

Local Government Performance 2010-11

We are pleased to present this, the sixth annual bulletin on local authority performance. This bulletin contains information on a range of local authority services. We have used the data to highlight the overall level and range of performance across Wales. The full data set is available on our website.

Overall performance

68% of the indicators which are comparable between 2009-10 and 2010-11 show improvement.

The gap in performance (between the best and worst performing authorities) narrowed in 57% of the indicators.

Service improvement

Local authorities are often one of the largest employers in an area and provide a range of services for the communities they serve. The table below shows how these services performed in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10.

Service Area	% of indicators where performance improved	% of indicators where the gap narrowed
Corporate Health	67%	67%
Education	63%	53%
Social Care	72%	62%
Youth Justice	67%	17%
Housing	60%	40%
Environment & Transport	70%	50%
Planning & Regulatory Services	77%	59%
Leisure & Culture	20%	80%
Overall	68%	57%



Note: Performance Indicator titles have been simplified to aid understanding.

We have rounded the data where this makes comparison easier.

On the following pages you will find information on the performance of local authorities as they deliver important outcomes for our communities.

Providing a clean and safe environment...

Local authorities ensure that the places where we live and work are clean and safe.

93.8% of highways and relevant land inspected was of a high or acceptable quality in 2010-11 (compared to 94.9% in 2009-10). This ranged from 83.8% in Cardiff to 99.4% in Torfaen.

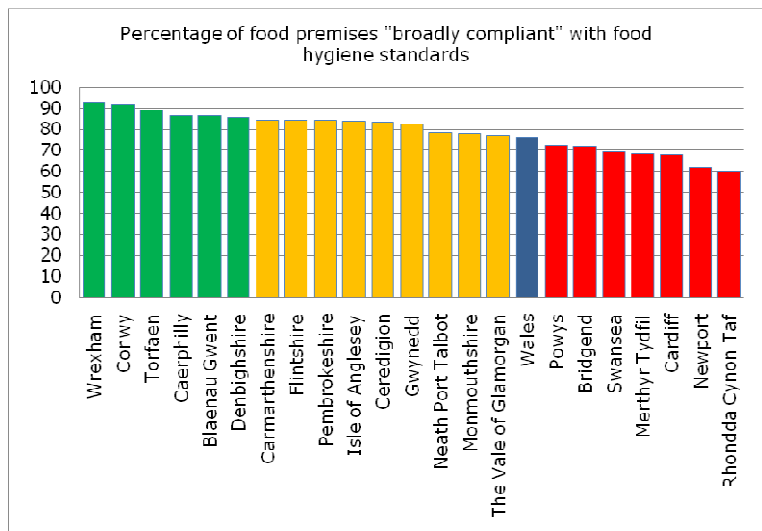
Local authorities took an average of 3.8 days to repair street lamp failures in 2010-11. This ranged from 0.9 days in Denbighshire to 10.3 days in Powys.

The condition of our roads worsened in 2010-11 with 6.6 % of principal (A) roads considered to be in a "poor" condition (compared to 5.0% in 2009-10). This ranged from 3.4% in Flintshire to 16.2% in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Across Wales, 7.9 % of non-principal (B) roads were considered to be in a "poor" condition.

Note: Monmouthshire did not supply data relating to the condition of roads.

Note: A premises which is "broadly compliant" is one where there are no significant issues in terms of food hygiene. The term "broadly compliant" is defined fully in the performance indicator guidance on our website.

76% of food establishments were "broadly compliant" with food hygiene standards in 2010-11, ranging from 93% in Wrexham to 60% in Rhondda Cynon Taf.



In 2010-11, 96% of fly-tipping incidents reported to local authorities were cleared within five working days (compared to 94% in 2009-10). This ranged from 100% in Bridgend, The Vale of Glamorgan, and Blaenau Gwent to 80% in Monmouthshire.

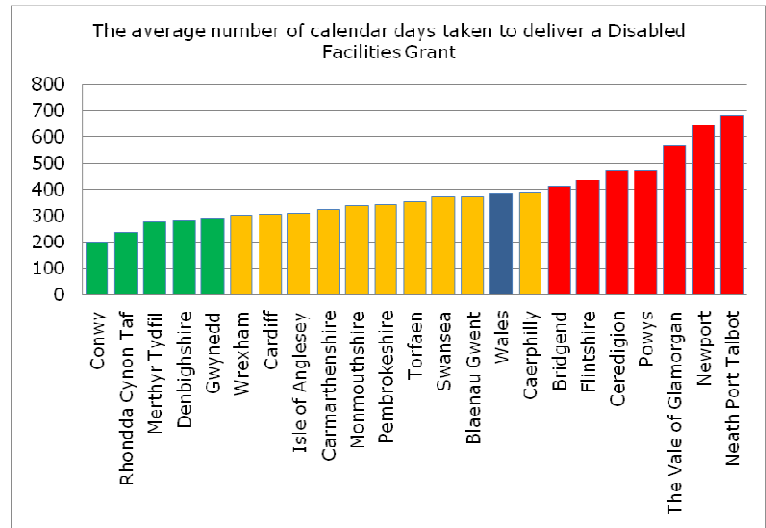
Providing affordable and appropriate housing...

Note: Flintshire did not supply data relating to this indicator.

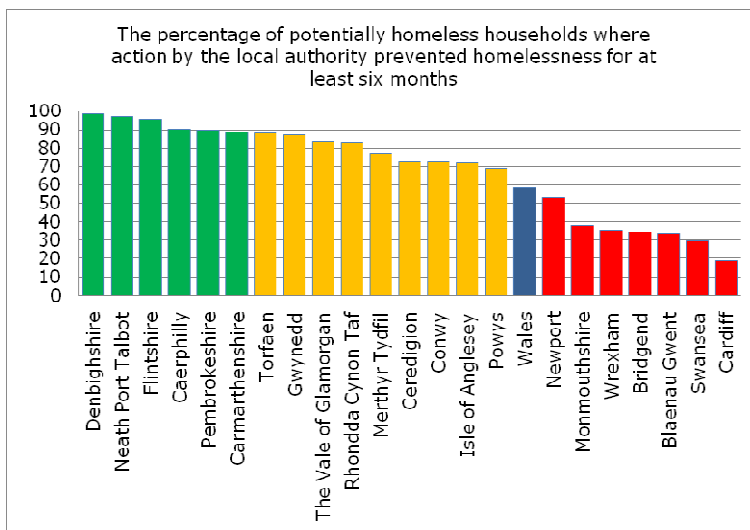
25% of all additional housing units provided during 2010-11 were affordable housing – a further improvement on the 23% reported for 2009-10. This ranged from 56% in The Vale of Glamorgan to 3% in Wrexham.

Note: A Disabled Facilities Grant is a local authority grant to help towards the cost of adapting a disabled person's home to enable them to continue to live there.

Local authorities took an average of 387 days to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant in 2010-11 (compared to 349 days in 2009-10). This ranged from 202 days in Conwy to 680 days in Neath Port Talbot.



Local authorities across Wales handled almost 14,400 requests for help from homeless people during 2010-11. Decisions on how best to provide help were taken within 33 days for 87% of these (compared to 90% in 2009-10). This ranged from 99% in Swansea to 58% in Wrexham.



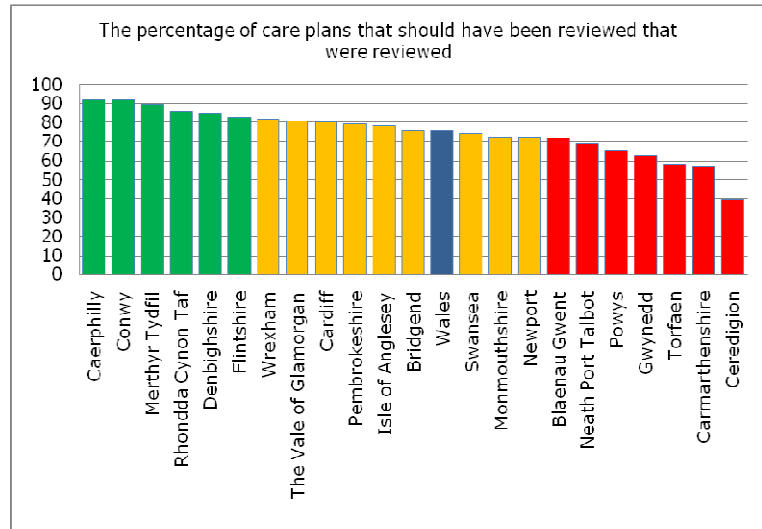
Action by local authorities prevented homelessness for at least six months for 58% of potentially homeless households in 2010-11 (compared to 60% in 2009-10). This ranged from 98% in Denbighshire to 19% in Cardiff.

Supporting safe and independent lives...

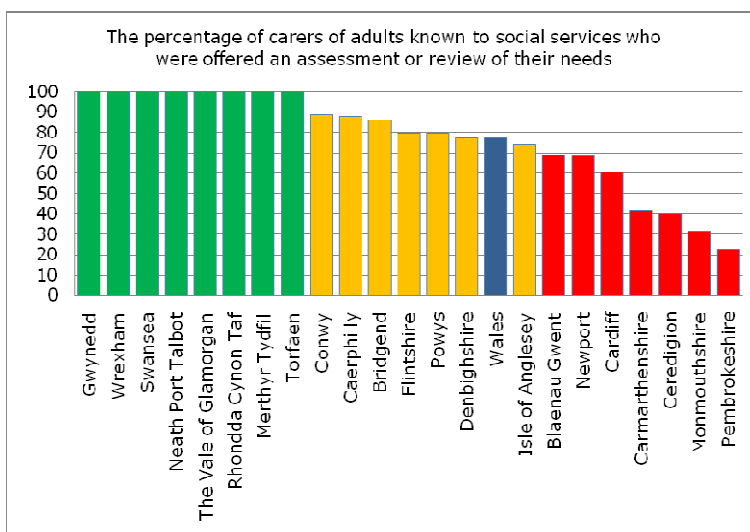
Local authorities' social services provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. In 2010-11, local authorities supported almost 110 thousand people in the community or in residential homes.

94% of people aged 18-64 supported by social services received that support in the community (as in 2009-10). For people aged 65 years or over, 84% were supported in the community.

75.5% of care plans that should have been reviewed during the year were reviewed; a further improvement on the 71.5% reported for 2009-10. This ranged from 91.8% in Caerphilly to 39.7% in Ceredigion.



A delayed transfer of care – also known as “bed blocking” – arises when a person who no longer needs hospital treatment is unable to leave hospital and return to their own home or to a social care setting such as a residential home. In 2010-11 the rate of delayed transfers due to social care reasons fell to 5.76 per 1,000 population aged 75 or over. This continues the steady decrease from 9.49 in 2006-07.

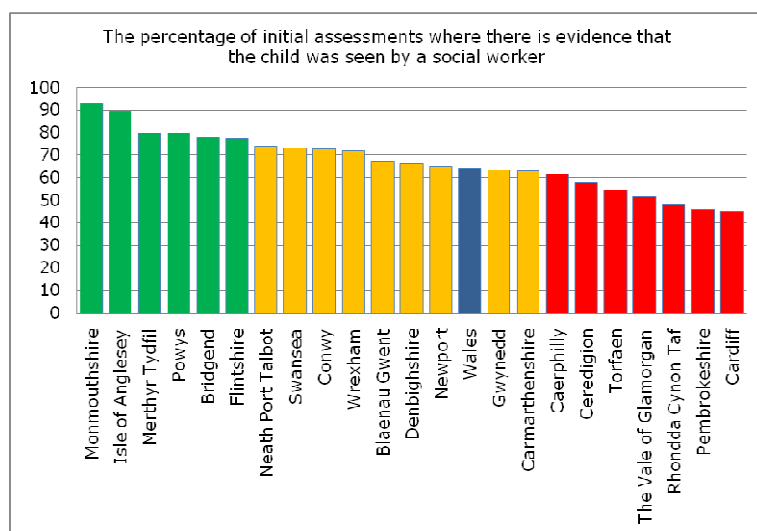
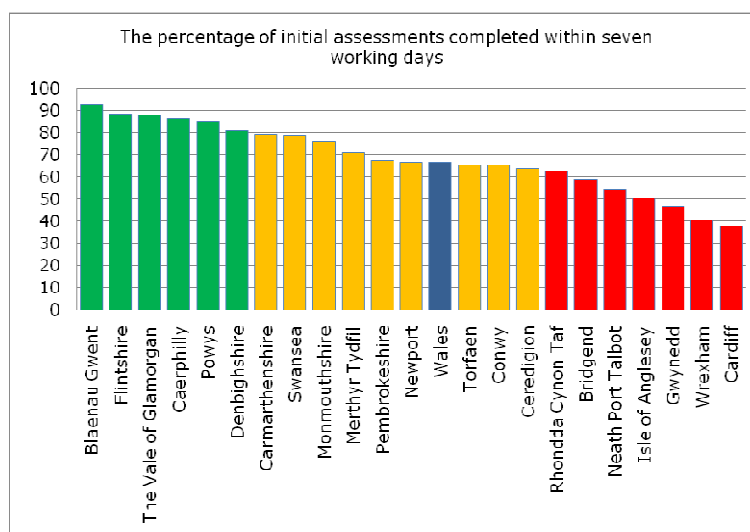


77.1% of carers of adults known to social services were offered an assessment or review of their needs in 2010-11 (compared to 80.8% in 2009-10). This ranged from 100% in Gwynedd, Wrexham, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, The Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen to 23% in Pembrokeshire.

Safeguarding children...

Local authorities received over 47,500 referrals relating to children in 2010-11 – slightly less than in 2009-10.

66.6% of initial assessments were completed within seven working days (compared to 65.5% in 2009-10). This ranged from 92.5% in Blaenau Gwent to 37.9% in Cardiff. The average time taken to complete those assessments which were not completed within seven working days fell from 25 days in 2009-10 to 23 days in 2010-11.



There is evidence that the child was seen by a social worker in 64.2% of initial assessments (compared to 60.0% in 2009-10). This ranged from 92.8% in Monmouthshire to 45.1% in Cardiff.

There were over 5,400 children in the care of their local authorities at the end of March 2011. Almost 2,100 children were placed in care for the first time during 2010-11; 91.5% of these "first placements" began with a care plan in place (compared to 92.3% in 2009-10).

Note: Stability is recognised as important for the wellbeing of children in care.

9.1% of children looked after experienced three or more placements during 2010-11 (compared to 10.2% in 2009-10).

81.3% of statutory visits to looked after children took place in accordance with regulations in 2010-11 (compared to 82.2% in 2009-10). This ranged from 99.5% in The Vale of Glamorgan to 59.1% in Neath Port Talbot.

91.7% of looked after children reviews were carried out within statutory timescales during 2010-11 (compared to 90.9% in 2009-10).

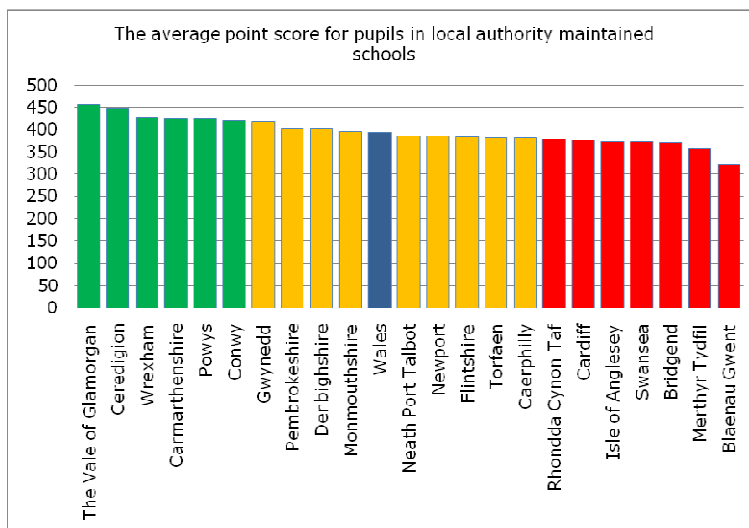
Educating children...

Local authority maintained schools educate around 460 thousand children each year.

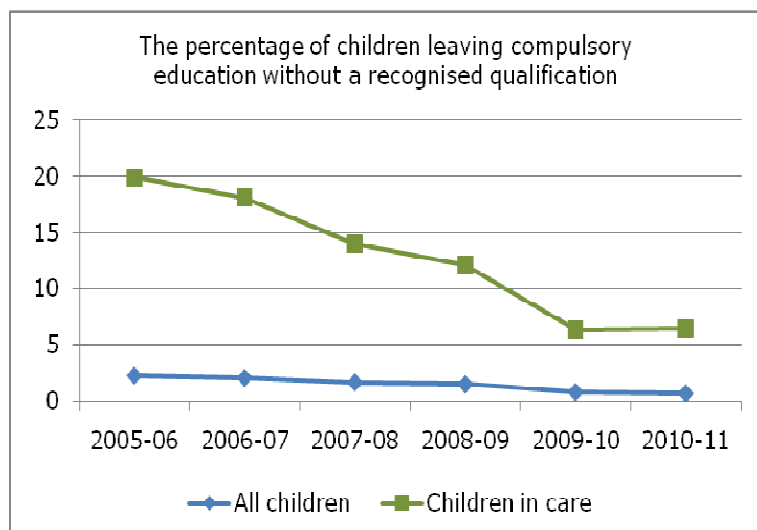
For 2010-11, pupil attendance at primary school remained at 93%, whilst attendance at secondary school remained at 91%. For children in care, the figures were 94% and 90% respectively.

Note: Each qualification is given a score e.g. a GCSE has a score of between 6 and 58 points depending on the grade achieved (G to A)*

The average point score for pupils aged 15 or 16 in local authority maintained schools continued to rise (for the fourth successive year) to 394.1 points. This ranged from 455.29 points in The Vale of Glamorgan to 321.03 points in Blaenau Gwent.



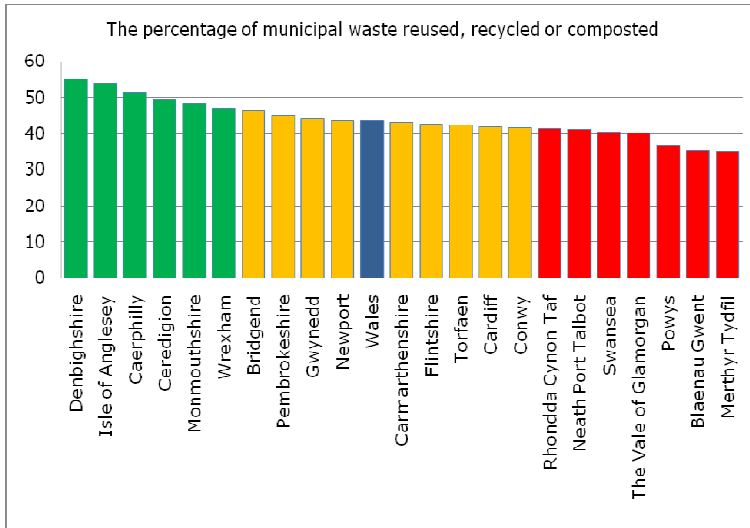
The average point score for children in care increased from 151.7 points in 2009-10 to 183.2 points in 2010-11.



0.8% of all children leaving compulsory education aged 15 or 16 (who did not go on to full time education, training or work based learning) did so without a recognised qualification – the fifth successive improvement from 2.3% in 2005-06. For children in care, 6.5% of children left without a recognised qualification (compared to 6.4% in 2009-10).

Working towards sustainable futures...

From promoting energy efficiency, to ensuring that resources are reused and recycled, local authorities play a big part in helping secure the future for the next generation.



Local authorities in Wales collected around 1.62 million tonnes of municipal waste in 2010-11; a further reduction on the 1.67 million tonnes collected in 2009-10.

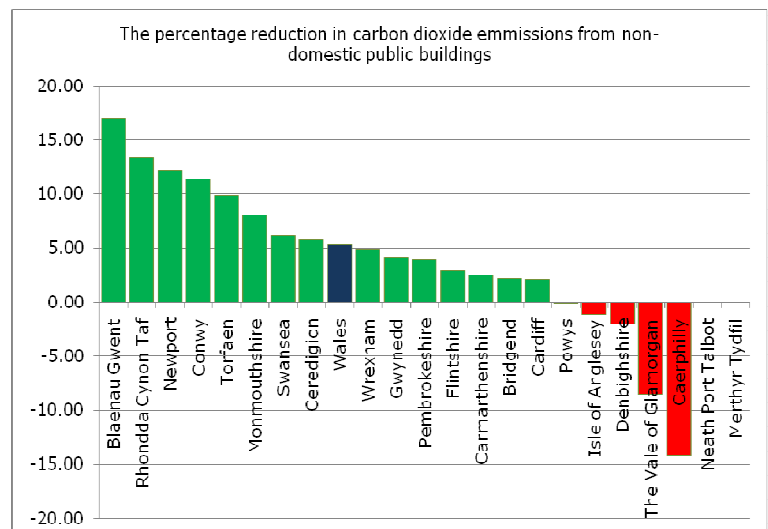
The percentage of waste sent to landfill continues to fall, with 51% being sent to landfill in 2010-11 (compared to 56% in 2009-10).

44% of the municipal waste collected was reused or recycled.

In 2010-11, 66.3% of all additional housing units provided during the year were built on previously developed land (compared to 67.2% in 2009-10).

Note: Neath Port Talbot and Merthyr Tydfil did not supply data for this indicator.

2010-11 saw a 5.4% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from non-domestic public buildings.

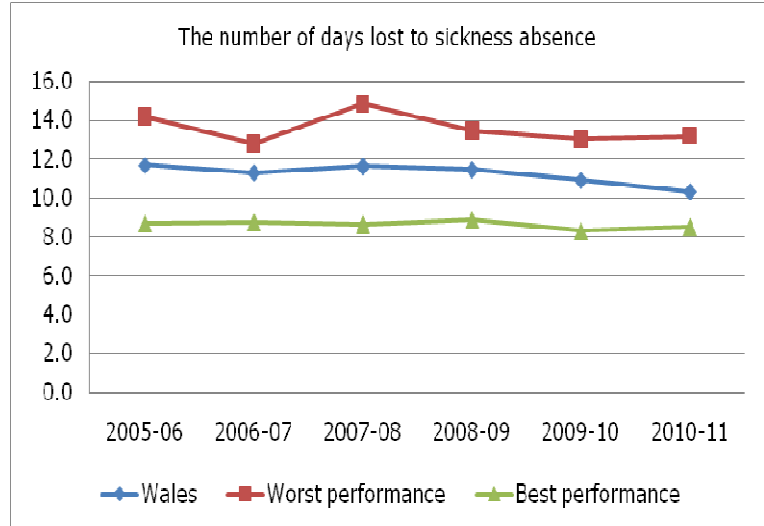


Local government as an employer...

Local authorities in Wales employed over 140 thousand people in 2010-11. 9.6% of employees left the employment of local authorities during the year – the highest level since 2007-08.

Note: The Isle of Anglesey and Rhondda Cynon Taf did not supply data for this indicator.

The number of days lost to sickness absence continues to improve, with an average of 10.3 days lost per employee (Whole Time Equivalent).



Local government as a business...

Local authorities across Wales collected 96.6% of the council tax due in 2010-11 and 97.3% of non-domestic rates; both improving on the 96.5% and 96.7% collected in 2009-10.

Note: The Isle of Anglesey did not supply data for this indicator.

Local authorities paid 91.1% of the 3.1 million undisputed invoices within 30 days. This ranged from 97.4% in Bridgend to 77.0% in Monmouthshire.

Contact details

If you require any further information regarding this bulletin please contact:

Richard Palmer

Head of Improvement
Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales
Tel: 029 2090 9500
E-mail: enquiries@dataunitwales.gov.uk

The full performance indicator data set is published on our website (www.dataunitwales.gov.uk) and is available in [InfoBaseCymru](#).

Notes

One of the key functions of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales is to collect, process, interpret and disseminate statistical data on local government services and activities in support of local government improvement.

The indicators quoted here are part of the Performance Measurement Framework for local authorities in Wales. The indicators reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Government and local government in Wales. They also provide service/policy area specific performance information to aid service improvement.

The National Strategic Indicator data, which is a sub-set of the data used here, was collected and published by the Welsh Government and has been audited by the Wales Audit Office.

Wales values are based on the base data submitted by the authorities. Where authorities have not supplied their base data, their figures do not contribute to Wales values.

Where appropriate, data has been rounded for the purposes of this bulletin. The complete data set (including the base data) is available on our website.

Guidance documents relating to the 2010-11 indicator sets are also available on our website (for the Core Set Indicators) and on the Welsh Government website (for the National Strategic Indicators). These provide a detailed definition for each of the indicators along with their classification i.e. National Strategic Indicator or Core Set Indicator.

The colours (red, amber and green) used in the performance ranking charts are based on the range of PI values. Green indicates performance was at a level within the top quarter of the performance range; red indicates performance was at a level within the bottom quarter of the performance range. Amber is used where the performance level falls between these two points.

In performance range charts, blue represents the Wales PI value, green shows the PI value for the best local authority performance, and red shows the PI value for the worst local authority performance.