcomes.

Overview of PSB work in 2025/26

Child Friendly City

In October 2023, Cardiff became the first city in the UK to be formally recognised as a UNICEF Child Friendly City, reflecting a long-term commitment by PSB partners since joining the programme in 2017. This work is delivered through the [Child Friendly City Sustainability Plan 2023-2026](#), which focuses on four priorities: improving children's understanding of their rights, strengthening participation in decision-making, involving children in the design of places and spaces, and tackling inequality.

During 2025/26, Cardiff successfully completed UNICEF UK's re-accreditation process and has retained its status, becoming the first UK city to be reaccredited. This recognises the sustained commitment of partners to embedding children's rights across policy, practice and planning, and the central role of children and young people in shaping and reviewing progress.

Progress has continued across all four priorities. Children's rights education remains strong, with 82.8 % of schools achieving Rights Respecting Schools status, alongside continued training for staff across services. Participation is increasingly embedded, with children and young people influencing decisions through established forums such as Cardiff Youth Council and through wider engagement activity.

Children and young people are also helping to shape Cardiff's physical environment, contributing to planning, play and public space design to support more inclusive and child-friendly communities. Work to tackle inequality continues, with a focus on ensuring all children feel safe, included and able to access opportunities, particularly those who may face additional barriers.

Cardiff's reaccreditation provides a strong foundation for the next phase of the programme. A refreshed Child Friendly City Sustainability Plan for 2026-2029 has been developed, setting out how partners will build on progress to date by further embedding children's rights across services, strengthening participation, and continuing to address inequalities affecting children and young people.

Cardiff Commitment

The Cardiff Commitment continues to provide children and young people with access to knowledge, skills, experiences, and pathways into education, training and employment through a strong city-wide partnership of employers, education providers and public services. Over 500 employers are now actively engaged, reflecting continued growth and reach.

During 2025/26, progress has focused on expanding opportunities and strengthening the overall offer. More than 3,000 post-16 opportunities were promoted through the What's Next Cardiff platform, while the What's Next? Award programme supported over 200 learners to access meaningful work experience. Engagement across primary and secondary schools also continues at scale, helping to raise awareness of future pathways and build skills, confidence and aspiration.

There has been a growing emphasis on improving inclusion. Targeted support has been developed for learners who may face additional barriers, including those with additional learning needs (ALN), those educated other than at school, and care-experienced

young people. Employers have also been supported through training to better understand and respond to these needs, contributing to more inclusive opportunities across the network.

The Cardiff Commitment continues to be recognised as a model of good practice, demonstrating the value of coordinated partnership working in supporting young people's progression. However, as the programme has expanded, it has also highlighted ongoing challenges in ensuring that opportunities are consistently accessible, joined up and responsive to the diverse needs of all young people.

Addressing these challenges will require continued focus on strengthening coordination across partners, widening access to high-quality experiences, and ensuring that those facing the greatest barriers are able to benefit fully from the opportunities available. Looking ahead, the Cardiff Commitment will continue to prioritise employer engagement, access to meaningful work experience, clearer pathways into learning and employment, and targeted support to improve outcomes for all learners.

Health and Wellbeing

Supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people remains a key priority for partners across Cardiff, with activity during 2025/26 reflecting a continued focus on early intervention alongside wider system pressures related to demand, inequality and coordination across services.

A range of targeted programmes and initiatives⁴ are in place to address key priorities:

- **Early years (first 1,000 days):** Early childhood remains a critical period that shapes lifelong health and wellbeing, as highlighted in the [Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2024/25](#), which focused on improving outcomes for children aged 0-5. Building on this, early years work is being progressed collaboratively through the RPB's Starting Well programme, with an increased focus on the first 1,000 days of a child's life. During 2025/26, this has included developing a shared understanding of population need and progressing work towards a shared model of change. There is emerging
- alignment across partners around key priority areas, including school readiness, parenting support, domestic abuse prevention, speech and language development, community-based approaches and the use of data. Next steps include co-producing a regional vision for the first 1,000 days, alongside further development of delivery arrangements and an outcomes-focused dataset to support implementation and monitoring over time.
- **Enhancing emotional wellbeing and mental health:** A range of targeted provision continues to support children and young people experiencing acute psychological distress, with services working in a coordinated and increasingly trauma-informed way. The Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC) has provided person-centred support to over 30 families during 2025/26, with 34 children supported to remain within the family unit, while Goleudy has delivered multidisciplinary, wraparound interventions combining therapeutic input, educational support and supported accommodation for young people with complex needs. Therapeutic support for adopted and looked after children has also been delivered through the Enfys service, alongside wider family support and early intervention through organisations such as Family Lives. This range of provision reflects a strong multi-agency response, while sustained demand for support continues to present pressures across services and underlines the importance of strengthening earlier intervention.
- **Improving childhood vaccination uptake:** Uptake of childhood and teenage immunisations in Cardiff remains below the Welsh average, with lower rates in the most deprived areas, highlighting inequalities linked to deprivation and ethnicity. During 2025/26, targeted action has focused on improving access and addressing barriers to uptake, including school-based delivery, the introduction of gelatine-free flu vaccines, and a pilot MMR catch-up programme in secondary schools supported by tailored communication and translated materials, resulting in 12.5 % of identified pupils receiving one or both doses. A targeted, community-focused approach has also been developed in the City and South Primary Care Cluster, where uptake is lowest, including engagement

⁴ Please note that an update regarding the Good Food and Movement (previously Move More, Eat Well) programme, as well as on work to reduce smoking, can be found in Wellbeing Objective 3: Supporting People out of Poverty.

with community leaders and the voluntary sector in areas such as Grangetown and Butetown to support delivery of clinics and improve communication with families. This work is supported through the development of a Childhood and Teenage Immunisations Strategic Action Plan (2026-2029) and a refresh of the Vaccination Equity Strategic Plan. While there are signs of improvement in targeted activity, overall uptake remains below target levels, indicating the need for continued partnership focus to improve coverage and reduce inequalities.

- **Supporting children and young people with complex health and disability needs:** Partners continue to strengthen a more coordinated, multi-agency approach to supporting children and young people with co-occurring complex health and disability needs through the RPB's Starting Well programme. This includes delivery of the Planning for My Future programme to support more effective transitions into adulthood, alongside ongoing development of Children's Learning Disability Services and early intervention and prevention activity for children with additional learning needs (ALN). Looking ahead, priorities include strengthening multi-agency governance to support implementation of ALN reforms and improving shared understanding of need, including the appropriateness of placements for children with highly complex needs. While progress is evident in the development of more integrated approaches, the scale and complexity of need continues to present pressures in ensuring consistent and timely support across services.

Youth Justice

The Cardiff Youth Justice Service (YJS) has concluded delivery of its [Building Safer Futures Together Strategy \(2022-24\)](#) which focused on four areas: working with children, families and partners; system analysis and change; better choices, safer places; and governance and leadership. A review in April 2025 confirmed strong progress across all areas, with most activity now embedded within core service delivery and monitored through the statutory Annual Youth Justice Plan. Feedback from the Youth Justice Board has remained consistently positive.

The YJS continues to work in partnership to prevent and reduce offending by children and young people,

supported by strong governance through its multi-agency Management Board. Key measures, including first-time entrants, reoffending and custody levels, remain low, reflecting the continued application of a trauma-informed, Child First approach across the system.

During 2025/26, partnership activity has continued to focus on addressing exploitation and serious violence. This includes ongoing work through the Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE) partnership and the National Referral Mechanism pilot, alongside collaboration with the Violence Prevention and Reduction Unit to develop a Virtual SAFE Hub and align with the Risk Outside the Home pathway being implemented through Children's Services. At the same time, the service has supported the implementation of the South Wales Out of Court Resolution framework and continues to work closely with South Wales Police in relation to knife-related offending.

Alongside this, the [Cardiff Without Violence Strategy 2025-2028](#) has been published, with delivery including the introduction of Weapons in Schools and Educational Settings (WISSES) guidance. This provides a consistent approach to managing risk in schools and is supported by Violence Prevention Leads and a coordinated network, with further guidance in development for wider youth and supported accommodation settings.

Children and Families

Cardiff continues to strengthen its approach to supporting children and families, with a focus on early identification, prevention and coordinated multi-agency support, particularly for those at risk of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

During 2025/26, the Family Advice, Support and Protection Hub (FASPH) has become further embedded as the city's integrated front door for both early help and safeguarding concerns. By bringing services together into a single point of contact, FASPH is improving information sharing, supporting more consistent decision-making and enabling families to receive the right support at an earlier stage.

Locality-based Early Help has also continued to develop. This model places Early Help workers directly within schools, making support more accessible to families and enabling concerns to be identified earlier. Building on delivery in the Ely and Caerau schools cluster, the model has expanded into schools in Grangetown, helping to reach a broader range of families, including those less likely to engage through traditional referral routes.

The Primary Care Early Intervention Project has progressed, linking GP practices more closely with Early Help services. This enables GPs to refer families presenting with non-medical issues, such as housing, parenting or emotional wellbeing concerns, directly into support. A new role focused on children with disabilities and neurodivergence is also being developed to strengthen early identification and improve access to appropriate services.

A continued focus on early intervention is reflected in psychology-led support across the first 1,000 days of a child's life, including practitioner guidance, training in trauma-informed and relational practice, and multi-agency planning for families at risk. This is complemented by resources such as the Anxiety Based School Avoidance (ABSA) Parent Guide, which supports parents to respond to children experiencing difficulties attending school. The wider offer for families has also expanded, including support for those with additional needs and strengthened coordination between council, health and third-sector services.

Supporting Unpaid Carers

The RPB's Unpaid Carers Programme continued to make progress in 2025/26 in identifying, recognising and supporting unpaid carers across the region.

During the year, improved identification and access to support resulted in 487 new unpaid carers being identified across the region, alongside 53 new young

carers, with 126 personal objectives agreed to reflect their needs and priorities. Identification of young carers within schools also remained consistent, with an average of 158 pupils in primary schools and 435 in secondary schools identified each quarter. In Cardiff, 686 carer assessments were completed and, by the end of Quarter 4, 5,678 carers were registered with the Council.

Support for carers has continued to be delivered through a range of services, including access to short breaks, with 2,179 carers benefiting from provision delivered through third sector organisations. These services are designed to provide respite from caring responsibilities and support carers to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

Progress has also included continued partnership working and co-production. The third annual Unpaid Carers Assembly was developed with carers and stakeholders, providing an opportunity to recognise the contribution of unpaid carers and ensure their experiences inform future service development. Programme leads also contributed to national learning through engagement with the Senedd inquiry into support for unpaid carers, alongside wider work to review and strengthen carer assessment processes.

Looking ahead, the programme will continue to focus on strengthening outreach, increasing awareness, and improving equitable access to support, ensuring that more people recognise their caring role and are able to access appropriate services and respite.





Wellbeing Objective 2

Cardiff is a Great
Place to Grow Older





Introduction

Cardiff's population, like that of the rest of Wales, continues to age, bringing a growing demand for health and social care services. Older people make a vital contribution to the city's economy, communities and cultural life. However, this demographic change also presents challenges, particularly in ensuring services can meet increasing and more complex needs.

Through partnership working, the Cardiff PSB aims to make Cardiff a great place to grow older: a city that celebrates ageing, values and empowers older people, and provides high-quality, joined-up support. The shared ambition is to support people to stay well, remain independent for as long as possible, and continue to participate fully in community life.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage of people aged 65+ reporting their general health as being very good or good	2021/22-2022/23	66.7 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	
Percentage of people aged 65+ of a healthy weight	2021/22-2022/23	39.9 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	
Percentage of people aged 65+ reporting they felt involved in any decisions made about their care and support	2019-20	78.9 %	78.4 % (2018-19)	
Percentage of people aged 65+ reporting they received the right information or advice when they needed it	2019-20	77.7 %	80.2 % (2018-19)	
Percentage of people aged 65+ reporting they live in the right home for them	2019-20	86.7 %	86.2 % (2018-19)	
Percentage of people aged 65+ reporting loneliness	2019-20	84.8 %	86.0 % (2018-19)	
Life satisfaction among older people ⁵	2021/22-2022/23	82.8 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	

⁵ The percentage of older people (aged 65+) who rate their satisfaction with their life as 7 out of 10 or higher.

What the Data Shows

The latest available data suggests a generally positive picture for older people in Cardiff, although the available evidence is limited by the age of some indicators and changes in methodology that restrict comparisons over time. Many older people report good levels of health and wellbeing, with more than

four-fifths reporting high levels of life satisfaction, alongside positive perceptions of their general health and satisfaction with their housing, care and support arrangements. However, only around two-fifths of older people are reported to be of a healthy weight.

Overview of PSB work in 2025/26

Establishing Integrated, Locality-based, Health and Care Services

The RPB's Ageing Well programme, focused on developing an Integrated Community Care System (previously @Home), continues to drive the shift towards locality-based, integrated health and care services across Cardiff and the Vale. This work aligns with the ambitions of A Healthier Wales and other national programmes, bringing together priorities across primary care, urgent care, community capacity and age-friendly approaches.

During 2025/26, progress has been supported by stronger partnership working and system alignment, including a programme-wide summit in March 2026 which brought together over 100 leads from across organisations to review delivery and set future priorities. Integrated models of care are continuing to develop across the region, with Safe@Home supporting 853 people during the year, helping 673 people to avoid hospital admission and contributing to nearly 10,000 bed days saved. A single point of access handled over 106,000 contacts, with 68 % of needs met without escalation to social care, demonstrating the benefits of earlier intervention and coordinated responses.

Multi-disciplinary team working is now being rolled out across all nine GP clusters, with over 24,500 people supported through proactive care approaches. This is complemented by strengthened community-based provision, including a new community nursing service specification and universal access to social prescribing across all 55 GP practices, supporting over 1,300 people. Joint working between the CAVUHB, Welsh Ambulance Service and local authority services has also improved response times and strengthened prevention activity, particularly in relation to falls. This has included the use of Activities of Daily Living data to identify individual at higher risk earlier, alongside delivery of targeted interventions such as strength, balance and wellbeing programmes.

There are plans to deliver 12 new specialist housing schemes designed to support older people to live independently for longer. These developments will provide community facilities, tailored care and support, and enable residents to 'right size' their housing. One scheme on Leckwith Road has already been completed, delivering 41 flats, while another on Bute Street, comprising 45

flats, is due for completion in summer 2026. Alongside this, a new model of housing with integrated care is being developed, with Llys y Goetre set to open shortly, featuring 10 flats alongside an on-site district nursing team to provide enhanced support for residents.

Alongside this, partners continue to strengthen integrated approaches for people with learning disabilities and neurodivergence. This includes work to improve uptake of Annual Health Checks, supported by investment in the national GetCheckedOut.org campaign and coordinated engagement with primary care. Shine Together, a new co-produced learning disability network, has also been developed, alongside the establishment of a Neurodivergence Strategic Board to oversee system-wide improvements and implementation of the Autism Code of Practice.

Working Towards an Age Friendly City

Age Friendly Cardiff delivered a strong programme of work during 2025/26, aligned with the [Age Friendly Cardiff Action Plan 2024-2028](#), with a continued focus on prevention, reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for older people.

Significant progress was made in challenging ageism through the promotion of age-inclusive communications and awareness-raising across the Council and partner organisations. Targeted campaigns also supported health, wellbeing and financial resilience, including the promotion of Pension Credit, Power of Attorney, fire safety and seasonal health messages.

Health prevention activity continued to expand, including the development of community-language dementia prevention resources and accompanying animations to improve accessibility. The Blood Pressure Monitor Loan Scheme has also continued to grow, exceeding 1,200 loans by the end of the year, supported by translated referral materials and engagement with health professionals. In addition, a new sexual health campaign for older people was delivered in partnership with Public Health Wales to reduce stigma and raise awareness in response to rising rates of sexually transmitted infections.

Support for unpaid carers progressed through the development of a new carers transitions handbook, shaped by engagement with carers and partners and due for publication in 2026/27.

Age Friendly Cardiff also continued to ensure that older people's voices inform service design through consultation and engagement activity, including work on the Ageing Well Strategy and national consultations.

Delivery remains underpinned by a strong city-wide partnership involving the Council, CAVUHB, emergency services and the third sector. Cardiff also remains active within the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities, sharing local learning and good practice internationally.

While progress continues, increasing uptake of the Age Friendly Employer Pledge remains a key area of focus to strengthen age-inclusive employment opportunities across the city.

Working Towards Becoming a Dementia Friendly City

The RPB's Dementia Programme continues to drive a collaborative, region-wide approach to improving brain health and dementia care, with further progress made during 2025/26.

Strategic priorities remain focused on early diagnosis, inclusive engagement and co-production with people with lived experience. The programme is increasingly recognised at a national level, with recent work published in the Journal of Dementia Care and through a Bevan Exemplar project.

Progress during the year includes continued delivery of inclusive engagement and awareness activity, with over 1,100 contacts made through 19 co-produced Opening Doors to Brain Workout events since August 2023, particularly reaching under-represented communities. Early diagnosis remains a key strength, with 67 % of people diagnosed through primary care Memory Assessment Clinics identified at the earliest stage, supporting timely planning and intervention. Memory Assessment Link Workers have also continued to play a key role, making over 5,000 contacts and supporting nearly 3,800 referrals to appropriate services.

Work to build dementia-friendly communities has also progressed, with 190 additional organisations committing to become Dementia Friendly and over 2,700 people improving their understanding of dementia. Updated brain health and risk reduction resources have been widely distributed across the region, supporting a greater focus on prevention.

Lived experience continues to play a central role in shaping delivery, with the Dementia Champions Network and the EmpowerMind programme supporting co-production and ensuring that the voices of people affected by dementia inform service development. A new Co-production Plan is currently in development to strengthen this approach further.





Wellbeing Objective 3

Supporting People
out of Poverty





Introduction

Cardiff has seen strong economic growth over recent decades, yet deep-rooted inequality persists, with some of the most deprived communities in Wales located within the city. Ongoing cost-of-living pressures continue to place significant strain on households, making it harder for many people to meet essential living costs, increasing financial insecurity and reinforcing existing disparities.

In response, partners across the Cardiff PSB are working together to reduce poverty and inequality, with a focus on prevention, early intervention and tackling the wider social and economic factors that drive disadvantage. This includes action to promote fair work, address health inequalities and prevent homelessness, alongside strengthening access to support for those most at risk.

Through coordinated, place-based working, partners aim to ensure that support is accessible, joined-up and focused on improving long-term outcomes for individuals, families and communities.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact		Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation ⁶		2022-23	15 %	12 % (2021-22)	
Number of accredited Real Living Wage employers		April 2026	226	225 (April 2025)	
Number of workers receiving a pay rise onto at least the Real Living Wage		April 2026	11,458	10,211 (April 2025)	
Healthy life expectancy at birth (male & female)	Male	2022-24	60.1yrs	61.3yrs (2021-23)	
	Female		59.5yrs	61.0yrs (2021-23)	
Healthy life expectancy at birth deprivation gap (male & female)	Male	2018-20	13.7yrs	19.7yrs (2017-19)	
	Female		18.5yrs	14.6yrs (2017-19)	
Percentage of low-birth-weight babies		2024	5.7 %	6.0 % (2023)	
Percentage of adults eating 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day (Age standardised %)		2021/22 & 2022/23	40.6 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	
Percentage of adults eating 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day: deprivation gap (difference between percentages for most deprived and least deprived areas of Cardiff) ⁷		2025	15.3 %	6.9 % (2024)	
Percentage of adults that met physical activity guidelines in the previous week (i.e. 150 minutes or more of moderate or vigorous physical activity) (Age standardised %)		2021/22-2022/23	64.7 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	

⁶ A breakdown by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025) Income Domain, can be found in the Cardiff in 2026 report.

⁷ Please note that the latest data uses the 2025 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD); previous years used WIMD 2019.

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage of adults active for less than 30 minutes in a week: deprivation gap (difference between percentages for most deprived and least deprived areas of Cardiff) ⁷	2025	13.2 %	11.0 % (2024)	
Percentage of working age adults reporting being a healthy weight (Age Specific Average) ⁸	2021/22 & 2022/23	40.4 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	
Percentage of adults who are current smokers (Age standardised %)	2021/22 & 2022/23	12.3 %	Figure not comparable to previous years due to changes in the methodology	
Housing Affordability: Ratio of house price to median gross annual salary	2025	7.20	7.16 (2024)	
Number of rough sleepers	March 2026	40	21 (Mar-2025)	
Food poverty: Number of emergency food parcels distributed from Cardiff distribution centres by Trussell Trust ⁹	2025	19,203	20,200 (2024)	
Percentage of households in fuel poverty	2018	9 %	Comparable figure not available.	

⁸ Please note that the percentage of adults reporting being a healthy weight by deprivation is included in the Cardiff in 2026 report - the latest data available is for 2009-12.

⁹ Further data on food insecurities can be found in the Cardiff in 2026 report.

What the Data Shows

The data highlights the continuing impact of poverty, inequality and cost-of-living pressures across Cardiff, despite progress in some areas. Positive developments include improvements in low birth weight and signs of improvement across some measures of food insecurity. Cardiff also continues to maintain a strong commitment to the Real Living Wage, although growth has slowed in recent years. However, material deprivation remains a significant issue, healthy life

expectancy continues to decline, while housing affordability and rough sleeping remain significant challenges. The data also highlights the extent to which deprivation continues to shape outcomes, with substantial gaps in healthy life expectancy, food insecurity, diet, physical activity and smoking prevalence between the city's most and least deprived communities.

Overview of PSB work in 2025/26

Implementing the Real Living Wage

Cardiff continues to be one of the UK's leading cities in advancing the Real Living Wage, supported by strong partnership working through the Living Wage City Partnership. There are now 226 accredited Living Wage employers across the city, collectively employing around 80,000 people, with approximately 11,400 workers receiving an uplift as a direct result of accreditation.

The Partnership continues to engage with key anchor institutions and priority sectors to encourage further accreditation, supported by initiatives such as Cardiff Council's Living Wage Accreditation Support Scheme, which provides targeted assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises.

While progress has been sustained, further growth is expected to become more challenging as the number of employees not already paid the Real Living Wage reduces. Wider economic pressures, including the cost-of-living crisis, have also impacted both accreditation and retention, with national trends indicating that some organisations may choose not to renew their status.

In response, work is underway to refresh the three-year Action Plan as part of Cardiff's application to retain its Living Wage City status, reaffirming a continued commitment to tackling in-work poverty and promoting fair pay across the city.



Tackling Health Inequities

To tackle health inequities, partners are progressing the Amplifying Prevention programme through a whole-system approach that strengthens prevention across the life course:

- **Bowel screening:** Public Health Wales remains responsible for delivering and quality assuring Bowel Screening Wales; however, improving screening uptake remains a shared priority across partner organisations. The latest available data for 2023/24 reported bowel screening uptake in Cardiff at 63.2%, below the Wales average of 65.5%. While this represents a decrease compared with previous years, the expansion of the programme to include younger age groups, who are less likely to participate when first invited, is likely to have contributed to this trend. Significant inequalities persist, with lower uptake among men, people living in the most deprived communities and some primary care cluster areas. Recognising the need to improve uptake and reduce inequalities across screening programmes, partners have worked collaboratively to support targeted action through local screening profiles, staff training, community engagement and accessible information. Further work is planned to better understand barriers to participation and explore new approaches to improving awareness and engagement.
- **Reducing the prevalence of smoking:** Partners continue to work towards the Welsh Government's ambition of a smoke-free Wales by 2030 through a combination of smoking prevention, cessation support and the creation of smoke-free environments. The Help Me Quit service continues to provide free behavioural support alongside access to nicotine replacement therapy and stop-smoking medication through hospitals, pharmacies and community venues across Cardiff and the Vale. Between April and December 2025, 973 clients were recorded as treated smokers. During the year, a range of targeted initiatives were introduced to increase referrals and uptake, including automatic referral pathways for pregnant women who smoke, digital campaigns aimed at priority groups and enhanced referral activity through primary care and additional opportunities for residents to access stop-smoking support. Work has also continued to strengthen smoke-free environments. Through

a partnership between CAVUHB and Shared Regulatory Services, a dedicated No Smoking Patrol Officer has been introduced across hospital sites to raise awareness of legislation, reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and signpost individuals to cessation support.

- **Good Food and Movement:** The [Good Food and Movement Framework \(2024-2030\)](#) continues to drive collective action to help people eat well, move more and live healthier lives across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. During 2025/26, the Cardiff PSB considered the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2025, 'What Surrounds Us, Shapes Us: A Whole-System Approach to Preventing Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes', and agreed that its calls to action would continue to be progressed through delivery of the Framework. Significant progress has been made in delivering the [Good Food and Movement Implementation Plan \(2024-2026\)](#), including strengthening partnership working and the development of tools to support a whole-system approach. Progress has also been made in creating healthier environments through strengthened links with the planning system, the approval of Cardiff Council's Advertising and Sponsorship Policy restricting the advertising of high fat, salt and sugar food and drink, and the progression of community growing initiatives. Across schools, early years settings and public spaces, partners have worked together to improve opportunities for good food, movement, play and physical activity through initiatives such as the Good Food and Movement Schools Group, the HerParks programme and Nutrition Your Little One (NYLO). Community-based physical activity programmes have also continued across Cardiff, supported by the development of a new Cardiff Activity Finder and partnership work to address food insecurity. A refreshed Good Food and Movement Implementation Plan for 2026-2028 will build on this progress, with a continued focus on supporting deprived communities through collaborative action towards shared goals.
- **Health inclusion:** Cardiff PSB partners continue to work collaboratively to address the significant health inequalities experienced by some of the city's most vulnerable and marginalised groups through the Cardiff and Vale Health Inclusion Service (CAVHIS).

During 2025/26, progress has focused on embedding Phase 1 of the programme. This has included expanding health outreach clinics into settings where inclusion groups reside or attend, and embedding a specialist in-reach team within the Emergency Unit at the University Hospital of Wales. Tracking of a cohort of people experiencing homelessness demonstrates positive impacts, including reductions in emergency department attendances, shorter stays in emergency care settings, fewer non-elective admissions, and reduced hospital bed days. During 2025/26, progress has also been made in Phase 2 of the programme, focused on the development of a Health Inclusion Hub. This has included the refurbishment of the Housing Options Centre to enable co-location of key teams from Cardiff Council, CAVUHB and third sector partners to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The site will host health clinics, Adult Services, support for single people requiring homelessness assessments, Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) appointments, and enquiries relating to placements within temporary and supported accommodation. Next steps include identifying additional funding to expand the CAVHIS workforce to support delivery of full General Medical Services, integrating CAVHIS with the Homelessness MDT, and refurbishing the middle floor to further support co-location of additional partners, including consideration of Probation and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

- **Cardiff Marmot Nation Early Adopter:** During 2025/26, Cardiff was confirmed as a Marmot Nation Early Adopter, supporting the development of a preventative, data-led approach to tackling health inequalities. The programme will focus on children and young people aged 5-11 who are at the 'edge of care', particularly within Ely and Caerau, reflecting the strong links between deprivation, child poverty and care entry. Building on Cardiff's wider prevention agenda, the programme will seek to develop a more joined-up and locally delivered approach to supporting children and families, with a focus on understanding need, identifying opportunities for earlier intervention and improving outcomes for those most at risk.

Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

In December 2023, Cardiff declared a housing emergency in response to significant pressures and sustained demand for homelessness services. Since then, a continued focus on prevention and early intervention has helped strengthen access to support, with services delivered through Community Hubs and other locations across the city.

Alongside this, a range of measures have been developed to increase the supply and quality of accommodation. This includes the delivery of modular housing, such as the scheme at Ty Ephraim, alongside continued use of the 'meanwhile use' approach, which utilises land awaiting development to provide high-quality temporary homes. Cardiff remains at the forefront of this approach, with the Gasworks site continuing to provide significant capacity. Additional supply has also been created through property acquisitions and conversions, including developments at Richmond Road and Scott Harbour, alongside further schemes currently underway.

More broadly, Cardiff's Housing Development Programme continues to support longer-term supply, delivering 337 new council homes in 2025/26 and 1,831 to date, with further development planned across the city.

Alongside increasing accommodation, partnership activity has focused on supporting people with more complex needs. Through the Community Safety Partnership, a public health approach is being taken to address the risks faced by those with street-based lifestyles, including strengthened outreach, wellbeing support, and improved pathways into accommodation and health services. Work is also ongoing to improve safety and support within supported accommodation settings through environmental improvements and harm reduction approaches.

While these developments have strengthened the city's response, demand for services remains high, and continued partnership working will be essential to prevent homelessness, reduce reliance on temporary accommodation, and support individuals into more stable housing.





Wellbeing Objective 4

Safe, Confident
and Empowered
Communities





Introduction

Communities are fundamental to wellbeing and play a vital role in connecting people to the social networks and everyday services that support fulfilling lives. They are rich in local knowledge, skills and resilience, which help shape the city's unique character.

Cardiff remains one of the safest and most inclusive cities in the UK. The Cardiff PSB are committed to sustaining and building on this by working in partnership to prevent harm, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and address vulnerability and exploitation in all its forms. This includes a strong focus on prevention, early intervention, and supporting cohesive, inclusive communities.

Through coordinated, place-based working, partners aim to create safe, welcoming environments where all residents feel confident, supported and able to participate fully in their communities.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect	2021-22	63 %	69 % (2020-21)	
Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.	2021-22	33 %	25 % (2020-21)	
People feeling safe (at home, walking in the local area, and travelling)	2021-22	63 %	66 % (2020-21)	
Proportion of people who have offended who reoffend (adults and juveniles)	July 23 - June 24	35.6 %	34.0 % (July 22 - June 23)	
Percentage of people accessing substance misuse services who reported improvement in their quality of life	2025-26	80 %	74 % (2024-25)	
Percentage of adults (aged 16+) who volunteer	2022-23	32 %	30 % (2021-22)	

What the Data Shows

The data points to both strengths and challenges within Cardiff's communities. There are encouraging signs of community participation and resilience, reflected in residents' perceptions of their ability to influence decisions affecting their local area, levels of volunteering, and a greater proportion of people accessing substance misuse services reporting an improvement in their quality of life. However, the

latest available data points to challenges in relation to community cohesion and safety, including levels of belonging, positive relationships between different groups, and feeling safe in their local area. Reoffending rates also remain comparatively high and have increased slightly in recent years. The data also suggests that experiences vary across communities and population groups, with lower levels of community cohesion and volunteering in more deprived areas, and lower perceptions of safety amongst disabled people, women and older residents.

Overview of PSB work in 2025/26

Community Safety

The PSB's Community Safety Partnership continues to lead a coordinated, multi-agency approach to reducing crime, disorder and harm across Cardiff, with a focus on prevention, partnership working and addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability.

Progress across key areas includes:

- **Violence Prevention:** The [Cardiff Without Violence Strategy 2025-2028](#) was published in June 2025, setting out a shared, public health approach to reducing violence across the city, with a focus on understanding and addressing the underlying causes of harm. The Strategy brings together a broad programme of work spanning key areas of violence and vulnerability, supported by a Partnership Delivery Plan and strengthened governance arrangements. During 2025/26, partners have continued to deliver activity across all areas of the Strategy, supported by improved coordination, intelligence sharing and a more data-led approach. This includes work on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), such as preparation for recommissioning specialist services, continued rollout of the National Training Framework, improvements in data collection and survivor engagement, and strengthened MARAC¹⁰ processes to support more consistent multi-agency responses. Work to improve safety in the night-time economy has included delivery of awareness campaigns, development of workforce training and e-learning, and coordination of services such as Night Marshals, the Safe Places scheme and the Alcohol Treatment Centre. Alongside this, activity to address exploitation, organised crime, knife crime and wider vulnerability continues through joint enforcement activity, targeted prevention work, and strengthened links between safeguarding, policing and support services.
- **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour:** The Partnership has strengthened its strategic and locality-based response to anti-social behaviour through the Strategic Anti-Social Behaviour Group and established neighbourhood partnership arrangements. During 2025/26, activity has focused on issues such as illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters, environmental crime and public safety concerns, combining enforcement with prevention and education. This has included joint operations to seize illegally used vehicles, awareness campaigns to improve understanding of legal requirements, and co-produced communications with young people promoting safe behaviours. Locality-based approaches across areas including Butetown, Adamsdown and Splott, and Ely and Caerau have brought partners together to deliver targeted interventions such as enhanced patrols, environmental improvements, street lighting pilots and coordinated outreach activity, supporting more responsive, intelligence-led approaches to improving community safety.
- **Street-Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs:** Reducing harm associated with substance use, exploitation and complex needs remains a priority, with the Community Safety Partnership working closely with the Area Planning Board to strengthen early intervention, harm reduction and access to treatment. During 2025/26, progress has included the delivery of specialist harm reduction interventions within supported accommodation, with services now operating on-site in hostel settings and plans for further expansion. Work is also underway to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and supporting operational guidance to ensure a consistent, coordinated response to substance use in accommodation-based services. The Emergency Unit Alcohol Screening pilot has significantly strengthened early identification of alcohol-related harm, increasing screening activity and improving referral pathways into treatment, with early evidence of improved outcomes for individuals accessing support. In parallel, partnership work through the Local Drug Information System, the Force Harmful and Controlled Substances Group and Operation Pester has supported a coordinated response to emerging drug-related risks, combining intelligence sharing, targeted enforcement and improved access to treatment and support services.

¹⁰ Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

- **CONTEST:** Counter-extremism remains a key priority through delivery of the UK Government's [CONTEST Strategy](#). During 2025/26, progress under Prevent has included delivery of awareness training, strengthened partnership working across the region, and targeted interventions informed by the updated Counter Terrorism Local Profile. Cardiff also hosted a pan-Wales Prevent conference to support knowledge sharing and partnership development. The Home Office Performance Assessment for 2025/26 rated Cardiff as 'exceeding' across all areas. Under Protect and Prepare, work has continued to strengthen the city's resilience through review and mapping of protective security infrastructure, development of protective security arrangements, and support for the safe delivery of events across the city. This has included work to improve coordination through established partnership groups and strengthen preparedness for emerging risks. Preparations are also underway for the implementation of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law), with further activity planned to support compliance and strengthen protective security across Cardiff.

Safeguarding

During 2025/26, governance arrangements have been strengthened through the integration of the Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE) Partnership with serious violence and organised crime structures. This has led to the establishment of the Serious Violence, Safeguarding, Organised Crime and Exploitation (SVSOCE) Group, enabling a more coordinated and strategic multi-agency response aligned to the Cardiff Without Violence Strategy (2025-2028) supported by a clear delivery plan.

The SVSOCE Development Plan has provided a clear framework for delivery, with a focus on workforce capability, engagement with families and communities, prevention and early intervention, improved use of data and intelligence, and coordinated safeguarding responses. Collectively, this is supporting a more consistent and joined-up approach across partners.

Progress is reflected in the strengthening of practitioner knowledge and confidence through a comprehensive multi-agency learning and development programme, which has reached over 600 practitioners across Wales. Alongside this, engagement with parents, carers and

communities has increased awareness of support and referral pathways, helping to enable earlier identification and more locally informed responses through strengthened partnerships. Communications activity, including National Exploitation Awareness Day and the development of shared resources, has further supported awareness and professional confidence, alongside progress in developing multi-agency cuckooing guidance.

There has also been continued development in prevention and early intervention. This includes the creation of resources for schools and partner agencies, alongside work with Cardiff University to establish a SAFE curriculum and interventions website. Multi-agency collaboration has supported a shared understanding of transitional safeguarding, while youth-led activity and targeted interventions, such as the Connect Programme, are contributing to responses to emerging risks including peer-on-peer violence.

Further work has strengthened responses to exploitation and harm outside the home. Targeted audits are improving safeguarding assurance, while enhancements to data quality and information sharing are supporting more informed decision-making. A multi-agency review of safeguarding pathways is helping to strengthen escalation processes and reduce duplication. In parallel, public awareness activity and training are increasing recognition of exploitation indicators, and safeguarding arrangements in licensed transport continue to be strengthened through updated policy and oversight.

Ely & Caerau Community Plan and Pride in Place

During 2025/26, a key development has been the inclusion of Ely & Caerau in the UK Government's Pride in Place Programme, a long-term investment initiative aimed at supporting neighbourhood improvement. Building on the strong foundation established through the [Community Plan](#), this presents an opportunity to align locally identified priorities with sustained investment and coordinated partnership working. Next steps will focus on developing a clear programme of activity under Pride in Place, maintaining community involvement, and targeting investment to support neighbourhood improvement, community cohesion and longer-term resilience.

Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In 2026, Cardiff marked ten years since welcoming its first Syrian family under a Home Office resettlement programme. While the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme has now concluded, it established a strong foundation for partnership-led support. This legacy continues to shape the city's approach, enabling Cardiff to respond to the needs of those seeking sanctuary, including those fleeing conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

During 2025/26, Cardiff Council and its partners have continued to deliver a coordinated and flexible response, tailored to the differing needs of each resettlement scheme. The Refugee Support Team works closely with statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, landlords and employment partners to provide holistic support that promotes integration and longer-term stability.

Following the UK Government's phased closure of Initial Accommodation in late 2025, the city received additional Afghan referrals from elsewhere in the UK. In response, partners worked collaboratively across housing, benefits and the private rented sector, including strengthening relationships with private landlords and letting agents. While changes to the two-child benefit cap came into effect in April 2026, rental affordability remains a significant challenge, and coordinated casework and employment support continue to play an important role in improving longer-term outcomes.

Although arrivals from Ukraine remain below previous peaks, a slight increase in early 2026 has required continued coordination with sponsors, community groups and public service providers. Support for new and existing arrivals includes initial orientation and assistance to access housing, healthcare and education, contributing

to a joined-up approach that supports integration and wellbeing.

Strong partnership working remains central to this approach, enabling the city to respond to changing demands while maintaining its commitment to being a welcoming City of Sanctuary.

Neurodivergent Friendly City

Building on Cardiff Council's 2023 commitment to remove barriers for people with neurodivergent traits and conditions, work has continued at pace with PSB partners to develop a coordinated, city-wide approach to becoming a Neurodivergent Friendly City.

Following development and consultation during 2024/25, the [Neurodivergent Friendly Cardiff Strategy 2025-2030](#) has now been published, marking an important step forward in this work. The strategy reflects the collective ambition across partners to promote inclusion, improve understanding of neurodivergence, ensure access to trusted information, and enhance the accessibility of public services and spaces.

Alongside the publication of the strategy, a dedicated [Neurodivergent Friendly Cardiff website](#) has been launched, providing further information on the initiative. The website will continue to be developed to offer helpful information on neurodivergence, as well as signposting to local support and advice for individuals and families. This platform will support delivery of the strategy and ongoing partnership working across the city.

A Neurodivergent Friendly Cardiff newsletter has also been introduced, with Spring and Summer 2026 editions already published. This will be a quarterly newsletter aimed at sharing useful information and highlighting positive local stories.





Wellbeing Objective 5

A Capital City that Works for Wales



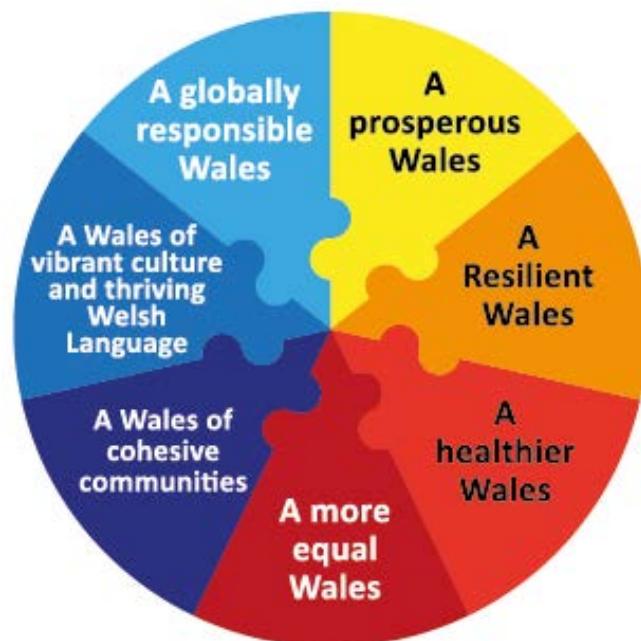


Introduction

Cardiff plays a central role in driving economic growth and national prosperity, acting as a hub for Welsh culture, sport and innovation. The city continues to host major international events and serves as the economic engine of the wider Capital Region.

The Cardiff PSB recognises the importance of shaping an economy that not only delivers growth but does so in a way that supports wellbeing and sustainability. This includes creating high-quality and accessible employment and skills opportunities, supporting thriving businesses, and promoting a vibrant cultural and linguistic identity.

Through partnership working, the PSB is focused on ensuring that economic growth translates into wider opportunity, enabling more people and communities to benefit from the city's success and contribute to its future prosperity.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 16+	January - December 2025	4.9 %	3.8 % (January-December 2024)	
GVA per head	2023	£40,064	£37,949 (2022)	
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	2023	£20,020	£19,213 (2022)	
Employee jobs with hourly pay below the living wage	2025	11.0 %	10.7 % (2024)	
Percentage of population (aged 16-64) qualified to RQF4+ ¹¹	January - December 2025	60.6 %	54.4 % (January-December 2024)	
Number of apprenticeship learning programmes started in the healthcare and public services sector by Cardiff residents	2024/25 (Academic Year)	1,030	1,260 (2023/24)	
Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times in a year	2022-23	83 %	84 % (2019-20)	
Percentage of people aged 16+ who can speak Welsh	2022-23	12 %	13 % (2021-22)	

¹¹ The regulatory framework supporting NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) has been replaced by the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). The different qualification levels can be viewed [here](#).

What the Data Shows

The data reflects Cardiff's continued strengths as Wales' capital city, particularly in relation to skills, culture and economic performance, while also highlighting areas of ongoing challenge. The latest available data points to strong economic performance, relatively high levels of disposable household income and high qualification levels, while Cardiff continues to perform strongly in a number of areas, including higher-level qualifications, cultural participation and the proportion of jobs paying below the Living Wage. However, unemployment remains a challenge, apprenticeship starts in the healthcare and public services sector have declined, and a significant proportion of jobs remain below the Living Wage. While the proportion of Welsh speakers in Cardiff remains below the Welsh average, longer-term trends point to continued growth in Welsh language use. The data also highlights that the benefits of economic success are not experienced equally across the city, with unemployment and participation in cultural activities varying significantly between the most and least deprived communities.

Overview of PSB work in 2025/26

Increasing Apprenticeship and Trainee Opportunities

Cardiff PSB partners continue to work to expand apprenticeship and trainee opportunities across the city's public services, supporting workforce development, inclusion and pathways into employment.

During 2025/26, partners have continued to develop and deliver a range of opportunities. Cardiff Council provided 52 new apprenticeship and trainee placements through its Corporate Apprentice and Trainee Scheme, bringing total in-year placements to 163. CAVUHB has continued to embed apprenticeships as a core element of workforce development, with a stronger focus on upskilling existing staff, including 178 current

employees commencing apprenticeship programmes, alongside continued opportunities for new entrants and work placements to widen access to NHS careers.

South Wales Police continues to offer a range of entry routes into the organisation, delivering 148 new apprenticeships during 2025/26 (including officer and non-officer routes), alongside 24 trainee placements such as internships and graduate opportunities. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has maintained its apprenticeship provision, supporting 38 apprentices during the year as they progressed through and completed their frameworks, alongside the development of new roles and plans for a further cohort in 2026/27.

NRW has continued to provide targeted apprenticeship and placement opportunities aligned to its regulatory functions, with 9 individuals undertaking roles within the Cardiff area in 2025/26. These include placements focused on waste regulation, enforcement and flood risk activities, supporting the development of specialist skills in priority areas.

The Cardiff and Vale Probation Delivery Unit has also supported pathways into employment through targeted engagement activity, including employment events and vocational training opportunities for people on probation, helping to build skills, confidence and access to work.

Looking ahead, partners remain committed to widening access to apprenticeship and trainee opportunities, strengthening pathways into employment and supporting a diverse and inclusive workforce across the city.

Strengthening the City's Event and Cultural Offer

Partners across Cardiff continue to work closely together to deliver a strong and diverse events programme, balancing the delivery of major events with the effective management of day-to-day services across the city.

Investment in cultural activity remains strong, with funding secured for the Cardiff Music City Festival in 2026 and 2027. This homegrown event continues to bring together the city's music and cultural sector,

building on the success of the 2024 and 2025 festivals, which together attracted around 94,000 attendees and generated over £5.4 million in economic impact.

Live music also plays an increasingly important role in the city's offer, with partners supporting the delivery of Blackweir Live and the Cardiff Castle Concert Series. Following over 24 concerts in 2025, more than 29 are planned for 2026, with projected economic impact exceeding £40 million and continued reinvestment in grassroots culture and public spaces.

Cardiff is also strengthening its international profile through major sporting events, including hosting the FA Community Shield in 2026, the Tour de France Grand Départ final stage in 2027, and matches for UEFA Euro 2028, including the opening match.

Looking ahead, partners will develop a refreshed Tourism and Events Strategy alongside a new Cultural Strategy to ensure the city maximises these opportunities and continues to grow its national and international reputation.

Championing the Welsh Language

Cardiff continues to play its part in meeting the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 target of one million Welsh speakers by supporting growth in Welsh language proficiency across the city. According to the Annual Population Survey for the year ending December 2025, an estimated 96,800 people aged three and over in Cardiff are able to speak Welsh, representing 26.4 % of the population. This is an increase from 83,300 (22.8 %) the previous year and significantly higher than the 12.2 % reported in the 2021 Census. While this indicates a strong upward trend, these figures should be interpreted with some caution, as Census data remains the formal measure of progress against national targets.

The [Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2022-2027](#), which supports Cymraeg 2050 and aligns with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-31 (WESP), continues to drive progress through partnership working across the city. During 2025/26, key milestones included the delivery of the third Gyrfa Gymraeg event at Cardiff University Students' Union, attended by over 700 Year 12 pupils, which promoted Welsh-medium careers and further and higher education opportunities. The Cymraeg i Bawb (Welsh for All) project has also expanded nationally following the success of the South East Wales pilot, demonstrating the impact of collaborative working across the region.

Progress has also been made in strengthening Welsh language use and provision across services and communities. Across the public sector workforce, there has been a continued focus on developing Welsh language skills, with Cardiff Council reporting that 1,620 staff now have Welsh language skills, representing 21.3 % of its workforce and exceeding its target ahead of schedule. Welsh language youth provision has also expanded through partnership working, including the CFTi collaboration between Cardiff Youth Service, Urdd and Menter Caerdydd, which now delivers over 40 Welsh language youth sessions each week. Support has also been provided for the development of new Welsh-medium early years provision at Ysgol Coed-y-Gof. In addition, translation services across partners continue to support the delivery of bilingual services at scale.

Looking ahead, the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy will be reviewed and refreshed during 2026/27, alongside the development of updated policies and approaches to strengthen the use of Welsh across public services. This will support continued growth in Welsh language skills, increase confidence in using Welsh, and help ensure that services across Cardiff are accessible bilingually.



Wellbeing Objective 6

One Planet Cardiff





Introduction

Cardiff is already experiencing the impacts of the climate and nature emergencies, with more frequent extreme weather, increasing pressures on biodiversity, and growing risks to infrastructure, public health and food security. These challenges are interconnected and far-reaching, requiring significant changes to how the city grows, how services are delivered, and how key systems - such as transport, energy, waste and water - are planned and managed.

To address these challenges, the Cardiff PSB continues to work collectively to drive action across these areas. Partners are strengthening efforts to assess climate risks, reduce emissions, restore nature and support healthier, more sustainable ways of living. With pressures continuing to intensify, sustained collaboration and accelerated action will be critical in the years ahead.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact		Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Per capita CO2 emissions (t)		2023	3.8t	4.1t (2022)	
Percentage who travel to work by sustainable transport		2025/26	56.9 %	49.1 % (2024/25)	
Average NO2 concentration at residential locations		2023	13µg/m3	14µg/m3 (2022)	
Average PM10 concentration at residential locations		2023	11µg/m3	14µg/m3 (2022)	
Average PM2.5 concentration at residential locations		2023	7µg/m3	9µg/m3 (2022)	
Green Flag accredited parks	Number of Green Flag Awarded Sites	2025/26	23	22 (2024/25)	
	Number of Green Flag Community Awarded Sites		23	23 (2024/25)	
Percentage of people who live within walking distance of high-quality green space		2018-19	95 %	No comparable data available.	
Percentage of designated features in protected conservation sites that are in 'favourable' condition. Sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)		2020	15.4 %	No comparable data available.	

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage who feel confident in buying food that is produced in an environmentally friendly way	2025	42.2 %	37.9 % (2024)	
Percentage who feel there is a movement for good food in Cardiff	2025	35.2 %	34.6 % (2024)	
Number of properties in Cardiff registered to Natural Resources Wales' (NRW's) Flood Warning Service ¹²	Jun-26	8,149	8,112 (Jun-25)	
Percentage of municipal waste reused/recycled/composted	2024-25	64.0 %	60.1 % (2023-24)	

¹² Figures for 2025 onwards are not comparable with previous years due to potential changes in the methodology. This figure was previously provided to NRW by the Environment Agency (EA) and referred to the number of properties potentially warned, comprising all properties fully registered with the Flood Warning Service as well as those provided by mobile/landline companies. Since NRW left the EA in August 2024, it now produces its own figures. From 2025, the measure has changed to number of registered addresses, which only includes those that have actively signed up to receive flood warnings. This measure is not comparable to previous EA figures due to differences in data collection. Note: The number of properties signed up to the service may fluctuate over time due to flood extent map adjustments, data cleansing, resident turnover, etc.

What the Data Shows

The data shows progress in a number of areas relating to climate action and the environment in Cardiff. Recent improvements can be seen in sustainable travel and recycling rates, while the latest available data indicates lower carbon emissions and improved air quality compared with previous years. Cardiff also continues to perform strongly in relation to access to green space and Green Flag accredited parks. However, significant challenges remain. Transport continues to be the largest source of carbon emissions, air pollution

levels remain among the highest in Wales, recycling performance remains below Welsh Government targets, and many protected conservation features are in an unfavourable or unknown condition. The data also suggests that environmental benefits and risks are not experienced equally across the city, with lower satisfaction with parks and open spaces in more deprived communities, areas of poorer access to green space, and elevated flood risks in parts of the city's Southern Arc.

Overview of PSB Work in 2026/27

Responding to the Climate Emergency

Cardiff continues to respond to the climate emergency through the [One Planet Cardiff \(OPC\) Strategy](#), which sets out the city's pathway towards carbon neutrality. The Climate Emergency Board (CEB), a sub-group of the Cardiff PSB, brings together public service partners and key stakeholders, including universities and utilities, to support coordination, knowledge sharing and joint action across the city.

During 2025/26, the CEB has continued to strengthen collaboration and build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with reducing emissions. Progress has included the sharing of best practice across areas such as circular economy approaches, water conservation and sustainable travel policies, alongside joint work to support behaviour change. This includes the development of a sustainable travel incentive scheme to encourage staff to use public and active travel, and continued support for initiatives such as the Switch Together scheme, which helps residents and businesses access solar panels and battery storage at reduced cost.

The Board has also supported collaborative approaches to decarbonisation through procurement and shared infrastructure. This includes engagement with Welsh Government frameworks to support joint purchasing of electric vehicles and wider work to strengthen low-carbon procurement approaches across partner organisations. In addition, partners are exploring shared infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging at key sites and opportunities to reduce emissions from buildings. This includes a feasibility study for a heat network in the Cathays Park area and further work to assess the potential to extend the existing Cardiff Heat Network to partner organisations, helping to reduce emissions across multiple sites. Alongside this, partners continue to share learning on improving the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing emissions from estates.

The CEB has also continued to support environmental initiatives such as the Coed Caerdydd programme, which saw over 37,000 trees planted during 2025/26.

At a city-wide level, carbon emissions continue to show a downward trend. In 2023 (the latest data available), total emissions were 1.55 million tonnes, representing a 14.7 % reduction compared to 2019, while per capita emissions decreased by 21.6 %. Transport remains the largest source of emissions, accounting for 43.9 % of the total, followed by the domestic and commercial sectors. While reductions have been achieved across several areas, including significant decreases in emissions from waste, the data highlights that transport, domestic energy use and commercial activity remain key challenges.

Despite progress, achieving a carbon neutral city by 2030 remains a significant challenge. While partner organisations continue to pursue ambitious targets individually, a fully aligned, system-wide approach across the PSB has yet to be established. The focus moving forward will be on strengthening coordination, scaling up joint activity and accelerating progress in the areas that will have the greatest impact on emissions.

Climate Adaptation

Alongside efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the Cardiff PSB is strengthening the city's resilience to the impacts of climate change. A comprehensive Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), approved in October 2025, identifies key risks including flooding, infrastructure disruption, overheating, and impacts on health, businesses and biodiversity. It also highlights inconsistencies in how climate risks are captured across partner organisations and opportunities to improve collaboration.

In response, the PSB has agreed a structured approach to embedding climate risk across organisations' strategic and operational risk frameworks, alongside identifying risks that are shared across the system. As part of wider resilience efforts, partners are also improving the accessibility of public information. For example, in 2025/26 Natural Resources Wales delivered a communications campaign providing flood advice in 10 different languages through translated leaflets, helping ensure that more communities can prepare for and respond to flood risks.

While the CCRA was being finalised, partners began strengthening their shared understanding of climate risks through joint activity. In June 2025, the

Climate Emergency Board joined Vale PSB partners in a workshop facilitated by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, focusing on the health impacts of climate change and the use of foresight techniques. This supported a shared understanding of long-term risks and helped shape how organisations respond to climate risks in practice.

Following approval, partners have begun reviewing their risk registers to embed the findings, with a programme of workshops planned from summer 2026 to support this work and identify shared risks. These will be recorded through a collective Climate Change Risk Register, enabling a more coordinated, partnership-based approach to managing climate risks and strengthening resilience across Cardiff.

Restoring and Improving Nature in the City

The Cardiff Local Nature Partnership (LNP), established in 2020 as part of the Wales-wide Local Nature Partnerships Cymru programme, continues to bring together partners from across sectors to protect and enhance biodiversity. This work also supports greater use of the city's green and blue spaces - including parks, rivers and waterways - encouraging inclusive outdoor recreation and connection with nature.

During 2025/26, this partnership approach has been supported by strong community engagement. Council-led outreach programmes focused on parks and green spaces generated over 23,000 volunteer hours, contributing to environmental improvements while strengthening community ownership and pride in local spaces.

Looking ahead, the LNP is developing a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP), which will set out the key actions needed to restore and improve nature across the city. Input has been gathered from local wildlife groups and subject matter experts, with a comprehensive set of proposed actions now in place. Following recent changes to the national framework, supporting documentation is being updated, with a final draft expected in summer 2026. A delivery group has been established to oversee implementation and monitor progress, alongside plans to develop online resources through the Outdoor Cardiff website to promote opportunities for action.

Alongside this strategic work, partners are continuing to deliver practical improvements through the NRW-

led River Restoration Programme. In Cardiff, progress includes work on the Nant Dowlais, where natural river features are being reinstated to improve habitat diversity and long-term ecological resilience, with further work underway across the wider catchment. In urban areas, projects such as the Nant y Wedal scheme in Heath Park are progressing towards detailed design, with construction planned for 2027. This will restore a modified watercourse and enhance biodiversity, access and the quality of green and blue space for local communities.

This activity forms part of a wider catchment-based approach to improving water quality, biodiversity and flood resilience across the River Ely and River Taff. Looking ahead, further community engagement will support the development of long-term, joined-up solutions across these river systems.

Promoting Healthy, Local and Low-Carbon Food

Partners across Cardiff have continued to build on the city's achievement of the Gold Sustainable Food Places Award (October 2024), working collaboratively through Food Cardiff to promote healthier, more local and lower-carbon food.

During 2025/26, partnership activity has supported progress in improving the city's food environment and promoting healthier choices. This includes Cardiff Council's approval of a revised Advertising and Sponsorship Policy, which restricts the promotion of high fat, salt and sugar products across the Council estate, including bus stops. This represents an important step in creating healthier food environments, with implementation to take place as existing contracts come to an end.

In parallel, partners are working with suppliers and service providers to strengthen sustainability and social value within food provision, including school meals, while preparing for the introduction of updated Welsh Government Healthy Eating Regulations in 2026.

An evaluation of the [Council's Food Strategy Action Plan](#) has also been completed, with work now underway to refresh the strategy. This will support continued alignment with Food Cardiff priorities and underpin the next phase of delivery towards a more sustainable, healthy and resilient local food system.

Completing and Sustaining Implementation of the Healthy Travel Charter

Partners across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have continued to collaborate on the delivery of the Cardiff and Vale Healthy Travel Charters.

During 2025/26, engagement remained strong, with continued participation in peer group meetings, increased membership and opportunities for signatory organisations to receive tailored, one-to-one discussions on their approach to supporting sustainable travel. Charter organisations have also actively promoted key awareness campaigns throughout the year, including Bike Week, National Clean Air Day and Cycle to Work Day.

Work is also taking place at a national level, supported by Public Health Wales, to further develop the Healthy Travel Charter approach. This has helped improve alignment between Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and Transport for Wales, while supporting a more consistent approach to how employers promote sustainable travel. This work has resulted in a new set of consolidated Healthy Travel Charter standards, due to be published in Quarter 1 2026/27, alongside new signatories and with the option for adoption across regions in Wales. Engagement with St Fagans (Amgueddfa Cymru) has also supported this work, exploring sustainable transport options to and from the site and informing a Transport for Wales-hosted workshop to further refine the emerging standards.

During 2026/27, partners intend to transition all willing signatories from the original Cardiff and Vale Healthy Travel Charters to the new national standards once

published. This will provide organisations with a more flexible pathway for improvement, enhanced national support, and an opportunity to build on the strong foundations established through the original Charters.

Supporting Walkable and Sustainable Communities

Progress has been made in embedding the principles of walkable neighbourhoods into wider regeneration and planning activity across the city, supporting more sustainable and accessible communities.

A Cardiff-wide [Regeneration Strategy](#) was developed and approved in May 2026 following public consultation, setting out a framework to strengthen the vitality and viability of district and local centres. The Strategy supports the development of sustainable communities in line with wider planning objectives, including those set out in the emerging Replacement Local Development Plan.

The Strategy takes a placemaking approach to regeneration, focusing on improving neighbourhoods through coordinated investment and locally tailored interventions. Key principles include strengthening green and blue networks, enhancing public spaces, supporting thriving local centres and improving connectivity within and between communities.

In particular, the principle of “Well-Connected and Accessible for All” supports the creation of places that enable safe, accessible and sustainable movement for all users, helping to reduce reliance on private vehicles and support more active and sustainable travel.





Wellbeing Objective 7

Modernising and Integrating our Public Services





Introduction

Public services across Cardiff continue to face rising and increasingly complex demand, alongside significant financial pressures and a challenging outlook. These pressures are driving the need for ongoing transformation to ensure that services remain resilient, sustainable and able to meet the evolving needs of residents.

The Cardiff PSB is supporting a collective approach to strengthening how public services operate across the city. This includes deepening partnership working, improving how data and intelligence are used to understand and respond to need, making better use of shared public assets, and strengthening approaches to citizen engagement and inclusion. Together, these areas form the foundation for more joined-up, efficient and preventative services.

As this work develops, partners are also focused on ensuring that services are shaped by the voices of communities and reflect the diversity of the city, alongside building the capability, culture and leadership needed to support long-term change.



Measuring Progress

City level outcome indicator PSB is seeking to impact	Date of latest data	Latest Data	Recent Comparable Data	Trend
Percentage satisfied with the quality of public services in Cardiff	2025	48.0 %	49.8 % (2024)	
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need	2021-22	92 %	90 % (2020/21)	

What the Data Shows

The available data presents a mixed picture of public services in Cardiff. While satisfaction with the quality of public services remains below 50 %, levels have been relatively stable in recent years despite ongoing pressures on public services and public finances. At the same time, Cardiff continues to perform strongly in relation to access to services, with a high proportion of residents reporting that they are able to get to the facilities and services they need.

Overview of PSB Work in 2025/26

Strengthening Partnership Working

The Cardiff PSB continues to build on strong foundations of partnership working, supported by alignment between the [Local Wellbeing Plan \(2023-28\)](#) and the [Cardiff and Vale RPB Area Plan \(2023-28\)](#).

Ongoing work to streamline governance and clarify roles has strengthened accountability for delivery of shared priorities across the public service system.

During 2025/26, the PSB agreed to adopt a Total Place v2.0 approach to further strengthen collaboration. This approach brings partners together to collectively plan and deliver services, focusing on prevention, improving outcomes and making best use of shared resources. It is particularly focused on areas where demand is high, costs are rising, and where challenges cannot be addressed by individual organisations working alone.

Three initial areas of focus have been identified:

- **Priority Groups:** improving support for individuals with complex needs who require input from multiple services, often experiencing fragmented support
- **Priority Places:** targeting investment and coordinated intervention in communities to strengthen prevention and reduce long-term demand

Alongside this, the PSB is taking steps to strengthen how it operates as a partnership. This includes working

more closely with the RPB to align priorities, developing more coordinated approaches to data and intelligence to better understand need, and exploring opportunities for joint leadership and workforce development to support a more integrated public service system.

Progress has also been made in strengthening wider system partnerships, including with Cardiff University. During 2025/26, partners agreed a set of priority areas for collaboration, with a focus on connecting research, data and innovation more directly to public service challenges. This includes work on public service reform, economic development, support for children and young people, and leadership development. This partnership approach aims to move beyond ad hoc collaboration towards more coordinated, problem-led working that supports better outcomes for communities.

Looking ahead, the PSB will continue to develop its Total Place approach, with a focus on translating shared priorities into practical, deliverable action, strengthening the use of data and insight to inform decision-making, and deepening collaboration across organisations, communities and places.

Increasing the Use of Data, Including Shared Data, Across Public Services

Strengthening the use of data, including shared data, remains central to the Cardiff PSB in order to deliver more integrated, preventative and person-centred public services. During 2025/26, partners have continued to develop and apply data-driven approaches to improve understanding of need, support earlier intervention and inform decision-making across services.

Progress has been made in enabling more joined-up approaches to data sharing. The Single View of the Child project continues to develop, linking data from multiple services - including children's social care, education, youth justice and exploitation - to create a more comprehensive and joined-up record for individuals. Following a successful pilot in 2025, work is now underway to support a full rollout in 2026, enabling practitioners to access more complete information when making decisions about support for children and families.

Complementing this, the Summary Care Viewer is now live across a number of services within the CAVUHB and

both Cardiff and Vale Councils, providing a shared view of health and social care information and supporting more joined-up working between services.

Alongside these developments, partners continue to strengthen the use of shared data to support service planning and delivery. The Community Safety Dashboard provides a high-level view of crime data across Cardiff and is now embedded within the Community Safety Team, supporting more targeted and evidence-based interventions. The City Dashboard, which is publicly available, brings together a range of data including wellbeing indicators to provide an overview of key trends across the city, with ongoing updates to improve coverage and accessibility.

Together, these developments are supporting more coordinated, evidence-led approaches to service delivery and form an important foundation for the PSB's wider Total Place approach, enabling partners to better understand demand, identify shared priorities and target resources more effectively.

An Integrated Approach to Managing and Developing Assets

Partners have continued to strengthen a more integrated approach to managing public sector land, buildings and infrastructure, recognising that how assets are planned and used plays a critical role in delivering accessible, efficient and preventative public services.

The Partnership Asset Management Board (PAMB) remains central to this work, providing a forum for coordinating capital investment and strategic planning across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Through this, partners are aligning their estate strategies, identifying opportunities for co-location, and progressing a pipeline of shared capital projects. This includes the continued development of integrated hub schemes, which bring services together in a single location, improving access for residents while supporting more coordinated and preventative service delivery.

Alongside this, there has been a strong focus on ensuring that public sector investment delivers wider benefits for local communities. Through joint procurement and capital programmes, partners are actively supporting local supply chains and employment

opportunities. In 2025/26, this included the delivery of significant community wellbeing benefits through major contracts, with targeted support for economically inactive individuals through apprenticeships, work experience and employment opportunities.

Partners have also continued to embed decarbonisation into asset management and procurement. This includes the introduction of strengthened Carbon Reduction Plan requirements across the region, greater use of procurement data to identify high-emission spending areas, and targeted engagement with suppliers to improve emissions reporting. Work is also underway to improve the quality and consistency of carbon data, moving towards more accurate, supplier-level reporting to better inform future decision-making.

The PAMB also provides a mechanism to identify and manage shared risks associated with capital delivery, including financial pressures, market volatility and capacity constraints across organisations. While these challenges remain significant, partners continue to build on a strong foundation of joint working, with established governance arrangements, shared approaches and a growing pipeline of collaborative projects.

Increasing Levels of Citizen Engagement in Decision Making

Listening to the voices of citizens remains central to how public services are shaped and delivered in Cardiff, with engagement and consultation continuing to play a key role in ensuring decisions reflect the needs and experiences of local communities.

The Cardiff PSB's Consultation Overview Report remains an important tool in supporting this approach. The report brings together key findings from engagement and consultation activity undertaken across public service partners, providing a consolidated view of residents' experiences of their lives, communities and interactions with services. Organised around the PSB's Wellbeing Objectives, it also includes demographic analysis, where available, to help build a deeper understanding of how experiences and perspectives vary across different communities. The next edition is scheduled for publication in summer 2026.

Alongside this, the Cardiff and Vale Public Services Engagement Group continues to support a more coordinated approach to engagement across the region. While activity has been more limited during 2025/26 due to competing demands, the group has established strong working relationships between partners, enabling ongoing collaboration, informal sharing of good practice and peer support across organisations.

Looking ahead, there will be a continued focus on strengthening coordination, improving the quality and consistency of engagement activity, and ensuring that the voices of citizens continue to inform decision-making across the PSB.

Leading Public Services that Respond to and Reflect the Diversity of the City

Improving equality, diversity and inclusion remains a shared priority across the Cardiff PSB, building on the foundations established through the Cardiff Race Equality Taskforce, which set out a series of actions to improve outcomes for ethnically diverse communities across the city.

During 2025/26, the focus has shifted towards embedding equality considerations more systematically within service planning and delivery,

ensuring that actions to improve outcomes are integrated into mainstream activity across organisations. This includes continued alignment with organisational equality strategies and a stronger emphasis on accountability and performance through regular monitoring and review.

The Public Service Equality Network continues to support this work, providing a forum for collaboration, shared learning and coordination across partners. Over the past year, the Network has focused on identifying practical ways to strengthen delivery, drawing on emerging good practice and supporting a more consistent approach across organisations.

As part of this, a refreshed set of actions has been developed to drive progress across a small number of core areas, including leadership and culture, workforce diversity, inclusive service delivery and the use of social value. This reflects a move towards embedding equality more consistently across services, rather than delivering stand-alone initiatives.

Looking ahead, the PSB will strengthen its oversight of this work through a more structured annual reporting approach. This will support greater transparency, improve collective understanding of progress and ensure that equality and inclusion remain central to how public services are designed and delivered across Cardiff.

