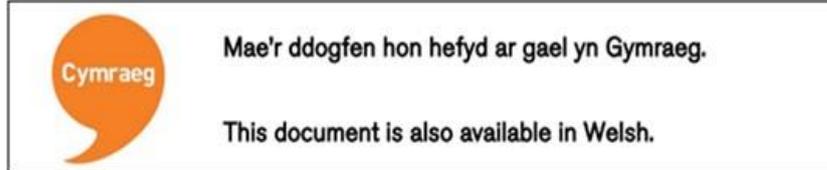




Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH



Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CRIME AND DISORDER

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 2026

This meeting will be webcast

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core//en_GB/portal/home

Note: a briefing session will be held for members at 10:00am

Location

Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

And virtually via Zoom

Contact Point

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (12)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Linda Morgan
Beca Roberts
Berwyn Parry Jones

Delyth Lloyd Griffiths
Edgar Wyn Owen
Jina Gwyrfai
Elfed Williams

Annwen Hughes
Arwyn Herald Roberts
Beca Brown
Dafydd Davies

Independent (5)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels
Peter Thomas
Wendy Cleaver

Elfed Powell Roberts
Gruffydd Williams

Gwynedd First (1)

Councillor Stephen Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 13

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 22 January 2026 be signed as a true record.

5. ANNUAL UPDATE FROM GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

14 - 40

To provide an overview to Members of the activities of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership.

6. WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES

41 - 58

To scrutinise matters in relation to Waste Collection and Recycling Services as part of the Council Plan 2023-28 – A Green Gwynedd.

7. FOOTPATHS

59 - 75

To scrutinise matters in relation to footpaths in order to provide assurance of operation.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22 JANUARY 2026

Attendance:

COUNCILLORS: Annwen Hughes (Chair) and Delyth Lloyd Griffiths (Vice-chair)

Beca Brown, Stephen Churchman, Wendy Cleaver, Elwyn Edwards, Jina Gwyrfai, Berwyn Parry Jones, Linda Morgan, Edgar Wyn Owen, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Beca Roberts, Elfed Powell Roberts, Peter Thomas, Elfed Williams, Robert Glyn Daniels and Gruffydd Williams.

Officers present:

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Adviser) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for Items 5 and 6:

Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member for Environment), Dylan Owen (Corporate Director) and Bethan Richardson (Climate Change Programme Manager, Corporate Leadership Team)

Present for Item 7:

Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member for Environment), Dafydd Williams (Head of Environment Department), Gerwyn Jones (Assistant Head of Environment Department, Transport) and Iwan ap Trefor (Traffic and Projects Service Manager).

Present for Item 8:

Councillor Menna Trenholme (Deputy Leader of the Council), Sandra Lynne Thomas (Programme Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board).

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Dafydd Owen Davies.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 6 November 2025, as a true record.

5. REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC – CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN FUNDING MATTERS

It was confirmed that the member of the public was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. In his absence, the Scrutiny Adviser read out a written statement provided by him, which elaborated on his request by setting out the following points:

- The money spent as part of the Climate and Nature Emergency Response Plan should meet the public benefit test of the Charities Act 2011, to ensure that decisions were evidence-based, transparent and could be scrutinised effectively.
- That it was harder to demonstrate how projects were prioritised and whether they met the public benefit test, whether any other projects had been considered and what evidence had been used to reach a decision if public consultations and Cabinet oversight were not part of the governance of the Plan.
- The importance of good governance arrangements.
- It should be ensured that experimental schemes were fit for the future. If the Council ran an electric fleet vehicle pilot, the results of the pilot would not reflect the true future cost of the electric fleet.
- The Plan's projects should identify the public benefit over time into the future. Public benefit from any project could diminish if costs continued to rise. The Council needed to demonstrate that this was being taken into account.
- Delegated rights increased the risk of untested assumptions. Concern that projects may be approved on the basis of outdated information or optimism bias without being scrutinised.

In response to the request for scrutiny and to the written statement elaborating on the individual's request, the following observations were submitted by officers:-

This request by a member of the public to scrutinise the issues was welcomed, appreciating the public interest in the Plan's work.

Assurance was given that the governance of the Climate Change and Nature Board was being considered continually, giving close consideration to its operations and financial decisions, and noting that a written response to the request for scrutiny had been submitted as part of the meeting documentation.

The Corporate Director confirmed that the Charities Act 2011 did not apply to the operation of the Board or the Council generally, clarifying that the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and democratic procedures were the relevant considerations for Cyngor Gwynedd.

In response to the request for scrutiny and to the written statement elaborating on the request, the following observations were submitted by Members:-

They thanked the individual for submitting this request for scrutiny, taking pride in the public interest in the field.

They disagreed with the concept that Climate Change and Nature Board matters were not subject to scrutiny, as this committee scrutinised the matter regularly. It was added that a cabinet member was present for that scrutiny process and that the observations of this committee had a positive impact on the Board.

It was confirmed that public consultations were being held regularly on climate and nature emergency matters to ensure that the people of Gwynedd had the opportunity to voice their views in the formulation of the Board's projects. However, it was considered that there was room for improvement to ensure that certain communities responded to these consultations. In response to the observations, the Cabinet Member for Environment confirmed that the public consultations were included on the 'Have Your Say' page on the Council's website, acknowledging that work was underway to ensure consultations reached Town and Community councils and that extensive responses were received.

It was also noted that field experts gathered information for the Board ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information was presented to Members. It was recognised that this was a very complex area and that specific scientific knowledge was required to be able to collect data effectively.

In response to specific observations on how the Board budgeted the approved projects, the Corporate Director confirmed that discussions about budgets took place at the Board meetings. It was elaborated that the Plan was one of the Council Plan priorities and that any decision made by the Board was considered by the Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet for oversight, and to ensure a democratic process to ensure that budgets were spent meaningfully and transparently.

In response to an enquiry about the membership of the Board, the Climate Change Programme Manager confirmed that the elected members on the Board were not all members of the Plaid Cymru Group, confirming that a cross-section of the Council were present at the meetings such as five cabinet members, 2 elected members – a representative from the scrutiny committee and the Biodiversity Champion, along with a number of senior officers.

In response to observations submitted in relation to the 'Risk of Strategic Move' submitted as part of the request for scrutiny, the Climate Change Programme Manager confirmed that anyone wishing to receive funding from the Climate Plan Fund would need to complete a form which would be considered by the Board. It was explained that this form contained a number of conditions as well as detailing the benefit that would come from carrying out the work in question, in order to be able to determine whether granting the request for funding would be in line with the priorities of the Emergency Plan. It was also noted that the expenditure of the Fund was a matter addressed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED to

- **Note the response of the officers, acknowledge that governance arrangements are in place and to continue to scrutinise the Plan on an annual basis.**
- **Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment that consideration should be given to ways of increasing the response to public consultations and obtaining input from the public and others.**
- **Request that information on expenditure be highlighted and detailed in the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report to ensure transparency.**

6. REVIEW OF THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN

Submitted – a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Corporate Director and the Climate Change Programme Manager. Attention was drawn to the following main points:

It was confirmed that the revised plan had been developed following feedback from a public consultation carried out during the summer months of 2025. It was pointed out that there had been changes to the plan's projects, also noting that there was a greater number of projects.

Members were reminded that the original plan provided details of in-house Council projects only, confirming that this had now been changed to also include external projects. It was elaborated that further work had been carried out on the original projects to ensure public value and to ensure that every effort was made to ensure that all communities joined the Council to help prevent the climate emergency. However, this was recognised as having an impact on resources, and it was reported that work was being undertaken to try to estimate the costs of some projects.

It was emphasised that a number of factors in dealing with the climate and nature crisis were beyond the control of the Council, stressing that everything was being done to strive to address the crisis while other governments were more committed to the cause.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

Details were provided of the percentages of some of the specific questions in the public consultation and it was considered that it would be useful to include some open questions. It was felt that the inclusion of such questions would lead to suggestions that would improve future services and would be a means of seeking new ideas for development in the field. In response, the Climate Change Programme Manager confirmed that including questions of this kind would be considered in the future.

Some observations were made out of concern that the Board was not responding as effectively as it could because it did not receive specialist scientific information. It was expanded upon that the Board was made up of the Council's experienced officers along with Elected Members, highlighting the need for specialist experts within the fields of science. Similarly, there was concern that some of the plan's projects led to increased costs suggesting that a portion of this funding could be used to respond to current challenges affecting the people of Gwynedd rather than striving to solve problems that may arise in the future.

Reference was made to page 6 of the Plan, which stated: "... We will continue to reduce our emissions over the next few decades until we reach the net zero target", considering whether reducing emissions over the next few decades is an unattainable target. The need to revise this wording to include a realistic and ambitious target for the future was discussed. In response, the Corporate Director agreed with these observations emphasising that it was key to set realistic targets as it was unlikely that the aim could be met.

It was noted that Section 10 of the Plan stated that carbon emission rates in the waste area were now zero. Given that the incineration of residual waste at Parc Adfer generated carbon emissions, it was asked how emissions from this field could be zero. In response, the Cabinet Member confirmed that further information on this matter would be shared with Members. He suggested that members visit Parc Adfer to learn more about the process.

It was reported that a pilot scheme was underway to reduce public waste through the introduction of community recycling blue boxes. It was asked whether it would be possible to receive feedback on this scheme and were there plans to extend the scheme to the County's rural areas? In response to the query, the Climate Change Programme Manager noted that the results of the pilot were not currently available and would be shared as soon as possible to see if the plan could be expanded.

Similarly, consideration was given to whether the inclusion of some new projects within section 10 of the Plan was premature. It was detailed that projects to promote a circular economy and reduce street waste indicated that carbon savings were not measurable

and the Climate Change Programme Manager confirmed that this was because they varied from case to case.

Members expressed their thanks for the report, noting that it would be beneficial to include an additional section in the Plan or create a separate document celebrating the success of the scheme to date, detailing how much money had been saved as well as detailing the progress of all the schemes and the resulting carbon savings.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- **That the Committee welcomes the intention to revisit the Council's ambition to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030.**
- **To recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment that:**
 - **successes and the work carried out to deliver the Plan should be communicated to the public.**
 - **the use of open questions in public consultations needs to be increased to receive responses that would enrich the information available to inform future direction.**
 - **consideration should be given to modifying the following wording: "... we will continue to reduce our emissions over the next decades until we reach the net zero target' (Page 6, Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, Version 2), in order to be more ambitious in meeting the target.**

7. ACTIVE TRAVEL

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Head of Environment Department, Assistant Head of Environment Department (Transport) and the Traffic and Projects Service Manager. The following main points were highlighted.

Members were reminded that there was a wide range of schemes in place across the County, in both rural and urban areas. Examples were shared of similar projects in progress by Council partners to give a complete picture of the active travel network.

It was explained that projects were prioritised through the implementation of two grant streams which were funded by the Welsh Government. It was elaborated that one related specifically to active travel and safe routes within communities and for schools. The need to assess different projects to ensure that they met the criteria of those grants in order to be approved was detailed. It was updated that active travel plans also received further consideration under the Regional Transport Plan.

It was reported that active travel developments were being regularly updated with different projects at different levels of maturity. It was noted that this allowed new routes to be developed on a regular basis to meet the needs of communities.

It was noted that the Department was keen to increase the grant opportunities available in this area in the future. The ongoing challenge of maintaining these routes was explained and members were reminded that capital funding was provided to install the infrastructure but no additional funding was allocated to the Council to maintain them. It was acknowledged that a number of these routes were developed next to highways but it was emphasised that the work programme for highway maintenance did not meet the needs of users of the active travel routes to ensure that they were adequately swept and ensure that vegetation was controlled. The hope was that successfully funding an

effective maintenance programme would achieve the aim of the project such as reducing traffic congestion and ensuring that there were no parking problems in urban areas. It was noted that the department had submitted a One-off Bid for funding to try and meet the demand for this work this year. It was emphasised that officers were also developing a package to support and equip schools to promote the use of these routes into the future.

Pride was expressed that the Department was working with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to develop routes that would assist Council partners. A specific example was shared of an active travel route in the Penrhosgarnedd area of Bangor, where it was hoped that the use of those routes would reduce the traffic and parking burden for the Health Board at Ysbyty Gwynedd and the wider area. Members were reminded that maps of active routes were available detailing their locations across Gwynedd and nationally.

It was emphasised that there was no risk assessment in place should the situation arise where there was no funding from the Welsh Government for the maintenance of the routes. Particular attention was drawn to damage to the Lôn Eifion route in 2025 following a storm, noting that part of the route was now closed. The cost of renewing the route had been estimated to be around £90,000 and work was underway to find sources to fund it as soon as possible.

Reference was made to financial sources confirming that active travel schemes would receive financial support from the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, with a view to developing a wider network of routes regionally.

It was explained that the development and maintenance of active travel routes was the responsibility of Cyngor Gwynedd and confirmed that Town and Community Councils were not expected to do so. However, Community Councils and members of the public were thanked for their work in tidying up the paths by assisting in litter picking and clearing the paths for users.

It was reported that engagement work had been undertaken within this area of work as a public consultation on the Regional Transport Plan was recently completed. It was also noted that over 2000 responses had been received as active travel maps were introduced in 2001, reinforcing the public interest in the development of the scheme.

It was noted that £2.4 million had been allocated to fund some of the scheme's projects during the 2026/27 financial year, explaining that this would not be adequate to cover all projects.

During the discussion, the following observations were made by the Members:-

The list of upcoming projects was detailed, noting that a number of developments such as a route between Caernarfon and Caeathro had been scheduled for the long term. Members were reminded that a fatal accident had occurred in this area stressing the need to develop the path. In response to the observations, the Assistant Head of Department confirmed that projects that had been scheduled for the long term were likely to be delivered in approximately 10 years or more, with medium-term projects being delivered in 5 to 10 years. Further, it was sympathised that a road accident had occurred in this area recently and also recognised that this was, unfortunately, the case for a number of other areas in Gwynedd that would benefit from similar routes.

The budget for the maintenance of these routes was considered. It was asked if there were any examples of areas where the costs of cutting grass and road verges had

decreased over time as grassy road verges were replaced by a tarmac path. Similarly, were there examples where highway maintenance costs had increased due to increased work in sweeping and maintaining active travel routes as they were located on highway verges. In response to the observations, the Assistant Head of Department thanked members for their observations and stated that work would be done to assess budgets to look into the matter.

In response to an enquiry, the Assistant Head of Department confirmed that the possibility of funding the maintenance costs of the active travel routes through a Visitor Levy could be explored.

In response to queries and observations regarding town and community councils, the Assistant Head of Department confirmed that councils were not expected to spend on active travel routes. They were thanked for their work in working with the Council for their maintenance and for creating a network of similar routes in some areas. It was explained that the Council was also working with them in relation to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and noted that further information about that plan could be received in the future.

In response to a further enquiry on the repairs to be carried out on a section of the Lôn Eifion route in Penygroes, the Assistant Head of Department confirmed that this section of the path was expected to be open by Easter. It was elaborated that work was being carried out over the next few weeks to commission the work. It was pointed out that two members of staff were co-ordinating the project of developing the paths and they were thanked for their work in trying to make the paths accessible to users. He went on to note that this meant that it was not currently possible to carry out inspections on trees in order to assess risk, noting that if successful, the One-off Bid the Department had applied for would be used to address this type of work.

It was stressed that officials were constantly lobbying for more funding to develop the network of active travel routes, noting that projects that had been programmed for work in the medium and long term would be delivered faster if the lobbying work was successful.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- **That the Committee welcomes the work of trying to meet the maintenance costs of active travel routes.**
- **To recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment that:**
 - **there is a need to look at expenditure for the maintenance of active travel routes and costs of grass cutting/growth on verges to consider whether there are any potential savings.**
 - **questions about the maintenance of active travel routes and a question about local issues should be included in the public consultation.**
 - **risk assessment arrangements should be examined.**

8. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted – the report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager. They referred briefly to the following main points:

A summary of the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (the Board) in implementing the Well-being Plan 2023-2028 was presented.

It was reported that the Board was in its third year of its five-year plan, confirming there was evidence of positive progress towards its objectives. It was elaborated that most objectives had been completed or were developing and on-schedule. Pride was expressed that the Board had been able to collaborate with its partners at an operational and strategic level and were constantly sharing resources and good practice with each other.

Pride was expressed that the Board had been able to enhance the partnership and work with the Welsh Government, the Future Generations Commissioner, the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Children's Commissioner which had now led to innovative work across several priority areas.

It was confirmed that the Board's Language Sub-Group had completed the 'Good Recruitment Practices' project as well as the 'Busting the Myths about Working in Welsh' project. It was emphasised that this work highlighted that prioritising the Welsh language was a principle that was embedded across all elements of the Board's work.

Pride was expressed that the Board continued to be innovative by being the first Public Services Board to co-sign an Active Travel Charter. It was noted that this was an objective within its climate priority confirming that six board members had now formally committed to it and that a further four partners were in the process of doing so.

It was emphasised that work was ongoing to develop the Board to become trauma-informed. It was explained that specialist sessions had been held for all Board Members with follow-up work to assess their understanding and current practices. It was confirmed that there were plans to expand this training across North Wales.

Reference was made to some of the Board's further developments such as working with Public Health Wales's Healthy Weight Team to develop resources that helped organisations review their internal policies for a whole-system approach. Similarly, pride was expressed in the establishment of a regional website (agenda.wales) to share resources and good practice with Public Services Boards across the north Wales region.

This Scrutiny Committee was thanked for its observations and recommendations to constructively challenge the Board to ensure it was effective and delivered meaningful outcomes for residents.

During the discussion, the following observations were made by Members:-

The Board was thanked for its work to become Trauma-informed as well as the work done to assist anyone living in poverty. The Board's work to identify where trauma and poverty originated and to work on ways to address that effectively was welcomed. Statistics on child poverty were presented, explaining that there were an estimated 4.5 million children living in poverty in the United Kingdom (31% of the child population). It was emphasised that the figure for children living in poverty in Gwynedd was 23.6%. That was confirmed to be equivalent to 4571 children in Gwynedd. It was pointed out that for each of the children in this figure, there was at least one parent living in poverty, which was around 6-7 thousand people. Members were thanked for their observations

and for presenting these important statistics, and it was confirmed that Bangor University was a great resource in tackling poverty issues with an exciting project underway in Maesgeirchen. Furthermore, it was noted that there was collaboration with a foodbank, Bwyd Da Môn, to see where referrals were coming from and to investigate whether the data was similar to what was seen in Gwynedd as well.

In response to an enquiry as to whether the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' report had contributed to the board's trauma-informed work, the Programme Manager confirmed that the Board was considering the report. Cyngor Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey County Council were thanked for their pioneering work in leading the way in this area, confirming that the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' report would receive due attention on the Board's work programme for the future.

It was pointed out that the Isle of Anglesey County Council already had Trauma-informed accreditation, and it was asked if there were plans in place to ensure that Gwynedd also received this accreditation. In response, the Deputy Leader of the Council confirmed that discussions were taking place with the Isle of Anglesey County Council regarding the process of obtaining this accreditation. It was elaborated that Cyngor Gwynedd officers were in favour of obtaining this accreditation and confirmed that the Education Department and the Children and Supporting Families Department were already Trauma-informed. It was noted that all Departments of the Council were making enquiries to see how they could contribute to the accreditation and the importance of obtaining it for their department, confirming that a timetable would be drawn up.

In response to a further enquiry on the project of 'Busting Myths about Working in Welsh', the Programme Manager confirmed that Careers Wales was working with the Board to produce a brief of the myths that existed and how they could be resolved. It was noted that this project used social media and videos to dispel the myths such as by making content for Tiktok and Instagram. It was emphasised that various organisations from north Wales were contributing to this project to ensure that the project included the voices of ordinary people.

Thanks was expressed for the report and the Board was congratulated for its work.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- **That the Committee welcomes the Board's work in relation to poverty, children's rights and being trauma informed.**

9. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

Members were reminded that a revised forward programme for 2025/26 had been adopted by this Committee at its meeting on 06 November 2025.

It was noted that the 'implementation of the Article 4 Direction' item had been scheduled for this meeting (22 January 2026). It was reported that the High Court's judgment of 27 November 2025 had quashed the Article 4 Direction and the Council's verbal application for leave to appeal this decision had been refused. It was elaborated that a written application to appeal the decision had been submitted, clarifying that there would be a hearing at the Court of Appeal if the application was accepted. It was clarified that due to this legal position, it was not appropriate for this Committee to scrutinise the matter at

this time and it was recommended that the matter be identified as an item for scrutiny when it was timely.

Further, it was reported that the 'New Local Development Plan – Strategic Options, Vision and Objectives' item had been scheduled for this meeting (22 January 2026). It was explained that the Environment Department had submitted a request for this item to slip into the work programme for 2026/27 as circumstances beyond the department's control had arisen meaning that the Plan's work programme had slipped. It was confirmed that one of those factors was awaiting current data such as household growth projections from the Welsh Government.

As a result, it was reported that the 'Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Progress Report' item had been rescheduled to this meeting from the meeting of 19 March 2026.

Members were asked to approve the revised work programme as presented in the report.

In response to a question from a member, the Scrutiny Adviser stated that the Article 4 situation would be monitored and the Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee would discuss the timetable in their liaison meeting with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Head of Environment Department.

RESOLVED

To adopt a revised work programme for 2025/26

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 1:00pm

CHAIR

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19/03/26
TITLE	Annual Update from Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	The Committee's role as a Crime and Disorder Committee
AUTHOR	Daron Owens / Laura Evans - Uwch Swyddog Gweithredol Partneriaeth Diogelwch Cymunedol Gwynedd ac Ynys Mon
CABINET MEMBER	CLlr Dilwyn Morgan

1. Why does it need to be scrutinized?

The CSP is required to formally report to the Committee annually to submit an overview of activities. This ensures that the Partnership meets its commitments in accordance with sections 19 and 20, the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006.

2. What needs to be scrutinised?

- The partnership's work over the year
- The partnership priorities and future direction of work

3. Summary and Key Issues

The report summarises the work of the Partnership over the year as well as the direction of the work over the next year.

4. Background / Context

BACKGROUND:

- This report covers the Partnership's activities since we last presented to the Scrutiny Panel in January 2025.
- There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work in partnership with the Police, the Health service, the Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service. These are the main agencies that make up the Community Safety Partnership. There are also additional partners such as the Area Planning Board (substance misuse), Education, Youth Justice and Community Cohesion.

- As a statutory member of the Partnership, it is important that the Council is properly represented. This is achieved through the presence of the local member with the Community Safety portfolio, namely Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, and the chief officer with responsibility for the work, namely Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services and current Chair of the Partnership).
- **Community safety partnerships were originally called crime and disorder partnerships, and although the name has been changed, the areas or responsibility have not, and they remain** – crime and disorder, substance misuse and reducing reoffending.
 - Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, CSPs also have a statutory duty to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews. These are a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death. In Wales, from 1 October 2024, this statutory duty is fulfilled through the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR), which incorporates DHRs within the single review process now used for all safeguarding reviews in Wales.
 - Following recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act as a result of the new Serious Violence Duty, we also have a responsibility to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- Quarterly meetings are always well attended. Partners and Local Members who attend the meetings contribute positively. Quarterly data on crime figures and delivery plan updates are shared at every meeting. Every responsible member of the partnership contributes financially to having in place a partnership analyst, so that regular data can be supplied to support evidence-based decisions.
- Working between partners is fundamental to community safety. The main reason for the introduction of CSP's back in 1998, was to ensure that crime and disorder was seen as **'everybody's problem'** and not the realm of the Police alone.
- We do not commission any projects or services directly (only the DHRs) **as we have no funding allocated to Community Safety on a permanent basis. Funding for specific projects are reliant on grant opportunities and are only available by applying for them.**
- The partnership works to an annual plan. Attached is the 2025-26 plan, which is based on the priorities within the **regional** Safer North Wales Board's Strategy:
 - Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Tackling Serious Violence
 - Tackling Serious Organised Crime
 - Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety

OVERVIEW OF CRIME LEVELS OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD:

- The Police consistently consider crime figures, reviewing all changes regionally and locally. Any significant changes are subject to further analysis. Problem areas will then be reviewed, with policing plans in place to address them. Local policing approaches include placing resources every day to address issues as they emerge.
- The Partnership receives data on crime levels on a quarterly basis. The data we generally use is comparison data between the period in the current year, and the same period in the previous year.

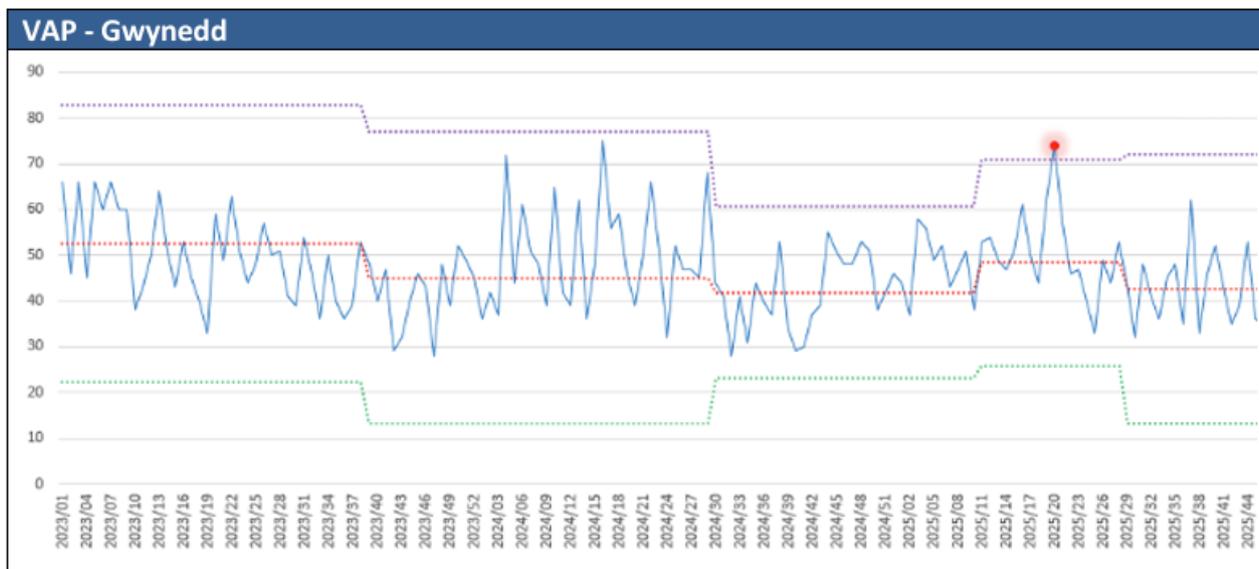
CRIME DATA:

The table below highlights the year-to-date (YTD) volumes of each crime category for the fiscal years 2024/24 and 2025/26. The comparative data used is for the period 1st April to December 31st for both fiscal years. Also included on the chart, is the current YTD change in volumes for 2025/26 in comparison to 2024/25 and a comparison to the overall change being seen across North Wales:

Gwynedd

Gwynedd - Crime & Incident Data	Fiscal Year		% Change (YTD)	North Wales % Change (YTD)
	2024/25 (YTD)	2025/26 (YTD)		
All Victim Based Crime	6,419	6,648	3.6%	0.6%
Violence with injury (VAP)	908	808	-11.0%	-5.1%
Violence without injury (VAP)	1,179	1,293	9.7%	4.0%
Stalking & Harassment	1,150	1,094	-4.9%	-5.5%
Sexual offences	402	396	-1.5%	5.8%
All Acquisitive Crime	1,546	1,626	5.2%	-0.4%
- Burglary Residential	139	124	-10.8%	-6.6%
- Burglary - Business and Community	80	72	-10.0%	-18.2%
- Robbery	16	34	112.5%	12.4%
- Vehicle Crime	148	155	4.7%	-3.2%
- Theft and Handling	1,163	1,241	6.7%	1.8%
Criminal Damage & Arson	754	776	2.9%	-6.3%
Domestic Crime	1,245	1,205	-3.2%	-3.6%
Domestic Incidents (non-crime)	683	758	11.0%	15.0%
Hate Crime	185	160	-13.5%	-0.8%
Anti-Social Behaviour	1,806	1,793	-0.7%	-3.8%
Substance used by Offender (Alcohol and/or Drugs)	581	623	7.2%	3.2%

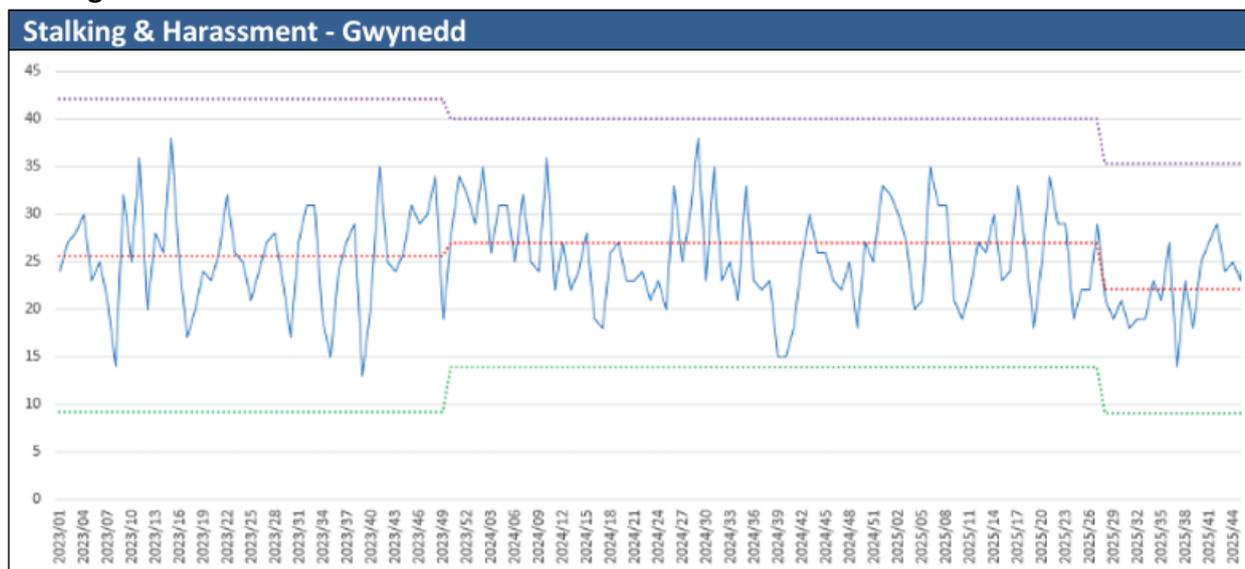
Violence against the Person (VAP)



Year-to-date, Violence against the person offences have, increased marginally (0.6%) in Gwynedd in 2025/26, compared to the same period last year. This is in line with the marginal reduction of 0.3% seen across North Wales as a whole, this fiscal year.

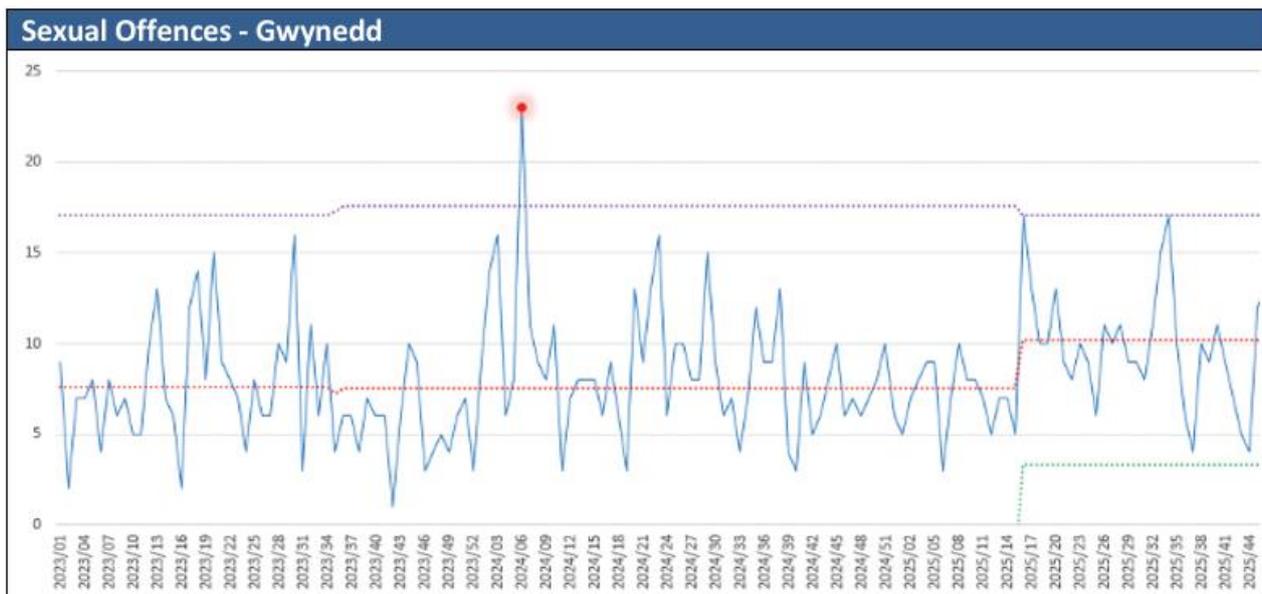
Whilst *Violence with Injury* offences have decreased, there has been an increase in the volume of *Violence without injury* offences so far, this fiscal year, compared to last.

Stalking & Harassment



Year-to-date data for 2025/26 shows a -4.9% decrease in comparison to the same period in 2024/25. This reduction in volumes is in line with the North Wales figures as a whole, where a decrease of -5.5% has been seen so far, this fiscal year, compared to last.

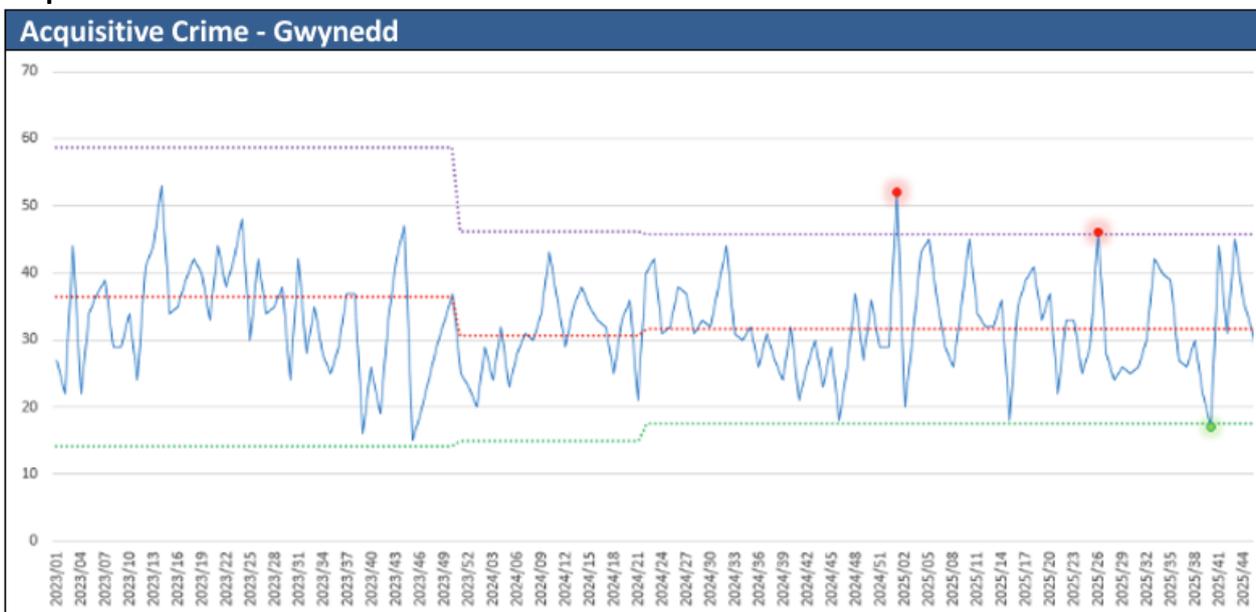
Sexual Offences



The 2025/26 year-to-date recorded level of Sexual Offences in Gwynedd has seen a small decrease (-1.5%) in comparison to 2024/25. There can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences.

The decrease in Gwynedd is contrary to the picture of the volumes of Sexual Offences occurring in North Wales so far in 2025/26, with a 5.8% increase being seen overall.

Acquisitive Crime



Acquisitive crime includes the categories *Burglary Residential*, *Burglary Business & Community*, *Robbery*, *Vehicle Crime* and *Theft & Handling*.

Both *Burglary Residential* and *Burglary – Business & Community* offences have seen reductions in volume this year, in comparison to last year, whilst the volumes of *Vehicle Crime* and *Theft & Handling* have seen slight increases.

Whilst *Robbery* volumes are only small, there has been a marked increase in the volumes, so far in 2025/26.

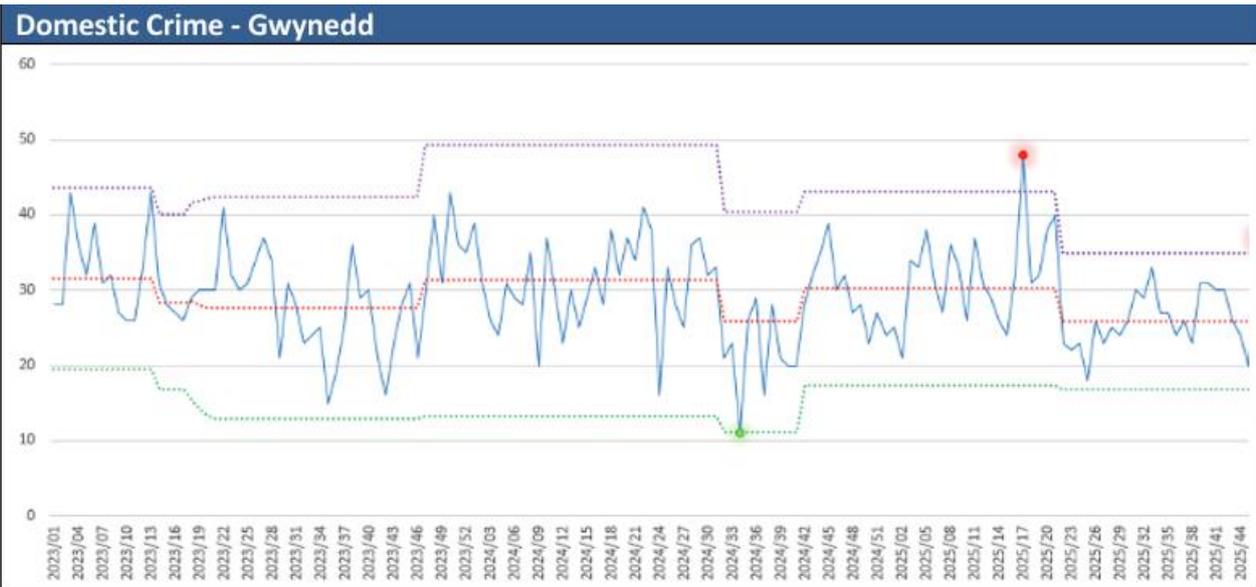
Analysis of these offences shows increases in some wards within Bangor, most notably Deiniol and Menai (Bangor). The data shows no clear patterns to the offences, with no repeat suspects. In total, 24 individuals have been linked as a suspect, or have been arrested or charged in connection with 17 of the offences.

Criminal Damage & Arson



A slight increase (2.9%) in the year-to-date volume of Criminal Damage & Arson offences has been seen so far in Gwynedd, in comparison to 2024/25. This increase in volumes differs to the picture across North Wales as a whole, where a decrease has been seen (-6.3%).

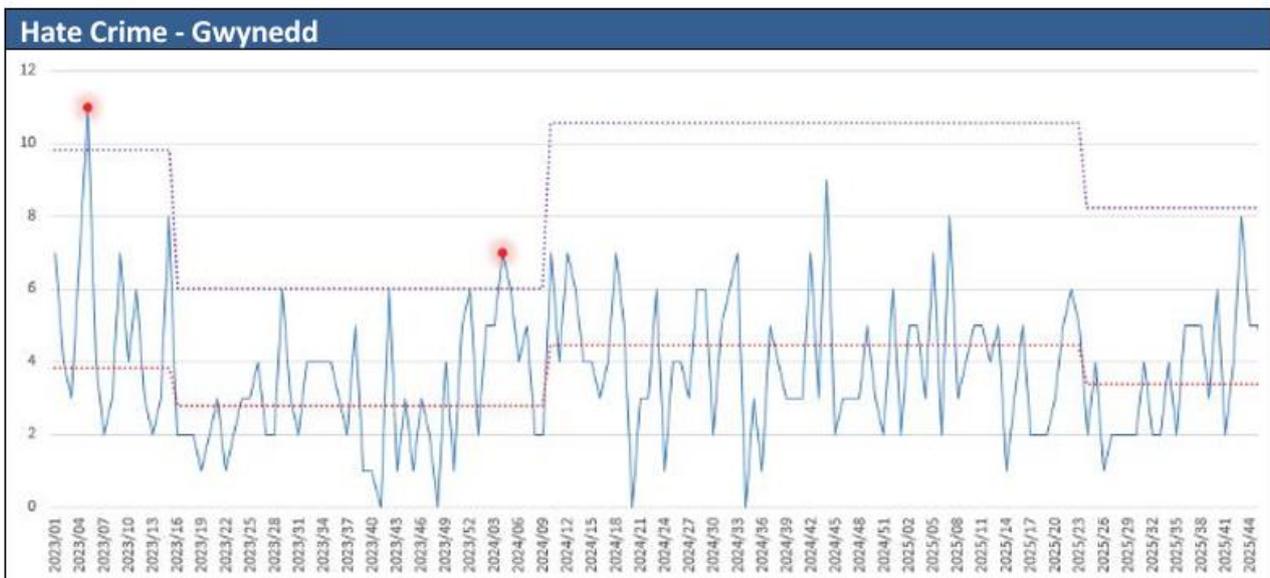
Domestic Crime



Domestic Crime in Gwynedd has decreased by -3.2% year-to-date, in comparison to volumes last year. As a whole, North Wales has also seen a similar overall reduction in Domestic Crime (-3.6%), year-to-date.

Domestic Incidents (Non-Crime) are calls received by North Wales Police’s Control Room which have a domestic element to them; however do not constitute a criminal offence and are therefore not recorded on the force records management system. They include incidents such as verbal domestic disputes, where no criminal offences have taken place. These incidents generate a CID 16 referral, for consideration of sharing with the relevant safeguarding partners. An increase has been seen in the volumes of these non-crime incidents in Gwynedd in 2025/26, compared to the previous year. These increases, although to a higher percentage increase, have been seen across North Wales.

Hate Crime



Year-to-date data for Hate Crimes in Gwynedd, for 2025/26, shows a -13.5% decrease in comparison to the same period in 2024/25. This reduction in volumes has been seen across North Wales as a whole in 2025/26, however to a much lesser degree (-0.8%).

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)



ASB in Gwynedd has seen a year-to-date decrease of -0.7% in 2025/26, in comparison to the same period in 2024/25. Across North Wales, there has been a reduction in ASB volumes of -3.8% this fiscal year, compared to 2024/25.

Repeat victims of ASB, repeat locations where ASB is occurring, and high-risk vulnerable victims are referred for review to monthly multi-agency tasking groups.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING 2025:

- The annual plan was developed in line with the priorities of the Safer North Wales Regional Board. The 2025-26 plan (attached) sets out an activity that the Partnership would undertake during this financial year.
- Crime figures were shared on a quarterly basis through a performance report prepared by the Police Analyst, so that any trends and additional activity needed could be discussed.
- As stated above, we have a statutory duty under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews. Sadly, there has been 3 DHRs ongoing this year and we received 2 referrals for new reviews. This work inevitably has significant and continuing resourcing implications. Since October 2024, in Wales DHRs are included within the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process. Moving forward, the CSP will collaborate with the Regional Safeguarding Board with our DHR duties.

A summary of the specific work completed this year:

- Ongoing delivery of the annual Community Safety plan and quarterly reporting to the regional Safer North Wales Partnership Board.
- The North Wales Serious Violence Strategy was published in January 2024, in response to the national Serious Violence Duty. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Following recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act, the CSP has an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence, and we have been involved in the regional strategy work throughout.
- As part of the regional Serious Violence Strategy, the Partnership was awarded £65k for preventative projects in our region. This year, seven different projects are being undertaken. In Gwynedd this included:
 1. 'Don't Steal My Future' sessions held in schools by RASASC Wales (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre). This is an educational campaign, raising awareness of the widespread prevalence of sexual violence in society, and most importantly, how we can begin to change attitudes and behaviors.
 2. Developing an awareness campaign around illegal selling of vapes and child exploitation, to increase reporting and intelligence sharing.

3. Increased Youth Provision over the Summer and Half term holidays, through a targeted program of activities for young people aged 11–25, specifically in those communities that face a higher risk of crime, violence and anti-social activity.
 4. A project led by the Education Department with schools to empower their response to reducing and preventing serious violence. This included training and specific sessions with external facilitators, group projects and mentoring. As school exclusions are on the rise significantly, the aim of this project was to break the link by bringing people together to support schools to do everything possible to keep the pupils in schools and keep them safe.
- The project to upgrade and improve CCTV across Caernarfon, Bangor and Pwllheli funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund was completed successfully. Based on Police data, £456k was allocated to undertake essential server upgrades and increase existing camera provision.
 - With the Police, we have developed an awareness package for local authority staff and other relevant partners around Serious Organised Crime (SOC). The package was piloted in August with Managers and Team Leaders for their feedback and will be rolled out next year. Our aim is to increase professionals' understanding of how SOC manifests in our communities and the relevance to their day- to- day work.
 - We have continued to be active members of the Council's Strategic Safeguarding Panel and Operation Group, providing an input especially on safeguarding matters such as Prevent, Domestic Violence and Serious Organised Crime.
 - We have continued to work closely with the Regional Lead for Suicide and Self-harm within the Health Service. There is significant work being undertaken regionally, for example delivering on the new Welsh Government Strategy, responding to locations of concern and raising awareness of the support available. Following a successful application to the small grants programme, we organised a multiagency workshop for professionals in Gwynedd with a renowned expert in the field regarding the link between domestic abuse and suicide. The event was oversubscribed and very well-received, and we are keen to organise further similar events in the future.
 - We remain as members of the regional group to implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for North Wales. Funded by the Area Planning Board the aim is to reduce the harmful impacts of alcohol consumption, by encouraging a safer and healthier relationship with alcohol. The Strategy has recently been refreshed for 2025-28, and a collaborative, partnership-based approach is being undertaken to reduce the social and economic burdens linked to alcohol misuse.
 - A successful bid was made to the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Capital Grant to purchase target hardening equipment for survivors of domestic abuse. As a result, 100 security cameras have been made available this year for distribution across Gwynedd and Anglesey through our partners such as Gorwel, DASU, the Live Fear Free helpline and the Police. This year the Partnership were also involved in regional work to standardise target hardening in North Wales, in the form of a charter or minimum standards agreement. This work is ongoing and is led by the regional VAWDASV team.
 - The Partnership arranged multiple training sessions for professionals in Gwynedd that work with boys and young men on facilitating constructive dialogue around masculinity and being safe and being safe to be around. This innovative training is facilitated by Michael Conroy, with the aim of tackling misogyny, sexism and male violence.

- In September, the North Wales Society of the Blind approached the Council to raise concerns following an increase of incidents of cyclists crashing into blind people. As a result, the Partnership applied to the Welsh Government's Equality and Inclusion Grant Programme to fund signage to raise awareness and understanding of the public to encourage respectful use of our shared paths so that collisions and serious injuries can be prevented. Due to the large number of applications received, the process is taking longer than hoped.
- Following discussions with Welsh Women's Aid around supporting D/deaf survivors of domestic abuse, the Partnership arranged for BSL training through Coleg Llandrillo for Siop Gwynedd staff and our local domestic abuse organisations. The training has been arranged for 12/03/26. Feedback will be gathered from attendees to understand the impact of the training and any further requirements, and additional sessions will be arranged based on the needs identified.
- The Partnership has remained a key partner in the Clear, Hold, Build initiative in Bangor – a multi-agency approach led by North Wales Police to tackle serious organised crime in a locality through disruption, ensuring stability, and building resilience.
- We have worked with the Police to develop an initiative called Safe Zones in Bangor and Caernarfon for VAWG Prevention. This is a relatively simple but effective concept, concentrating on natural surveillance, lighting and current CCTV in specific locations. A bid was submitted to the Home Office for funding to make this project possible, and the application has been successful. The work is now progressing.
- The Partnership created new Crimestoppers Zones in Maesgeirchen and Blaenau Ffestiniog. The aim of these zones is to encourage communities to speak up about criminal activity through the charity's unique reporting service, safe in the knowledge that the information they have provided will remain a hundred per cent confidential.

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Continue to implement local projects set out in the annual plan and report to the Safer North Wales Regional Partnership Board.
- Complete implementation of the preventive projects under the Serious Violence Duty Funding.
- Continue with the DHR/SUSR cases and submit to the Home Office/Welsh Government for quality assurance.
- If successful, complete the project in collaboration with the North Wales Society of the Blind to install signage on cycle tracks.
- Complete the Safe Zones project in Bangor and Caernarfon.
- Continue implementation of Clear Hold Build in Bangor.
- Co-produce the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan with partners to ensure shared priorities and joint ownership

5. Consultation

N/A does not apply for an annual update report.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

The partnership included Gwynedd residents through an online public consultation on the extension of the Bangor PSPO in October 2025. All respondents were supportive of this.

Have you considered **collaborating**?

*All of the Partnership's work is **dependent** on collaboration – between the responsible partners (Gwynedd and Anglesey Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health) and more widely across the region (Regional Board, Police Commissioner's Office, other CSPs in the region etc). The Partnership works collaboratively to get the best value with the resources available.*

What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or worsening in the future?

Prevention and early intervention is a particular priority within the Regional Serious Violence Strategy. All the local projects we have commissioned with the Serious Violence funding are based on the intention of preventing violence.

In addition, the training organised by the Partnership is intended to prevent incidents and support professionals to intervene at an earlier stage.

CCTV is recognised as a visible deterrent to crime and is a valuable tool for the Police to have timely access to evidence of a very high standard.

How have you considered the **long term** and what will people's needs be in years to come?

The training we organised has longevity long after it has taken place. The skills and information gained is used throughout professionals' practice and shared through agencies. Recent statistics show the scale of violence against women in the country, and these numbers are not going to decrease without a change in mindset and culture by society. This is a priority for the Partnership. Due to fiscal constraints every decision we make takes into account the long term and getting the best value from the resources available.

To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

Again, the Partnership is dependent on co-operation with other public bodies in the Gwynedd and Anglesey area. Any decisions are made in partnership with other relevant agencies.

7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty

Our application to the Welsh Government's Equality and Inclusion Grant Programme is based on protecting equality characteristics, as is the work with Coleg Llandrillo to hold BSL training.

All Partnership meetings are held in Welsh. All publications and Communications are bilingual (Welsh first).

8. Next Steps

Continue with the priorities set out in Section 5 of the Report.

Additional Questions

- What progress has been made since last year?
*Progress made since last year is outlined under the heading **What has been achieved during 2025.***
- What has been done in response to the Committee's recommendation for the Partnership to add preventative work in relation to sexual crimes as a specific priority?
The Partnership recognises preventative work relating to sexual crimes as a key priority. As a result, several actions have been strengthened or expanded during the year:
- *RASASC Wales (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre) delivered 'Don't Steal My Future' sessions in schools, focusing on sexual violence awareness and supporting attitude and behaviour change amongst young people. This forms a core part of the preventative work.*
- *The 'Men at Work' training on masculinity, misogyny, sexism and male violence was delivered, giving professionals practical tools and confidence to challenge harmful attitudes and support earlier intervention.*
- *A specialist multiagency workshop was delivered on the link between domestic abuse and suicide, supporting practitioners to identify warning signs and prevent escalation. The event was oversubscribed, highlighting strong demand for preventative learning in this area.*

Delivering and expanding preventative work remains challenging without dedicated ongoing funding, as much of this activity relies on short-term or competitive grants.

- Since the funding from the Welsh Government to fund the SchoolBeat Cymru Scheme ended, what work is being done by the Police with schools?

Despite the conclusion of Welsh Government funding for the former SchoolBeat Cymru programme, North Wales Police (NWP) has reaffirmed its full commitment to supporting schools across the region through a strengthened and modernised model now known as the North Wales Police School Service.

The service is fully funded, supported and staffed by North Wales Police, ensuring continued delivery of high-quality preventative education, early-intervention support and safeguarding activity within schools.

A team of 16 dedicated School Police Officers (SPOs) now works with primary and secondary schools across North Wales. The service is overseen by two Sergeants – one in

the East and one in the West and a civilian School Service Manager, appointed in September 2025, and, who brings extensive experience from the education sector and ensures strong alignment with the Curriculum for Wales and local safeguarding priorities.

Continuing Work in Schools

The NWP School Service provides:

- *Curriculum-linked lessons on substance misuse, online safety, AI misuse, healthy relationships, knife crime, exploitation and other key safeguarding themes.*
- *Assemblies tailored to local needs, promoting respectful behaviour, community safety and pupil wellbeing.*
- *Support with school-related incidents, including low-level drugs issues, anti-social behaviour, peer conflict and online harm—using restorative approaches and early intervention.*

Since September 2025, SPOs have managed over 200 incidents and delivered hundreds of educational inputs to pupils across the region.

Responding to Emerging Risks

A key strength of the new model is the ability to respond quickly to emerging issues.

Recent examples include:

- *A Ketamine Awareness Event at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, delivered following intelligence received by NWP's Serious and Organised Crime Unit and supported by multi-agency partners. (The event was delivered as a pilot, and due to the very positive response and excellent feedback received, similar sessions will now be arranged for schools in Gwynedd.)*
- *New educational content on misuse of Artificial Intelligence, developed jointly with the NWP Cyber Crime Team and Wrexham University, enabling SPOs to deliver innovative and relevant guidance to young people.*

Stronger Partnership Working

North Wales Police is working more closely than ever with partners including the NHS, Local Education Authorities, CAMHS, universities and youth services. This ensures a comprehensive, collaborative approach to supporting young people and schools.

A Forward-Looking Vision

*North Wales Police is currently exploring the commissioning of a **bilingual Theatre in Education programme** focusing on knife crime and County Lines. The proposed programme aims to bring a trauma-informed performance and follow-up workshops to **every secondary school in North Wales**, helping pupils understand risk, exploitation, decision-making and pathways to reporting concerns.*

North Wales Police remains firmly committed to safeguarding, educating and supporting young people across the region. The new NWP School Service offers a modern, flexible and

responsive approach that continues, and enhances, the vital work previously delivered under SchoolBeat Cymru.

- Are there additional plans in place to respond to misinformation to ensure community safety and support for communities in the run up to the Senedd election in May?

There are no additional, election-specific plans to respond to misinformation ahead of the Senedd election in May. However, the Partnership's ongoing approach, outlined throughout the report, already includes strong multi-agency collaboration, regular information-sharing and joint working with the Police, Council services and regional partners, all of which help ensure accurate communication and community reassurance. Given the upcoming election period, the Partnership will remain alert to the timeline and be prepared to respond appropriately to any misinformation or emerging issues through established multi-agency arrangements.

- What evidence (data, trends and community feedback) is there to show that the Partnership's activity makes a difference to communities?

Evidence of the Partnership's impact comes from the quarterly Police data, the outcomes of funded projects and the learning generated through multi-agency activity. The regular data shared by the Police enables partners to identify issues early and respond collectively, supporting early intervention, prevention and local problem-solving. Although the Partnership does not routinely receive direct community feedback, feedback from specific Serious Violence Duty-funded projects has been positive where collected, with several initiatives continuing as a result, and the public consultation on the extension of the Bangor PSPO demonstrated strong community support. The oversubscribed domestic abuse and suicide workshop also reflects the value professionals place on this work. The Partnership contributes to wider work such as the Shared Prosperity Fund CCTV upgrades, although evaluation of these schemes is carried out by the lead agencies rather than the CSP. The Partnership continues to coordinate multi-agency activity, deliver local projects and support communities through targeted work, demonstrating a meaningful contribution to community safety in Gwynedd.

- How does the Partnership ensure accountability if it does not reach its targets?

Accountability is maintained through the Partnership's established governance arrangements, which include regular multi-agency meetings and quarterly reporting. Crime data and progress updates are shared at every meeting, enabling partners and local members to review performance, identify where targets or expectations are not being met, and agree collective actions in response. The Partnership also provides quarterly updates to the regional Safer North Wales Board and reports annually to the Council's Scrutiny Committee in line with its statutory role, ensuring external oversight and challenge. Within the CSP meetings, partners operate in a culture of open discussion and

constructive challenge, with each responsible authority remaining accountable for its own contributions and actions. In setting and reviewing objectives, the Partnership aims to focus on realistic targets that are reasonable and within partners' control.

Together, these partnership arrangements ensure that even when targets are not fully achieved, accountability is maintained through clear reporting, joint decision-making and ongoing scrutiny at both local and regional levels.

- What are the risks to delivery? How does the Partnership respond to the risks?

There are a number of factors that may present risks to delivery. Many local projects depend on short-term or competitive grant funding, which can create uncertainty and make longer-term planning more difficult. Capacity can also be a challenge, as the Partnership's work across Gwynedd and Anglesey is currently coordinated by one member of staff with limited resources. In addition, the range of work the Partnership is responsible for means that new risks, evolving crime issues and emerging priorities can arise quickly, which may place further demand on delivery.

The Partnership responds to these risks through strong multi-agency collaboration and a shared understanding of local challenges, which allows partners to identify issues, agree actions and respond collectively. Regional structures such as the Safer North Wales Board and the Regional Safeguarding Board provide additional oversight and coordinated support.

Background Information

The Serious Violence Duty - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance](#)

Regional Strategy Serious Violence [Serious Violence Duty | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales](#)

Domestic Homicide Review guidelines - [DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf](#)

Welsh Government SUSR guidance [Single Unified Safeguarding Review: statutory guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

Welsh Government Suicide Prevention Delivery Plan [Suicide prevention and self-harm strategy: delivery plan 2025 to 2028 | GOV.WALES](#) and Strategy [gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/understanding-suicide-prevention-self-harm-strategy.pdf](#)

Appendices

The Partnership's 2025-26 Plan.



Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2025-26

Background

The Community Safety Partnership is a group of organisations that collaborate to consider how best to address crime and disorder. The requirement to have such a partnership in place on a local level is part of the law, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Several organisations have a part to play within the partnership, including the local authority, the police, the probation service, the fire and rescue service and the health board.

We have responsibilities under the 1998 Act for a number of areas, including – reducing crime and disorder, reducing re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. In addition, we have a duty to commission Domestic Homicide reviews under certain circumstances.

Our plan will deliver against the priorities within the Safer North Wales Strategy 2025-28, namely:

1. Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour
2. Tackling violent crime
3. Tackling serious organised crime
4. Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety

2025-26 Programme of work

#	Actions	Outputs	Outcomes	Responsibility	Timescale	Strategic Priority
1	<p>Meet our responsibilities under the new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) – serious violence is now an explicit statutory priority for CSPs. A regional strategy has been developed for North Wales.</p> <p>Like last year, we will coordinate local spend of Home Office SVD Funding on several preventative interventions in Anglesey and Gwynedd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwynedd Schools project to empower their response to reducing and preventing serious violence and reducing school exclusions. • Increased Youth Provision in Gwynedd over the Summer to reduce ASB. • RASASC Don't Steal My Future project to raise awareness about sexual violence and healthy relationships. • Work via Anglesey's Youth Service to reduce Knife crime through informal learning and education and establishing a youth café in Amlwch as targeted support. • Evaluation of Anglesey's Early Intervention Services to examine the experiences of a specific cohort of young people to establish whether current arrangements are sufficient. • A specific public awareness campaign with Crimestoppers following serious concerns about the link between Vape shops and the exploitation of children. 	<p>Based on 4 priorities, continue responding to Regional Strategy published in January 2024</p> <p>Business case submitted to the OPCC - June 2025</p> <p>Business case approved by OPCC – July 2025</p> <p>Projects to be completed and evaluated by March 2026</p>	<p>Statutory responsibilities under the Duty are met locally</p> <p>Actions resulting from the strategy are delivered and reviewed</p> <p>SVD implemented to prevent and reduce serious violence across the region</p> <p>Local interventions focused on prevention delivered locally through SVD funding to address the root causes of serious violence</p>	<p>CSP / task and finish group to coordinate local spend / SVD Regional Steering Group</p>	<p>Throughout 2025/26</p>	<p>Priority 2.4 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>
2	<p>We will ensure that responsibilities placed upon the CSP in relation to undertaking Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Homicide Reviews (DARDR) will be appropriately completed. Since the launch on 1st October 2024, any new reviews commissioned will be</p>	<p>Commission review panels, chairs, and authors for the reviews, liaise with local agencies as required</p>	<p>The responsibilities placed upon the CSP in relation to undertaking DARDR reviews are appropriately completed</p>	<p>CSP / North Wales Regional Safeguarding Board</p>	<p>Throughout 2025/26</p>	<p>Priority 2.3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>

	<p>under the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process.</p> <p>This means ensuring that appropriate review panels, chairs and authors are commissioned, and that final review reports are submitted and accepted by the Home Office (Welsh Government for SUSRs) before publication.</p>	<p>Undertake the DHR, monitor progress and learning, and submit to the Home Office/ Welsh Government</p>	<p>Action plans in place to respond to recommendations - lessons learned to improve services in the future and safeguard victims</p>			
3	<p><u>Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)</u></p> <p>Increase awareness of reporting domestic abuse and access to services and safety for victims</p> <p>Increase awareness of Bystander Intervention, healthy relationships and prevention</p> <p>Allocate target hardening funded through the Welsh Government's Capital Grant</p> <p>Develop and pilot materials to hold DHR/DARDR Learning Events for our staff based on the recommendations from previous reviews</p>	<p>Continually promote Live Fear Free Helpline, Clare's Law and Gorwel</p> <p>Continually raising awareness of themes arising from DHR learning, including – older people as victims, tech-facilitated abuse, filial abuse, rurality and suicide related to domestic abuse</p> <p>Mark the annual White Ribbon campaign in November</p> <p>Arranging training sessions for staff such as Bystander Intervention, Men at Work, DHR Learning Events and promoting Welsh Women's Aid training</p>	<p>The profile of domestic abuse, the situation locally, and the help available is raised</p> <p>Improved understanding of early intervention</p> <p>High risk victims provided with target hardening</p>	<p>CSP and relevant partners</p>	<p>Throughout 2025/26</p>	<p>Priority 2.3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>
4	<p>Monitor the progress of Ask and Act training - National Training Framework as required by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>Understand current picture of progress</p> <p>Collaborate with the Regional Training Development Officer and relevant training departments to monitor and improve progress</p>	<p>Improved awareness in Local Authorities of domestic violence to enable effective referral to support services</p> <p>Statutory requirements for Ask and Act are met</p>	<p>Training departments in both counties</p> <p>Regional training officer</p>	<p>Throughout 2025/26</p>	<p>Priority 2.3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>
5	<p>Development of a Women's Safety at Night Charter for the night time economy of North Wales, to encourage businesses to make a commitment and enable systemic change for prioritising the safety of women</p>	<p>Development of charter and promotional materials</p> <p>Engagement with local businesses and a launch event</p>	<p>North Wales businesses invited to take a zero-tolerance stance on the harassment of women</p>	<p>CSP in collaboration with Wrexham County</p>	<p>Throughout 2025/26</p>	<p>Priority 1.3 and 2.2 of the Safer North</p>

			Positive change to women's experiences at night across North Wales	Borough Council		Wales Strategy
6	<p>Deliver on statutory Prevent Duty – this is overseen by the CSP</p> <p>Update our arrangements as necessary in conjunction with the Home Office Regional Adviser</p> <p>Develop and implement bespoke face to face training package for staff</p> <p>Implementation following the successful application to the Prevent Radicalization Fund in Anglesey - hold training sessions for those in the 3rd sector who support young people and vulnerable individuals</p>	<p>Update regional Prevent Plan to reflect current risk</p> <p>Respond to annual Assurance Process with the Home Office – complete self assessment and respond to recommendations</p> <p>Develop and implement a training plan and venue hire policy</p> <p>Continue as proactive members of the Regional Prevent Delivery Group</p>	<p>Contribute to the regional CONTEST Board Action Plan</p> <p>Contribute to the Home Office's Prevent outcomes of reducing radicalisation</p> <p>Improve awareness throughout both local authorities of the principles of the Prevent Duty and how to make referrals</p> <p>Early intervention for individuals susceptible to radicalisation</p>	CSP / Local Authority relevant departments/Regional Prevent Delivery Group	Throughout 2025/26	<p>The Home Office's Prevent Scheme</p> <p>Regional CONTEST Board</p> <p>Priority 4.3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>
7	<p>Targeting problem ASB areas:</p> <p>through our powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – through enforcement of the current PSPOs and undertaking ASB Case Reviews</p> <p>Multi-agency problem solving approaches to any issues as they arise</p> <p>Consultation of extending Bangor PSPO which is due to expire November 2025</p> <p>Accessing targeted funding i.e. for additional CCTV/improved lighting</p>	<p>Monitoring of enforcement to understand impact of PSPOs</p> <p>Hotspot areas identified through Police data and any concerns brought to our attention</p> <p>Consultation with the public and relevant partners</p> <p>Evidence led bids submitted when opportunities arise</p>	<p>Specific ASB problems targeted</p> <p>Victims put at the heart of responses to persistent ASB</p> <p>Reduction in ASB</p>	CSP / Police / relevant bodies of ASB 2014 Act	Throughout 2025-26	Priority 1.1 and 4 of the Safer North Wales Strategy
8	<p>Identify emerging Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and linked Serious Violence threats and work together to provide an effective response to such threats</p>	<p>Regional SOC Group in place for Gwynedd and Anglesey – for delivery of 4P Strategy and identification of vulnerable locations, individuals and groups</p>	<p>Preventing the operation of serious and organised criminals in Gwynedd and Anglesey</p> <p>Reducing incidents of serious violence linked to county lines and the drug market</p>	CSP / Regional SOC Group	Throughout 2025-26	Priority 3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy

9	Agencies taking a joined-up partnership approach for the implementation of the Clear Hold Build initiative in Bangor to deliver and sustain reductions in SOC and related crime in the area	<p>Clear phase implemented by NWP</p> <p>Multiagency workshop to develop 4P Plan – June 2025</p> <p>Hold / Build phases to be implemented with partners and the wider community</p> <p>Community led approach to identify long term solutions</p>	<p>Reducing crime, the fear of crime, regeneration and renewing in Bangor</p> <p>Local response to SOC is sustainable and moves beyond conventional enforcement tactics</p>	CSP / North Wales Police / CHB Working Groups	Throughout 2025-26	Priority 3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy
10	Pilot and implement bespoke SOC training package for partners including LA staff across departments and beyond	<p>Develop training package – Q2</p> <p>Pilot with managers/team leaders – Q2</p> <p>Arrangement and delivery of sessions for 150+ staff members initially with wider roll out possible – Q3 + Q4</p>	<p>Raising awareness of serious organised crime: what to look out for, what role our partners play and how we can all make a difference</p> <p>Coordination and proactive engagement by partners to protect our communities from the threat of SOC</p>	CSP / NWP	Throughout 2025-26	Priority 3 of the Safer North Wales Strategy
11	<p>Actions to prevent suicide and self harm, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act in accordance with the North Wales Plan and report on this based on individual plans for both Counties • Permanent members of the Regional Forum • Attend and contribute to the subgroups to respond to specific issues 	<p>The Welsh Government's new strategy was published this year</p> <p>Forum meets quarterly</p>	<p>Prevention through a multi-agency response</p> <p>Ensuring knowledgeable and compassionate communities, empowered through knowledge and awareness</p> <p>Support and services that meet needs</p> <p>Timely responses to suicides and compassionate support available to all those affected</p>	CSP / Regional Forum	Throughout 2025-26	<p>Welsh Government Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Delivery Plan 2025-28</p> <p>Priority 4 of the Safer North Wales Strategy</p>
12	<p>Delivery of the new North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2025-28 which has the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of a safe and sensible approach to alcohol consumption 	<p>Refreshed Strategy published June 2025</p> <p>Delivery Group to meet quarterly</p>	Safer and healthier relationship with alcohol encouraged through a collaborative, partnership-based approach	Regional Preventing and Reducing Harm Forum / APB	Throughout 2025-26	Priority 1.3 Safer North Wales Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of families and wider communities from adverse impacts of alcohol • Reducing the impact of alcohol related harms • Producing robust working relationships and referral pathways between service providers 		<p>Harmful impacts of alcohol consumption reduced across North Wales</p> <p>Public health improved</p>			Welsh Government Substance Misuse Delivery Plan
13	Delivery of the Regional Substance Misuse Plan through the Area Planning Board (APB)	<p>2025-26 Annual Plan developed based on Welsh Government key priorities</p> <p>Monitored at the APB Executive and updates provided to CSP's</p>	<p>Harms associated with substance misuse are reduced</p> <p>Health and well-being of individuals and communities are improved</p> <p>More supportive and inclusive environment created for those affected by substance misuse</p>	APB	Throughout 2025-26	Welsh Government Substance Misuse Delivery Plan
14	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) will continue to present the Phoenix youth referral programme to address ASB / behavioural problems / low self esteem	<p>Continue to present the intervention programme in the region</p> <p>Young People given the opportunity to learn new skills, interact as part of a team and discover talents</p>	<p>Young people educated about the importance of fire safety and the consequences of deliberate fires and hoax calls</p> <p>Increased confidence and interpersonal skills for young people</p> <p>A reduction in fires/ASB</p> <p>A reduction in the number of repeat offenders</p>	NWFRS	Throughout 2025-26.	Priority 1 in the Safer North Wales Strategy

Safer North Wales Strategy

2025-28

Vision and Purpose:

“Ensuring North Wales is and feels like a safe and inclusive place to live, work in and visit”

The purpose of the Safer North Wales Partnership Board is to work together to achieve this vision, by tackling and preventing crime and disorder across the region. This strategy sets out our priorities for the next 4 years.

Strategic Aims and Objectives:

Strategic Priority	Objectives
Priority 1: Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	1.1 Work in partnership, using solution focussed approaches, to identify and tackle issues of crime and Anti-Social behaviour across North Wales, accessing funding opportunities where appropriate, and ensuring early intervention remains a priority.
	1.2 Educate and build confidence amongst communities and businesses to report and remain protected from cybercrime, scams and fraudulent behaviour.
	1.3 Ensure the day and night time economy across North Wales provides a safe and supportive environment to prevent and tackle incidences of alcohol/substance related violence, with focus on both victims and perpetrators.

Priority 2: Tackling Serious Violence	2.1 Continue to respond as a region to the Serious Violence Duty and oversee delivery of the 4x North Wales Without Violence Priorities
	2.2 Supporting and Enhancing prevention and early intervention around violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence
	2.3 Promoting contextual safeguarding to work with children and young people vulnerable to exploitation and/or modern slavery
	2.4 Identifying and implementing improvements, best practice and innovation as a partnership to serious violence
	2.5 Building a preventative approach in North Wales through an understanding of risk, adverse childhood experiences and trauma
Priority 3: Tackling Serious Organised Crime	3.1 Utilise the 3x Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Partnership groups to agree and execute any short, medium or long term actions to tackle the threat surrounding SOC, as set out within the North Wales Community Profiles

	3.2 Oversee the partnership “Clear, Hold, Build” approaches across North Wales, ensuring all relevant partners (both statutory and third sector) are engaged within the process at the appropriate times.
Priority 4: Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety.	4.1 Engage with communities and partner agencies to understand and address the prevalence and the impact of hate crime and ensure effective measures are in place for reporting such incidences with confidence.
	4.2 Build sustainable and meaningful relationships with seldom heard communities to ensure confidence in raising concerns around crime, community and road safety related issues.
	4.3 Focus on strengthening stakeholder understanding and capacity, to support young people who are at risk of being influenced by extreme narrative of hate that have been identified as a national and regional concern.
	4.4 Support and contribute to local, regional and national campaigns surrounding crime, community and road safety related issues to raise awareness, build confidence and reduce fear of crime.

Prevention and early intervention: Along with addressing emerging issues and problems based on regional and local intelligence, the partnership will focus heavily on taking a preventative approach to all priority areas, looking at how early and primary intervention can be utilised to prevent pathways to offending or partaking in Anti-Social Behaviour, and/or being victimised.

Influencing documents and evidence

The Safer North Wales Strategy has been produced in conjunction with the following strategies and evidence:

North Wales Strategic Assessment and Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

North Wales Police produce the annual strategic assessments, in partnership with other organisations, to report on the threat and risk posed by significant areas of crime, disorder and emerging issues impacting the North Wales. The aim is to best inform decision makers for strategic decisions and priority setting.

North Wales Police and Crime Plan 2025-28

The plan sets out a vision to ensure communities are safe, victims and vulnerable people feel supported, crime and reoffending are low, and people have confidence in policing and the criminal justice system. The following areas have been set out as priority:

- A local Neighbourhood Policing Presence
- Supporting Victims, Communities and Businesses
- A Fair and Effective Criminal Justice System

North Wales without Violence Strategy

The "North Wales without Violence" strategy aims to create a region where violence is significantly reduced and individuals feel safe and empowered. This strategy, underpinned by a comprehensive needs assessment and the Serious Violence Duty, focuses on preventing and reducing serious violence through a multi-agency approach. The strategy prioritizes supporting vulnerable individuals, including those affected by violence against women, domestic abuse, sexual violence, exploitation, and modern slavery.

North Wales Community Profiles

The profiles are designed to inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authorities and other relevant partners such as Education, Health and Housing of the threat from Serious Organised Crime and the impact it is having on local communities. Three separate documents are produced annually for Wrexham & Flintshire, Ynys Mon & Gwynedd and Conwy & Denbighshire.

North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy (2024-27)

The strategy involves a multi-agency approach to addressing vulnerability and exploitation in North Wales, covering the agendas of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and Modern Slavery.

Delivery plans

The priorities and objectives set out within this strategy provide a framework for and will monitor local Community Safety Partnership delivery plans, however the CSPs will be responsible for agreeing their own specific actions in response to local need, and the statutory responsibilities to discharge the relevant sections of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 continue to sit with local CSPs.

. North Wales CSPs:

- Wrexham CSP
- Flintshire CSP
- Conwy & Denbighshire CSP
- Ynys Mon & Gwynedd CSP

The following plans will also be considered by the board in terms of specific actions that feed in to our priorities and objectives:

- Community Cohesion Plans
- Serious Organised Crime 4p partnership plans

Governance and representation

The governance and membership of the SNWPB are referred to in the terms of reference for the board.

Communications

The Chair of the Safer North Wales Board will attend quarterly meetings with the chairs of the other strategic partnership boards (Safeguarding, Contest, Justice, Vulnerability & Exploitation and Area Planning Board), to communicate key themes which may be cross-cutting and to avoid duplication and/or silo working.

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19/03/2026
TITLE	Waste Collection and Recycling Services
REASON TO SCRUTINISE	The Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
AUTHOR	Roland Thomas
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Craig ab Iago

1. Why it needs scrutiny?

- 1.1 An update on the work programme was scrutinised, along with matters requiring attention, in regard to Waste and Recycling at the Committee meeting on 12 September 2024.
- 1.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025-30 (draft) before the Cabinet considers its adoption. The strategy will seek to increase the level of recycling in the county to meet the national target of 70%, including consideration of actions such as green bin capacity/collection frequency and looking at potential enforcement action.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- 2.1 As a specific set of questions have been put forward by the Committee, this report responds to those questions, in the context of the progress made against the work programme.
 - What progress has been made on the work programme?
 - Progress and challenges in achieving the target of recycling 70% of waste
 - What are the barriers/opportunities in relation to delivery?
 - What is the latest position in terms of the overspend?
 - What steps have been taken to realise the savings plans?
 - What arrangements are in place to speed up the delivery of new recycling bins? Is there consideration to establish a system to enable residents to pick up equipment from Council sites?
 - What are the arrangements in terms of damaged equipment? Is it the Waste and Recycling Service or the Ardal Ni Team that responds to cases of damaged equipment and residents not collecting them?
 - Is there a limit to the number of new boxes individuals can order in a certain period?
 - What kind of enforcement measures are being considered? How is fairness intended to be ensured in the implementation of enforcement arrangements?
 - What factors are considered when looking at changing the frequency of collection?
 - What are the key risks facing the Council in trying to meet the target of recycling 70% of waste? What risks are beyond the Council's control?
 - What is the latest in terms of the pilot using hessian bags instead of the 'Cartgylchu'? Is consideration being given to running the pilot in more rural areas of the County?

3. Background / Context

3.1 What progress has been made on the work programme?

3.1.1 This section provides an update on the work programme submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2024.

3.1.2 As part of the changes to the Council's corporate senior management structure in 2022, the Cabinet decided that the responsibility for collecting and treatment of waste and recycling should be transferred from the Highways and Municipal Department to the Environment Department.

3.1.3 The Waste and Recycling Services were formally transferred to the Environment Department in October 2022, with full responsibility for the budget transferring in 2023.

Four main priorities were identified for attention:

- Improve customer care and handling of enquiries/complaints,
- Address high sickness levels,
- Achieving the national recycling target of 70%,
- Management of over-expenditure.

3.1.4 In January 2023, a report was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee outlining the Department's plans to continue to transition and transform the services, responding to the above four priorities. This section is presented alongside the work programme in question. The work programme, together with relevant comments, is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

3.1.5 It is not appropriate to provide a percentage of the work that has been completed compared to what has been partially realised, as the different elements are not comparable. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that most of the work is already underway. It should be remembered that the work programme is not a one-off event, but an ongoing process that takes time to complete.

3.1.6 The work programme for the next phase is currently being developed.

3.2 G1: Reviewing the working arrangements of waste and recycling collectors

3.2.1 The operational structure of the South Gwynedd (Meirionnydd and Dwyfor) and North Gwynedd (Arfon) areas is now in place and functioning effectively. The Bartec 'in-cab' system is operational for recycling and residual waste collections, and has contributed significantly to improving back-office organisation and management. The system enables the Department to increase efficiency by dynamically adjusting routes according to day-to-day operational needs.

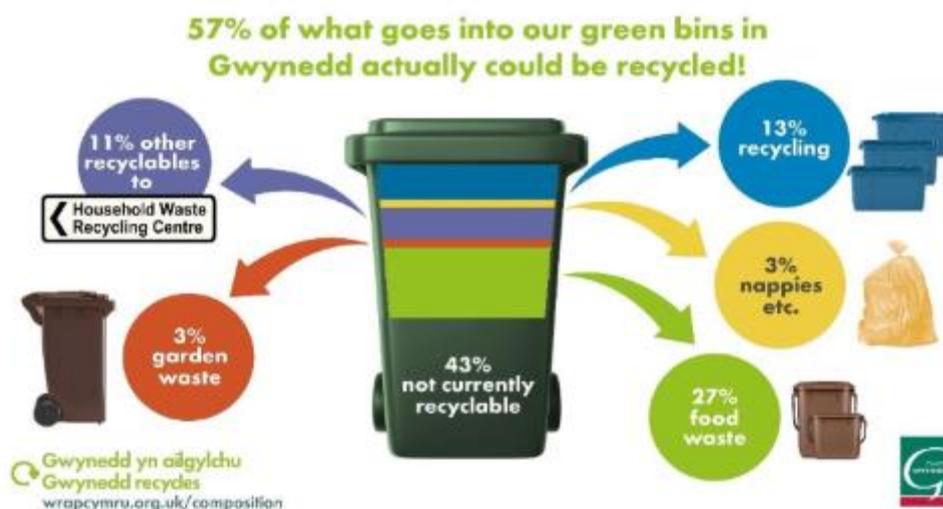
3.2.2 Upgrades to the camera system on the collection vehicles have also improved visibility of the crews' work in the field, strengthening health and safety and improving the ability to respond to complaints. Crews report issues such as bins not set-out or bins that are too full, and if a customer gets in touch, the call is immediately directed to the depot where the information on the system can be checked immediately and the issue resolved at once.

3.2.3 Work is currently underway to expand the use of the Bartec system to include commercial waste collections, garden waste, nappies and to support bin distribution. In addition, collaborative work continues to ensure full integration between the Bartec system and the Council's customer management system (Ffos), strengthening the flow of information and improving customer response.

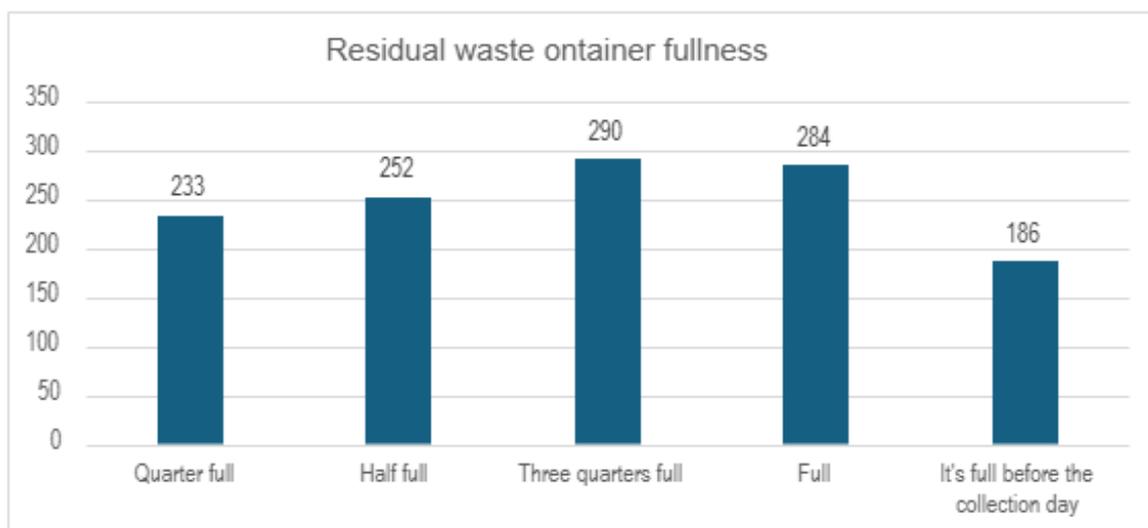
3.3 G2: Review arrangements for collecting recycling, including expected increase in recycling levels in future

3.3.1 Although Gwynedd was one of the first authorities in Wales to adopt residual waste collection every three weeks, the current weekly capacity of the green bin is now considered to be too large. Compared to the rest of the Welsh authorities, the size of the weekly residual bin is higher; only three authorities - Caerphilly, Swansea and Wrexham - currently have a higher residual bin capacity than Gwynedd.

3.3.2 The infographic below shows that recycling materials are being placed in the green bin, and recycling officers are of the opinion that the bin now acts as a "skip" for many households.



3.3.3 In the consultation on the Strategy, residents were asked how full their residual bin was at the end of the three-week period. As the graph below shows, of the 1,245 responses, 62% indicated that their bin was about $\frac{3}{4}$ full or less, but 15% indicated that they were unable to cope with the current capacity.

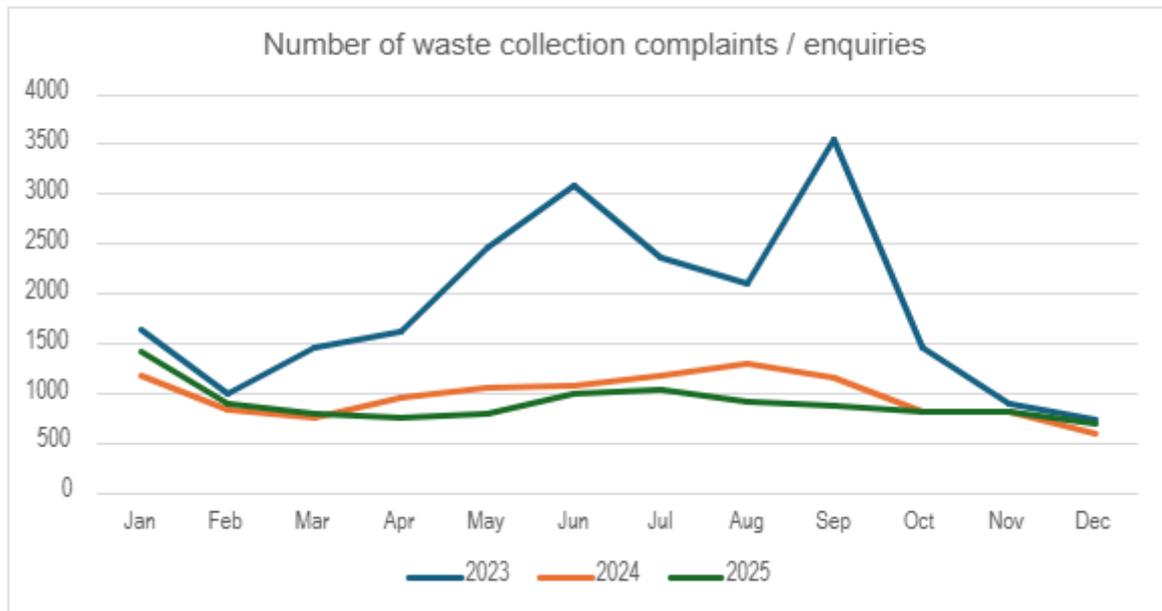


3.3.4 When asked during the consultation whether residents were willing to accept less frequent collections, 59% expressed their opposition to any reduction in frequency. Nevertheless, about half of the people noted that their bin was full on collection day. In terms of changing the bin size, only 30% of respondents were unwilling to consider this possibility.

- 3.3.5 An external company has been commissioned through WRAP Cymru to undertake an initial assessment of the frequency of collections, including an analysis of weekly capacity and the potential impact on resources and recycling rates. The results of this review are currently being assessed.
- 3.3.6 We have started trialling the use of hessian sacks for recycling materials. To date, it has been piloted in around 1,500 homes across three routes in Arfon, to assess their effectiveness in different contexts. Locations included Llanberis and Nant Peris, parts of the centre of Caernarfon, Waunfawr and part of Bontnewydd.
- 3.3.7 WRAP Cymru provided support to procure the sacks and to set up monitoring arrangements. The trial of sacks was chosen because of their higher capacity, flexibility, and the significantly lower cost of purchasing and distributing them compared to recycling boxes.
- 3.3.8 The main finding of the initial trial was a modest increase in the participation rate in recycling. The highest level of satisfaction with the sacks was recorded among residents of flats and terraced houses. Of the responses to the survey, 78% of the participants were willing to use sacks for additional materials.
- 3.3.9 The main messages of the responses were the need to improve the design of the sacks, address the perception that they tend to be lost in windy weather, and understand the influence of residual bin size on recycling performance. As part of the consultation on the Waste Strategy which took place at the end of 2025 (see paragraph 3.12), a specific question was asked about the use of sacks for certain materials. Of the responses, 35% were willing to use sacks to recycle cardboard and paper, and 32% were willing to use them for plastics and cans.
- 3.3.10 Over half of Welsh local authorities use sacks or bags for recycling, with an average recycling rate of 69.7% among those authorities, compared to an average of 67.5% among authorities using a 'trolibox' system. However, the sample is too small to enable definitive conclusions, and other factors - such as the size of the residual bin and the frequency of collections - can influence the results.
- 3.3.11 A further pilot scheme is planned to take place in different areas of Gwynedd later this year.

3.4 G3: Review of complaints procedure.

- 3.4.1 By investing in technology and redeploying responsibility for collection complaints to the depot, the number of complaints has decreased significantly over the last three years. This indicator is regularly monitored by the Department, and it remains one of the main performance measures discussed at performance challenge meetings. The graph below shows the continued decline in complaint numbers over this period. While the trend now appears to have stabilised, the current level equates to complaints representing about 0.2% of work; i.e., of the approximately 19,000 containers collected daily throughout the County, with around 40 complaints received.



3.4.2 The expectation is that the full integration of the Bartec system will contribute to a further reduction in the number of complaints. However, the main element in improving the quality of the data is the ability to clearly identify which complaints are Cyngor Gwynedd's responsibility and which are not - for example, cases where the bin was not put out on the day of collection.

3.5 G4: Data that is useful and regularly available - work completed (see appendix 1).

3.6 G5: Change behaviours to reduce the level of residual waste and maximise recycling

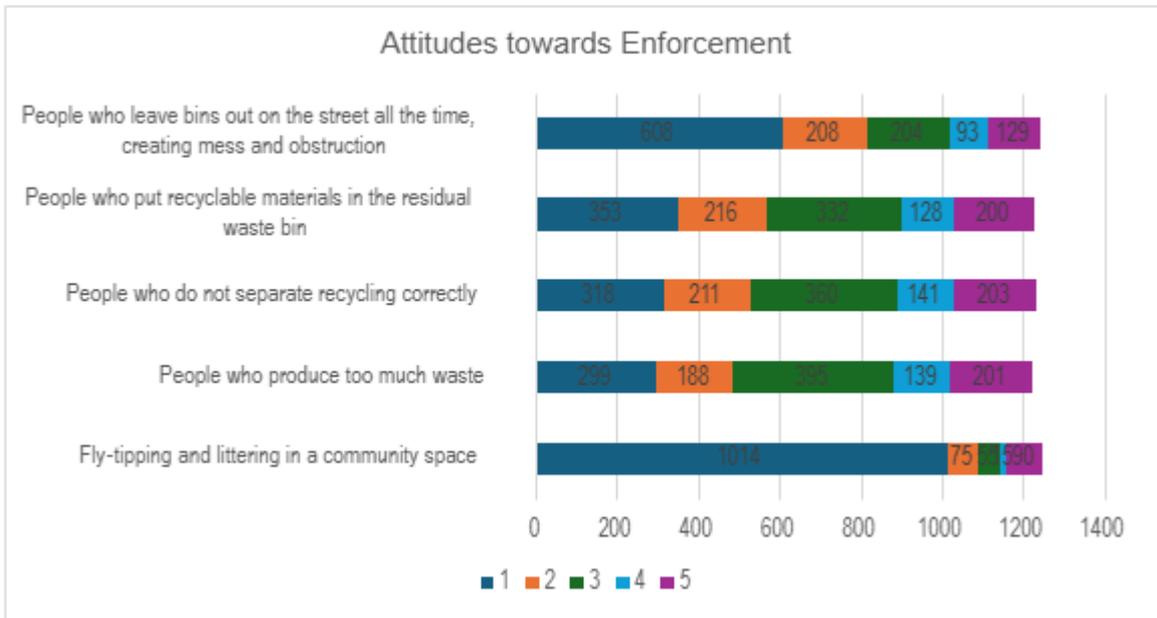
3.6.1 The work of the recycling officers is highly appreciated by the public. However, it should be noted that there are only four officers operating across Gwynedd, so their work is part of a wider behaviour change effort to contribute to achieving the 70% recycling target. However, it is recognised that there is a need to develop a more effective programme to engage with the public and bring about a significant change in residents' behaviour. Officers make a valuable contribution by supporting individuals to recycle correctly and in solving problems related to bins in specific homes or areas; nevertheless, there is a need to move away from the idea that "problem-solving" is their primary role.

3.6.2 It should also be noted that officers are already organising several proactive activities, such as the food campaign in Harlech, contributing to students' freshers week, promoting "More than Recycling" week, and working together to improve the image of bins in areas in the centre of Bangor.

3.6.3 The consultation on the Strategy has highlighted several potential areas for development. One of the lowest scores recorded in the engagement-related part was the way we share information through traditional letters. With the support of WRAP Cymru, letters will soon be sent to all homes in Gwynedd, with practical information about the recycling collections. At the same time, 80% of respondents indicated that they use the Gwynedd app or the Council's website, highlighting a clear opportunity to strengthen our digital means of communication - particularly through social media channels.

3.6.4 We intend to work with a charity to ensure that our messages about recycling reach more schools across the County.

- 3.6.5 The information collected by the collection crews through Bartec also allows us to identify households that need extra support - such as those that produce a large amount of waste or do not recycle correctly.
- 3.6.6 Our aim is to encourage and persuade residents to improve their recycling practices, but it must be recognised that there is a limit to the effectiveness of voluntary methods. In some cases, consideration will need to be given to the use of enforcement methods. The Council has enforcement powers, such as in relation to keeping bins on the street or misusing bins. During the consultation, the public's views on the use of enforcement were sought, and the results are set out below. A score of 1 indicates strong agreement with the statement.



3.6.7 In terms of recycling centres, we have started to open bin-bags and extend the work of reuse. While this led to some dissatisfaction at first, it is believed that explaining the rationale behind the change has been key to ensuring wider acceptance. The early trials have shown a reduction in residual waste. We also collaborate with local charities to reuse furniture, children's toys, and second-hand paint is available for anyone who needs it. In addition, an application has been submitted to the Welsh Government for funding to upgrade and improve the recycling centres at Dolgellau and Pwllheli.

3.7 G6: Waste assets plan

3.7.1 One of the six key objectives in the Strategy is to ensure infrastructure that is fit for the future. Accordingly, the Department intends to invest in the redevelopment of the Harlech and Caernarfon waste transfer and processing sites, to ensure that they can cope with an increase in the number and types of materials received in the coming years. This work is also essential to ensure compliance with current licensing requirements, as well as maintaining the quality of recycled materials so that the optimum income can be secured.

3.7.2 We have been working with WRAP Cymru and Local Partnerships for some time, and initial plans have now been received. However, it is important to recognise that significant investment will be required to fully realise these plans.

3.7.3 The consultation on the Waste Strategy showed that 76% of residents consider waste processing within Gwynedd to be important.

3.8 G7: Manage overspend [stemming mainly from workforce sickness and overtime]

- 3.8.1 Ensuring control over overspend was one of the top priorities when the Waste and Recycling Service was transferred to the Environment Department. At the time, overspend ranged between £1.5 million and £1.7 million. The Revenue Budget 2025/26 - End of November 2025 Review, submitted to Cabinet on 20 January 2026, states that the objective for 2025/26 is an overspend position of £617k. The report noted that "restructuring and the introduction of changes to the field continues with a number of steps involved in the process, with some of the steps slipping to 2026/27 and therefore a number of savings schemes slipping as a result of the restructuring challenges".
- 3.8.2 As well as managing the level of overspend, £1.45 million savings schemes have been identified for Waste and Recycling Services as part of the Council's Savings Strategy. The full list of these savings is included in Appendix 2, along with comments on their current status.
- 3.8.3 One of the main requirements of the original brief was to ensure better control over sickness levels. At the time, sickness not only had a negative impact on workforce morale, but also created additional costs for the service by having to pay for supply workers or overtime to complete route. At times, sickness levels were so high that it was not possible to secure a vehicle for each route. Since the introduction of Bartec, sickness has not led to the cancellation of routes. The graph below shows the improvement in sickness levels in 2025–26. For comparison, waste service workers lost 1.6 days of work per month due to sickness, compared to an average of 1 day per month across other Council services.



- 3.8.4 Through negotiations with the workforce and the unions, it was agreed to continue with the task and finish arrangements. However, unlike the previous procedure where the arrangement was considered on an individual basis, the emphasis is now on a collective task and finish arrangement. This change is believed to have contributed to a better team atmosphere and led to a significant reduction in overtime levels.

3.9 G8: Ensure there is firm control of contracts with other parties that receive our waste

- 3.9.1 We have reviewed several agreements and have been able to secure savings as a result of this work. However, as the existing assets are not fit for purpose, it is difficult to carry out all aspects of the work in-house at the moment. With the right investment, there will be better opportunities to process more of our own materials in the future.

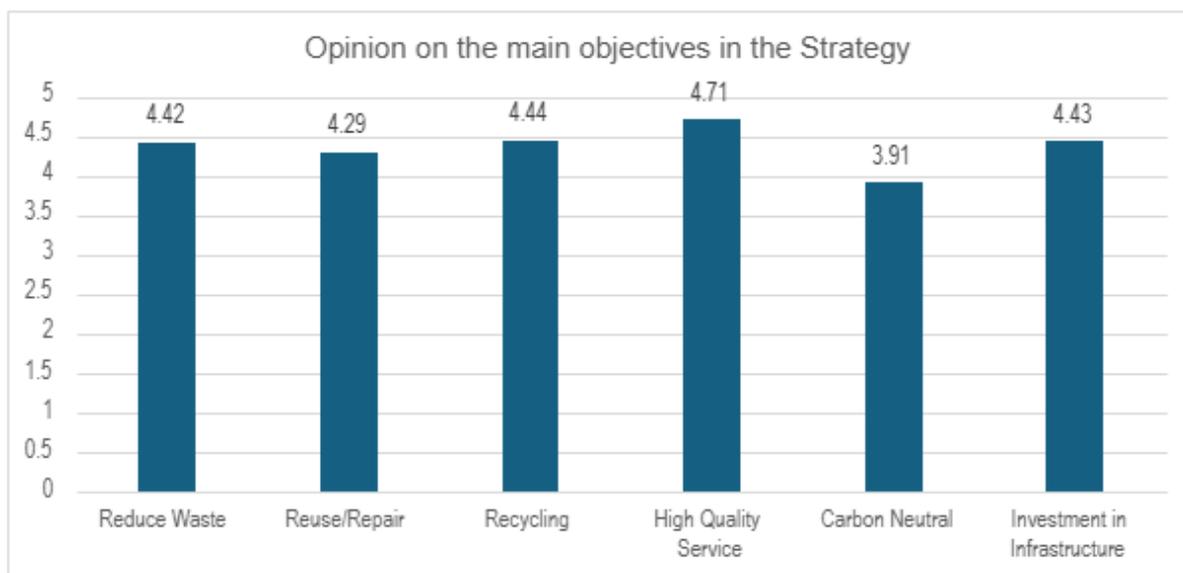
- 3.9.2 Ensuring a sustainable source of income through commercial waste and holiday homes is vital to the service and has been identified as one of the main risks on the Department's risk register. In April 2024, the Welsh Government introduced Workplace Recycling Regulations, imposing legal requirements on businesses to separate waste in the same way as households. As a result, Cyngor Gwynedd, as a collection operator, was required to collect waste and recycling materials separately from businesses for the first time. It must be recognised that the implementation of this system for commercial waste has been a significant challenge and has highlighted fundamental weaknesses in our systems and business arrangements.
- 3.9.3 The Commercial Waste Service's historic arrangements have resulted in an operational split between the collection element and the contract-setting element. Following Ffordd Gwynedd's review of the service, it was concluded that the current arrangements created operational barriers, led to tension, and limited efficiency.
- 3.9.4 Although a new system has been procured to improve the efficiency of the back office, the current arrangements in terms of the distribution of work between the two services continue to create difficulties, lack of accountability and uncertainty around managerial responsibilities. As a result, the Department is unable to take full advantage of opportunities in the market and loses potential to increase sources of income.
- 3.9.5 The restructuring of the service will provide an opportunity to address many of these barriers and to strengthen operational and business arrangements.
- 3.10 G9: Communication Plan - This was designed after the adoption of the Waste Strategy.**
- 3.10.1 While there is a work programme for the recycling officers' team involved in communication and behaviour change, this area has been identified as a priority in the draft Waste Strategy. It is therefore intended to develop and implement a new communication plan which will respond to the findings of the public survey and intertwine with the main objectives of the Strategy.
- 3.11 G10: Health and Safety Arrangements**
- 3.11.1 Two specific officers are responsible for overseeing health and safety issues within the waste services. The tragic accident that took place in Conwy last year has highlighted the true nature of the dangers associated with the industry. We have invested in cameras, which are an important tool for monitoring the safety of crews, and we have also recently started carrying out risk assessments on all circuits.
- 3.11.2 It is unclear within the current structure who is directly responsible for the health and safety of the service, and as a result there is uncertainty about accountability.
- 3.11.3 The lack of compatibility between formal accountability and practical implementation poses a significant organisational risk, undermining the ability to respond quickly and effectively to health and safety issues. The restructuring of the service will offer an opportunity to address these barriers and strengthen the governance arrangements.

3.12 G11: Establish a firm strategy for Waste and Recycling.

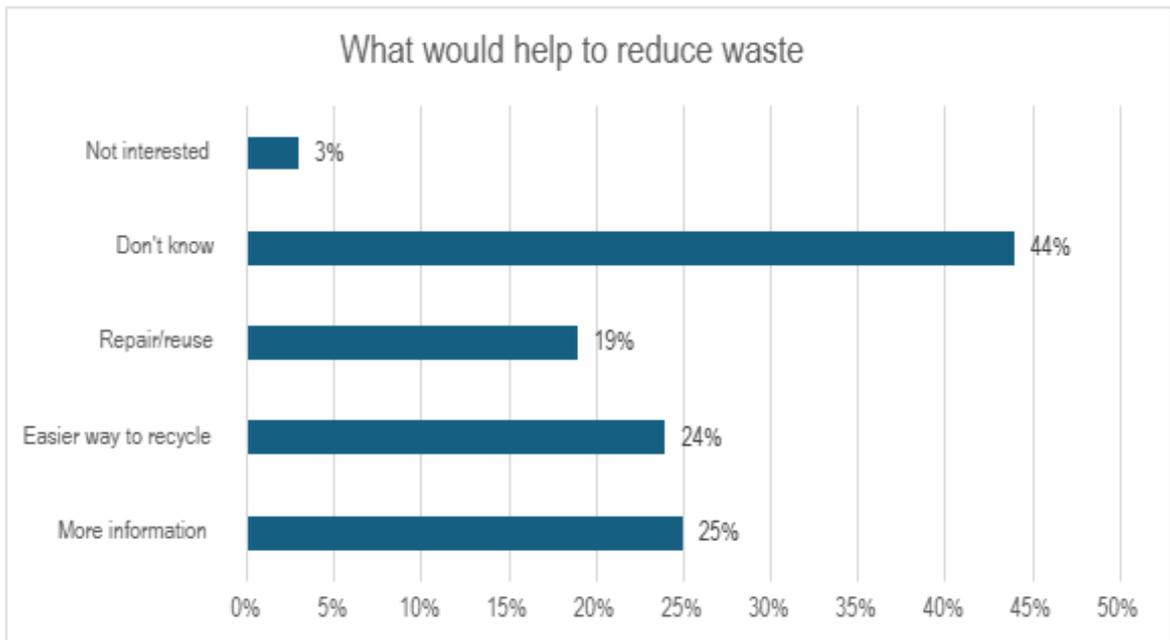
3.12.1 Cyngor Gwynedd held a public consultation on the draft Waste Strategy between October and November 2025. The consultation consisted of 52 questions gathering views and information from the public. A total of 1,266 responses were received. While the analysis is ongoing, the following presents the main results and the main initial findings.

3.12.2 There was a representation of responses from across Gwynedd (Appendix 3), and the age profile was quite representative of the local population. However, a trend of under-reporting was noted by respondents under the age of 57, and over-reporting by residents aged 57 and older. A higher proportion of responses were received from women compared to the wider population in Gwynedd. There was a response from 29 elected members, although there is a possibility that some of them also responded as members of the public. The level of response from businesses was particularly low.

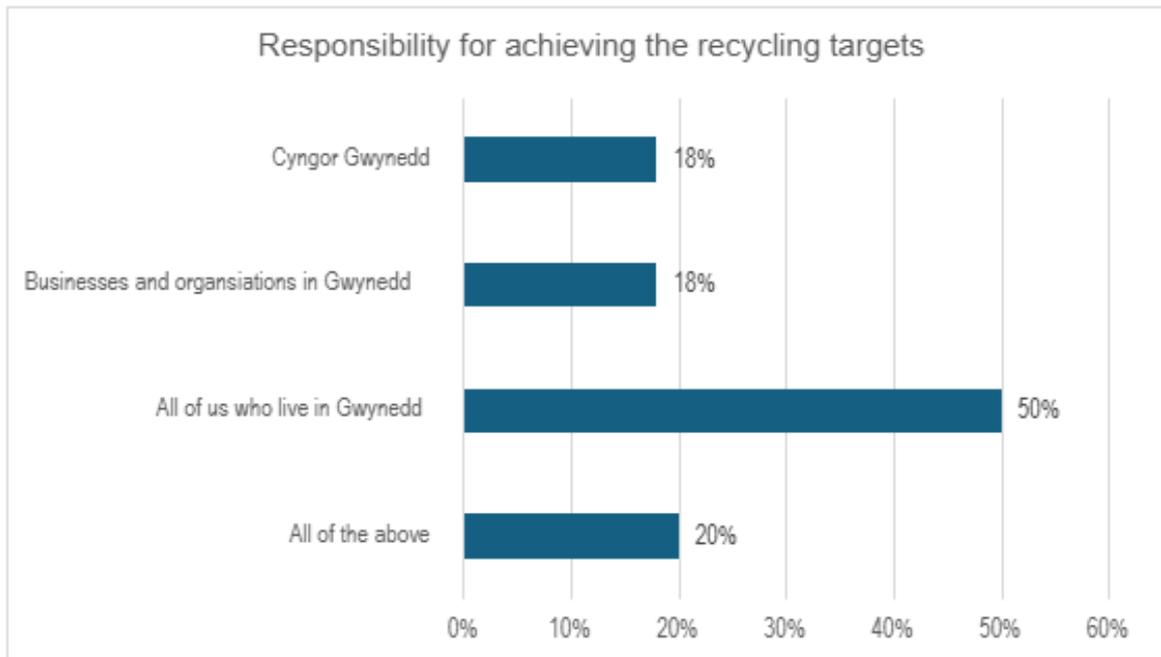
3.12.3 Six key objectives were identified in the Strategy, and the public were asked to rate their importance on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 indicating high importance. The objective that received the highest support was to ensure a quality service, with levels of support for all objectives as follows.



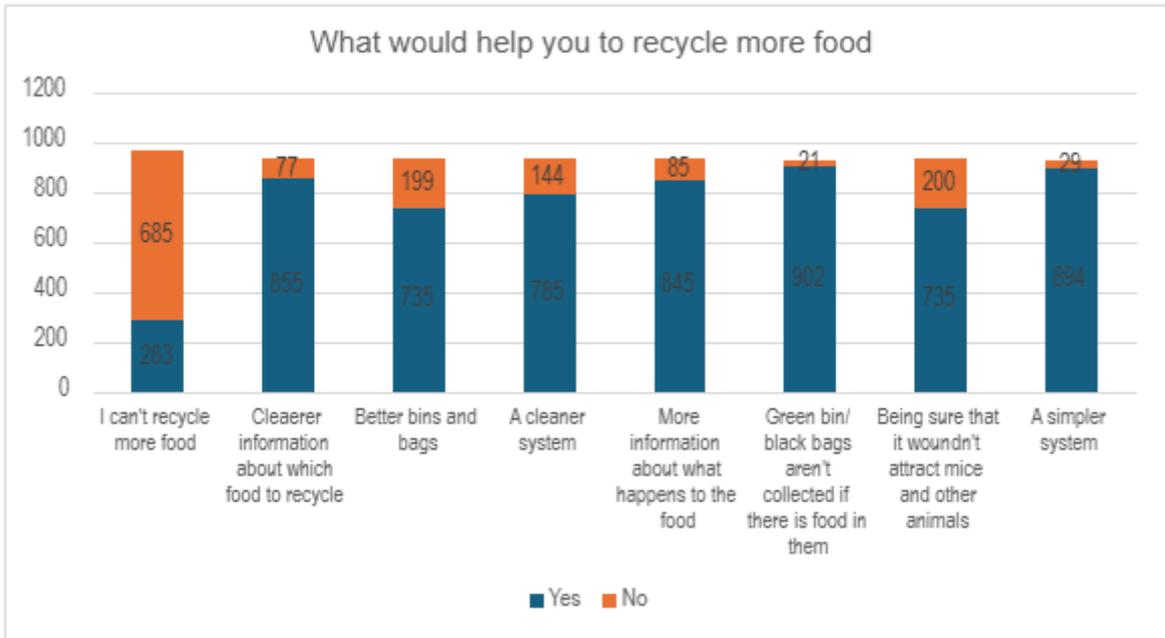
3.12.4 Respondents were asked how important it was to reduce waste, and 87% indicated that they considered this important. The graph below shows the factors that would help them do so, with 44% stating they did not know how to reduce their waste further. The biggest barriers identified were the number of non-recyclable materials, along with high levels of "upstream" packaging.



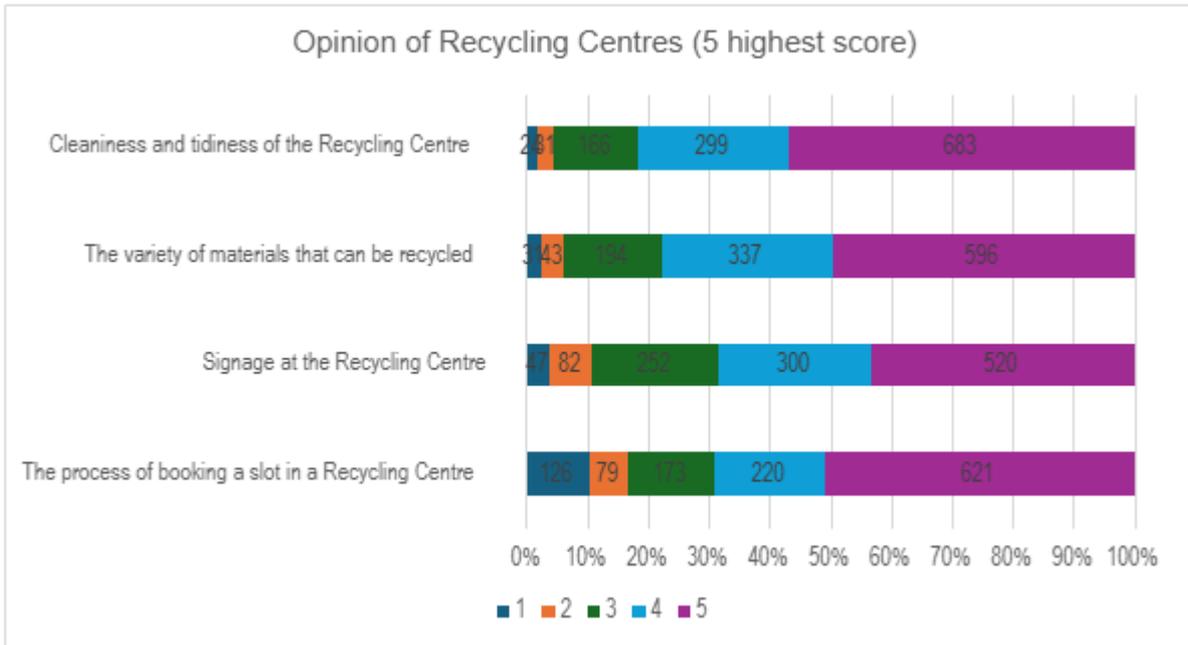
3.12.5 Respondents were asked who should be responsible for meeting the national recycling target. In a yes/no option question, 50% stated that this is the responsibility of all of us in Gwynedd. Of the free responses, 36 respondents indicated that it is the Welsh Government's responsibility to ensure the target is met. In addition, 84% expressed their view that it is important that the Council achieves the recycling target.



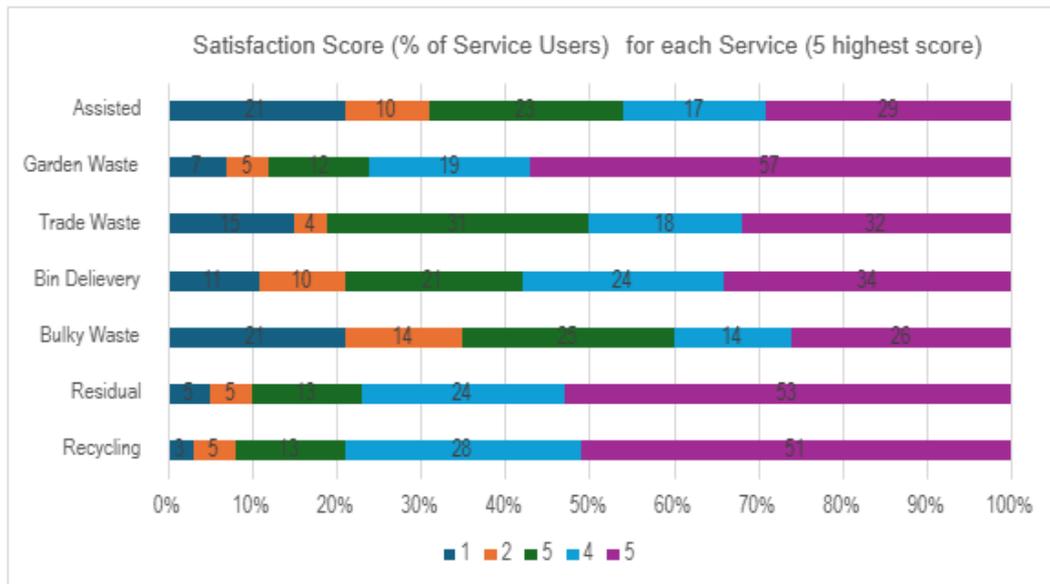
3.12.6 While 90% of respondents indicated that they recycle everything they can, this is inconsistent with the data showing the contents of the residual bin. In addition, 70% reported recycling their food waste, although evidence shows that 27% of the contents of the green bin is still food (see 3.3.7). This suggests significant gaps between behaviour and perception, and highlights the need for greater clarity, communication and support for residents.



3.12.7 There were positive comments about the service at our recycling centres, including in relation to the slot-booking system for access, which was considered functional and effective by a number of respondents.



3.12.8 While we have focused on complaints about recycling and domestic collections in paragraph 3.4.1, the graph below shows high levels of satisfaction with collection services: 91% for recycling and residual collections, and 87% for garden waste collections. This suggests that core services are widely valued by residents, but that there is clear room for improvement in other areas of the service.



3.12.9 We will now move forward to analyse the results in more detail and to incorporate the relevant ideas into the Strategy, with a view to submitting a report for formal adoption before the summer.

3.13 G12: Review the service's existing arrangements for distributing bins, boxes and bags to residents.

3.13.1 The bin delivery service is under significant pressure due to the unprecedented demand for equipment. In 2023–24, 35,855 applications were received for various types of items and equipment (excluding commercial equipment). While the focus in the early years following the transfer of the Waste field has been on improving the collection service, it is now clear that particular attention needs to be paid to the bin delivery service. It is important to emphasise that this issue does not reflect on the workforce, but rather on the managerial level.

3.13.2 We have held discussions with staff, and a number of ideas have been proposed to improve provision. Options we will be considering during the year include:

- Reviewing workflow arrangements - ensuring that ordering, preparation and delivery processes are more efficient and less dependent on manual steps by using Bartec.
- Better coordination with the collection crews - use Bartec data to proactively identify equipment needs and to reduce unnecessary delays.
- Optimising stock and storage - ensuring sufficient equipment is available at all times and minimising delays resulting from stock shortages.
- Reviewing staffing resources - assess whether the current capacity is sufficient to cope with the growing demand and whether there is a need to remodel the team.
- Improving communication with residents - provide clearer information about delivery schedules and application status, reducing the need for follow-up enquiries.
- Exploring the possibility of collecting equipment from local sites - assessing whether residents can be enabled to collect equipment from Gwynedd shops or recycling centres, provided that a robust stock system is in place first.
- Reviewing the use of 'Cartgylchu' - decide whether to phase out the use of Recycling boxes and promote the wider use of hessian sacks for recycling.
- Managing the demand for bins and equipment - consider options to manage the increasing demand, as ordering bins is currently too easy. Although the Council does not wish to introduce a fee at this time, this may need to be considered in the future if

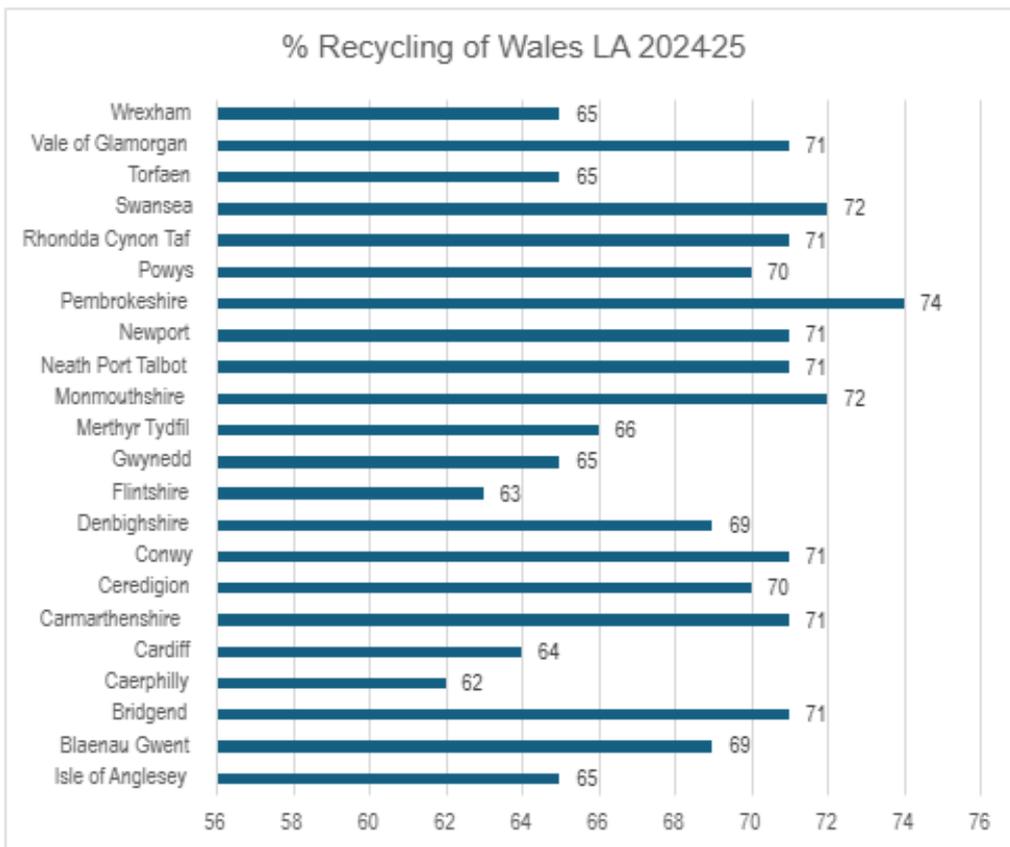
demand does not decrease. It should be noted that 10 local authorities in Wales already charge for residual bin replacement, with fees ranging from £5 to £60.

3.14 G13: Low carbon.

3.14.1 The service has approximately has around 100 waste collection and disposal vehicles. At present, we have not been able to invest significantly in electric waste collection vehicles. However, we remain committed to decarbonising our fleet by 2030, but as a Department we will need to work closely with the Fleet Service to look in detail at the technology and the business case, because currently electric vehicles cost around twice as much as diesel vehicles and there is insufficient capacity in the local infrastructure to charge these types of vehicles.

3.15 Progress and challenges in achieving the target of recycling 70% of waste

3.15.1 Cyngor Gwynedd's recycling performance for 2024–25 is 65.3%. As a result, the Council has slipped down the rankings compared to other local authorities in Wales (see graph below). Of the 22 authorities, 20 saw an increase in their recycling rates, including Gwynedd, and 12 local authorities achieved the statutory target of 70%. Failure to meet the national target increases the risk of financial penalties.



3.15.2 Natural Resources Wales has issued a notice regarding the accuracy of data relating to timber/wood recycling. Based on the information available, it is estimated that the national recycling rate for Wales in 2024-25 will be at least 1% lower than the published figures. At local authority level, the impact can vary significantly: some authorities are not affected at all, while for others the rate could fall by between 1% and 5%. Whilst we are confident that Cyngor Gwynedd has correctly calculated timber recycling, the situation raises questions about the fairness and consistency of comparisons between authorities.

3.15.3 The Recycling Strategy is an important first step on the journey towards reaching the 70% target, and the document sets out the plans and ambitions to achieve this.

3.15.4 Additional funding has become available through EPR, and we will prepare a business case to use this funding not only for the development of capital plans but also to support operational plans that will enable us to reach the 70% target.

3.15.5 The table below provides an approximate picture of the type of action that could lead to a further increase in the recycling rate. This is a desktop exercise at the moment, and more detailed work and scrutiny is needed before the details can be finalised.

Cyngor Gwynedd Recycling Rate 2024-25	65.30%	
Collect waste less frequently or reduce bin capacity	2.11%	Long-term saving
Increase business recycling by 12% (similar to domestic figures)	0.42%	Long-term saving
Increase food rate to 25%	0.35%	Long-term savings
Recycle at least 50% of our wood and carpets	1.50%	Cost
Recycle at least 50% of street waste	0.90%	Cost
Open bin bags at our recycling centres	0.64%	Cost-neutral
Flexible plastic collection (flex)	0.56%	Cost
Other (textiles/reuse)	0.16%	Cost-neutral
Total	71.94%	

8. Next Steps

To accept the report

Appendices

Appendix 1: Waste and Recycling Services Work Program

Appendix 2: Waste and Recycling Services Savings List

Appendix 3: Spatial Representativeness

Appendix 1: Waste and Recycling Work Program

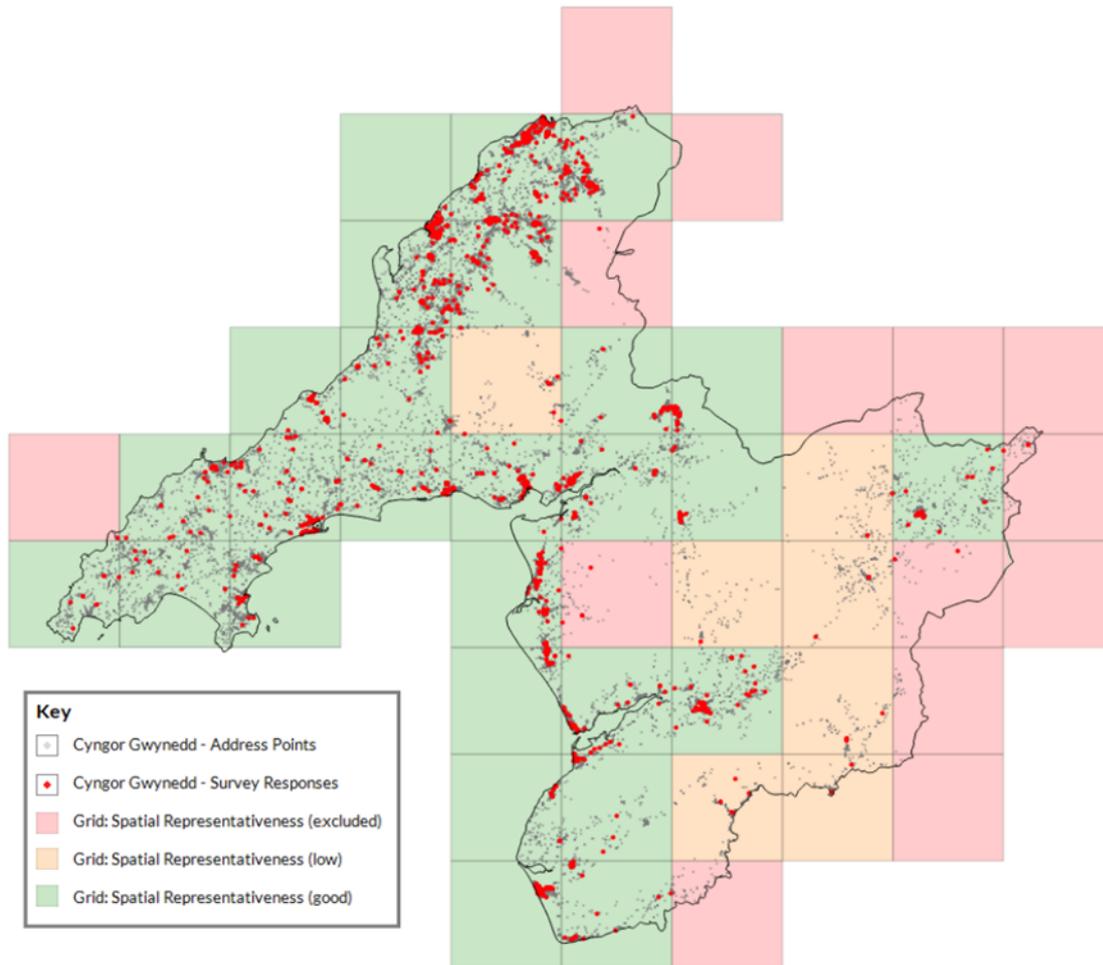
Main themes	Examples of sub-headings	Comments
G1 Review waste / recycling collection working arrangements	Comprehensive review of all collection rounds (ongoing work)	This is ongoing work, and the Bartec system allows us to adjust the rounds daily to ensure better balance across the routes. Often, the changes come from within the workforce itself, but Team Leaders now have much more robust data to ensure the rounds are more evenly balanced.
	Review of working arrangements / hours	The Task and Finish arrangements have been changed from an individual, vehicle-based model to a more collaborative, group-level approach. Through Bartec, it is possible to share the workload when one crew is struggling or when there are reports of missed collections. One aspect we have not yet considered is the possibility of reducing the number of working days by extending the hours, but at present the existing shifts appear effective and there is little demand for change.
	Solution to accrued staff leave	We have not yet received a solution to this matter.
	Introduction of in-cab technology for waste collection vehicles	The Bartec system is now operational on recycling vehicles and domestic waste vehicles, with the intention of rolling it out for garden waste, commercial waste, and nappy collections in the near future.
	Upgrade of cameras on all operational vehicles	The cameras on the vehicles have been upgraded.
	Evaluation of all staff within the waste and recycling service	We have not yet begun a formal process for this.
G2 Review recycling collection arrangements including expected future increase of recycling levels	Establishing a North / South structure – practically and in principle	The operational arrangements are now established and fully integrated, with two main depots in Harlech and Caernarfon, a sub-depot in Pwllheli, and a smaller depot in Dolgellau.
	Trialling a recycling collection system using hessian sacks in pilot areas.	Pilot has been carried out.
G3 Review complaints procedures	Evaluating and developing a business case to review the frequency of residual waste collections.	Only an initial report has been received.
	Appoint officers who are close to the services to deal with complaints, working collaboratively with IT / Customer Care to ensure continuous improvement.	This arrangement has been established – see section 3.4 of the report.
G4 Availability of regular and timely quality data	Introducing a new Weighbridge system	New systems have been purchased for the weighbridges.
	Ensuring that our data is up to date and that we analyse it in order to operate more proactively (ongoing work)	We are improving our systems overall and will have a stronger data bank in the future.
G5 Behaviour change to reduce residual waste and maximise recycling	Developing a targeted programme to provide clear focus on awareness-raising and behaviour change (ongoing work)	A number of specific campaigns have been delivered, but there remains a need to develop a more comprehensive programme that provides a clear focus on raising awareness and encouraging behavioural change.
	Comprehensive review of our Recycling Centres	Significant work has been undertaken to improve the recycling centres, but the most notable development has been the introduction of opening black bags to reduce the amount of waste sent to Parc Adfer. This has also created space and enabled partnerships that increase opportunities to reuse recyclable materials.
G6 Waste Asset Management	Developing a fit-for-purpose processing and treatment facility at Caergylychu	Work is ongoing – see section 3.7.
	Developing a fit-for-purpose processing and treatment facility at Ffridd Rasmus	See above.
G7 Control the overspend [managing sickness and overtime levels]	Overtime hours worked (ongoing monitoring)	Overtime hours have reduced significantly over the past three years.
	Sickness levels (ongoing monitoring)	Sickness levels within the workforce have decreased.
	Formalising the structure of the Waste and Recycling Service	We are currently in the process of restructuring the Waste and Recycling Service (office-based staff). There have been significant delays while we engaged with the unions to ensure that the process is fair and compliant with statutory requirements.
G8 Ensure that proper arrangements are in place with waste contractors / 3rd parties to ensure these are firmly managed.	Reviewing third-party contracts	Some contracts have been reviewed, but this is ongoing work that requires regular monitoring and revision.
	Parc Adfer (gwaith parhaus)	Work on-going
	GwyrriAD	Work has begun to explore options for arrangements following the end of the current contract in 2028.
	Adolygiad cynhwysfawr o'r Gwasanaeth Gwastraff Masnachol	See section 3.9.
G9 Communication Plan	Communication Strategy (following adoption of the Waste Strategy)	There has been no progress in this area to date.
G10 Health and Safety Arrangements	Health and Safety (ongoing work)	This is ongoing work – see section 3.11.

G11 Establish a robust Waste and Recycling Strategy.	Developing, consulting on, and adopting a Waste Strategy	A draft strategy has been prepared and has been through the consultation process. Final adoption of the Strategy is expected through the usual governance arrangements during the forthcoming spring.
G12 Review of existing arrangements for the delivery of bins, boxes and sacks to residents	Reviewing the Bin Delivery Service	See Section 3.13
G13 Establishing a programme of work for replacing vehicles to low carbon.	Preparing a review to decarbonise the fleet	We have held discussions with the Welsh Government and our Fleet Unit, but at present the infrastructure at our depots is not able to support the transition of our heavy collection vehicles to electric technology. However, we are progressing with the replacement of our smaller vans with electric vehicles.

Appendix 2: Waste and Recycling Savings Program

Title	Savings	Status
Rationalising bin delivery arrangements	£50K	Completed
Reducing vehicle maintenance costs by 10%	£30K	Completed
Improving the efficiency of waste treatment/transfer sites	£70K	Completed
Waste and Business Services – rationalising departmental support arrangements	£150K	Risks to delivery. This saving is shared between the Waste and Recycling Services and the Business Unit
Increasing income from the sale of recyclable materials	£150K	Completed
Reviewing Waste Contracts	£100K	Completed
Restructuring Waste and Recycling Services	£200K	Delayed, but on track to be delivered
Allowing certain types of commercial companies to use recycling centres	£50K	Delayed – we explored whether the saving could be achieved through waste-reduction measures, but we will revisit this proposal again shortly
Waste Services – improved debt management for commercial customers, commercial services marketing, and increasing income from collecting commercial waste from holiday lets.	£430K	Some risks to delivery
Historic saving required: reducing the number of garden waste collections from 25 to 22 per year	£20K	Completed
Residual waste collection frequency	£200K	Requires further scrutiny

Appendix 3: Spatial Representativeness



The spatial representativeness of survey respondents was assessed by comparing the observed spatial distribution of respondents against the underlying household population using a grid-based analysis. Household and respondent counts were aggregated to a grid, and proportional differences were mapped and tested using a chi-square goodness-of-fit test. The test is used to analyse categorical data to determine if there is a significant relationship between variables or if observed frequencies differ from expected frequencies. The chi-square test was used to check whether the survey responses are spread across the area in roughly the same way as all households, or whether some places responded much more or less than expected.

The grid overlaid on to all CG address points and survey response address points. Some grid squares had populations too low to include in the analysis (shown in red). Of the remaining grid squares 27 (green) indicated no statistically significant spatial bias ($p > 0.05$), and 7 (amber) showed a small amount of statistically significant spatial bias ($p \leq 0.05$). Overall, this demonstrates that the respondent sample was generally geographically representative of the household population with some bias in some areas.

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19 March 2026
TITLE	Footpaths
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Assurance of operation
AUTHOR	Gerwyn Jones, Assistant Head, Environment Department
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Craig Ab Iago



1.0 Why does it need to be scrutinised?

A draft version of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2022-29 was scrutinised before it was adopted by the Cabinet on 22 November 2022.

The Council has a statutory duty to protect and maintain the network. The Council's main maintenance responsibilities are:

- Signpost rights of way where they leave the highway
- The surface of most rights of way
- Bridges and structures
- Controlling growth and removing barriers

A series of Action Statements are presented for each theme in the Plan, which are used to prioritise resources and to prepare detailed work programmes over the life of the Plan.

Scrutiny of the work programme would reassure the Committee that action is being taken to improve public footpaths and that work is being done to ensure access for all.

2.0 What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

The following are responses to specific questions submitted by the Scrutiny Committee:

2.1 How do you assess the state of the public trail network?

- The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network is subject to intermittent surveys which reflect the level of resource available for this purpose. We intend to review the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Policy to make the target more realistic and reflect the level of resource available.

- The Coast Path is surveyed in its entirety each year.
- Responding to enquiries from the public and other stakeholders (Local Members, Community Councils etc).

2.2 The Work Programme

The following can be considered as the main activities of the Footways Team which makes up its work programme:

- Cutting seasonal growth
- Renovation of infrastructure (bridges, walls, gates, walkways, culverts)
- Installing new infrastructure (bridges, walls, gates, walkways, culverts)
- Implementing a signage scheme
- Responding to enquiries, complaints and freedom of information requests
- Dealing with all legal issues in the field:
 - maintain the official map/record of all public rights of way in the County
 - deal with claims requests, changes and deviations to the official network and map that are subject to legal processes

2.3 How is the opinion of users taken into account?

We take into account ongoing stakeholder feedback and this feeds into the work programme and priorities.

We are members of the National Park's North and South Access Forums and co-ordinate and organise the Arfon and Dwyfor Forum. These meet quarterly to discuss issues related to the PRow network. The Forum facilitates scrutiny and input from key residents and stakeholders. We are very eager for the Forum to be inclusive and reflect as wide a cross-section of the community as possible and seek to achieve this through outreach activities and recruitment campaigns.

We work closely with organisations such as the Ramblers, the Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Trust (Sustrans), the British Horse Society and others who represent users' interests.

2.4 What is being done to ensure access for all?

Improving access for all is fundamental and underpinning the approach to network management. In practice this includes replacing steps with gates where practicable, improving the surface of paths and complying with current standards.

2.5 How is the work funded?

The work is funded through a variety of sources. This includes

- Annual core budget from Cyngor Gwynedd
- Welsh Government specific and other grants which include
 - Access Improvement Grant
 - For the Coast Path
- Specific and variable grants from the UK Government (Local Prosperity Fund)

See **5.10** for more detail.

2.6 Challenges in the field

2.6.1 General

Different aspects of issues related to PRow can be sensitive and with high profile. As with most other Council services resource and resource availability is an ongoing challenge.

Given the nature of the field of work, a lot of the team's time is taken up in dealing with correspondence, enquiries, complaints and service requests of all kinds, be it in writing or orally. As with many other services there are examples where a very small number of stakeholders take up a significant amount of time and resource.

Challenges arise from the perspective of climate change. The increase in severe weather events and storms have a significant impact on the network. There is work and significant costs associated with the restoration work following severe weather events.

There have been several incidents/claims at these sites and have rotated between different departments and the Council's Insurance unit. e.g. a problem at Coed Orierton and Parc y Borth with unauthorised camping.

As there is no presence on the sites, there is occasional misuse of public land – e.g. people extending their gardens, using sites as places for anti-social activities, creating parking spaces and running businesses on Council land without permission.

2.6.2 Safety

Paths and sites that have not been maintained and regularly surveyed become unsafe (for example, unsafe trees, excessive growth, uneven surfaces, damage to hard surfaces and infrastructure such as walkways, gates, bridges and fences).

Regular maintenance reduces the risk of accidents and legal liability, for example costly insurance claims that are becoming more numerous. This in turn means an increase in insurance costs.

2.6.3 Accessibility

Multi-use routes and sites are a facility for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and families.

Without an adequate maintenance budget, accessibility for less mobile groups is rapidly declining.

2.6.4 Longevity / Continuity of infrastructure

A major capital investment has been made in the creation of the routes, including bridges, tunnels and other significant structural infrastructure.

A reasonable maintenance budget is needed to protect the investment and extend the life of the infrastructure.

2.6.5 Community use and well-being

Footpaths and access to lands promote physical and mental health, and offer active travel opportunities.

Without maintenance, usage decreases, undermining the social and economic benefits.

2.6.6 Environmental impact

The Lonydd Las recreational routes were originally established not only as multi-use trails but also as unique ecosystems and habitats that have developed within their borders. The lands contribute and offer opportunities alike.

Effective maintenance helps control surface water and soil erosion and ensures that the paths and lands do not harm local ecosystems or cause local flooding.

2.6.7 Value for money

Regular maintenance is cheaper than having to refurbish or rebuild a trail and grounds after it has deteriorated significantly.

Maintenance minimises health and safety risks and claims associated with members of the public being harmed in the use of the resources.

2.7 What are the arrangements/timescale for reviewing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan?

The current Rights of Way Improvement Plan is in place until 2029.

Work will begin in 2027 to review this. The process will involve:

- Review of the current document
- Proposing amendments
- Stakeholder consultation
- Responding to the feedback and reflecting this in a mature draft
- Presenting the document for political consideration (Scrutiny and Cabinet)

3.0 Supplementary Questions

3.1 How many applications/complaints are received from the public? What is the timeline for responding to these requests?

801 enquiries were received through the Council's FFOS system during the period January-December 2025. This compares with 551 in 2024. The Team makes every effort to respond to an enquiry in as timely a manner as possible, but in some circumstances the nature of the request means that it is necessary to visit a site to look into the matter before a full answer can be provided.

3.2 How do you measure how accessible the trails are and that access is for all?

There is no process or practical form of measuring this but we would be happy to consider any suggestions or advice. Feedback from stakeholders and officer surveys contribute to this.

3.3 Do you carry out work with specific groups to get their input in order to ensure access for all?

See answer to 2.3 above.

3.4 Do you work with individuals and groups who wish to volunteer to maintain these trails? Are there opportunities to expand volunteering and collaborating with partners?

We work with three volunteer groups in Meirionnydd (Ramblers' Association), Arfon (Tîm Taclo Llwybrau) and Dwyfor (Llŷn National Landscape Volunteering Group).

We are keen to consider opportunities to expand these arrangements. Consideration needs to be given to what is appropriate and practical from a safety and risk mitigation management perspective.

We recognise that a lot of good informal work is being undertaken in order to maintain access and network quality with users undertaking activities such as litter picking and growth 'snipping'.

We provide an annual grant to Community Councils to pay for growth cutting work on the network within their communities.

3.5 How often is maintenance done? What is the policy in terms of maintaining and keep?

This is being undertaken on an ongoing basis. There are work programmes that include seasonal ones as well as reacting to queries and feedback received from stakeholders.

3.6 Given that public routes are categorised, how does the categorising this being done?

The Community Councils played a leading and core role in the categorisation process.

This is reviewable and we are working with the Community Councils with a view to reflecting their wishes and aspirations in line with the criteria set out in the PRow Policy.

3.7 Who is responsible for the trails and how Community and Town Councils can recover money if they spend on the trails?

The County Council is responsible for maintaining and ensuring that the PRow network is open.

The role and responsibilities of the Council and landowners are highlighted in 5.7. With this we can see the PRow network as having shared responsibilities – *our network*... rather than any particular stakeholder alone.

The PRow are important community resources and Community Councils can, should they wish, in engagement with the Service, invest directly in improving and/or maintaining these if they wish. Examples of this are already happening in Gwynedd.

3.8 Are there plans in place to mark the categories of public footpaths on Map Gwynedd for clarity to the public as to who is responsible for certain routes?

The PRow network is already included on the Map Gwynedd which includes the categories.

3.9 Is it possible to get clarity on the co-operation that takes place between the Council and Community and Town Councils in relation to path defects – e.g. if there is a broken gate on a path under the control of a Community Council, which body is responsible for funding its repair?

There is an element of shared responsibility that can reflect local factors, location, category of the PRow. The best advice is for stakeholders to liaise directly with the Footways Team to discuss specific cases, locations and situations.

3.10 Who is responsible for ensuring that liability insurance public in place for public footpaths – the Council and/or Community and Town Councils?

The County Council has a public liability insurance policy.

Often the land occupier/owner will have such a policy as well.

4.0 Summary and Key Issues

4.1 Resources to Treasure, Respect, Protect and Use

The PRow network in Gwynedd is an extended and diverse one that gives access to some of the world's best coastal, rural and mountainous areas within one County.

There is a PRow in every area of Gwynedd which offers a great resource for outdoor activities that are good for the wellbeing of our residents from a mental and physical health perspective.

The PRow network also offers travel opportunities, for day-to-day reasons, in modes rather than the car that support a number of ambitions and strategic objectives to reduce impact on climate and on practical issues such as traffic congestion and parking problems.

4.2 Demand, Desire and Expectation

Unfortunately the demand, desire and expectation for improvements to PRow's infrastructure are far beyond the funding available to achieve them.

This includes and is very relevant in terms of improving access to and accessibility of the network.

4.3 Maintenance

The ongoing lack of revenue funding for the maintenance of the infrastructure once in place is a major and growing conundrum from the perspective of the PRow, Lonydd Las and sites that come with the responsibilities of the Service. This is given that the impact of more volatile, exceptional and frequent periods of severe weather causes significant and very costly damage to recover and repair.

This extends and includes maintenance levels in terms of grass cutting/growth and sweeping and expectations in relation to this. This in turn can influence trail usage.

5.0 Background / Context

5.1 Active Travel and Routes

There is a close relationship between the active travel network, which includes Lonydd Las, and the PRoW network. There are instances where a route can be designated as an active travel and also with PRoW's legal status. There are also instances where this is not the case and a route is designated as a Lôn Las but not necessarily, in its entirety, as PRoW.

A report on Active Travel was presented to this Committee on 22 January 2026. A link to the report is included in **10. Background Information**.

5.2 Network Duration and Identification

Gwynedd has a network of around 2,418 miles (3,892km) of public rights of way – that's further than the distance from Caernarfon to Cairo in Egypt!

The total length of the network can be broken down into a number of categories depending on the nature of the right. This is summarised in the table below:

Type:	Lawful use	Distance	Ename
Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On foot 	2,115 miles (3,404km)	
March Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On foot On view On horseback 	220 miles (354km)	
Restricted Byways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On foot On view On horseback A horse and cart 	52 miles (84km)	
All Traffic Open Byways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On foot On view On horseback A horse and cart On a motorcycle In a vehicle 	31 miles (50km)	

The network covers around 180 miles (290km) of the Wales Coast Path which is seen to offer some of the best walking and spectacular scenery of the 870 miles of the national trail.



5.3 The Footpaths Team

Projects, Footpaths and Traffic Manager	Iwan ap Trefor
Access Team Leader	Gwyn Lloyd Evans
Senior Rights of Way Officer (Arfon)	Euryn Williams
Rights of Way Inspector (Arfon)	Robert Jones
Senior Rights of Way Officer (Dwyfor)	Dewi Owen
Rights of Way Inspector (Meirionnydd)	Sam Hollingworth
Coastal Path Project Officer	Rhys Roberts
Coastal Access Warden	Huw Williams
Rights of Way Officer	Catrin Davies

5.4 The main purpose of the Footpaths Team is:

Maintaining and managing access networks

- Improving infrastructure**
 Creating a network and safer and more connected lands and sites. The Council owns the lands where the Lonydd Las route run, and therefore issues such as poor boundaries, unmaintained watercourses and unsafe trees mean that landowners/neighbours are impacted. For example, if livestock are allowed to roam on Lonydd Las due to failing boundaries it could cause an accident and harm to users.
- Ensuring better access for all**
 Establish wider, smoother and accessible paths and grounds and access for people of all abilities including for example those with impaired mobility, families with prams and cyclists of all abilities.
- Ensuring safety**
 Provide signage and safely maintain trail surfaces and boundaries to minimise hazards. Ensure that livestock from neighbours' lands does not interfere with the convenient and safe use of the route.
- Promoting use**
 Reasonable maintenance attracts people to use the paths and lands, reducing congestion on the roads and encouraging a healthy way of travelling which in turn will ensure and maintain a healthy population in Gwynedd.
- Connecting communities**
 Maintaining routes that connect communities, schools, workplaces and shopping centres in order to make every day travel easier and more sustainable.

- **Wellbeing, Physical and Mental Health**

Providing and maintaining accessible and safe opportunities for nature and environmental engagement within its communities contributes to well-being, physical and mental health.

The Footways Team achieves this by:

- Protecting the right and ability of the public to use the County's PRow network in a safe and unhindered manner.
- Collaborating with other key stakeholders, including landowners.
- Inspecting, maintaining the relevant infrastructure and legal documents in order to comply with the Council's legislative expectations.

5.5 Link to the Council Plan 2023-28

The work of the Team contributes practically to the realisation and achievement of a number of strategic ambitions and objectives at a local, regional and national level. From the perspective of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 the teamwork contributes to and intertwines with the Green Gwynedd (Gwynedd Werdd) priority Werdd.

The Footways Team is responsible and involved in all aspects of the field of work. This extends from the strategic to the operational. The team works closely with other officers within the Environment Department and the Council more broadly.

5.6 Ffordd Gwynedd

See below the comments of Gwyn, Team Leader:

"I enjoy the diversity that comes with the job. In my day-to-day work it is necessary to combine consideration of legislation, statutory requirements and the rights of the public throughout to achieve this on a physical level.

"The natural and constructive environment of Gwynedd is world famous. It gives me great satisfaction that we are able to facilitate and enrich the experiences and opportunities of local people and visitors to access these in order to enjoy and make the most of what the area has to offer.

"With concerns and awareness of physical and mental health issues increasing, offering and maintaining an opportunity for the public to enjoy wholesome activities that are accessible and engaging to such a wide cross-section of society is something very valuable.

"Collaborating with such a wide range of stakeholders is great. We as a team are always keen to build and maintain healthy relationships with trail users, land occupiers and politicians at all levels. We are proactively looking for opportunities to gain funding from a variety of sources in order to improve and sustain the trail network which meets the ambitions and objectives of various local, regional and national strategies, policies and plans."

5.7 Legislative context

Public Rights of Way (PRow) are routes over which the public has a legal right to transit. This means that anyone can use them for that purpose, free of charge and at any time. PRow offers a leisure asset and a means of accessing local services in a sustainable and healthy way.

Cyngor Gwynedd is the Highways Authority with a statutory duty to protect PRow. As a result, the Footpaths Team maintains and updates the Definitive Map and Statement, which are the legal records of

- Footpaths
- Bridleways
- Restricted Byways
- Byways Open to All Traffic

The Team is also processing requests to amend the Definitive Map, which is to divert, create or change the status of rights of way. Legislation places a statutory duty on the Council to act in the area of rights of way.

There is not only a statutory duty to protect and maintain the physical condition of rights of way but also to protect them legally.

The focus of the Team's work programme is based on a hierarchy of footways depending on their status, which is partly based on and a reflection of their use.

There are a number of duties by the Council and Landowners associated with PRow with the following giving a summary:

Cyngor Gwynedd's Responsibilities

- Ensuring there are no barriers to PRow
- Maintain the surface in a condition suitable for its intended use
- Maintenance of some bridges
- Sign and contrast markers to show routes
- Permission to install steps and gates
- Keep the Definitive Map up-to-date

Landowners' Responsibilities

- Do not put up barriers on paths or prevent people from using them
- Maintain most gates and gates
- Maintain lateral growth and growth that grows over the downward path
- Re-laying a path across fields after turning or planting crops
- Do not turn paths at field edges
- Do not keep dangerous animals (including some bulls) on paths

5.8 Possible options for the future

To further collaborate with Community Councils and to empower and support them to play a proactive practical role in maintaining, conserving and promoting the use of these important resources within their communities.

5.9 Risks - what the risks are and what can be done to mitigate them

5.9.1 The Department's Risk Register

From PRow's point of view the following is included on the Department of the Environment's Risk Register:

- Lack of capacity and resources for maintaining and protecting rights of way/Lonydd Las/sites and grounds.
- Lack of capacity to process and decide Rights of Way orders.

5.9.2 General

Different aspects of issues related to PRow can be sensitive and high-profile. As with most of the Council's other services, resource availability is an ongoing and growing challenge.

As a frontline operational team, the Footways Officers are the face-to-face contact with stakeholders. They work in a field that can be challenging and contentious. The Team acts in accordance with the guidelines in as consistent, transparent, professional and fair a manner as

possible. They accept all types of comments, requests and feedback and seek to respond to these in a reasonable, logical and as positive manner as possible although it will not be possible to greet the requests, wishes and aspirations submitted.

Given the nature of the field of work, much of the team's time is taken up dealing with correspondence, enquiries, complaints and requests for service of all kinds, whether written or oral. As with many other services there are examples where a very small number of stakeholders take up significant time and resource.

Challenges, and associated risks, arise from the perspective of climate change. The increase in severe weather events and storms is having a significant impact on the network and Lonydd Las. There are significant works and costs associated with the restoration following severe weather events. There is no specific budget for undertaking any such restoration work on the Lonydd Las. It is important to raise awareness of this as expectations need to be managed, and in some cases lowered, to reflect this reality.

5.9.3 Safety Risks

- Deteriorating pieces: risk for users to slip, trip, or fall.
- Uneven or slippery surfaces: increases accidents, especially for cyclists or wheelchair users.
- Loss of lighting or signage: can lead to misunderstandings or collisions.
- Undermining the Council's reputation as a '*fit for purpose*' organisation and a '*good neighbour*'.
- Insurance claims arising from proven harm.

5.9.4 Environmental Risks

- Soil and surface water erosion: when there is no maintenance, paths can become water channels that damage the land. This is very evident from the point of view of the Coast Path.
- Damage to habitats: users can avoid bad parts by creating 'informal footways' that disrupt biodiversity.

5.9.5 Social and Economic Risks

- Loss of use: people may start to avoid the Lonydd Las network and find it dangerous or unpleasant.
- More cost in the long run: repairing serious damage is much more expensive than regular maintenance.
- Loss of community benefit: paths and lands promote health, wellbeing and tourism; If they decline, these benefits are lost.
- Potential for permanent closure of these resources if there is no reasonable maintenance budget to sustain them.

5.9.6 Legislative Risks and Claims

- Maintaining access to the PRow is a legislative necessity. Failure to achieve this opens the door to legal challenges and claims, especially in situations where damage or harm is caused.

5.9.7 Reputational Risks

- Failure to maintain the PRow network and the associated risks, as noted above, poses a risk to the Council's reputation and its status as a fit for purpose organisation providing a service in accordance with the legislative expectations to its communities.

5.10 Financial position of the field, estimate of cost of implementing any changes, sources of funding etc.

As well as maximising the core maintenance budget of around **£188,450**, the Team is very successful in maximising value by earning significant sums to maintain and improve the PRow network. This equates to around **£2.4 million** over the last three years.

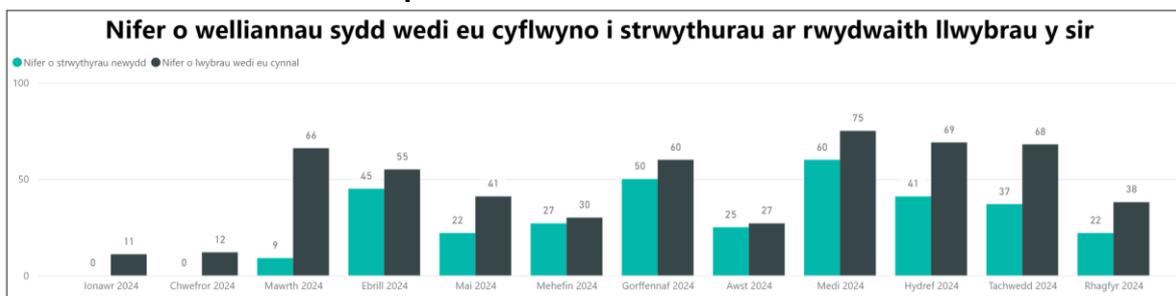
Core budgets for entry work 2025/26

Budget	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Rights of Way Maintenance	£175,400 (R)	£188,450 (R)	£184,230 (R)	£188,450 (R)*
Lonydd Glas Maintenance	£25,000 (R)	£25,570 (R)	£27,340 (R)	£27,340(R)
Environment Service Sites	£5,000 (R)	£5,380 (R)	£5,750 (R)	£5,750(R)
Lonydd Las minor works	£25,000 (C)	£25,000 (C)	£25,000 (C)	None
Bridges and structures (budget not held by Service)	£50,000 (C)	£50,000 (C)	£50,000 (C)	£50,000 (C)

*Approximately £43,350 of this total is given to Community/Town Council annually to cut vegetation on path surfaces

5.11 Performance data

Network Maintenance and Improvements



This includes maintenance such as:

- Cutting overgrowth/grass
- Removal of fallen trees
- Drains
- Bridges, steps, gates and signage

And renovation and installation of new infrastructure

- Bridges, steps, drains, gates and signage

This is achieved through the spending of core budget money as well as various grants that have been won.

Traffic, projects and Paths

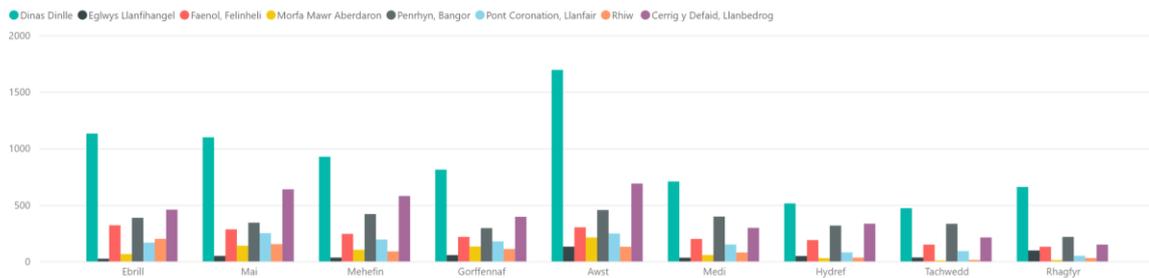
T&P3 – Number of users on county’s paths network

This is a brand-new measure which attempts to monitor user numbers on some of the main routes on the county’s network, using monitoring counters that have been in place for several years by the Council.

The initial data is based on user numbers available at 7 locations on the Wales Coast Path in Gwynedd, with the intention of expanding the locations as monitoring data becomes available. (Some counters are also available in other locations that need refurbishment).

Current locations report the number of path users at Morfa Mawr near Aberdaron; Rhiw in Pen Llŷn; Cerrig y Defaid in Llanbedrog; Dinas Dinlle; Faenol between Y Felinheli and Bangor; Penrhyn on the outskirts of Bangor in the direction of Abergwyngregyn; Eglwys Llanfihangel in the Ardudwy area; and Pont Coronation in Llanfair near Harlech.

The data shows a pattern of consistent numbers throughout the period since April 2025 in locations such as Penrhyn and Faenol, with the highest numbers being in locations that are attractions such as Dinas Dinlle. As we would expect, the graph highlights peak numbers during the main summer period, events such as races like the 'ultra' result in a clear increase in users during such events.



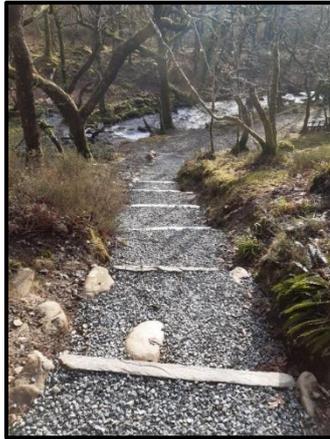
5.12 What has been achieved

The following is a summary of some of the Footways Team's recent key achievements which gives an overview of what has been achieved:

- New bridges on Lôn Las Ogwen



- New Coast Path through Penrhyn Castle
- Restoration works to the Cob Bach trail, Pwllheli
- Replacement of gate steps in the Talsarnau/Harlech area
- New steps at Coed Cors y Gedol, Dyffryn Ardudwy



- New bridge and gates on path over the River Carrog, Bethesda Bach to link the communities of Llanwnda and Llandwrog



- Trail improvements in the community of Mynytho



- New bridges near Penllech Port, Llangwnadl



- In addition to specific significant projects such as the above, ongoing work is undertaken to maintain and improve the infrastructure across the path network in Gwynedd. This includes changing styles with gates that make the footways more accessible and attractive.

5.13 Priorities for the future

The PRoW Policy was introduced and approved in 2007. Work has now underway to review and update the Policy. This is going to reflect and be influenced by experiences in the implementation of the current policy and also to expectations and what is feasible and reasonable to achieve with the existing resources.

The following are examples of the work underway as priorities for the future.

- Replacement of gates on Llanfrothen community trail circuits
- Delivery of a new bridge at Pont Sarnau, Bethesda



- Replacement of steps for gates in the Llanfachreth / Rhydymain area



- Restoration and felling of paths in Borth Park, Borth y Gest following recent storm damage
- Improvement of path surface linking Penrhosgarnedd and Caernarfon Road in Bangor
- Working in partnership with Snowdonia National Park to improve trails in the Community of Abergwyngregyn
- Replacement of gates in the community of Llandderfel
- Review the Public Rights of Way Policies to ensure that these are a fair and realistic reflection of what can be achieved with the resources available.
- Checking matters relating to the ROIP.
- Review the arrangements for facilitating volunteer support. Volunteers offer a very valuable resource in supporting the work of the Team and there is a need to ensure that this is done in an appropriate and acceptable way from a variety of angles which include health and safety and insurance issues.

6.0 Consultation

Stakeholder consultation and engagement is an ongoing aspect of the Team's work. This includes:

- Residents
- Community Councils
- Access Forums
- Snowdonia National Park
- Ramblers Association
- Walking, Cycling and Cycling Trust (Sustrans)
- British Horse Society
- Others representing user interests

The input and feedback resulting from this has been reflected and included within this report and shaped the approach towards and priorities of the Team.

Consultation processes will be a core element of the review of the PRoW Policy and also in the updating of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

7.0 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

7.1 Have you *included* residents/service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult with them?

Residents, Local Members and Community Councils engage with the Council on an ongoing basis on issues relating to this area.

7.2 Have you considered *working together*?

The Team is in constant contact with other key stakeholders in the field which include officials from other Local Authorities, Eryri National Park and Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and organisations such as the Ramblers.

Access Forums meet regularly to discuss issues relating to the PRoW.

The Team also works closely with other Council services and departments which include, amongst others, Highways and YGC, Biodiversity, Projects and Active Travel and Economy and Community.

7.3 What has been done or will be done to prevent problems from arising or worsening in the future?

We are looking to prioritise work and optimise resource usage based on the PRoW categorisation system.

We are proactively looking for ways to secure revenue funding for maintenance as well as capital funding to build and install new infrastructure on the PRoW network.

7.4 How have you considered the *long term* and what will people's needs be in years to come?

Providing and maintaining infrastructure that enables and facilitates alternative modes of travel to the car can:

- Mitigate the impact of climate change
- Improve the health and well-being of the population
- Establish healthy trends and exercise throughout life
- Alleviating problems related to traffic congestion and parking

7.5 To ensure *integration*, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

Our activity is already integrated with and supports the work of other public bodies including Community Councils, Welsh Government and Eryri National Park.

We also work closely together and our work has been integrated with other services within the Council which include Highways and YGC, Biodiversity and Economy and Communities.

8.0 Impact on Characteristics of Equality, Welsh Language and Economic Duty

This will form part of the consultation and assessment process relating to the review of the PRow and ROWIP Policies.

A quality, accessible and attractive PRow has a positive impact on equality, Welsh language and socio-economic justice by improving access to nature, supporting local culture and providing inexpensive activities for all. However, the network needs to be carefully planned and managed to ensure accessibility, protect the Welsh language and reduce inequalities by investing in it.

9.0 Next Steps

Our next steps and what needs to be achieved can be summarised as follows:

- Proceed with the annual maintenance work programme.
- Fulfilling the schemes for which grants have been earned.
- Consider opportunities to collaborate further with others.
- Look to introduce a formal system of inspection of Lonydd Las and lands assumed to be the responsibility of the Service.
- Complete the review of the Policy and submit it to the political process for consideration and approval.
- Raise awareness and look for ways to mitigate risks associated with the network (general maintenance, tree management, impact of severe weather and vandalism).
- Find solutions to historical scenarios including Porthmadog Cob and Barmouth Bridge.
- Looking at further ways of encouraging use of the PRow network.

10.0 Background Information

The following links provide access to further information that may be of interest to Members:

Coastal Path
[Coastal Path](#)
 Local Access Forum
[Local Access Forums](#)
 Lonydd Las

[Recreational Routes](#)

Nabod Ni

[Nabod Ni - Footpaths](#)

Public Rights of Way

[Public Rights of Way](#)

Public Rights of Way Policy

[1](#)

Report of the Communities Scrutiny Committee – Active Travel 22 January 2026

[Active Travel.pdf](#)

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

[Layout 1](#)