

Gwynedd Schools Organization

Statistical information on future child population within the County

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Introduction

The remit of this report is to gather statistical information on projections for child population numbers in Gwynedd over the coming years.

Roughly, information on past trends is used to create future projections for children numbers.

Such projections is not an exact science, and the projections contained in this report should not be regarded as certain to occur. Different knowledge and assumptions lead to different results.

What does the report contain?

1. The current situation on children numbers from 4-10 years of age in every secondary catchment-area from 1991-2005,
2. Population projection results based on available information for **2005** (produced by North Wales Authorities – North Wales Planning and Housing Research Group),
3. Population projections based on available information for **2006** (produced by Welsh Assembly Government),
4. Statistics produced by the Research Unit on the implications for 4-10 year old child population at a secondary catchment-area level of the 2006 based projections¹,
5. Assessment of the usefulness of the above information as a basis for planning i.e. try and respond to the question “what information should the Council use to plan a schools organization policy?”.

How independent is the information contained in this report?

¹ IMPORTANT: See the report on the Research Unit’s comments which describe the considerable limitations on the usefulness of this information as a basis for creating and implementing a policy.

This information has been gathered and assessed by Gwynedd Council Research and Information Unit. The Unit is based in the Chief Executive's Department and provides a research service for all Council departments.

Gwynedd Schools Service commissioned the Research Unit to produce statistics that would show the implications of projections based on 2005 and 2006 on secondary school catchment-areas. Although information available at a local level is extremely limited (which impacts the quality of information as far as usefulness in policy preparation is concerned), the information produced for the Service is included in this reports as a commitment to our principle of working in as open a manner as possible.

The Unit works to a Code of Practice that is based on (British Sociological Association) standards. The Code of Practice states:

- The Unit's commitment to being wholly independent,
- The Unit's Commitment to openness as to its methods of producing statistics and noting their shortcomings, so as to enable others to be aware of how the information has been produced, and offer improvements as to our statistics gathering methods,
- The Unit's commitment to advise others where and how it is appropriate to use statistical information to impact a policy.

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1. The current situation regarding number of 4-10 year olds in every secondary catchment-area between 1991-2005

Information source:

Gwynedd Schools Service

Results:

Across Gwynedd, a reduction of 9.1% has occurred in the 4-10 year old population between 1996 and 2005.

4+ to 10+ year olds according to secondary school catchment-areas	1996-01 % change	2001-05 % change	1996-05 % change
Dyffryn Ogwen	-6.6	-4.1	-10.4
Botwnnog	-0.3	-7.1	-7.4
Brynrefail	-3.0	-0.6	-3.6
Dyffryn Nantlle	1.4	0.5	2.0
Eifionydd	-1.3	-2.4	-3.6
Y Gader	-15.4	-6.7	-21.1
Moelwyn	-6.3	-11.0	-16.6
Tywyn	-3.3	-1.7	-4.9
Berwyn	-8.9	-15.1	-22.6
Ardudwy	-11.4	-1.4	-12.7
Syr Hugh Owen	-9.2	-3.5	-12.4
Glan y Môr	1.8	-5.1	-3.4
Tryfan / Friars	-10.3	2.7	-7.8
Cyfanswm / Total	-6.2	-3.1	-9.1

2. Population projections based on information obtained in 2005 (produced by North Wales Authorities – North Wales Planning and Housing Research Group)

Information source:

Information has been input on recent births, deaths and migration trends in Gwynedd on specialist software to create population projections (PopGroup) to draw up county-based projections. So as to provide results for secondary school catchment-areas, the following information has been drawn upon:

- Age-group and gender structure of population in every catchment-area.
- Birth rates amongst women in different age-groups.
- Mortality rates.

Due to lack of statistical information on local migration, trends in migration and migrants age groups have not been considered. Neither do the projections take into account factors such as;

- House building,
- House purchase,
- Economic developments,
- Children and parents choices.

On the basis of the above methodology (which have considerable constraints), projections have been made of the following changes (listed on the next page) in the number of 4-10 year olds in the County's secondary school catchment-areas between 2006 and 2016:

Projections for 4-10 year olds, Secondary Catchment-areas, Gwynedd 2006-2016, based on information in 2005

Secondary school catchment-areas	Change (%)
Dyffryn Ogwen	-16.7
Botwnnog and Glan y Mor	-23.4
Brynrefail	-1.3
Dyffryn Nantlle	-9.3
Eifionydd	-12.3
Y Gader	-14.7
Moelwyn	-19.1
Tywyn	-21.5
Berwyn	-21.4
Ardudwy	-21.5
Syr Hugh Owen	-11.3
Tryfan / Friars	-6.8
Cyfanswm / Total	-9.2

Source: Gwynedd Council Research Unit using 2001 Census and NWPHRG population projections

3. Results of population projection results based on available information in 2006 (produced by Welsh Assembly Government)

Report presented to Gwynedd Council Corporate Management Team, 05 November 2008.

MANAGEMENT REPORT	TEAM	05 November 2008
SUBJECT	Wales local authorities population projections (Based on 2006)	
AUTHOR (S)	Meirion Griffith, Senior Officer Research and Information	
LINKED TO PRINCIPAL MATTER	Gwynedd Together Community Strategy: Demographic Change Theme	
WHY IS THE MATTER BEING ADDRESSED BY THE T.RH.C.	To enable the Management Team to be aware of the most recent demographic information	
WHAT IS THE MANAGEMENT TEAM REQUIRED TO DO		
(A) Principal Messages	Differences should be noted between the latest projection results that use information based on 2006 and those produced in the past based on available information for 2005.	
(B) Decide	Whether the Council and its strategy partners require notification of this key demographic information soon.	

Key messages that emerge from this report:

- The Assembly's population projections for the whole of Gwynedd for the period 2006-2021 are **very different** from the projections prepared based on information available in 2005 by North Wales Planning and Housing Research Group (NWPHRG).
- The differences impact the size, age structure and gender of Gwynedd population.
- Between 2006 and 2021, Assembly projections show that the population in Gwynedd will increase from 118,250 to 127,150 (+8%) compared to a figure of 119,300 in 2021 according to the projections prepared by NWPHRG.
- Between 2006 and 2021, according to the Assembly projections for Gwynedd, it is expected that:
 - The number of children (0-17 years) will increase by around 800 (+3%),
 - The number of those of working age (18-64) will increase by around 550 (+1%) and the
 - Number of older people (65 and over) will increase substantially by around 7,550 (33%).
- Although the projections show an increase in the number of children (0-17 year old) and those of working age (18-64) Gwynedd's population is ageing due to the much greater increase in the number of those 65 year old and over.

- Due to the current difference in the size and age structure of the population across different areas of Gwynedd, the envisaged change in the projections will vary across the county. (see appendix 1 dealing with births and deaths).
- Between 2006 and 2021, in-migration will account for approximately 70% of the change in the population of Gwynedd. It is likely that a reduction would occur in the population of certain areas (that contains fewer women giving birth than the average percentage) unless there was in-migration.
- The Assembly will publish their projections on homes (based on new methodology) early next year. It is assumed that there will be a **significant increase** in these compared to the NWPHRG figures and that this of course will have a huge impact on housing policies (i.e. designate sites to meet accommodation requirements) in the Gwynedd Local Development Plan.
- North Wales Planning Officers have already expressed concern about the implications of these projections on the need to identify housing sites and have requested that the North Wales Research Group conduct further research, and report on this in the new year (subject to available information).

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Preface – specific matters

Schools Organisation and the new projections

Assembly population projections for Gwynedd on children numbers differ considerably from the projected numbers based on previous county projections (produced using 2005 data by the North Wales Planning and Housing Research Group - NWPHRG). NWPHRG projections have been used in the Council's consultation document on schools organization.

The Assembly's projections and those of the NWPHRG differ as different assumptions have been used, based on information on births, deaths and more recent migration.

Specifically, the Assembly's projections use more recent birth-rate figures that exceed the figures used by NWPHRG.

As can be seen from the table below, the Assembly envisages a small increase (of around 50) in the number of 5-10 year olds between 2006 and 2021 whilst the figures produced by NWPHRG show a substantial decrease (-1,400) over the same period.

Table 1: Projected population figures 0-4 and 5-10 year olds, Gwynedd, 2006 and 2021

	NWPHRG			Assembly		
	2006	2021	Difference	2006	2021	Difference
0-4	5,850	5,800	-50	6,000	7,150	+1,150
5-10	8,350	6,950	-1,400	8,350	8,400	+50

Source: Welsh Assembly Government and NWPHRG. Figures rounded up to the nearest 50

What drives the population changes?

Simply, births (+21,150), deaths (-18,600), net migration patterns within the United Kingdom (+5,300) and international net migration (+1,050). These figures suggest that net migration is responsible for approximately 70% of the population change between 2006 and 2021.

Former district council/secondary school catchment-area projections

The Council wish to obtain population projections for areas lower than at county level, specifically for the County's secondary school catchment-areas, as well as the three former district councils (Arfon, Meirionnydd and Dwyfor).

Unfortunately, the Assembly does not produce estimates at these more local levels. This is mainly due to the fact that migration figures (inward and outward) are not reliable enough at a lower level than that of a Local Authority. The Research Unit has no access to information on migration so as to be able to produce more locally based population projections.

The population structure of local areas in Gwynedd varies. On average, Arfon's population is younger than that of Dwyfor and Meirionnydd and in several areas of rural Gwynedd, natural population changes is negative, i.e. without net migration, population reduction would occur as the birth-rates would be fewer than the deaths.

To assist schools organization project workers, we have shown the fluctuations in the natural population changes for Gwynedd wards.

Which population projections to use?

The official figures for Wales LEA's are the Assembly's most recent population projections. These projections use the latest information on births, deaths and migration.

The Council can create and adopt county-based population projections. If we intend to use projections that differ from those of the Assembly, we will have to present the Assembly with strong evidence to explain why.

The Research Unit is not aware of any more recent evidence or data sets of better quality so as not to use Assembly projections. Therefore, from a research perspective, we approve use of projections using the latest information, namely Assembly projections. These use migration trends over 5 years that differ from those of NWPHRG who have used a series of 5, 10 and 14 year migration trends. North Wales planning officers have requested that research be carried out to see what the implications would be of using more long term migration trends on Assembly population projections. This work can only be done if the NWPHRG is provided with access to the data sets used by the Assembly, and these are currently unavailable.

A slow population increase has been apparent for some time, alongside more substantial progress in the number of homes (due to the impact of people living on their own). When the home projections are received from the Assembly in the new year, this will provide an opportunity for the Council and its partners to discuss scenarios for the implications of new demographic evidence, and discuss acceptable level of environmental, social and political growth.

The remainder of the report deals with the details of the latest population projections.

Introduction

Population projections for Wales 22 local authorities were published on 18th June 2008 by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Population projections provide a future population profile, based on a series of the latest projections on births, deaths and inward migration. The projections are generally based on past trends. These projections do not take impacts of local policies or those of central government into consideration.

A statistical model entitled POPGROUP is used to make the calculations. The model will also be used to estimate the number of homes and houses.

In the past, North Wales councils have produced county based population projections as the Assembly did not do so.

Gwynedd Results

The table on the next page show results for both series of projections, as well as the latest information on Gwynedd population size (National Statistics Office projections). As can be observed, Assembly projections far exceed those of the NWHPRG.

National Statistics Office projections show a very small increase in population size between 2005-2007.

Table 2: Gwynedd population projections and estimates for specific years, 2005-2021

Date	NWPHRG (based on 2005)	Assembly (based on 2006)	Difference (Assembly figures are higher)	Gwynedd population projections (MYE)
2005	117,750			117,744
2006	117,900	118,250	350	118,250
2007	118,000	118,800	800	118,374
2011	118,800	120,100	1,300	
2016	119,700	124,050	4,350	
2021	120,600	127,150	6,550	

Sources: National Assembly for Wales and NWPHRG. Figures rounded up to the nearest 50

Population age structure – principal results

Assembly population and NWPHRG projections are available for each year, gender and age. It is therefore possible to produce various figures to meet various clients' requirements. Table 3 shows the number of individuals within very wide-ranging age-groups in 2006 and 2021.

As shown in the table on the next page, the demographic trends suggest a significant increase in those aged 65 and over and that this will involve a substantial increase in the demand for health care, residential, housing and other services used by the elderly.

It is projected that Gwynedd's total population will increase by approximately 2 to 3% every 5 years until mid 2031.

Children

It is estimated that children numbers (between 0 and 15 years) within Gwynedd will:

- Reduce between mid 2006 and mid 2011;
- Increase between mid 2011 and mid 2021;
- A slight reduction between mid 2026 and mid 2031.

These changes are due to two factors; firstly, the difference between birth rate and number of children who turn 16 (defined as the working age) in each 5 year period; and a second inward migration. And for each 5 year period, a net inward migration of children is envisaged. The increase observed between mid 2011 and mid 2021 stems from a combination of a higher birth rate rather than children turning 16 and the net inward migration. The net inward migration of children is the sole factor responsible for the population increase between mid 2021 and mid 2026, as the projected birth rate is a little below the estimated population of 15 year olds.

Working age population

It is projected that the number of working age people in Gwynedd will:

- Increase between every 5 year period until mid 2026;
- Remain fairly constant between mid 2026 and mid 2031.

Older People

It is estimated that the number of pensioners in Gwynedd will:

- Continue to increase until mid 2031 despite an increase in the number of women pensioners (from 2010) and men (from 2024). The most rapid rate of increase will occur between mid 2006 and mid 2011, and mid 2026 and mid 2031 (approximately 8%).

The increase in the number of pensioners is due to two factors; firstly, improvements in mortality rates imply that people live longer; and secondly that larger groups of the same age group grow older, such as those born after the Second World War.

The rate of dependency

During the projected period, it is estimated that the rate of dependency in Gwynedd will increase by around 700 per 1,000 of people of working age in mid 2006 to 750 per 1,000 of people of working age in mid 2031. This will be mainly due to an increase in people of pensionable age, even when taking the increase in the state pension age between mid 2010 and mid 2025 into account.

Table 3: Gwynedd population projections according to age groups, 2006 and 2021

	NWPHRG		Assembly	
	Number 2006	Number 2021	Number 2006	Number 2021
0-17	24,700	21,350	24,600	25,400
18-64	66,350	64,500	70,650	71,200
65 and older	26,900	34,700	23,000	30,550
Total	117,900	120,700	118,250	127,150

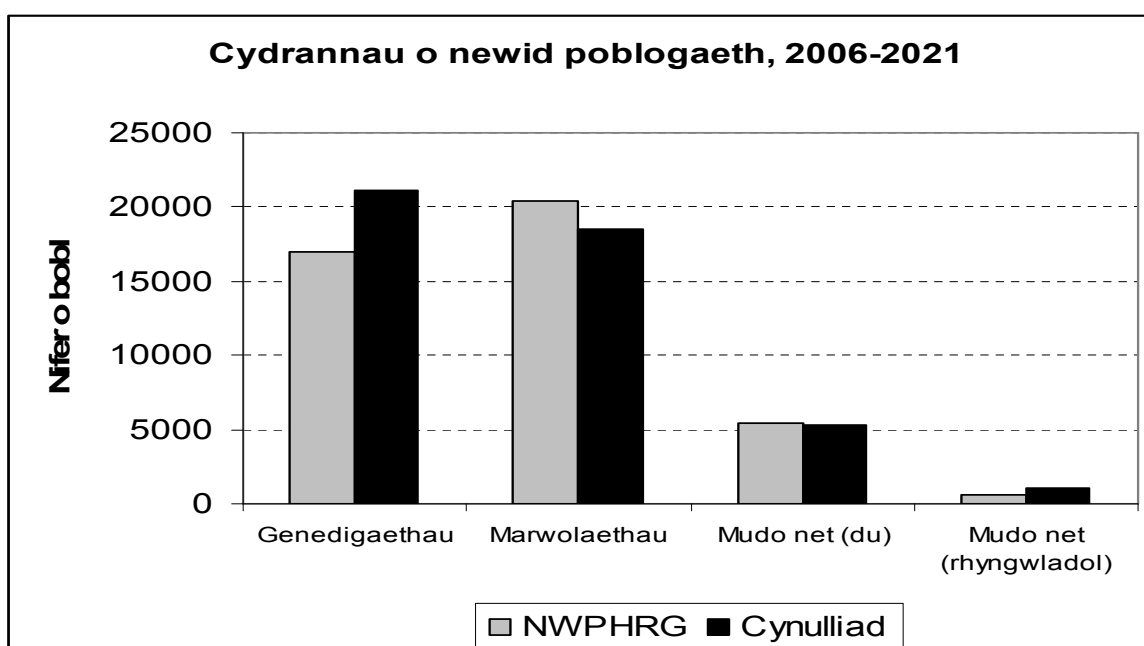
Source: Welsh Assembly Government and NWPHRG. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50

As shown in the above table, the demographic trends suggest a substantial increase in the number of 65 year olds and over and that this will lead to a substantial increase in the demand for health care, residential, housing services and other services used by the elderly.

Why do figures supplied by NWPHRG and by the Assembly vary so much?

We are of the view that the difference between both projections can be best explained through careful scrutiny of the following graph. As the graph shows, the number of inward migrants are fairly constant in both series of data, whilst the birth rate and mortality rate considerably differ. Assembly projections use higher birth rates and lower mortality rates, based on more recent sets of data than those provided by NWPHRG.

Figure 1: Elements of population change, Assembly and NWPHRG



Source: Welsh Assembly Government and NWPHRG

Comparison of Gwynedd results with those for other rural counties in Wales

Between 2006 and 2021, an increase in the population of all of Wales Rural Authorities is projected. During this period, an increase of 8% is expected in the population of Gwynedd. During the same period, a higher increase is expected in Conwy (9%) and less on the Isle of Anglesey (4%).

Table 4: Total population and change in percentage terms since 2006, rural councils (projections)

	Projected population in 2021	Projected change between 2006 and 2021
Isle of Anglesey	71,400	+4%
Gwynedd	127,100	+8%
Conwy	120,900	+9%
Denbighshire	107,800	+12%
Flintshire	155,700	+4%
Wrexham	143,000	+9%
Powys	146,100	+11%
Ceredigion	85,800	+11%
Pembrokeshire	129,000	+10%
Carmarthenshire	199,100	+12%

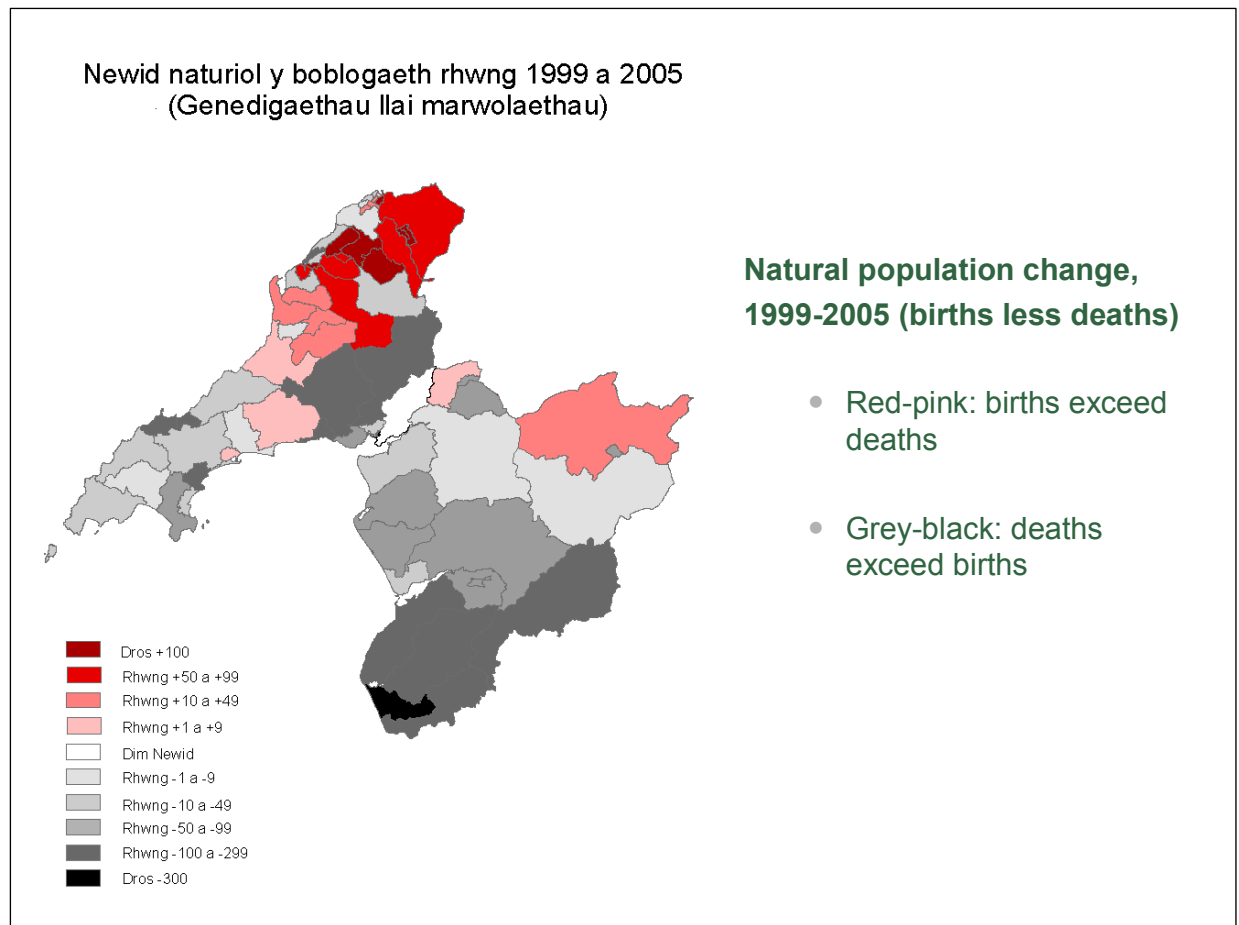
Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Conclusions and next Steps

Assembly population projections for Gwynedd for 2006-2021 **vary substantially** from projections prepared on the basis of the evidence available in 2005 by North Wales Planning and Housing Research Group (NWPHRG). The differences have an impact on the size, structure and gender of the population of Gwynedd.

☒ End of Report – appendices follow.

Appendix 1: Births less deaths in Gwynedd wards, 1999, 2005

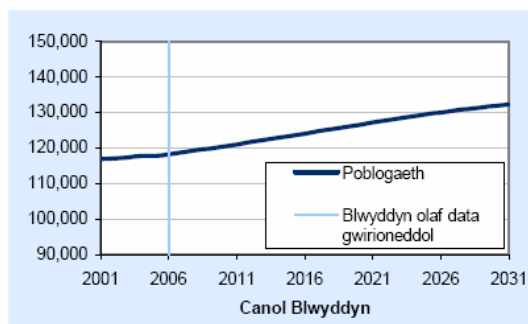


Appendix 2: Summary of the Assembly's report on population projection results for Gwynedd, 2006-2031

Gwynedd

Siart 1: Cyfanswm y Boblogaeth

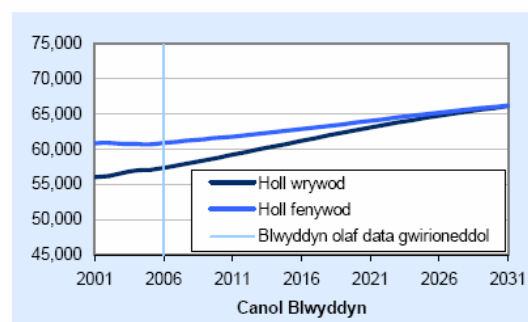
Amcanestynnir y bydd cyfanswm poblogaeth Gwynedd yn cynyddu 14,100 (neu 11.9 y cant) erbyn canol 2031. Mae hyn yn is na'r twf cyfartalog yn y boblogaeth (14.1 y cant) yn ôl yr amcanestyniad ar gyfer holl awdurdodau lleol Cymru.



Siart 2: Poblogaeth yn ôl Rhyw

Yng Ngwynedd, amcanestynnir y bydd mwy o fenywod na dynion yn y boblogaeth gydol cyfnod yr amcanestyniad.

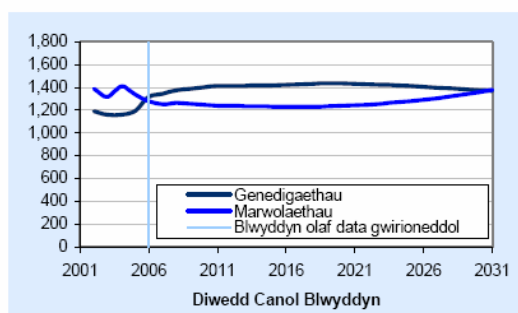
Yng Ngwynedd, amcanestynnir y bydd rhagor o dwf yn y boblogaeth o ddynion (15.4 y cant) nag yn y boblogaeth o fenywod (8.6 y cant).



Siart 3: Genedigaethau a Marwolaethau

Dengys y data gwirioneddol mwyaf diweddar fod nifer y genedigaethau yng Ngwynedd wedi aros yr un peth yn gyffredinol, oddeutu 1,200 ac yn codi i 1,300 yn 2005/06. Dros gyfnod yr amcanestyniad disgwylir tuedd i fyny yn ystod blynyddoedd cychwynnol yr amcanestyniadau, ac wedyn disgwylir i'r nifer o enedigaethau aros yn weddol gyson.

Ers 2003, mae nifer y marwolaethau yng Ngwynedd wedi lleihau. Dros gyfnod yr amcanestyniad, amcanestynnir y bydd nifer y marwolaethau yn dilyn y patrwm cyffredinol a welir ar draws awdurdodau lleol Cymru.



4. Results produced by the Research Unit on the implications for the 4-10 year old population at a secondary catchment-area level of the 2006 based projections

Report presented to Gwynedd Schools Service, November 2008.

**Gwynedd primary school children population projections, 2007 - 2016:
update and spatial assessment (Our REF: PW242)**

November 2008

Produced by:

Research and Information Unit

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PRESENTATION

According to the Assembly's latest population projections, based on information in 2006, an absolute increase is projected in the 4-10 year old population between 2007 and 2016.

Only some of these children will be registered to be educated in the County's primary schools during this period. It is projected that on average this figure will represent less than half an additional child annually in the catchment-area of every primary school in Gwynedd between 2007 and 2016.

The following report seeks to distribute the growth in children numbers (+548) across the County's secondary school catchment-areas.

The Assembly's latest projections (based on information available in 2006) differ from those previously presented to the Council due to updating of data sets used by the Assembly to prepare the projections. The previous information presented to the Council (based on available information for 2005) represented the latest information then available.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON THIS INFORMATION

The Research Unit has created its own methodology to categorize the numbers of projected additional children. Due to shortcomings in the data and methodology used, namely:

- Use of experimental information on populations of Gwynedd wards,
- Areas that roughly correspond to secondary school catchment-areas,
- The impact of migration on Gwynedd wards/catchment-areas is not taken into account – variations in migration levels can have a substantial impact on populations of small areas in Gwynedd,
- There are a large number of students in North Gwynedd.

We are of the view that there is a high probability that the four above mentioned factors will have a detrimental impact on the quality and usefulness of the information. We strongly recommend that this information should not be used on its own when preparing options for schools re-organization.

RESULTS

Between 2007 and 2016, the latest population projections for Gwynedd (based on 2006) indicate that the number of children (4-10 year olds) will increase from 9,259 to 9,807, representing an increase of 5.9% in the population of 4-10 year olds in Gwynedd.

This growth distribution will not be evenly divided throughout the county due to differences in numbers and percentage of girls of maternity age (15-49 years) as well as migration rates (both within Gwynedd and inward and outward migration in Gwynedd). Using the method outlined in the appendix, Table 1 shows the growth in number of 4-10 year olds in secondary school catchment-areas:

Table 1: Child population Estimates and Projections (4-10 year olds) according to secondary catchment-area

Areas that approximate to secondary school catchment-areas	Projected number of children (4-10 year olds) in the area that approximate to secondary school catchment-areas 2007 (a)	Projected distribution of additional children (4-10 year olds) in the area that approximate to secondary school catchment-areas 2007-2016 (b)
Bangor (Friars and Tryfan)	1305	67
Y Berwyn	335	17
Tywyn	569	31
Ardudwy	602	33
Eifionydd	568	32
Y Gader	421	24
Syr Hugh Owen	1308	75
Glan y Môr	944	57
Botwnnog	623	37
Dyffryn Ogwen	805	48
Brynrefail	950	57
Dyffryn Nantlle	585	36
Y Moelwyn	583	37
Gwynedd	9598	551²

Source: Research Unit's Censuses, using National Statistics Office experimental statistics for ward populations.

² Does not correspond exactly to Assembly projections (+548) due to rounding up of figures.

Table 2 below indicates how many additional children (4-10 year olds) we estimate will be admitted into Gwynedd primary schools (according to secondary school catchment-area) between 2007 and 2016:

Table 2: Current number and primary school population projections, according to secondary school catchment-area

Secondary Schools catchment-areas	Current number of children (4-10 year olds) attending primary schools according to secondary school catchment-area, 2007 (a)	Projections of distribution of additional children (4-10 year olds) in secondary school catchment-areas 2007-2016 (b)
Bangor (Friars and Tryfan)	1333	69
Y Berwyn	251	13
Tywyn	374	20
Ardudwy	525	29
Eifionydd	513	29
Y Gader	333	18
Syr Hugh Owen	1124	75
Glan y Môr	620	36
Botwnnog	484	29
Dyffryn Ogwen	510	30
Brynrefail	674	39
Dyffryn Nantlle	493	30
Y Moelwyn	424	26
Gwynedd	7658	443

Source: Research Unit Censuses using schools population data available from the Education Service

It is apparent that there is a considerable difference between the population of children in the area in 2007 (Table 1, column (a): 9598) and the primary schools population in secondary school catchment-area in 2007 (Table 2, column (b): 7658). We assume that this is due to:

- In Table 1, experimental population statistics are used to create the child population age-group,
- “Leakage” of children to other catchment-areas and other counties,

- Percentage of children who receive home tuition.

This again reinforces our message that these statistics need to be handled with caution as facts relating to the current situation and the possible future situation.

METHOD

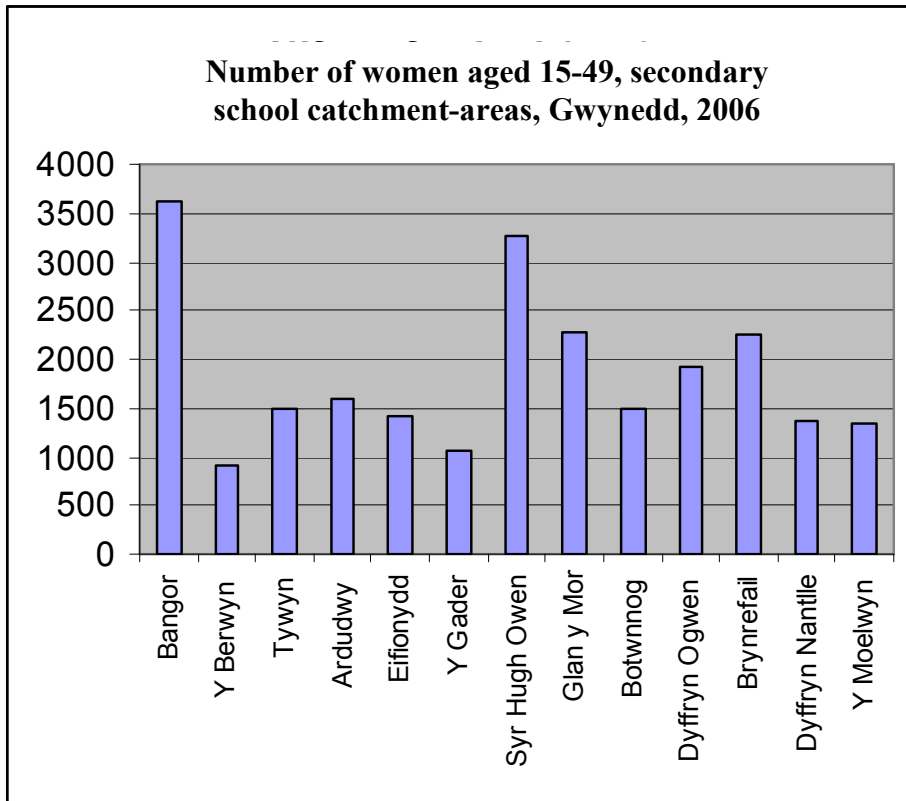
1. Assembly projections for population of counties of Wales (based on 2006) have been used to create projections for 4-10 year olds for secondary school catchment-areas in Gwynedd.
2. Experimental information on Gwynedd ward populations have been used to discover the following information:
 - Population of women of maternity age (15-49)
 - 4-10 year olds

The above-mentioned of course depends on the number of women of maternity age (15-49) as well as the number of children per women (15-49).

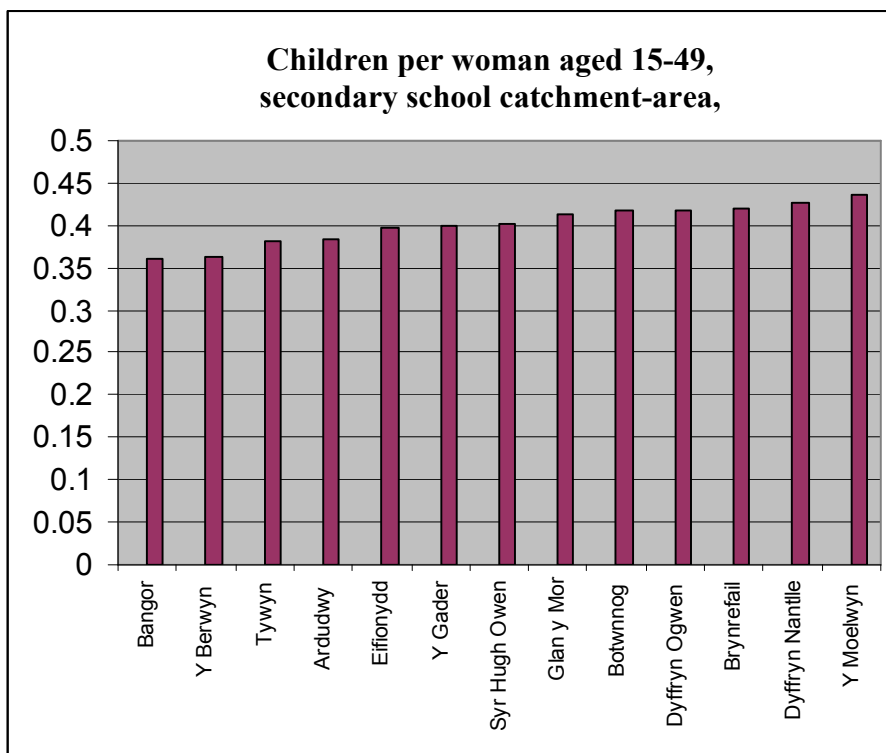
There is a considerable difference in the number of women of maternity age (15-49) and the number of children per woman (the fertility rate) across Gwynedd. The graphs shown overleaf show the pattern according to areas that approximate to secondary school catchment-areas.

3. The Education Service has used information on the number of children who attend primary schools in every secondary school catchment-area.
4. Wards have been merged to areas which are roughly similar in nature to the County's secondary school catchment-areas so as to try and discover how many children and how many women reside in each catchment-area.
5. Changes have been made to the number of women in the Bangor catchment-area we expect to give birth due to the high number of women students there of maternity age – we do not expect that a substantial number of these women will give birth during this period of their lives.

The methodology assumes that an increase in the number of 4-10 year olds will be categorized on the basis of births in each catchment-area.



Source: 2006 Ward Population Estimates for England and Wales, mid-2006(experimental statistics)



Source: 2006 Ward Population Estimates for England and Wales, mid-2006(experimental statistics)

5. Assessment of the usefulness of the above information as a basis for planning i.e. try and respond to the question “what information should the Council use to plan a schools organization policy?”.

The report contains historical information on child population trends in Gwynedd since 1991. The latest information (2006) shows an increase in the birth rates compared to 2005.

We cannot envisage whether the increase in 2006 will be maintained. We therefore recommend that the situation be closely monitored over the next 3-5 years so as to reach a conclusion whether the change in 2006 is maintained, or is a “blip” in a twenty year downward trend.

The projections for 2006 differ from those for 2005 in two ways:

- a) More recent information on births, deaths and migration,
- b) Projections based on 5 years information rather than a longer period that was used in 2005.

Over the past 5 years, society has undergone substantial changes:

- a) The arrival of migrant workers in the area
- b) Housing market with very high prices, influenced by people (mainly older) moving into the area to live,
- c) A comparatively prosperous economic situation.

There has been an astonishing change in the economic climate in a very short period and this may have a considerable impact on the area’s population (families moving to other areas to find work etc). Future gwynedd children population trends cannot be predicted other than to consider recent comparative trends.

Therefore we do not recommend that the Council use any of the series of projections (2005 or 2006) to draw up catchment-area policies. The information provided by the projections in our view only provides a COUNTY context.

So as to plan catchment-area level provision, we recommend that much more local and dynamic information be used i.e.

- Number of children already attending the schools,
- Number of births at a catchment-area level,
- Qualitative information gathered by individual schools

And then prepare a series of scenarios to hypothesize over children of different levels to assess the schools provision required.

☒ End of Report