Monmouthshire
Single Integrated
Plan 2013-17
Final Version – April 2013
Contents

Contents .......................................................................................................................... 1
Version Control ............................................................................................................. 2
Welsh Language and Alternative Formats ........................................................................ 3
Our Partners .................................................................................................................. 4
Foreword ........................................................................................................................ 5
Understanding Monmouthshire ....................................................................................... 6
Our Vision ...................................................................................................................... 9
Nobody Is Left Behind .................................................................................................. 11
  Older people are able to live their good life................................................................. 11
  People have access to appropriate and affordable housing.......................................... 14
  People have good access and mobility ....................................................................... 17
People Are Confident, Capable and Involved ............................................................... 19
  People’s lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse .......................................... 20
  Families are supported ............................................................................................... 23
  People feel safe ........................................................................................................... 26
Our County Thrives ...................................................................................................... 29
  Business and enterprise ............................................................................................. 29
  People have access to practical and flexible learning .................................................. 32
  People protect and enhance the environment ............................................................. 36
How Did We Get Here and What’s Next? .................................................................... 39


### Version Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Monmouthshire Single Integrated Plan 2013 – 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Following Welsh Government’s ‘Shared Purpose Shared Delivery’ guidelines on partnerships, the Single Integrated Plan was created by Monmouthshire’s reformed Local Service Board to identify key priorities to focus on in partnership for the duration of the Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Owner</strong></td>
<td>Monmouthshire Local Service Board</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approved by</strong></td>
<td>Full Council, Aneurin Bevan Health Board</td>
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<td>Department Management Team, Senior Leadership Team, County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors, key partners including Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, GAVO, Monmouthshire Housing Association, Melin Homes, Charter Housing, local organisations and citizens of Monmouthshire during a series of Challenge and Design Sessions held as part of the statutory 12 week consultation period.</td>
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Welsh Language and Alternative Formats

In line with the Council’s Welsh Language Scheme, a Welsh language version of the Improvement Plan will be available on the Council’s bilingual website.

Y Gymraeg a fformatau eraill

Yn unol â Chynllun Iaith Gymraeg y Cyngor, bydd fersiwn Gymraeg o’r Cynllun Integredig Sengl Sir Fynwy ar gael ar wefan ddwyieithog y Cyngor

We can also provide this document in Braille, large print, on tape or in electronic form. If you would like a copy in a different format please contact our Equality and Welsh Language Officer by:

Phone: 01633 644010 or 07793798920
Fax: 01633 644666
E-mail: equality@monmouthshire.gov.uk

If you would like to comment on or discuss the Single Integrated Plan, please get in touch:

✉ partnershipandengagement@monmouthshire.gov.uk
✉ Partnership and Engagement Team, Monmouthshire County Council, PO Box 106, Caldicot, NP26 9AN
☎ 01633 644680

You can also follow us on Twitter @MonmouthshireCC
Our Partners

This Single Integrated Plan has been created on behalf of the Monmouthshire Local Service Board (LSB). The refreshed LSB met for the first time in August 2012. Focusing its membership, the LSB brings together the top executives of key organisations in Monmouthshire to discuss the partnership agenda. Chaired by the Chief Executive of Monmouthshire County Council and attended by the Leader of the Council, the key partners comprise the Chief Constable of Gwent Police, Chief Executive and Chairman of Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Lead Officer and Chairman of GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations) along with the Chief Executive of Melin Homes and Monmouthshire Housing Association and representatives from the community, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Public Health Wales, and Natural Resources Wales.
Foreword

Thanks for taking the time to read our new Single Integrated Plan for Monmouthshire. This is an important plan for the whole County, not just the Council and our partners but for all of our communities and the people that live in them.

This Plan replaces existing statutory plans and strategies. We will no longer produce a Community Strategy, a Children and Young People’s Plan, a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy and a Community Safety Partnership Plan (which incorporates the three crime and disorder strategies). It is for the period 2013-17, with a supporting annual delivery plan. We have tried to make it clear and relevant.

We know that the nation faces significant challenges at the moment. Economic circumstances are impacting organisations and people – this tightening of the purse strings is creating social and service demand pressure which is likely to intensify over the next couple of years. There are also environmental challenges which can be difficult to understand and quantify sometimes. However, the severity of the extensive flooding experienced by some areas of Wales at the end of 2012 is an illustration of the effect this long term change can have on a county like Monmouthshire, where our rural space is one of our biggest assets.

We have worked hard to capture the needs of Monmouthshire: a unique, diverse and beautiful county. Monmouthshire appears to be a place of safety, health and wealth. For many, we are pleased to say that this is the case; however, there are also vulnerable people in our communities who need our support; young families and older people who need help to ensure that they have the best start in life and are able to live their good life.

The most important aspect of this new Plan is the approach taken to build it and the approach that will be taken to deliver it. We want you to be a real part of how we think about the future – the challenges are great and no one part of government or a partnership can address these alone – we need a much broader response.

I look forward to working with our partners and most importantly, our communities in delivering the outcomes that together we have identified as being right for Monmouthshire. It is your County, it is your home; please get involved and contribute in any way that you can.

Paul Matthews, Chair of the Monmouthshire Local Service Board and Chief Executive, Monmouthshire County Council.
Understanding Monmouthshire

Monmouthshire is a rural county, geographically, the seventh largest in Wales however, although its population has risen to 91,000 it remains one of the least densely populated counties in Wales. Half of the population live in the main towns of Abergavenny, Monmouth, Usk, Caldicot and Chepstow. Monmouthshire was just one of two areas that reported an increase in its proportion of Welsh speakers following the publication of the 2011 census results (from 9.2% - 9.9%).

It is strategically situated on the south east border with England where Offa, the eighth century King of Mercia, created a dyke between Wales and England. Now it is one of the most connected counties. Two motorways; the M4 and M48, traverse the county while the Severn Bridge and the Second Severn Crossing, a feat of modern engineering, give entry to Monmouthshire from England. Monmouthshire is also an important rail connection with stations at Abergavenny, Chepstow, Severn Tunnel Junction (Rogiet) and Caldicot. The main London - South Wales line runs through the four miles of Severn Tunnel which opened in 1886.

Chepstow is the start of two National Cycle Network routes – the Celtic Trail heading west across the Newport Transporter Bridge and Lon Las Cymru heading north to Snowdonia. There are also 1,000 miles of public footpaths in the countryside and Chepstow is the start of the Offa’s Dyke Path national trail as well as the Wales Coast path. For more sedate travel the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, which links Govilon and Mamhilad, celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2012.

The birthplace of British tourism, the Wye Tour has enthralled discerning visitors since the 18th century. Monmouthshire shares the Blaenavon World Heritage Site with neighbouring Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. The natural environment is one of Monmouthshire’s primary assets: from its highest point at Chwarel y Fan (679 metres) to the extensive coastal lowlands on the Caldicot Levels. It is home to two internationally recognised areas of natural beauty, Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Brecon Beacons National Park. It is estimated that Monmouthshire has at least 26 surviving castle sites and indeed the density of castle building in this region has been claimed to be the greatest in any region in Britain, with more castles per square mile than anywhere else.

The County is renowned for its award-winning fine cuisine outlets and the Abergavenny Food Festival goes from strength to strength. The Skirrid Mountain Inn at Llanfihangel Crucorney (first recorded in 1110) is the oldest pub in Wales and has claims to be the oldest in Great Britain. The Anheuser-Busch InBev brewery at Magor is one of the largest in Europe while the tiny Kingstone Brewery, founded in 2007, brews just down the road from Tintern Abbey (where monks first began brewing in the 12th century).
It is also a place of culture; acts such as Queen, Rush, Black Sabbath, Mike Oldfield, Simple Minds, Robert Plant, The Pogues, Annie Lennox, Oasis, Paul Weller, Coldplay and the Manic Street Preachers have recorded at the renowned Rockfield Studios in Monmouth.

Augusta Waddington Hall (Lady Llanover) lived in Llanover near Abergavenny and was a champion of the Welsh Language at the time of the “Welsh Not”, an extremely generous benefactor of the Harp and Bards (poets) and a keen supporter of the Eisteddfod and the Cymreigyddion Y Fenni (Abergavenny Welsh Language Society).

The philosopher Bertrand Russell, born in Trellech in 1870, famously said:

“One should respect public opinion insofar as is necessary to avoid starvation and keep out of prison, but anything that goes beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny.”

As a partnership we have decided upon a route that takes the opposite direction to Russell. Public opinion and social capital is something that we value greatly in Monmouthshire. This Plan has been built with our partners and we are pleased that the community has been involved too; however, we want that involvement to become deeper and more engaged as we design and deliver the interventions to help us deliver the outcomes articulated in this document.
Our Vision

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The sustainability of a community depends on creating and maintaining its economic and environmental health, promoting social equity, and increasing citizen participation in planning and implementation.

Health and well-being is central to quality of life, our economic success, interdependent with our success in improving education, training and employment outcomes. An individual’s ability to achieve their educational, social and economic potential is greatly influenced by their own sense of well-being. Across Monmouthshire, ‘The Five Ways to Wellbeing’ is being introduced at individual, community and organisational level to enable our communities to be more capable and resilient.

Communities that engage and involve people and institutions to achieve environmental, economic, and social goals are generally likely to be more successful. This engagement and involvement must take place across generations, recognising the contribution that all parts of the community can make, from children and young people through to our older people.

Job creation, energy use, housing, transportation, education and health are considered complementary parts of the whole. Since all issues are interconnected they must be addressed as a system. Sustainability is a process of continuous improvement so communities constantly evolve and make changes to accomplish their goals. In essence if we work together we will make our community even healthier, safer, greener, more liveable, and more prosperous.

Working towards this vision we identified three themes which form part of a cohesive story about how we will achieve our vision.

Nobody is Left Behind: we want to be a place of cohesive communities where everybody is treated with dignity and respect and has the same opportunity to achieve what they wish.

People are Confident, Capable and Involved: we want Monmouthshire to feel safe and people to be confident. We want to create a place where people want to be involved; they are confident in themselves and their abilities and what they contribute to their own community.

Our County Thrives: we want our county to thrive which includes the economy that supports our communities and families to live a good life. It also means that our environment, its range of habitats and biodiversity thrives.
There are three outcomes in each of these themes; they are set out below in greater detail.

**Links to Strategies**
The Council is fully committed to supporting the principles of equality and diversity in its service provision and as the largest employer in Monmouthshire those principles run through the very core of the Single Integrated Plan (SIP).

The SIP is closely linked with the following Council equality focussed strategies and schemes:
- Strategic Equality Plan 2012-16 (Equality Act 2010)
- Welsh Language Scheme 2013-16 (Welsh Language Act 1993 and Welsh Language Measure 2011)
- Welsh Language Linguistic Skills Strategy 2013-16 – which requires the Council to ensure that there are Welsh speaking staff in posts that engage with the public.
Nobody Is Left Behind

Older people are able to live their good life

We want older people to live independently in their own homes doing what they want, when they want, in their own way.

Key facts
- There are 19,863 people over 65 years old in Monmouthshire, approximately 22% of the population, this part of our community is projected to grow by 56.9% to 31,157 between 2012 and 2033.
- The over 85 age group is expected to increase by 153% from 2,714 in 2012 to 6,863 in 2033.
- Between the least and most deprived areas of Monmouthshire the difference in healthy life expectancy is 13 years for males and 10 years for females.
- People are living longer with increased life expectancy.
- Increase in older people moving to Monmouthshire.
- Increase in demand and expectation for health and social care services.
- Increase in people with conditions such as circulatory diseases, respiratory diseases and dementia.
- Approximately 11% of people provide unpaid care a week.
- 14.4% of older people in Monmouthshire live alone.
- The number of Monmouthshire people aged 65 and over predicted to have dementia is expected to increase by 82% from 1377 in 2012, to 2,506 in 2030.

What’s the story?
Monmouthshire will experience a significant increase in its older population during the next 10 years. The gap in life expectancy between the least and most deprived areas in Monmouthshire is significant and must be closed. We already experience far greater inward migration of elderly people than most counties as Monmouthshire is seen as an attractive place to live, especially in later life. We cannot sustain our current services in the existing format and ensure people remain capable, healthy and living independently in their own community. We are already seeing a significant demand for our health and social care services and this will continue.

The challenge now is to think about a major reconfiguration of service delivery to meet the expected increase in demand. Clinical Futures and the Gwent Frailty Programme are developing approaches to our challenges through community resource teams. Older people need to be supported to access services, activities and opportunities to participate in community life. Preventative programmes which improve health and increase confidence and well-being are important.
Older people in Monmouthshire contribute significantly to our communities in a positive way. The knowledge, skills and practical support, such as childcare and voluntary services provided by our older generation are invaluable.

For older people to live their good life we need to:

- Enable older people to be fully independent, maintaining good mobility, health and well-being, confidence and dignity and plan for their futures.
- Explore opportunities to work with our highly skilled older population.
- Nurture good support networks in the community.
- Enable older people to do what matters to them when they choose to.
- Enable older people to stay out of hospital where appropriate.
- Provide suitable support for carers.
- Focus on preventative health and well-being programmes for older people.

How can you make a difference?

Get to know your neighbours.

Volunteer in your local community.

Share information from campaigns such as ‘Keep well this winter’; take up your flu jab; visit the pharmacist for a medicine usage review.

Keep physically fit so that you can enjoy everyday life to the full.

Get involved in social activities for older people in your area to stay in contact with others and to make new friends.

Make use of the Grass Routes flexible bus service:

  - Tel: 01633 644745

Get helpful advice and information on a variety of services available to older people:

  - Care and Repair Monmouthshire – Tel: 01495 745936

Stay up to date on what is happening at a national level:

  - Older People’s Commissioner – [http://www.olderpeoplewales.com](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com)
What will we do?

We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Frailty Programme
- Monmouthshire Carers Project
- Enhancing Broadband coverage
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Art and Craft and I.T. provision
- Carers Measure
- Public Health Community Health Champions
- Public Health Five Ways to Wellbeing

How will we know if we have made a difference?

We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Rate of older people (aged 65 or over) supported in the community per 1,000 population as at 31 March.
- Number of new community connections with the support of Local Area Coordination (Data Development Agenda).
- Number of patients aged >75 in a community hospital bed who stay for longer than 28 days.
- Percentage of older people who achieve “people centred outcomes” through the new Adult Assessment process (Data Development Agenda).
- Percentage of people who were fully independent at the end of reablement.
Nobody Is Left Behind

People have access to appropriate and affordable housing

We want people to live in homes that are affordable, appropriate and where people want to live.

Key facts
- In Monmouthshire, the average house price is £242,000 compared to an all Wales average of £161,000. More significantly ‘entry’ level properties are in excess of £50,000 more than the Wales average.
- The average house price is seven times more than the average income; critically the ‘first home’ ratio is 10:1.
- The average mortgage lender will usually only provide finance at a rate of four times the annual salary.
- Between 1997 and 2011, there was a 20% increase in 20-34 year olds living with parents.
- There is a net inward migration predicted of 7% in the number of households over the next ten years; household composition will change to reflect more single households and older people.
- 76% of the housing stock in Monmouthshire is owner occupied.
- Cost of private sector rent is far greater than purchasing equivalent home.
- A significant proportion of people in social housing are over 50 years old.
- Best case scenario suggest between 35-40% of families in social housing accommodation will be negatively affected by the new welfare reforms.
- In 2011/12 360 households made a homelessness application to the council, current forecasts predict similar levels in 2012/13.
- 65% of tenants in social housing are in receipt of benefits.
- Households in our most deprived areas experience fuel poverty, i.e. they spend more than 10% household income to maintain an adequate heating regime.

What’s the story?
Appropriate, affordable housing is an essential part of good health and well-being. It is important to meet the housing needs of vulnerable people and provide the choice to live within their local community wherever possible. There is a high proportion of owner occupied households but there is a lack of affordable housing in Monmouthshire. Affordable meaning not just registered social landlord provision but the ability to own your own home through low cost ownership and shared ownership schemes. The opportunities for young people to enter the property market as first time buyers are restricted and rental opportunities are limited with more young people staying at home with their parents. The adequacy of the stock in relation to meeting future patterns of housing need and demand is poor. Monmouthshire has an undersupply of general needs accommodation.
The rural location and design of some housing areas can add to a sense of isolation. The availability of the right type of housing accommodation to suit our growing older population is essential. In April 2013, changes to council tax benefit and housing benefit reform is going to make housing less affordable to the most vulnerable families. More families will also experience fuel poverty.

The Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (LDP) will replace the Unitary Development Plan once adopted. Examination on the LDP will take place in May/June 2013 by an independent Inspector appointed by the Welsh Government. The LDP once adopted will set out the Council’s vision and objectives for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire, together with the policies and proposals to implement them over a 10 year period to 2021. This single document will be critical in establishing how we meet our housing needs.

For people in Monmouthshire to have affordable and appropriate housing we need to:

- Be clear about the size of the demand and type of housing required.
- Ensure people have suitable and appropriate housing.
- Support people to live independently.
- Ensure people have a choice in where they live.
- Promote initiatives to combat the negative effects of welfare reform and reduce fuel poverty.

How can you make a difference?
Find out about a shared ownership scheme in the area.
Minimise your expenditure on fuel by visiting price comparison websites.
Stay aware of what is happening in your local housing association:
- Monmouthshire Housing Association - [www.monmouthshirehousing.co.uk](http://www.monmouthshirehousing.co.uk) Tel – 0845 677 2277
- Melin Homes – [www.melinhomes.co.uk](http://www.melinhomes.co.uk) Tel – 0845 310 1102
- Charter Housing - [www.charterhousing.co.uk](http://www.charterhousing.co.uk) Tel – 01633 212375

Keep up to date with the Welfare Reform changes:

Get your finance under control:
- Credit Union – [http://www.gatewaycu.co.uk](http://www.gatewaycu.co.uk)
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.
- Families First Programme
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Job Clubs
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Welfare Reform Awareness Grant

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:
- Percentage of households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months.
- Number of new affordable homes made available during the year.
- Percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year that were affordable.
- Percentage of social housing units that meet Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

How can you make a difference? (Continued)
Get fuel poverty advice from South East Wales Energy Advice Centre (SEWEAC)
- Tel: 0800 622 6110.
Find out about the variety of services available at your local library, including accessing the internet, and make use of the Home Delivery service if you find it difficult to visit your local library because of age, frailty or ill health
  - [http://libraries.monmouthshire.gov.uk/](http://libraries.monmouthshire.gov.uk/)
  - Abergavenny – Tel: 01873 735980
  - Chepstow – Tel: 01291 635626
  - Monmouth – Tel: 01600 775215
  - Caldicot – Tel: 01291 426425
  - Usk – Tel: 01291 674925
  - Gilwern – Tel: 01873 833055
Nobody Is Left Behind

People have good access and mobility

We want people to be able to access the services and activities they need, when they need them, being able to travel around the County in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Key facts
- 22.4% of Monmouthshire Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA’s) are in the most-deprived 10% in Wales for access to services, Monmouthshire is ranked 6th worst in Wales when it comes to access to services.
- Ecological footprint is 5.36 gha/capita compared to 5.03 in Wales.
- Carbon footprint is 12.36 CO₂/capita compared to 11.60 in Wales.
- 85% of households own a vehicle and 32% own two.
- In Monmouthshire, 14.4% of older people live alone.
- 42% of Monmouthshire residents commute to work outside the County.
- There is a high level of dissatisfaction with public transport amongst Monmouthshire residents.
- In Monmouthshire, there are 5198 footpaths covering 2196.5km.

What’s the story?
Rural deprivation is hard to quantify and there are no easy sources of data to support the notion that rural communities in Monmouthshire experience real hardship. However, analysis of the 58 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA’s) in Monmouthshire [areas which can be described as ‘local areas where around 1,500 people live’] suggest that access to services in our most isolated rural communities is not good. Our communities are often vulnerable to prohibitive transport costs and availability. The provision of a well-coordinated transport network with variety and options to meet the needs of people in rural areas is crucial. People without transport remain geographically isolated, unable to access services, activities and job opportunities. Some key aspirations within ‘Clinical Futures’ (Aneurin Bevan Health Board’s local clinical and service improvement strategy) include:

1. Providing more services closer to home to support people’s independence; and
2. Improved access to services both in terms of time and location.

Our ecological footprint measures our impact on the earth. Monmouthshire has the 2nd highest ecological and carbon footprint in Wales, and we have more vehicles per household than Wales as a whole.

The Monmouthshire countryside is a real feature of the County. Opportunities for outdoor recreation in terms of both cycling and walking are extensive. The County’s
rurality is both a strength and a challenge. How we protect what we have is really important.

**For people to have good access and mobility we need to:**

- Ensure rural communities have good access to services.
- Provide better public information on what services and activities are available.
- Improve access to a range of affordable transport opportunities.
- Understand and measure the impact of rural deprivation.
- Engage with rural communities to identify the issues which need to be addressed in order for the rural community to thrive.
- Improve access to job opportunities especially for young people.

**How can you make a difference?**

Make use of our countryside by walking and cycling – check out which routes to take and how accessible they are by visiting MCC’s countryside service web pages.

Leave the car at home, walk your children to school and walk to your local shop.

Help to reduce our ecological footprint by:

- Growing your own vegetables and reducing your food waste.
- Buy second hand or borrow and reuse instead of buying new every time.
- Make your home energy efficient with insulation and double glazing.
- Buy locally produced organic food.
- Reduce air travel, by taking holidays in the UK or take the train to Europe.

Make use of the Grass Routes flexible bus service:

- Tel: 01633 644745

Download useful information and forms relating to public transport:


Take advantage of local Shop Mobility Scheme scooters to get around town:

- Mobility Monmouth – Tel: 01600 715766
- Abergavenny Eazability – Tel: 01873 854322
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.
- Frailty Programme
- Enhancing Broadband coverage
- Families First Programme
- Monmouthshire Youth Service Youth Offer
- Monmouthshire Youth Service Post 16 Steering Group
- Carers Measures
- Public Health Community Health Champions

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:
- Percentage of people aged 18-24 in Monmouthshire Claiming Job Seekers Allowance (To consider a more appropriate and relevant measure under Universal Credit).
- Percentage of working residents of Monmouthshire who work within the County.
- Percentage of people who are satisfied with their access to services (Data Development Agenda).
- GP and hospital services
- Other services, activities and further education.

How can you make a difference? (Continued)
Find your local hall and discover what is going on in your area:
- www.monmouthshire-halls.org.uk/
Find out about the variety of services available to you from your local One Stop Shop:
- Abergavenny – Tel: 01873 735800
- Chepstow – Tel: 01291 635700
- Monmouth –Tel: 01600 775200
- Caldicot – Tel: 01291 426400
- http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/onestopshops0/
People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

People’s lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse

We want people to be free from the direct harm of substance misuse and to reduce the impact on their families and communities.

Key facts

- More young people are drinking earlier; research estimates 1500 young people in Monmouthshire age 11 to 15 years, drink at least weekly.
- 45.7% of people drink above the recommended guidelines at least one day a week; this is the 3rd highest in Wales.
- Between 2007 and 2009 there was an average of 1004 Monmouthshire residents admitted to hospital per year for alcohol attributable conditions.
- Increase in the use of Mephedrone and Ketamine.
- Drug and alcohol misuse has a significant impact on vulnerable families.
- A strong link exists between alcohol, drug misuse and domestic violence.
- There is a link between alcohol misuse and unsafe sexual behaviour.
- Recent research has revealed an increase in alcohol-related hospital admissions in the over 65s.

What’s the story?
Across Monmouthshire, there are areas where groups of young people gather to drink alcohol and evidence from previous studies suggest that children as young as 11 years of age are drinking alcohol on our streets. There is also emerging evidence that alcohol consumption above the recommended guidelines amongst middle aged professionals is on the increase.

Research suggests that Monmouthshire is experiencing increased levels of Mephedrone misuse which is a new psychoactive substance that has now been classified as a Class B Drug. Gwent Police have identified Abergavenny as a hot spot for such drugs.

An appropriate prevention and education programme for substance misuse remains a crucial part in the challenge to reduce the harm to individuals (particularly children and young people), their families and wider communities from the misuse of drugs and alcohol. There is now extensive research available linking substance misuse to increased incidents of domestic abuse as well as a link between substance misuse and crime.

Monmouthshire has the 3rd highest proportion in Wales of adults drinking alcohol above recommended guidelines on at least one day a week (a worsening of the position from 18th in Wales and below the Welsh average in 2009/10). Emerging national evidence suggests that adults from managerial and professional backgrounds (of which there are a high number within Monmouthshire) are more likely to exceed recommended alcohol limits. Data from Office for National Statistics General Lifestyle survey 2010 suggests the average weekly consumption was
highest at 12.9 units in the managerial and professional group and, at 10.5 units, was lowest among those in routine and manual worker households. This difference is particularly pronounced for women where the managerial and professional group average 9.2 units and the routine and manual group average 6.2 units a week.

**To reduce the impact of substance misuse and enable people to be free from harm, we need to:**

- Target our preventative activity and increase awareness via education programmes.
- Ensure opportunities exist for young people to talk to someone about drug and alcohol issues.
- Create improved awareness of and access to local treatment services and related support.
- Improve public protection within the night time economy.
- Focus services where there is the greatest need.
- Reduce the harms associated with substance misuse related crime and anti-social behaviour, by tackling the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate availability of alcohol and other substances, focusing partnership resources towards those causing our communities most harm.

**How can you make a difference?**

**Drink** within the recommended levels: no more than 21 units a week for men and 14 units for women.

Consider using smaller glasses for drinks poured in the home and switch to drinks with lower ABV content.

For more information on understanding alcohol units:

- [http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/alcohol](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/alcohol)

For free confidential information, advice and support on alcohol issues:


For free confidential information, advice and support on drugs issues:

- Drugaid’s GOALS – Tel: 0870 060 0310 – [http://www.drugaidcymru.com](http://www.drugaidcymru.com)

For access to practical and emotional support and information on Domestic Abuse:

- Women’s Aid Monmouthshire – Tel: 01873 859011 - [http://www.waimon.org.uk](http://www.waimon.org.uk)
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Public Health Community Health Champions
- Gwent Police Ion-track

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Percentage of adults who report drinking above the guidelines at least one day in the week (age standardised).
- Percentage of people who attend Drug treatment services and (i) report taking fewer drugs (ii) Stop taking drugs altogether (Data Development Agenda).
- Percentage of people who attend Alcohol treatment services and (i) report consuming less alcohol (ii) stop consuming alcohol altogether (Data Development Agenda).
- Percentage of low birth weight babies (babies weighing less than 2500 grams).
People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

Families are supported

We want all families in Monmouthshire to benefit from positive environments to nurture their children to grow, develop and prosper.

Key facts

- Increase in number of children on the Child Protection Register from 29 in June 2010 to 79 in September 2012.
- Increase in number of children taken in to care from 75 in 2010 to 107 in 2012.
- Domestic abuse was present in 26% of children referred to social services, compared to 20% for Wales.
- Domestic abuse incidents reported to Gwent Police in Monmouthshire rose from by 7.3% from 729 in 2010/11 to 782 in 2011/12.
- In the North Abergavenny area there is a trend of low birth weight babies at a current rate of 7.7% above the Welsh average.
- Approximately 2,396 people have a learning disability in Monmouthshire of these approximately 753 children between the ages of 0-17. There are 22,344 adults in Monmouthshire with a limiting long-term illness.
- Across Monmouthshire there are 7,255 people aged 16+ experiencing mental health problems.

What's the story?

Monmouthshire has experienced significant increases in the number of children placed on the Child Protection Register and the number of children taken into care. It is difficult to explain the reasons behind this rise as the category of registration, geographical distribution and ‘trigger concerns’ do not show any significant shift from the pattern seen previously. We continue to deal with concerns about the social and emotional well-being of some of our children, and protecting them from suffering neglect due to parental domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health. The introduction of the Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) may initially lead to an increase in number of children on the Child Protection Register.

The economic pressure that some families will experience through welfare reform is likely to have an impact on their day-to-day lives and increase the number of our vulnerable families. Evidence suggests early support can reduce the likelihood of a family’s difficulties developing into more complicated and costly needs. It’s important to break the cycle of vulnerability with an emphasis on early years interventions focussing on children aged 0-3 years. This focus on children is critical, members of the wider family such as carers, including our young carers, and adults with disabilities, limiting long-term conditions and poor mental well-being must also benefit from appropriate support.

To better support our families to feel supported we need:

- To support our families earlier to prevent them becoming more vulnerable.
- Better co-ordinated support which can react more quickly.
• Good access to financial support and advice.
• To ensure our families know how to access Domestic Abuse support.
• To support carers in all settings.

How can you make a difference?
Volunteer in your local community.
Get to know and support your neighbours.
Get help with learning or childcare from the Family Information Service:
  o Family Information Service – Tel: 01633 644527 –
    http://www.monfis.org.uk
  o Flying Start – Tel: 01873 856162.
  o The Acorn Project – Tel: 01873 735014.

For help and advice on Young Carers:
  o Crossroads Care Young Carers Project –
    ycteam3@crossroads-se-wales.org.uk

For information on local community and voluntary sector groups:
  o GAVO – Tel: 01291 672352
    http://www.gavowales.org.uk/monmouthshire

All Wales Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence helpline:
  o Tel: 0808 8010 800

What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well
evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

  ➢ Public Health Community Health Champions
  ➢ Public Health Five Ways to Wellbeing
  ➢ Acorn Project – Families First Programme
  ➢ Monmouthshire Flying Start
  ➢ Families First Programme
  ➢ Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education – Family Learning
    Programme
  ➢ Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education – Genesis Wales 2
  ➢ Book Prescription Wales
How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Percentage of Flying Start children aged 3 who reach or exceed their development milestones.
- Percentage of Flying Start children who do not reach or exceed their development milestones at age 2 but achieve these at age 3 (Data Development Agenda).
- Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents.
- Proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of the median.
- Percentage of pupils receiving free school meals achieving level 2 including English and Maths at Key Stage 4.
People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

People feel safe

We want people in Monmouthshire to feel safe in our towns and in our countryside and to be safe as they travel around the County.

Key facts

- In 2011-12, recorded crime in Monmouthshire decreased by 15.6%. This equated to nearly 800 less victims of crime. Crime has further reduced this year to date by over 11%.
- Despite this there is evidence to suggest that fear of crime is relatively high.
- Anti-social behaviour reports to the police have reduced significantly in the last two years – by 26% in 2011-12 and over 35% this year.
- Rate of crime is greatest in Abergavenny and Monmouth town centres.
- Road casualties increased from 28 people in 2010 to 46 killed or seriously injured in 2011; however the number of fatal road traffic collisions had decreased significantly from 12 in 2011 to 3 in 2012. Nonetheless public engagement continues to indicate that road safety concerns feature high on the community safety agenda of Monmouthshire people.
- 42% of young people aged 11-19 did not feel completely safe when at school.
- In 2011, 100 young people (age 0-17) attended A&E for self-harm, intoxication, overdose or attempted suicide.
- Domestic abuse accounts for approximately 33% of violent crime against the person in Monmouthshire, with 287 domestic abuse related crimes in 2012/13.
- Monmouthshire is particularly vulnerable to property crime which accounts for 73% of the entire county’s crime.

What’s the story?

Monmouthshire is a county where levels of recorded crime are decreasing but where there is still a perception in some communities that crime levels are high. This fear of crime is greater than the reality, but is no less damaging in how it can limit the way that people access their local area and services. In more rural areas, crime in a remote location may intensify or aggravate the effect on an individual due to their feelings of isolation. Evidence suggests that town centres that are safer, clean and free from graffiti will improve confidence and lead to more people visiting and spending, which can contribute to a flourishing economy.

The number of road traffic accidents in Monmouthshire is higher than the national average, and speeding is reported as the main cause of concern in many communities.

In our schools, too many of our young people report not feeling completely safe, with cyber bullying being a problem which is difficult to address, but which can have distressing consequences.
Domestic abuse is a significant problem requiring a multi-agency response to reduce the impact on families. Part of the rise in reported cases may be accounted for by an increased awareness of support services and people feeling more able to report abuse. The Domestic Abuse Call Conference co-ordinates a timely and effective response to domestic abuse incidents.

Whilst hate crimes are relatively infrequent in Monmouthshire, the county’s rurality can contribute to heightened anxiety levels among their victims. For this reason, an effective multi-agency response is crucial, both in reducing offending levels, and in supporting cohesive and tolerant communities where these crimes are less likely to flourish.

Strong and cohesive communities are also known to form a natural barrier to Violent Extremism. Partners recognise this, and must work to raise awareness of the signs of, and causative factors involved in, radicalisation of vulnerable individuals, and thereby protect vulnerable communities, institutions and individuals from the threats posed. Violent extremism can occur anywhere, and the effects of rural isolation can be a powerful factor in creating conditions where radicalisation can develop unnoticed.

In order for people to feel safe in their communities we need to:

- Work with communities to reduce their fear of crime.
- Support children and young people to feel safe without being bullied.
- Break the cycle of crime and anti-social behaviour amongst young people.
- Develop safer road systems and educate drivers.
- Continue to support Community Safety Action Teams in each of our four main towns to provide a local response to community safety issues.
- Emphasise low comparative crime and antisocial behaviour levels and recent reductions year on year reduction.
- Enable vulnerable people to feel safe by reducing domestic violence levels, and further encouraging early identification of hate crimes and incidents, and their positive resolution.
- Work in partnership with communities to support cohesion, reduce hate crime, raise awareness of vulnerability and radicalisation and implement effective referral mechanisms for information sharing, thereby facilitating community protection from crime and fear of crime.
How can you make a difference?
Start up or join a Neighbourhood Watch and subscribe to OWL (Online Watch Link).
Speak up and challenge bullying behaviour (including online settings).
Report non-emergency crimes using the Police 101 helpline.
For anti-bullying information:
  o www.antibullying.net
Involve yourself in community protection schemes such as ‘No Cold Calling Zones’
Tell other people of good news stories you hear concerning community safety issues e.g. recent significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour levels in Monmouthshire.

What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Families First Programme
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Reporting of Hate Crimes service
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Adult and Community Education Classes
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Road Safety Awareness Project
- Gwent Police Ion-track
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- Domestic Abuse Conference Call
- Multi Agency Centre for Domestic Abuse

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Number of Reported Crimes in Monmouthshire.
- Number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents.
- Number of Violent crime incidents.
- Percentage of people who feel safe in their local community (Data Development Agenda).
Our County Thrives

Business and enterprise

We want people in Monmouthshire to benefit from an economy which is prosperous and supports enterprise and sustainable growth, where families shop locally and create a truly entrepreneurial spirit.

Key facts:

- In June 2012, 79% of our population were economically active (the highest level in Wales) of which 74% were in employment.
- Gross Value Added per head in Monmouthshire was £19,229 in 2009. This was above the Welsh average and the joint highest amongst the 22 Welsh local authorities.
- The Gross Disposable Income per head in Monmouthshire was £14,989 in 2009, the joint highest in Wales.
- In 2011, average gross weekly full-time earnings in Monmouthshire stood at £494. This was the ninth lowest in Wales.
- Number of young people aged 18-24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance reached a peak of 10% in February 2010 but had decreased to 7.8% by November 2012. This is below the average rate for Wales, which stood at 8.0%.
- People are working longer and retiring later.
- Tourism contributes £163.5 million to our local economy.
- In 2011, Monmouthshire had 663 active businesses per 10,000 population. This is the second highest level in Wales.
- 57 new businesses started through the help of the Council with turnover in excess of £4 million and 200 jobs.
- Inward investment has created another 49 new jobs.

What’s the story?

A wide range of employment and training opportunities are needed in Monmouthshire not only for our young people who are starting out but also for our older people whose retirement age has been extended. It is also important to have appropriate childcare to enable parents to work. The geography of our county means for the majority of people, car ownership is essential to securing employment.

Whilst employment in tourism did fall in 2011 compared with 2010, it still provides 3,500 full and part time jobs, which represent 10.1% of all employment, compared with a Wales average of 8.6%. In comparison, the largest employer is the Public Service sector where 33% of people are employed. In 2011, Monmouthshire Enterprise was established to work with partners to promote enterprise within the county. However, there is a need for more business support including finance to
support the development of start-ups and existing enterprises. Agriculture and food makes an important contribution to the economy in Monmouthshire.

While the take-up of broadband is high, coverage and performance in rural areas is poor, which can act as a barrier to encouraging new enterprise into the county. Agriculture faces particular challenges as farmers age and their children increasingly seek better paid employment outside the sector – an issue that was identified during preparation of the Rural Development Plan. County Farms need to be protected as a ‘way in’ to agriculture for younger farmers.

To enable business and enterprise to prosper in Monmouthshire, we need:

- Better access and performance of broadband services and communications.
- Better paid local employment opportunities.
- Graduates to want to return to live and work in Monmouthshire.
- To ensure that an appropriate range of finance is available for Monmouthshire businesses.
- To build on the services already being provided by Monmouthshire Enterprise and its partners to support the growth of new and existing enterprises.
- Availability of a suitable range of business premises.
- Retain more of the spend of visitors, citizens and businesses within Monmouthshire.
- To consider plans to develop and enhance the existing infrastructure in the region by fully participating in the regional economic development collaborations.

How can you make a difference?

Buy local – support Monmouthshire businesses.

Promote Monmouthshire as a place for business and tourism

- http://www.twitter.com, @MonmouthshireCC.

If you are currently in employment or seeking to move into employment get help with learning or childcare from the Family Information Service


Get your finances under control.

- Credit Union – http://www.gatewaycu.co.uk

Want to set up in business? Get support or financial start-up help:

- http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/business/

Get support for employment or training

- Job Centre Plus - http://www.gov.uk/
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Enhancing Broadband Coverage
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Essential Skills Programme
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Workplace Qualifications
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Social Enterprises
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Food Co-ops
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Preparation for Work Project

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Total funding raised for Monmouthshire Businesses from Public sources.
- Total funding raised for Monmouthshire Businesses from Private sources.
- Number of active enterprises per 10,000 population aged 16-64.
- Unemployed persons as a percentage of the Economically Active population aged 16-64.
Our County Thrives

People have access to practical and flexible learning

We want people in Monmouthshire to enjoy the opportunities that learning presents at all stages of their lives. It will be flexible and provide development opportunities across vocational and academic routes at all stages.

Key facts

- 36.9% of people of working age have a qualification equal to NVQ level 4 or higher.
- Only 8.5% of people aged 16-64 have no qualification.
- 51.3% of pupils achieved key stage 4 level 2 including English/Welsh and Maths, compared to a rate of 15.1%, achieved by pupils receiving free school meals.
- Only 27% of our children in need\(^1\) achieved key stage 4 level 2 the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, whereas other children achieved 71%.
- There is a link between poor educational achievement and lower levels of household income, higher rate of unemployment, a reliance on benefits and poor health.
- Children in workless families are more likely to experience poverty.
- Parental involvement in a child’s education contributes up to 25% of educational outcomes.
- The number of Monmouthshire people aged 65 and over predicted to have dementia is expected to increase by 82% from 1377 in 2012, to 2,506 in 2030.

What’s the story?

The gap in educational attainment between our children from our vulnerable families and the rest of Monmouthshire must be narrowed. School must become much more than a building that delivers academic education and consider how our education system can help develop the skills needed for our local economy to encourage our young people to stay local. Schools must prepare children and young people with skills for life and help them to be part of society. The 21\(^{st}\) Century Schools Programme will enable us to place schools at the heart of our communities.

Schools are well placed to identify and support families who are struggling. The needs of the parents and families are complex, but creating opportunities for parents to learn and develop good parental skills are essential. Such opportunities for parents will improve their children’s social and emotional development and give them a good start in life.

The links between health and education are reciprocal; not only is good health important for children to make the most of their educational opportunities, but the educational setting (both formal and informal) can be important in promoting good health.

\(^1\)Children in Need are defined as children and young people aged 0-17 receiving support from Children’s Social Care Services.
Compelling evidence indicates that good health and nutrition are prerequisites for effective learning.

We must ensure the skills and knowledge of our older people can pass to our young people by encouraging intergenerational learning. Being capable is not just about academic attainment; it’s about learning to live your good life.

The pursuit of knowledge through lifelong learning – whether it’s learning how to dance, speak a foreign language, write a newsletter, improve your golf swing, or repair your car – has wonderful benefits for adults over 50, including keeping your mind sharp, improving memory, increasing self-confidence and provides an opportunity to meet like-minded people. There is some evidence to suggest that the rates of dementia are lower in people who remain as mentally and physically active as possible throughout their lives.

We also recognise the importance of play in children’s lives, for both its recreational value and for the important part that it plays in children’s physical and emotional health and well-being and in their personal development. Play provides a platform for children to learn, to have fun and to develop friendships with other children in a variety of settings from the school playground to formal open spaces and the wider physical environment. Play is a common denominator that should be capable of being enjoyed by all children irrespective of their social or cultural background or the ability of their parents to pay for the opportunity to participate.

**To access practical and flexible learning we need:**

- To redesign our schools and make them more fit for purpose.
- To offer a more flexible education system that meets the needs of the pupil, their families and employers.
- Improved access to parenting skills.
- Improved access to adult education and learning.
- Improved access to education for vulnerable groups.
- To explore inter-generational connections to support young people.
- To overcome transport as a barrier to further education.
- To address key factors to underachievement
- Improved ‘life skills’ to be taught to young people, for example how to get mortgages and how to budget.
- To ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate Play opportunities.
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Families First Programme
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Art and Craft and I.T. provision
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Job Clubs
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Welfare Reform Awareness Grant
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Family Learning Project
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Genesis Wales 2
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education Adult and Community Education Classes
- Conserving Local Communities Heritage (CLOCH) Project
- Public Health Five Ways to Wellbeing

How can you make a difference?
Discover the range of resources and courses in our libraries – for all age groups.

Explore opportunities for informal support and social activities such as through the National Childbirth Trust when your child is very young.

Look out for or set up your own local parent and toddler group (these are often advertised and held at village halls and churches).

Get help with learning or childcare from the Family Information Service:

- Flying Start – Tel: 01873 856162
- The Acorn Project – Tel: 01873 735014

For advice on Adult Education opportunities:

- Coleg Gwent – Tel: 01495 333777 - [http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk](http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk)
- Monmouthshire Adult and Community Education - Tel: 01873 851554 - [http://www.moncomed.org.uk](http://www.moncomed.org.uk)

For information on the schools within Monmouthshire:
[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schools/](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schools/)

For more information on Play:

- [www.tvawales.org.uk](http://www.tvawales.org.uk)
How will we know if we have made a difference? We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- % of children achieving Level 2 Threshold at the end of Key Stage 4 including English or Welsh and Maths.
- Percentage of primary school pupils supported by the Pupil Referral Service (PRS).
- Percentage of secondary school pupils supported by the PRS achieving nationally recognised qualifications.
- % of attendance at primary schools in Monmouthshire.
- % of attendance at secondary schools in Monmouthshire.
- Percentage of adults with entry level qualification (Data Development Agenda).
- Parental Educational satisfaction (Parents satisfaction with their child’s school. Potential criteria are: whether they are kept informed of the school’s performance, ability to meet with teachers and be involved in decisions; aspirations for their child post-16; and activities they do with their child to help them learn new things). (Data Development Agenda).
Our County Thrives

People protect and enhance the environment

We want both the built and rural environment in Monmouthshire to be protected and enhanced; protecting habitats and making sure that all benefit from our natural resource.

Key facts

- Tourism contributes £163.5 million to the Monmouthshire economy.
- Approximately 2.1 million people visit Monmouthshire each year.
- Approximately 10% of the workforce is employed in the tourism sector.
- Fly tipping is at its lowest for 6 years with 497 incidents in 2011-12.
- Monmouthshire recycled or composted 55% of household waste in 2011-12.
- Our ecological footprint (5.36 gha/capita) & carbon footprint (12.36 CO₂/capita) are both amongst the highest in Wales.
- Wye valley was designated an area of outstanding natural beauty in 1971.
- There are 1,000 miles of footpath across Monmouthshire.

What's the story?

Monmouthshire’s natural environment is its biggest asset. The Brecon Beacons National Park and the Wye Valley are two areas nationally recognised as places of natural beauty that create excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation. Monmouthshire has extensive heritage sites and areas of historical significance with an estimated 26 castle sites across the County.

Monmouthshire has a wealth of biodiversity and green spaces, including the Severn Estuary Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar Site (Wetland of international importance), four other Special Areas of Conservation, 49 SSSIs and 2 National Nature Reserves.

Across the County, there is a real risk of flooding in many areas. Even though fly tipping incidents have reduced, they are still at an unacceptable level and it remains a problem. Our environment and habitat needs to be conserved and protected through a coordinated approach with Natural Resources Wales, the third sector and other major public service providers.

While tourism, agriculture and forestry contribute significantly to our local economy, it has the potential to contribute much more. We need to be clear on how we can enable our environment to contribute more to our County.

For our environment to be protected, we need:

- To enable people to enjoy more of Monmouthshire.
To realise the potential to partner-up with neighbouring destinations.
Brand Monmouthshire as a destination to visit.
Better use of natural assets for outdoor pursuits and activities.
To build resilience to combat the impact of climate change.
To produce less waste and recycle more.
To reduce CO₂ emissions and promote a green economy.
To consider car sharing initiatives and other innovative transport initiatives.

How can you make a difference?
Go for a walk.
Use your bicycle to travel around the County.
Join your local community wildlife group and take part in volunteer activities such as pond clearance and bat and butterfly surveys.
   o Gwent Wildlife Trust – http://www.gwentwildlife.org
Use peat alternatives in your garden.
Support organisations that protect the natural environment and endangered species.
Check your ecological footprint using this calculator:
   o http://www.wwf.org.uk
Encourage wildlife into your garden by planting a range of trees, shrubs and flowers that attract and support wildlife and provide food and water for birds all year round.
For information on reducing landfill and recycling:
   o Homemakers – Tel: 01873 857618
   o Waste Awareness Wales – http://www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk
To learn more about Tourism and the Countryside within Monmouthshire:
   o http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/tourism/
   o http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/countrysideandenvironment/
Find out about Transition Towns in Monmouthshire:
   o http://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk
   o http://www.transitionmonmouth.org
What will we do?
We will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well evidenced and reflect the needs of the community.

- Climate Change Adaption
- Community Climate Champions
- Monmouthshire Adult Community Education Gardening Schemes

How will we know if we have made a difference?
We will use key population data to show progress we have made, such as:

- Ecological Footprint (global hectares per capita).
- Carbon footprint (Tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per capita).
- Percentage of municipal waste recycled or composted.
- Number of fly tipping incidents reported.
- Number of wildlife and conservation projects which restore habitats and improve ecological connectivity (Data Development Agenda).
- Percentage of people who are satisfied with access to green spaces. (Data Development Agenda).

How can you make a difference? (Continued)
Find out about Monmouthpedia, the creation of the world’s first Wikipedia Town:


Consider car sharing for travel to work.
How Did We Get Here and What’s Next?

The Single Integrated Plan was developed using a four stage process.

*Discover:* we will find out all we can about Monmouthshire, what are the challenges for the people that live here and what are the emerging societal challenges that are happening.

*Define:* we will further our understanding of the key emerging issues and challenges, testing what the data tells us and quantifying the extent of the risk.

*Design:* working across agencies we will design solutions and interventions that are focused on early intervention and prevention and which meet a clearly identified need. We will always consider what works to do better, including no cost and low cost and try to view things differently, using ideas, processes and tools in ways not tried before. Critically we will design across disciplines, integrate multiple perspectives and move beyond specialisation thereby enhancing access and availability where appropriate.

*Delivery:* working through the LSB we will deliver the collaboratively designed solutions in a timely manner – their success in meeting the identified needs will be monitored and evaluated. When published, the delivery plan will identify ‘how’ we, as partners, will achieve our outcomes.

**Discovery: Data analysis**

We started our process by looking at the available data and intelligence about Monmouthshire. This told us some interesting facts and revealed some needs, such as our ageing demographic, but really only reinforced the usual preconceived ideas about the County; we needed to understand in more detail what it is like to live in Monmouthshire, in a village, town or hamlet.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation provides some colour to our understanding but the best way of getting to the heart of the County was to ask those people who live and work in our communities; so that is what we did.

**Discovery: Challenge Events**

In the last week of October 2012 we asked our stakeholders, including members of the community to ‘Challenge’ the data and our understanding of what it told us. These sessions were attended by over 150 people who brought their views and experiences of living and working in Monmouthshire to challenge and test our emerging presumptions.
The feedback from the events was invaluable and allowed us to hone our understanding of what matters to the people that live in the County. What emerged was greater clarity around some of the areas and some new areas of concern. This information was then used in the next stage; the Design Events.

**Definition: Design Events**

The next stage of engagement was to ask stakeholders to help us refine and define the challenges that had been identified. We were joined by 75 people over the course of a week and they helped us refine our understanding of emerging themes; provide additional data and arrive at an agreed position.

It was following these events that we have arrived at our vision and three key themes for the Single Integrated Plan.

![Diagram: Monmouthshire’s Single Integrated Plan]

**Delivering the aspirations of the Single Integrated Plan.**

Across Monmouthshire, partners are committed to working together to achieve the shared outcomes in the Single Integrated Plan. No single organisation or community can achieve the level of outcomes required to break the cycle of dependency and improve the poor outcomes from one generation to the next. Under the clear leadership of the LSB, partners will deliver a range of activities and interventions that are well-evidenced and reflect the needs of the community. The SIP has an accompanying Delivery Plan that details ‘performance accountability’, setting out in detail the activities that each of the partners will undertake to achieve local programme outcomes that will in turn contribute to population level shared outcomes for Monmouthshire.

Programme performance will be reviewed annually and evidence gathered will enable the LSB to assess the impact of initiatives over time and identify what is working well. This evidence will be used to rethink, redesign and implement positive system wide changes across LSB activity and inform future joint-service planning and commissioning to enable Monmouthshire to achieve its vision of resilient and sustainable communities.