



Local Authority Performance 2007-08

We are pleased to present the third annual local authority performance bulletin.

We have highlighted some of the most important aspects of local authority performance for 2007-08, the third operational year of the Performance Measurement Framework - Wales. We then set out in more detail performance across a range of service areas. Where possible we have tried to simplify the performance indicators' descriptions for use within this bulletin. We have also rounded the data in order to make comparison easier.

Some facts for 2007-08

A summary of some of the key facts for 2007-08 is shown below. We have also indicated where performance has improved (↑) or worsened (↓) compared to 2006-07.

- Local authorities recycled 21% of waste collected compared to 18% in 2006-07, and 15% in 2005-06. 11.2% of waste was composted in 2007-08 compared to 9.7% in 2006-07. ↑
- The proportion of waste sent to landfill improved by 5 percentage points, falling to 64%. ↑
- The number of school leavers who left school without a recognised qualification fell to 1.7%, compared to 2.1% in 2006-07. ↑
- The number of days taken by local authorities to discharge their duty to statutorily homeless households significantly increased for the second year to 149 days. This compares to 113 days in 2006-07 and 79 days taken in 2005-06. ↓
- The number of homeless households in Bed & Breakfast accommodation fell by 31%; the number of homeless families with children in such accommodation fell by 44%. ↑
- 2007-08 saw reported improvements in the energy efficiency of housing stock, with a 9.4% reduction in energy use between the baseline year (1997) and 2006-07. The same period saw a 7.9% reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions. ↑
- During 2007-08, around 750 new affordable housing units were provided across Wales. This represents 7% of the 10,600 new housing units provided, compared to 9% provided in 2006-07. ↓
- 2007-08 saw the percentage of high risk premises inspected for Food Hygiene rise to 99%. ↑
- 92% of children in local authority care had a care plan in place at the time of their first placement, compared to 88% in 2006-07. ↑
- The rate of people occupying hospital beds while waiting for social care fell by 2.5 per 1,000 population aged 75 or over, to 7 per 1,000 population. ↑
- 79% of the 9.3 thousand adult carers identified were offered an assessment of their needs. ↔

More detailed performance information is provided in the pages that follow.



Environment and transport

Local authorities are responsible for improving the local environment by collecting and recycling waste, maintaining pavements, roads and street lights, and removing litter and fly-tipping. The state of local roads, amounts of litter, and the availability and efficiency of services; such as recycling, all contribute to the public's perception of their local services.

Waste collection and disposal

In 2007-08 local authorities collected 1.79 million tonnes of municipal waste, compared to 1.84 million tonnes in 2006-07 and 1.89 million tonnes in 2005-06.

Sending waste to landfill sites is unsustainable. Local authorities must try to divert waste away from landfill, and face a regime of fines and penalties if they do not. Making effective use of alternative solutions such as recycling, re-use, composting and converting waste into energy is key.

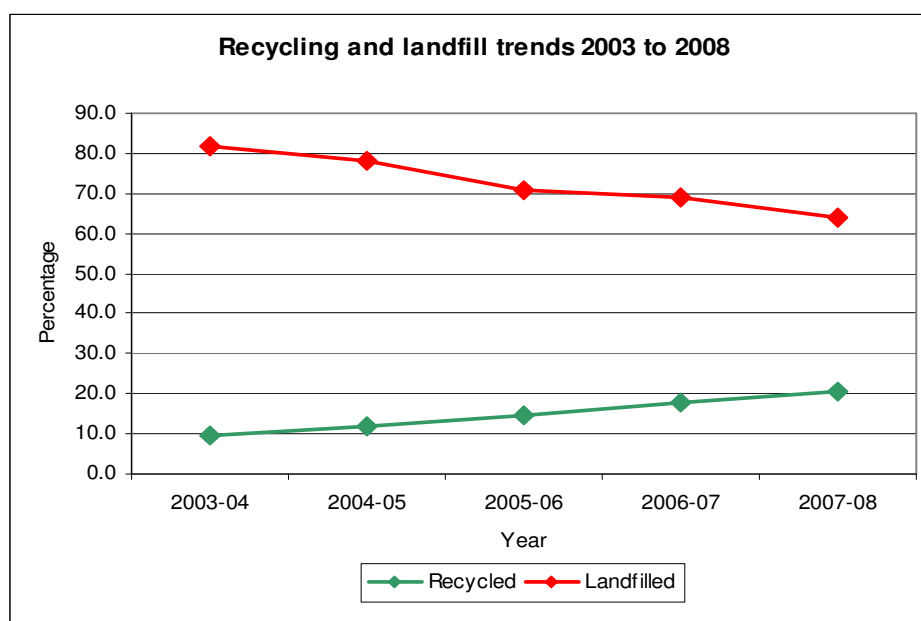
The percentage of households covered by a kerbside collection service for recyclables continued to increase steadily, rising from 78% in 2005-06 to 92% in 2007-08. This ranged from 100% in Wrexham, Swansea, Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff to 52% in Denbighshire.

In 2007-08 20.6% of municipal waste was either recycled or re-used. This compares to 17.9% in 2006-07. In 2007-08 the percentage of waste recycled ranged from 39% in Ceredigion to 14% in Blaenau Gwent.

A further 11.2% of municipal waste was composted in 2007-08 compared to 9.7% in 2006-07. This ranged from 19% in Conwy, Powys and Monmouthshire to 4% in Blaenau Gwent. In the same period the percentage used to recover heat and power also increased, from 0.9% to 1.3%.

Consequently, the percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill fell again in 2007-08 from 68.6% to 64.4%. This ranged from 44% in Bridgend to 79% in Blaenau Gwent. The actual amount of municipal waste that was landfilled has fallen from 1.26 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 1.15 million tonnes in 2007-08.

Transport and highways





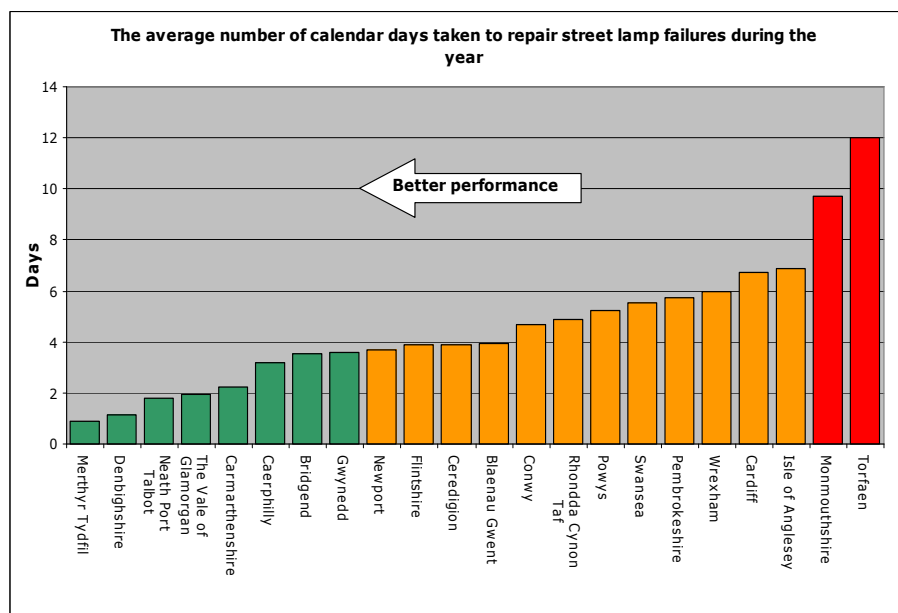
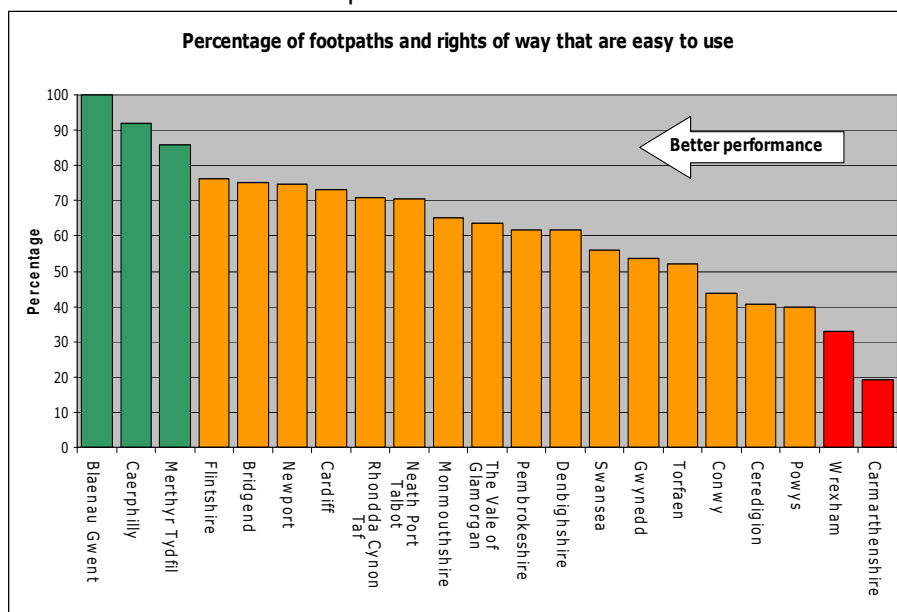
Local authorities are responsible for maintaining all public roads in Wales, apart from motorways and trunk roads. Across Wales the road network is just over 34 thousand kilometres in length. Over half of this is made up of "unclassified" or minor roads.

Of the 1.9 thousand kilometres of footpaths and other rights of way surveyed in Wales, over half continued to be judged as 'easy to use' by members of the public. This ranged from 100% in Blaenau Gwent to 19% in Carmarthenshire.

96% of the highways and relevant land

inspected were deemed to be of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness. This ranged from 100% in Torfaen to 84% in Blaenau Gwent.

For the second year, 93% of reported fly tipping incidents were cleared within 5 working days. This ranged from 100% in Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Newport to 75% in Monmouthshire.



The number of days taken to repair broken street lamps improved from 4.8 days in 2006-07 to 4.5 days in 2007-08. This ranged from, on average, less than 1 day in Merthyr Tydfil to almost 12 days in Torfaen.

The percentage of older people that have been issued with a concessionary travel pass saw another increase

from 78% to 80% in 2007-08.



Education¹

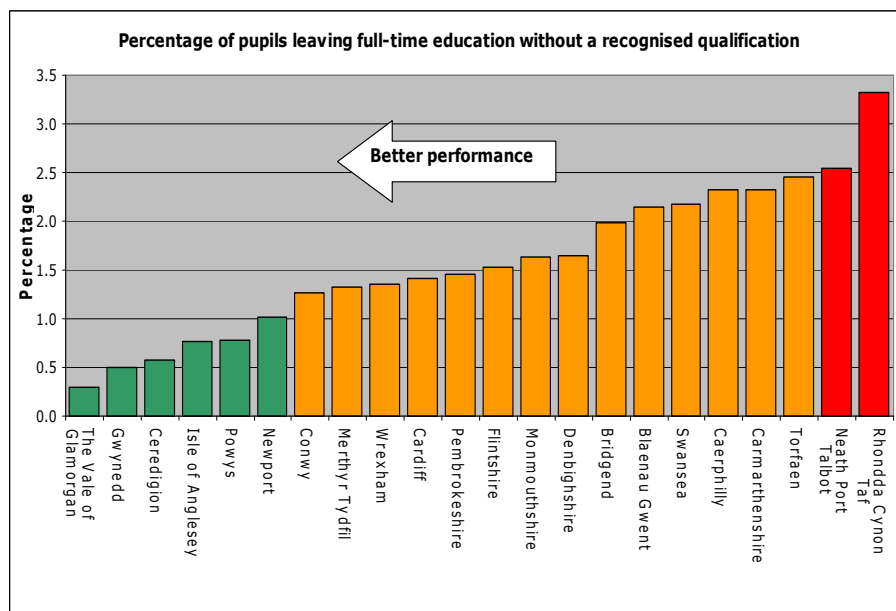
Local authorities are responsible for planning and delivering education for children in partnerships with schools and governing bodies.

In the 2006-07 academic year, local authority maintained schools educated over 250 thousand children of primary school age and 210 thousand of secondary school age, compared to 205 thousand and 186 thousand respectively in 2005-06. The percentage of Key Stage 2 primary school classes with over 30 pupils rose from 0.18% to 1.06%, as did the average pupil teacher ratio for primary schools from 16:1, to 20:1.

The same period saw secondary school attendance rise by 0.6 percentage points to 90.7%. Primary school attendance rose by 0.5 percentage points to 93.1%.

Of the children assessed, 19.5% received a Teacher Assessment in Welsh as a first language at Key Stage 2, which is a slight increase from the 2005-06 academic year. This compares to 15.3% at Key Stage 3 which showed a slight decrease for the same period. Figures reported for the 2005-06 academic year showed 19.1% at Key Stage 2 and 15.7% at Key Stage 3.

The percentage of children achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 in the core National Curriculum subjects of English or Welsh (first language), Mathematics and Science remained at 74% for the third year running, ranging from 80% in Newport to 69% in Merthyr Tydfil. The percentage of children achieving level 5 or above at Key Stage 3 in the core subjects showed a decrease for the first time in three years from 58% to 57%. This ranged from 67% in Powys to 44% in Blaenau Gwent.



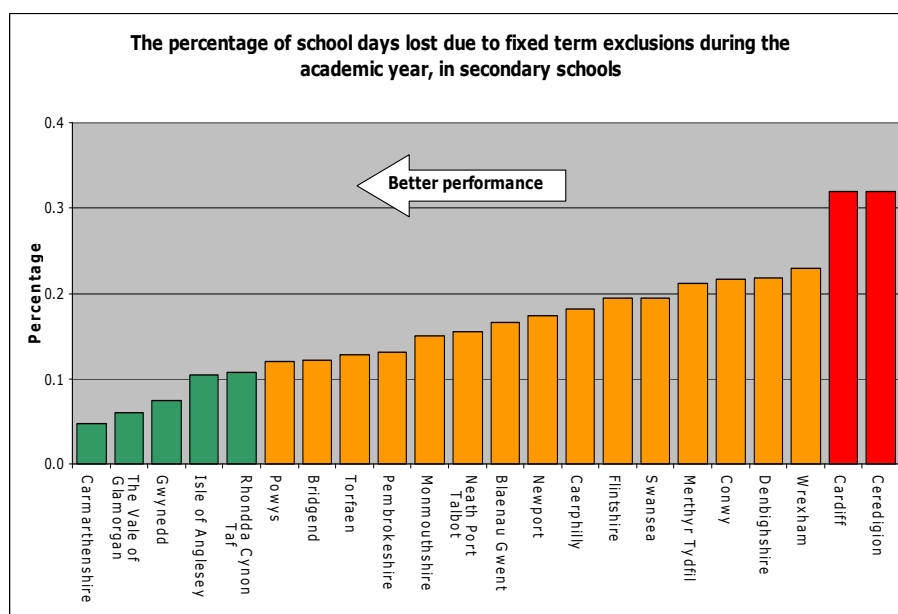
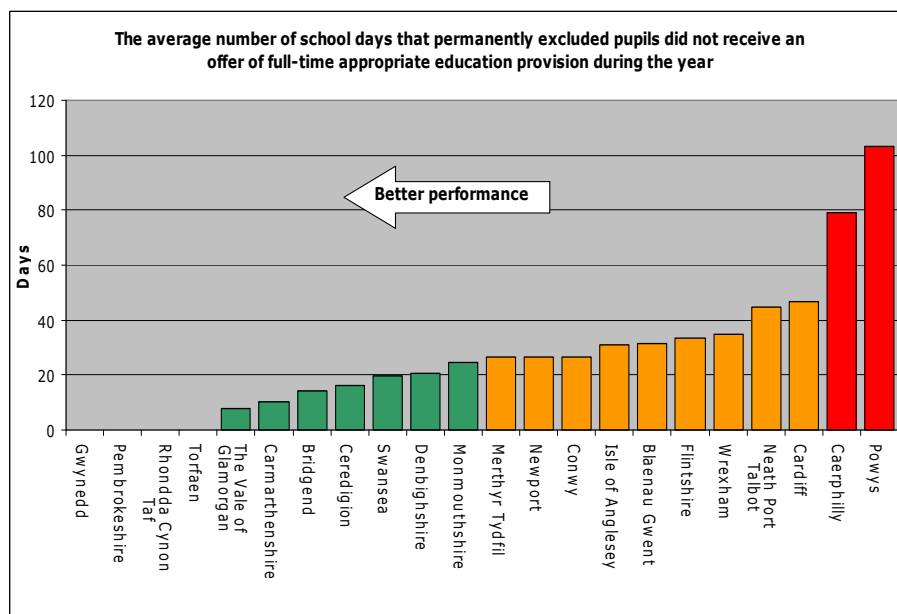
The percentage of secondary school children who left full-time education at the age of 15 or 16 without a recognised qualification fell to 1.7% compared to 2.1% in the previous year. For the 2006-07 academic year this ranged from 0.3% in the Vale of Glamorgan to 3.3% in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The percentage of children in care

who left without a recognised qualification fell from 18.1% to 14.0%.

¹ Please note that the 2007-08 education performance information is based on the 2006-07 academic year.



There were 282 permanent exclusions made across Wales during the academic year. On average, excluded pupils waited for 32 days to receive an offer of full-time education provision. This ranged from 0 days in Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen to 103 days in Powys. The average time taken to offer part-time education provision was 17 days – a reduction of 3 days on the previous year - ranging from 0 days for Gwynedd, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, and Torfaen to 47 days in Cardiff.

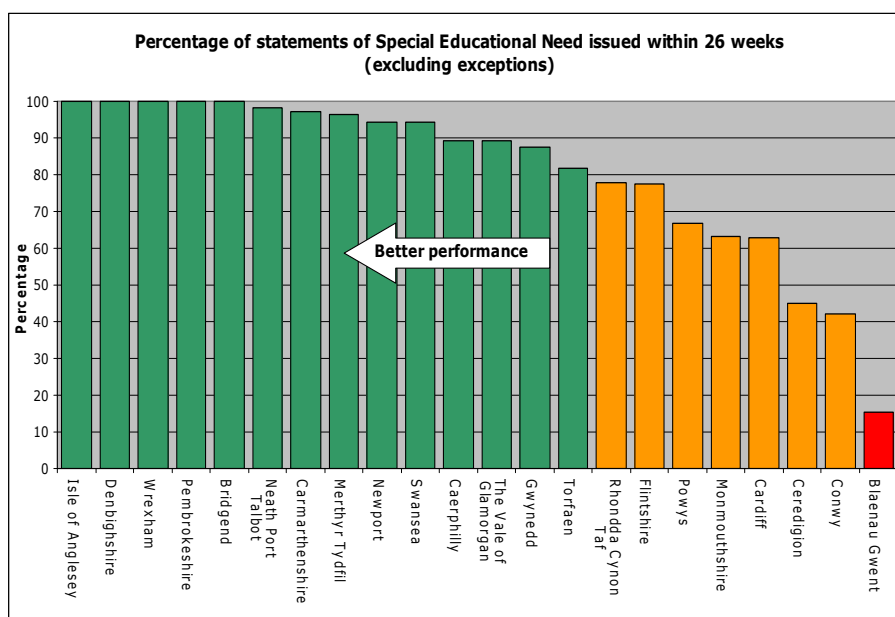


A fixed term exclusion is where a definite date of return is given for the pupil to return to the same school. 6,500 school days were lost due to fixed term exclusions in primary schools and 60 thousand days in secondary schools for the academic year 2006-07. This represents 0.015% (primary) and 0.163% (secondary) of all school days.

For the 2005-06 academic year, 5,800 (primary) and 62 thousand (secondary) school days were lost.



For the first time, the Performance Measurement Framework now looks at statements of Special Educational Need (SEN). These statements outline a child's special educational need and the special educational provision that should meet that need. Usually, these statements can be issued within 26 weeks; there are,



however, certain circumstances in which it is not reasonable to expect authorities to meet this time scale. Those exceptions are listed in the SEN Code of Practice for Wales. In total, 70% of statements were issued within 26 weeks. In those cases where defined exceptional circumstances existed and were excluded, 83% of statements were issued within the same time frame. Performance, where the defined exceptions existed and were included, ranged from 100% in Denbighshire to 23% in Conwy.



Housing

Local authorities play a key role in identifying and meeting local housing needs within their local areas. Some authorities provide public housing as well as working with other providers, such as registered social landlords to meet housing needs. They also have a statutory role to assist homeless households and work with the private sector to support and fund improvements in housing stock.

Local authority maintained housing

In 2007-08, 21 of the 22² local authorities were responsible for managing and maintaining a social housing stock. At 31 March 2007 the total number of local authority dwellings was around 154 thousand.

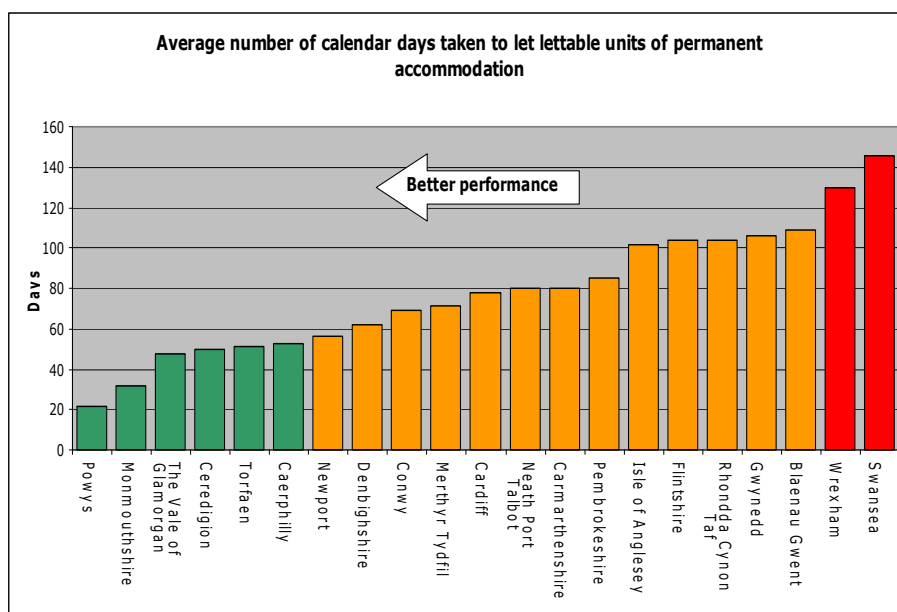
During 2007-08, local authorities collected 96.4% of the rent due to them from tenants in permanent accommodation and 78.5% from tenants in temporary accommodation, compared to 96.6% and 66.8% respectively for 2006-07. At the end of 2007-08 local authorities were owed £16.9 million in rent arrears for permanent accommodation and £1.4 million for temporary accommodation.

On average, it took 85 days to re-let permanent accommodation and 28 days to re-let temporary accommodation. The total rent lost due to these vacancies was around £10.3 million, compared to £10.5 million in 2006-07 and £9.6 million in 2005-06.

Local authorities are responsible for repairing houses

that they own; repairs are classified, in order of priority, as 'emergency', for example a burst pipe or loss of electrical power; 'urgent', for example, door entry phone not working; and 'non-urgent'. Local authorities completed 135 thousand emergency repairs in 2007-08, compared to 142 thousand in 2006-07. The average time taken to complete them was 0.5 days, with only four local authorities reporting that they took an average of 1 or more days.

During 2007-08, urgent repairs took an average of 7 days to complete and the time taken to complete non-urgent repairs increased by 8 days to 41 days. The time taken to complete urgent repairs ranged from less than 1 day on the Isle of Anglesey to 17 days



² Bridgend have transferred their housing stock and as such, do not supply data for these indicators. Monmouthshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf both transferred stock part way through the year.



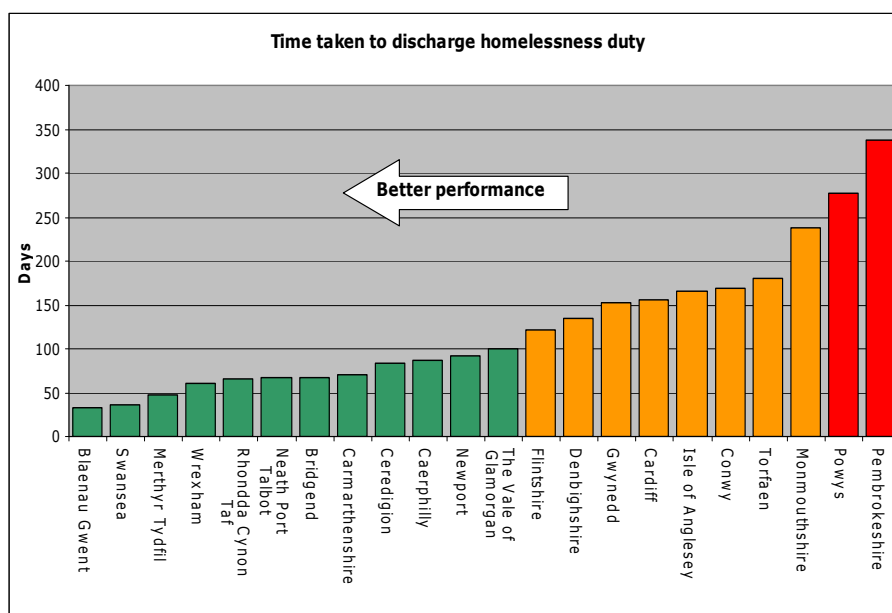
in Flintshire. Non-urgent repairs ranged from 12 days in Monmouthshire to 145 days on the Isle of Anglesey.

Homelessness

During 2007-08, just over 13 thousand households presented themselves to local authorities as homeless. 6 thousand of these households were found to be statutorily homeless, of which 2.7% or 152 households had already been classed as statutorily homeless at least once within the last two years. This shows a slight increase from 2006-07 where 2.5% or 144 households had previously been accepted as homeless by the same authority.

In 2007-08, 86% of households presenting as homeless received a decision on their eligibility for assistance within 33 working days, this showed a slight improvement on the 85% reported in 2006-07. This compares with 83% in 2005-06. For 2007-08, as in 2006-07, this ranged from 100% in Blaenau Gwent to 65% in Cardiff.

Local authorities took an average of 149 days to discharge their duty to those households who were accepted as statutorily homeless – this is the second significant increase from 113 days in 2006-07 and 79 days in 2005-06. In 2007-08, this ranged from 32 days in Blaenau Gwent to 337 days in Pembrokeshire.



Local authorities are responsible for providing timely support and accommodation to those households who are, or may become, homeless and preventing people from becoming homeless. Ideally, local authorities should find homeless people somewhere permanent to live, rather than placing them in temporary accommodation such as Bed and Breakfasts (B&B).

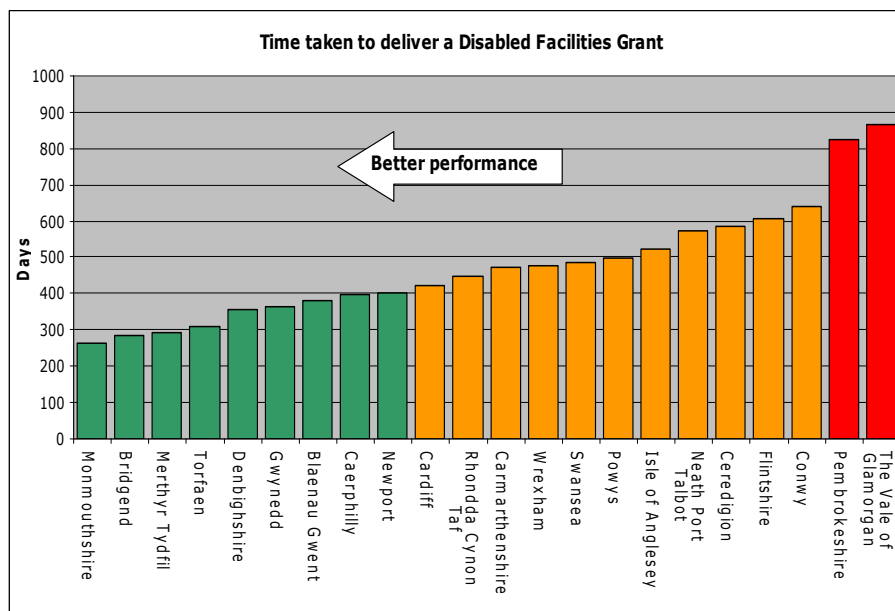
Homeless households spent an average of 169 days in temporary accommodation in 2007-08, ranging from 22 days in Merthyr Tydfil to 484 days in Pembrokeshire. This compared to an average of 118 days in 2006-07 and 102 days in 2005-06.

In 2007-08, the number of homeless households accommodated in B&Bs fell by 31%, from 3,400 in 2006-07 to around 2,300. The number of families with children using B&B accommodation also fell significantly, from 746 in 2006-07, to 417 in 2007-08. In 2007-08, the number of homeless families with children in B&B accommodation ranged from 0 in Denbighshire, Cardiff and Blaenau Gwent to 64 in Torfaen.



Other housing

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. In 2007-08, it took an average of 453 days to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant compared to 545 days in 2006-07 and 593 days in 2005-06. For 2007-08 this ranged from 263 days in Monmouthshire to 868 days in the Vale of Glamorgan. This compares to 2006-07, where performance



ranged from 318 days to 1,112 days.

The average time taken to deliver adaptations where the Disabled Facilities Grant process was not used was 208 days for local authority tenants, ranging from 32 days in Flintshire to 525 days in Denbighshire. For residents of private dwellings, low cost adaptations took an average of 81 days, ranging from 4 days in Torfaen to 453 days in Pembrokeshire.

Direct action by local authorities meant that 1.4% or 265 of the 18,454 private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than six months were returned to occupation in 2007-08. This is lower than the reported figures for 2006-07 and 2005-06, which were 1.5% and 1.6% respectively.

2007-08 saw improvements in the reported energy efficiency of housing in Wales, with a 9.4% reduction in energy used between the baseline year (1997) and 2006-07. This ranged from an 18.8% reduction in Swansea to a 0.5% reduction in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The same period saw a 7.9% reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions, ranging from 15.3% in Swansea to 0.4% in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Housing and council tax benefit

There were around 305 thousand claimants of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit across Wales in 2007-08, a similar number to that in 2006-07. The number of new claimants fell by 5 thousand, with 165 thousand new claims being processed over the year. Local authorities also processed 313 thousand changes of circumstance.

2007-08 saw another improvement in the speed of processing new claims. The average time taken to process new claims fell steadily from 37 days in 2005-06 to 25 days in 2007-08. The average time taken to process a change in circumstance has fallen from 17 days in 2005-06 to 13 days in 2006-07 to 11 days in 2007-08.



The accuracy of processing remained constant, with 98% of benefits being paid correctly. Of the overpayments identified during the last year, which amounted to £16.5 million, 73% were recovered. This compares with 68% of the identified £17.8 million in 2006-07. The total amount outstanding at the end of the year, including overpayments identified in previous years, amounted to £30.2 million.



Planning and public protection

Local authorities determine whether individual building and other developments should go ahead, taking into account the proposed development's impact on amenities and the environment. Local authority regulatory services, including environmental health and trading standards, are important frontline services that protect the quality of life and well being of local communities.

Planning

During 2007-08, around 750 new affordable housing units were provided across Wales, compared to 800 in 2006-07. This represents 7% of the 10,600 new housing units provided. Over two thirds of the new housing units built were built on previously developed land (so-called "brownfield sites").

In the same period, local authorities determined almost 33 thousand planning applications; slightly more than in 2006-07. 28 thousand applications or 85% were approved in 2007-08 compared to 27 thousand or 84% in 2006-07.

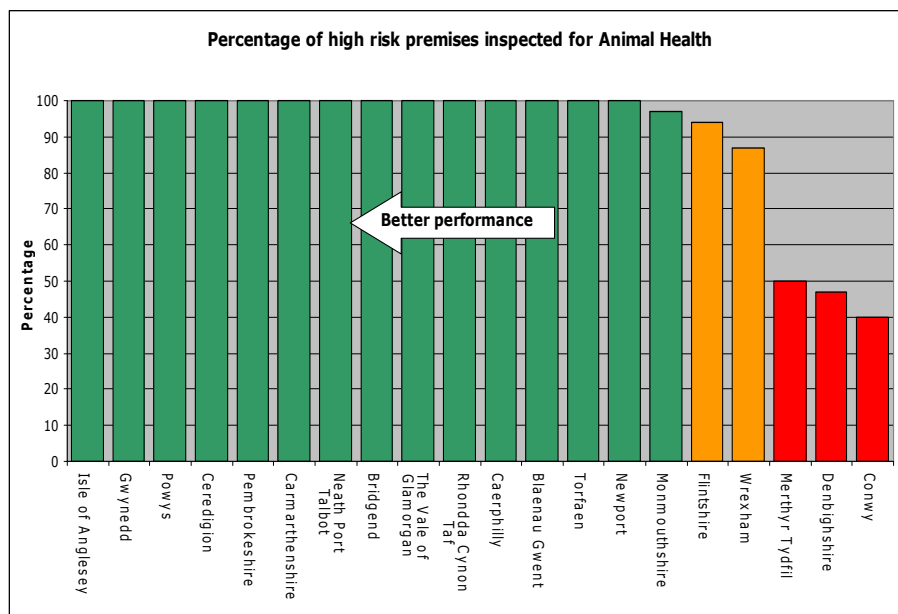
In 2007-08, 14 thousand applications determined came from householders. Of these, 77% were determined within 8 weeks compared to 74% in 2006-07. In 2007-08 the percentage determined within 8 weeks ranged from 89% on the Isle of Anglesey and Conwy to 51% in Newport.

67% of cases, where complaints were received relating to a single alleged breach of planning control, were resolved within 12 weeks compared to 62% during the previous year. This ranged from 96% in Merthyr Tydfil to 41% in Powys.

Public protection

Local authorities are required to inspect premises deemed to be "high risk" in terms of: Food Hygiene; Trading Standards; Animal Health; or Health & Safety. In 2007-08, the total number of high risk inspections amounted to 14.5 thousand. The table below shows that authorities have continued to make improvements in the inspection rates for high risk premises.

	%	%	%
High risk premises inspected for:	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Trading Standards	95	97	98
Food Hygiene	91	91	99
Animal Health	84	93	94
Health and Safety	89	92	100



94% of high risk premises were inspected for Animal Health in 2007-08, this compares to 93% in 2006-07. In 2007-08 this ranged from 100% for 14 of the 20 authorities to 40% in Conwy. Cardiff had no high risk Animal Health premises, and Swansea did not provide data for this indicator. Those authorities who didn't achieve 100% were, Conwy, Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Wrexham, Flintshire and Monmouthshire.

Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Wrexham, Flintshire and Monmouthshire.

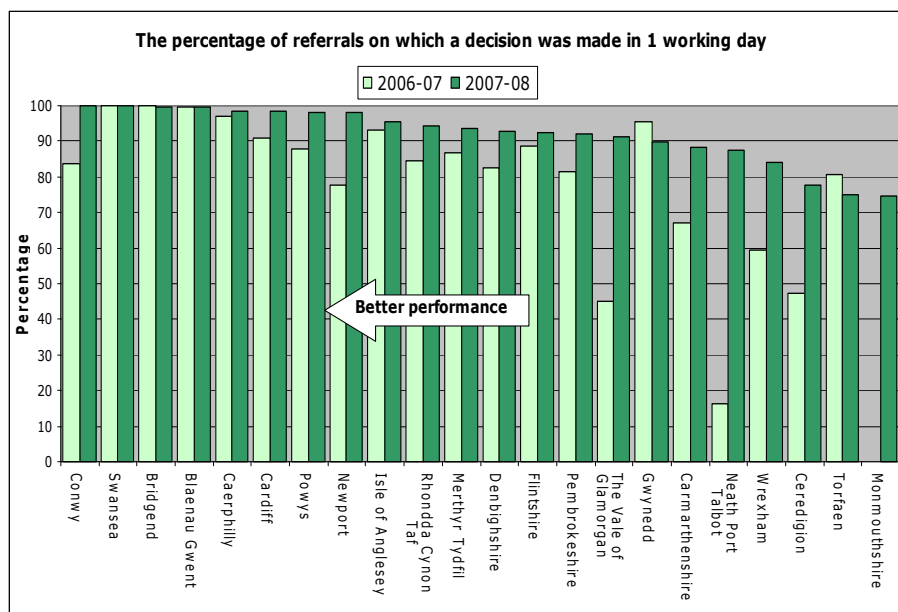
2007-08 saw the percentage of high risk inspections for Food Hygiene increase from 91% to 99%. This ranged from 100% for 15 of the 22 authorities to 92% in Denbighshire. Those authorities who didn't achieve 100% were, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Conwy, Flintshire, Powys, Pembrokeshire and Newport.



Social care

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide a range of services designed to meet the social care needs of vulnerable people. For example, a local authority will act as a "corporate parent" for children who need care and provide practical assistance to help adults maintain their independence.

Social care – Children



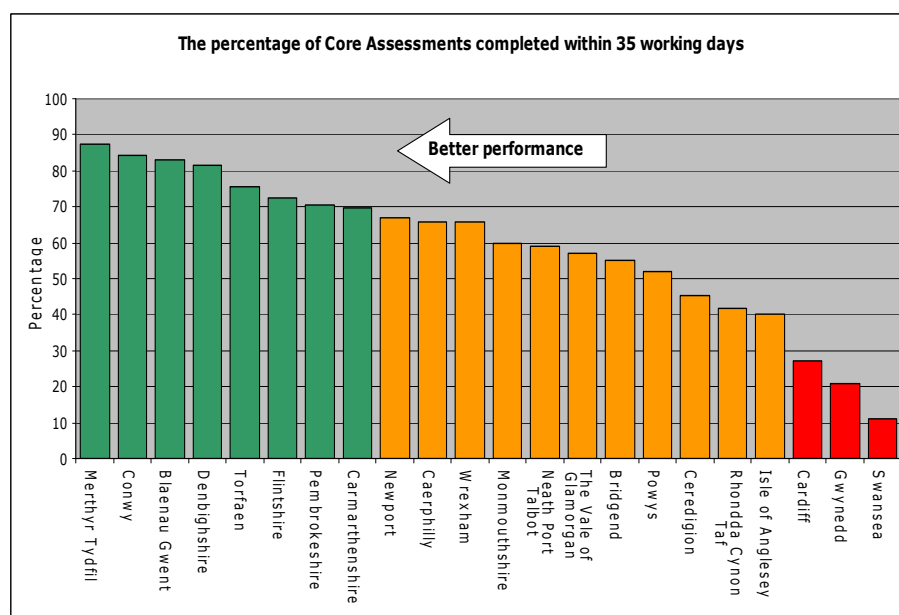
Social Services' departments received over 43 thousand referrals relating to children during 2007-08. A decision on how to proceed following referral was made for 93% of these within 1 working day, an increase of over 10 percentage points on last year. For 2007-08 this ranged from 100% in Conwy, Swansea, Bridgend and Blaenau Gwent to 75% in Torfaen and Monmouthshire.

Just over 24 thousand referrals proceeded to an initial assessment, with 64% of these assessments being carried out within 7 working days – an increase of 5 percentage points on last year.

While in 2006-07 the range was from 85% to 19%, for 2007-08, performance ranges from 95% in Denbighshire to 31% in Neath Port Talbot.

Core Assessments are an in-depth assessment that addresses the most important aspects of a child's needs and the capacity of the parents or care givers to meet those needs. Effective and timely assessment is

essential and the Welsh Assembly Government has advised that Core Assessments should be carried out within 35 working days. Of the 6.6 thousand Core Assessments that were required in 2007-08 55% were carried out within 35 working days. This ranged





from 87% in Merthyr Tydfil to 11% in Swansea. In Swansea, the 89% not carried out within 35 days took an average of 69 working days to complete.

Almost 4,650 children were in care on 31 March 2008, of who around 1,700 children entered care in 2007-08. 92% of the children entering care had a care plan in place at the time of their first placement. This compares to 88% in 2006-07 and 86% in 2005-06. For 2007-08 this ranged from 100% in Gwynedd, Flintshire, Wrexham, Powys, Carmarthenshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen to 50% in Bridgend.

95% of children in care were registered with a GP at 31 March 2008, 1 percentage point less than in 2006-07. For 2007-08 this ranged from 100% for 12 of the 22 authorities to 77% in Cardiff. The authorities who didn't achieve 100% were Cardiff, Newport, Conwy, Torfaen, Swansea, Gwynedd, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Wrexham, Flintshire and Merthyr Tydfil. 82% of children in care had their teeth checked by a dentist during the year, compared with 76% in 2006-07.

Stability is recognised as being important for children in care. 10% of children in care during 2007-08 experienced three or more placements. In 2007-08 14.4% of children in care experienced a change of school, (excluding transitional changes e.g. from primary to secondary school). This is an increase on the 13.1% reported in 2006-07.

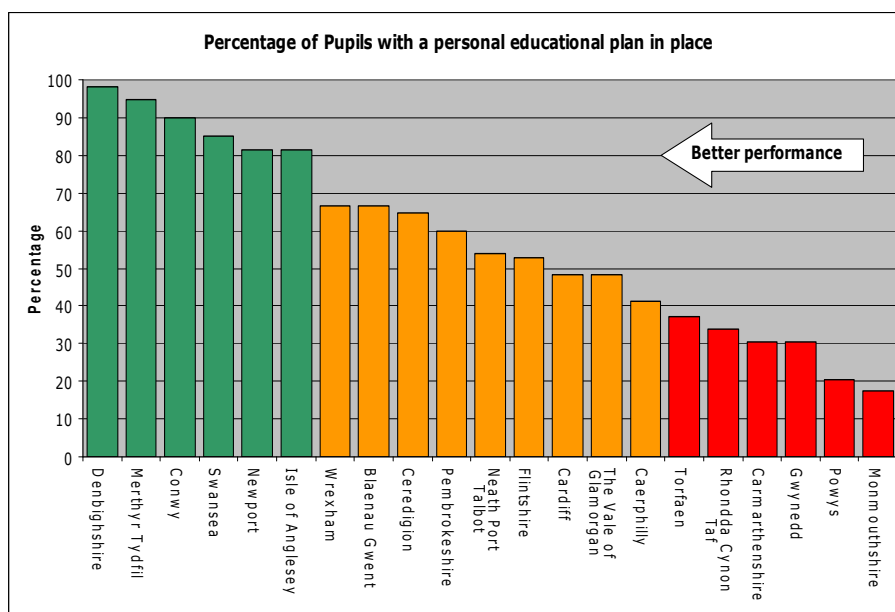
Across Wales, 52% of children had a plan for their education in place within 20 days of entering care or changing school. This ranged from 98% in Denbighshire to 17% in Monmouthshire.

74% of statutory visits, by social care staff, to children in care took place in accordance with regulations. This compares to 73% in 2006-07. For 2007-08 this ranged from 99% in Torfaen to 55% in Denbighshire. 90% of children in care had their cases reviewed within the statutory timescales, compared with 86% in 2006-07. For 2007-08 this ranged from 100% in Powys and Monmouthshire to 72% on the Isle of Anglesey.

95% of children recorded on the Child Protection Register had their cases reviewed within the statutory time scales. This ranged from 100% in Denbighshire, Wrexham, Powys and the Vale of Glamorgan to 77% in Blaenau Gwent.

Social care – Adults

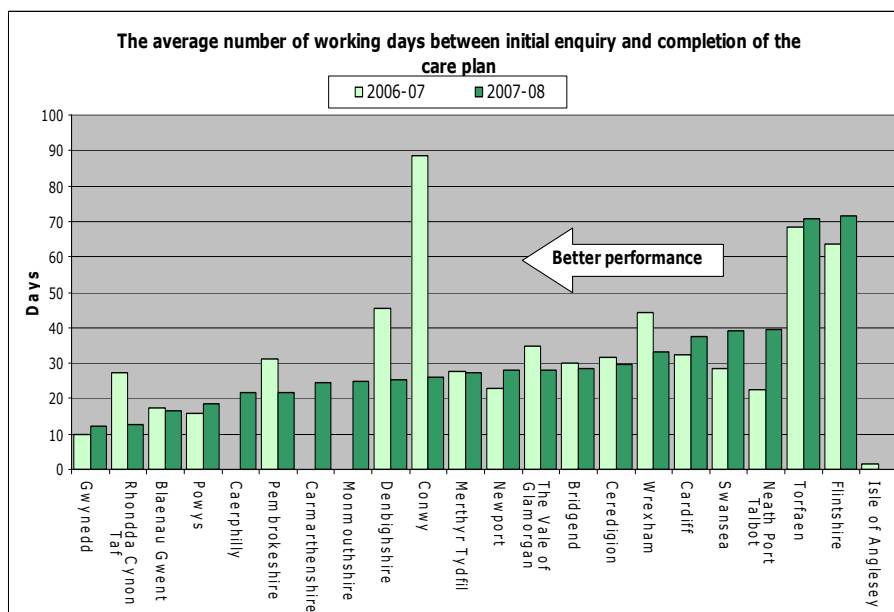
At 31 March 2008, over 81 thousand adult clients in Wales were supported by local authorities; of those supported, around 73% were aged 65 or over. Of all service users,



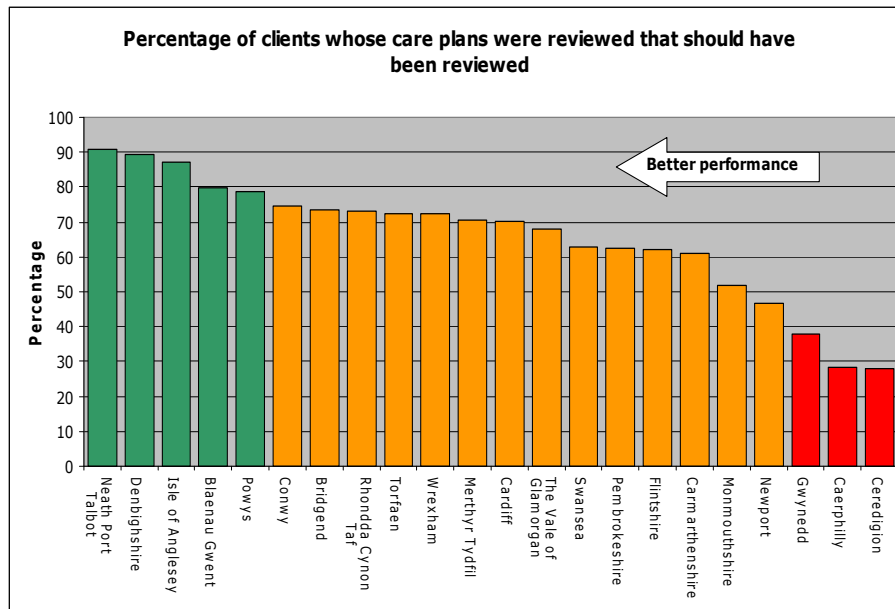


less than a fifth were supported in residential care with the remainder receiving community based services.

Social services' departments received over 167 thousand enquiries about services for adult clients; for the second year, in 2007-08, 46% of enquiries received led to an assessment. Over 87 thousand assessments were completed during 2007-08. It took an average of 31 working days from initial enquiry to complete a care plan, compared to 37 days in 2006-07. This ranged from 12 days in Gwynedd to 71 days in Flintshire and Torfaen.



63% of service users with a care plan had their plans reviewed during the year,



compared to 57% in 2006-07. This ranged from 91% in Neath Port Talbot to 28% in Ceredigion and Caerphilly.

In 2007-08, local authorities supported 24 people per 1,000 aged 65 or over in care homes and helped 89 per 1,000 to live at home. This compares to 27 per 1,000 and 90 per 1,000 respectively in 2006-07. In the same period, 94% of social services clients aged

18 to 64 were supported in the community – an increase on the 93% reported in 2006-07 and 91% in 2005-06.

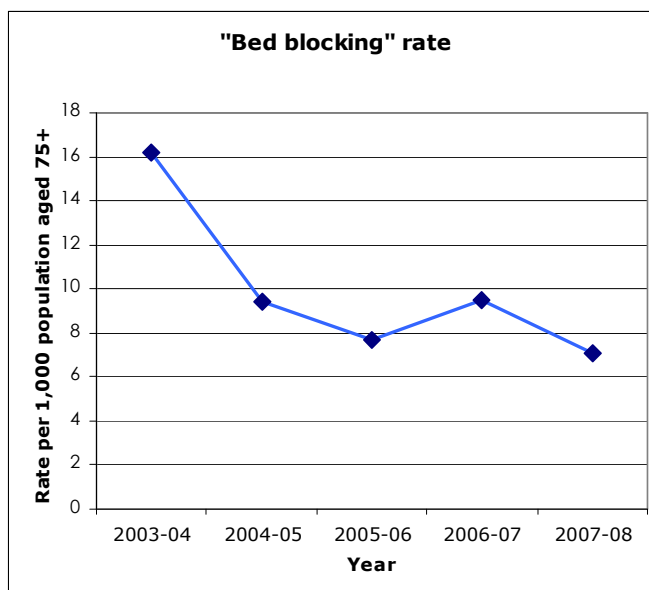
In 2007-08, social services' departments received over 6 thousand adult protection referrals, which are where concerns are reported and logged regarding the care of an adult. Around 83% of these resulted in an investigation into the allegations. This is an increase on 2006-07 where just under 5 thousand referrals were received and only 68%



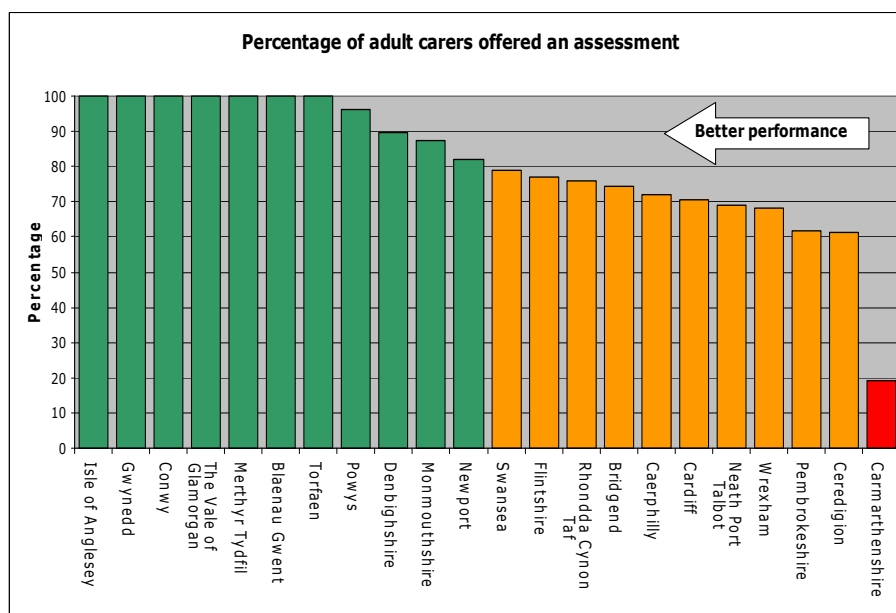
led to an investigation. For 2007-08, 26% of those referrals investigated were either admitted to or proven to be true.

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.

For 2007-08, the rate of delayed transfers, due to social care reasons, fell to 7.0 per 1,000 population aged 75 or older, compared to 9.5 in 2006-07. During 2007-08, performance ranged from 0.2 per 1,000 population aged 75 or over in Conwy to 26.7 in Torfaen.



Over 9 thousand carers of adults were identified by social services' departments during 2007-08. 79% of these were



offered an assessment of their needs, ranging from 100% on the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, the Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen to 19% in Carmarthenshire. 49% of carers accepted the offer, compared to 34% in 2006-07; as in 2006-07, 30% of carers assessed were then provided with a service.



Leisure and culture

All local authorities provide leisure and cultural services, such as sports and library services. These can enhance local quality of life as well as fitness and literacy levels.

Increasing participation in sport and physical activity improves fitness and health. In 2007-08, there were almost 25 million visits to sports facilities owned by local authorities (such as leisure centres, swimming pools, and outdoor pitches and courts) to take part in physical activities, an increase of 2 million visits. This equates to more than 8 visits per person during the year.

While there was a 2% decrease in the number of people visiting indoor facilities to 7,407 per 1,000 population, the number of people using outdoor facilities rose by 22%, to 1,013 visits per 1,000 population.

Local authorities aim to provide efficient and comprehensive library services. In 2007-08 there were in excess of 16 million visits to library service points, equating to over 5 visits per person during the year.

Across Wales the number of computers available for public use has remained at just over 2,700 - around 9 computers per 10 thousand people. This ranged from 16 in Carmarthenshire to 6 in Pembrokeshire. However, only 45% of the available computer time was used in 2007-08, ranging from 95% in Ceredigion to 21% in Merthyr Tydfil.



Corporate health

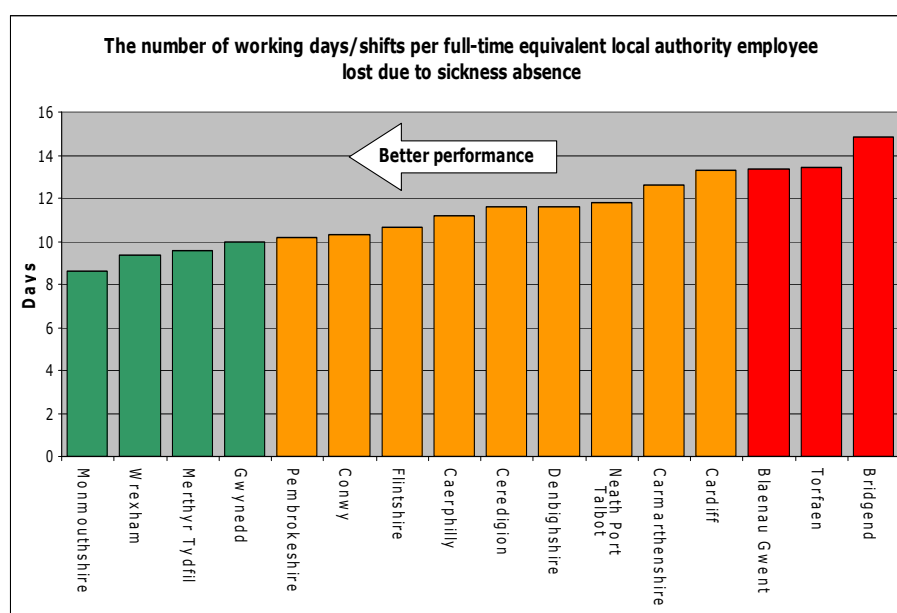
Local authorities are responsible for major public services and spend significant amounts of public money in delivering them. So, they need to display high standards of human and financial resource management.

Human resources

In 2007-08, local authorities in Wales employed in excess of 145 thousand individuals (including teachers and school-based staff). 10% of these employees left the employment of authorities during the year, 1 percentage point less than 2006-07. This ranged from 4% in Neath Port Talbot to 17% in Torfaen.

The percentage of employees declaring that they were disabled remained at around 1.5%. Just over 1% of all employees were from an ethnic minority background.

In excess of 977 thousand days (or shifts) of work were lost due to sickness in 2007-08; this was an average of 11.6 days sickness per employee (full-time equivalent). Monmouthshire had the lowest sickness absence level at 8.6 days per employee with Bridgend having the highest with 14.8 days per employee.



Financial health

Council tax and redistributed non-domestic rates account for just over a third of local government income in Wales. Local authorities were due to collect £978 million of council tax and £755 million of non-domestic rates in 2007-08. The percentage of council tax collected remained similar to previous years at around 97% as did the percentage of non-domestic rates collected at 98%.

Prompt payment of invoices is essential for the cashflow of suppliers. In total, Welsh local authorities paid in excess of 3.5 million invoices in 2007-08. For the second year, 87% of these invoices were paid within 30 days. This ranged from 98% in Pembrokeshire to 63% in Monmouthshire. More than three quarters of authorities paid at least 80% of their undisputed invoices within 30 days.



Contact details

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The full performance indicator data set is published on the Internet at <http://dissemination.dataunitwales.gov.uk/webview/>. For information relating to the dataset please contact Brian Pickett, Assistant Director at the Data Unit, using the same details as set out above.

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. Further information about the range of our work can be found on our website (www.dataunitwales.gov.uk).

The National Strategic and Core Set Indicators are part of the Performance Measurement Framework for Local Authorities in Wales. The data for this framework was collected for the first time for the 2005-06 operational year.

National Strategic Indicators reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Assembly Government and local government in Wales. Core Set Indicators provide service/policy area specific performance information.

The Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales has collected data for the framework from the 22 local authorities in Wales. The National Strategic Indicator data has been audited by the Wales Audit Office.

Wales' values are based on the base data taken from the NSI and CSI data collection forms submitted by the authorities. Where authorities have not supplied their base data, their figures do not contribute to Wales' values. However, if an authority has submitted a Performance Indicator (PI) value only, although these figures are not included in the Wales value, they are still reported.

Data has been rounded for the purposes of this bulletin. For example, if an authority has reported 99.7% for an indicator, this will appear as 100%; likewise, if an authority has reported 99.4%, this will appear in the bulletin as 99% when rounded.

The complete data sets and Wales' values are available on our dissemination tool on our website.

Definitions of, and guidance for, local authorities on the 2007-08 indicator set are also available on our website. This provides 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. Local authorities who have not submitted data for an indicator have not been included in any associated charts contained within the bulletin.

Data sources

All data included in this bulletin is derived from the datasets collected as part of the local government Performance Measurement Framework, except for the following:

Road lengths: Welsh Transport Statistics 2007, Chapter 1 Road lengths and conditions. Published by the Welsh Assembly Government, July 2008.

Number of dwellings: Welsh Housing Statistics 2007, Table 1.2 Dwelling stock estimates by tenure and local authority, at 31 March 2007. Published by the Local Government Data Unit – Wales. March 2008.

Number of adults in receipt of social care services: Statistical First Release, Assessments and Social Services for Adults, 2007-08 (SDR147/2008). Published by the Welsh Assembly Government, September 2008.

Proportion of local government income: Statistical First Release, Council Tax Levels in Wales 2008-09 (SDr44/2008). Published by the Welsh Assembly Government, March 2007.