

# Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee

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Meeting Venue  
**By Zoom**

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Meeting Date  
**Monday, 6 September 2021**

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Meeting Time  
**10.00 am**

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For further information please contact  
**Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager and  
Head of Democratic Services**  
wyn.richards@powys.gov.uk



County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

31-08-2021

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Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod. Rhwch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.

You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting. Please inform us of which language you wish to use by noon, two working days before the meeting.

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## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</b>
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To receive any disclosures of interests by Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS</b>
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To receive disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

(NB: Members are reminded that under Section 78 Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHILD POVERTY IN POWYS</b>
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To receive and consider the following:

- (i) A report prepared by the Business Analytics and Research Unit in relation to child poverty in Powys.
- (ii) A presentation by Ellie Harwood (Child Poverty Action Group).
- (iii) The results of a survey commissioned by the Chair of the Committee.

As background information below is a link to the End Child Poverty Website which reviewed child poverty comparing 2014/15 and 2019/20.

[Child poverty in your area 2014/15 – 2019/20 – End Child Poverty](#)

The interactive map at the end of this page will show the position for Powys.

In addition, below is a link to the Frequently Asked Questions which explains the information used for the research.

[FAQ on local child poverty research – End Child Poverty](#)  
(Pages 5 - 44)

<b>5.</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP AND APPRENTICESHIPS</b>
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To receive and consider a presentation by Paul Bradshaw (Head of Service) and Lynne Griffin, Workforce and Organisational Development.

<b>6.</b>	<b>RECYCLING</b>
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To receive and consider a presentation from Ashley Collins, Senior Manager – Waste and Recycling Services.

<b>7.</b>	<b>SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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To note that future meetings of the Committee are scheduled as follows:

18-10-21 14.00 - 16.00 Teams Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance Q2 + Risk</li><li>• Finance Q2 + budget efficiency savings</li></ul>
29-11-21 10.00 - 12.00 Teams Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and Disorder / Community Safety Review / Community Safety Partnership</li></ul>

**Committee Reflection**

Following the close of the meeting ,the Committee is asked to take 5 to 10 minutes to reflect on today's meeting.

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<p>Want to find data about Powys? Click here to view our</p> <p><b>WELL-BEING INFORMATION BANK</b></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL AWARD WINNER</b> 2021 <b>Laria</b> BEST USE OF DATA <small>(LOCAL AREA RESEARCH &amp; INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION)</small></p>
<p>Lle gwyh i weithio, byw a chwarae Gweledigaeth 2025</p>	<p>A fantastic place in which to work, live and play Vision 2025</p>

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN POWYS

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There are **33,708** children and young people (0-25) living in Powys, **26,294** of them are 0-19 years old.

*[To see where residents and young people in live in Powys click here](#)*

There are 73 wards in Powys and 80 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's), **6.3% of Powys' LSOA's are in the top 20% of most deprived in Wales (Ystradgynlais 1, Llandrindod East/ Llandrindod West, Newtown East, Newtown South and Welshpool Castle LSOA).**

*[\[Local Authority Analysis \(gov.wales\)\]](#)*

*[To view how Powys ranks on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation click here](#)*

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOW PAY IN POWYS

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Unemployment and low wages are at the heart of child poverty. To understand these drivers of child poverty it is useful to examine some key local economic indicators of households.

- **20%** of working age people (aged 16-64 years) in Powys are **economically inactive** (December 2020). The national average for Wales is 24.3%. **Powys has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate of economically inactive residents among Welsh LAs**

*[\[Source: Annual Population Survey © Crown Copyright\]](#)*

*[To view the economic activity rate of Powys and Wales click here](#)*

- There are **3,020 people claiming unemployment benefits** living in Powys (Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work). **This is 4% of persons aged 16-64. This is the second lowest rate among Welsh Local authorities.**

*[\[Claimant count by Welsh local area, variable and month \(not seasonally adjusted\) - EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS \(gov.wales\)\]](#)*

*[To view unemployment figure for Powys over time click here](#)*

There were **4,324 children** (aged under 16) living in **Relative low income** families in 2020.

**This is 20%. Powys ranks 14<sup>th</sup>** out of 22 among Welsh Local Authorities.

There were **3,207 children** (aged under 16) living in **Absolute low income** families in 2020.

**This is 15%. Powys ranks 7<sup>th</sup> highest** among the 22 Welsh Local Authorities.

*[\[Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)\]](#)*

There were **4,088 families with children in absolute poverty** (income is below 60% of median income) **in 2019/20 in Powys**, and of these **1,248 (31%)** were **lone parent households.**

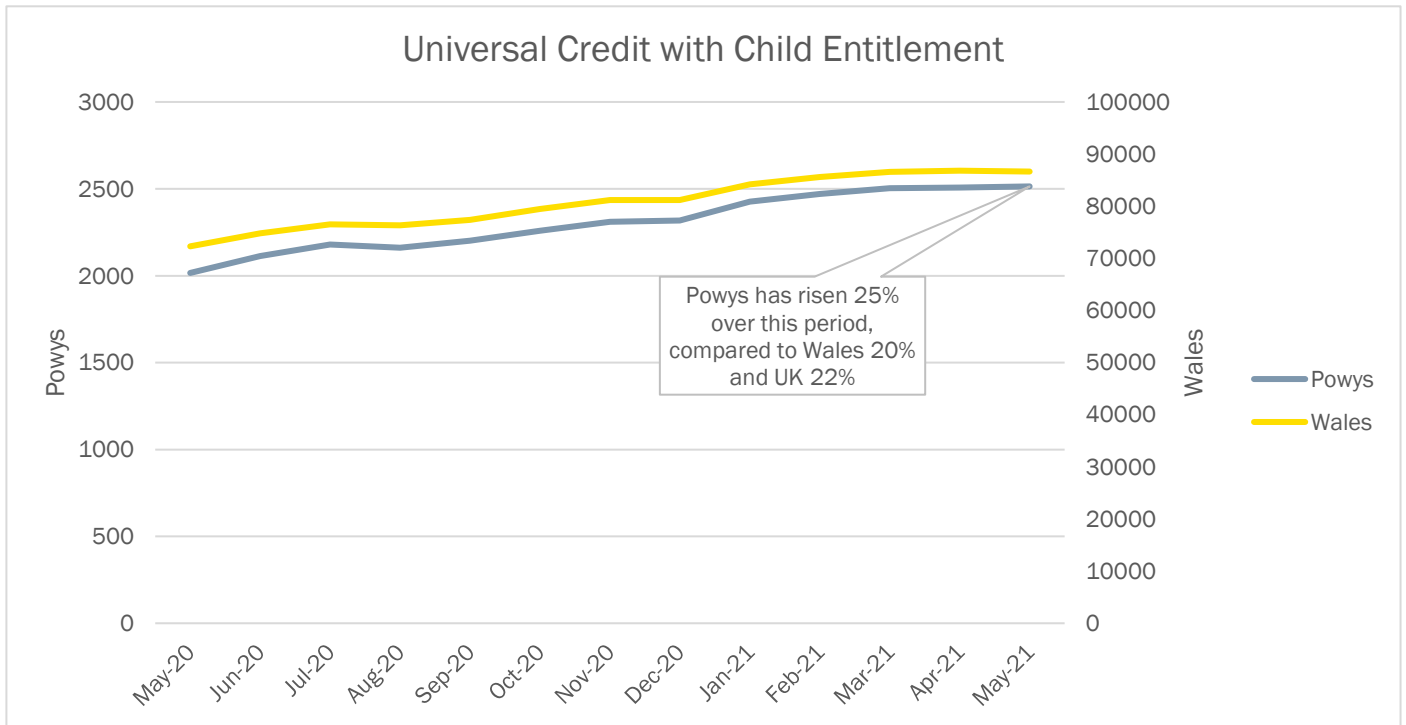
*[\[Dept of Work and Pensions Absolute Low Income data Stat-Xplore - Table View \(dwp.gov.uk\)\]](#)*

In Powys 55% (33,149) households earn below the Wales average household income of £34,700 (37% earn above). However, 70% (42,107) households earn below the UK average household income of £40,257 (24% earn above).

*[\[CACI disposable income\]](#)*

*[To view household incomes figure for Powys and for Powys LSOAs click here](#)*

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT



Over the last year, the number of **Universal Credit claims with a child entitlement** in Powys has grown from **2,161** in May 2020 to **2,514** in May 2021, an **increase of 25%**. This increase is slightly ahead of Wales (20%) and UK (22%).

[Source: Dept. of Work and Pensions, © Crown Copyright]

In 2019/20, there were **4,223** children in **low income households\*** where at least **one parent was working**, and **1,230** in households with **no working adults**. This is the highest number since 2015/16 (as far back as data is available).

**78%** of the children living in low income households in Powys were in ones **where an adult was working**, the **second highest** level among local authorities in Wales (Ceredigion was 0.4% higher).

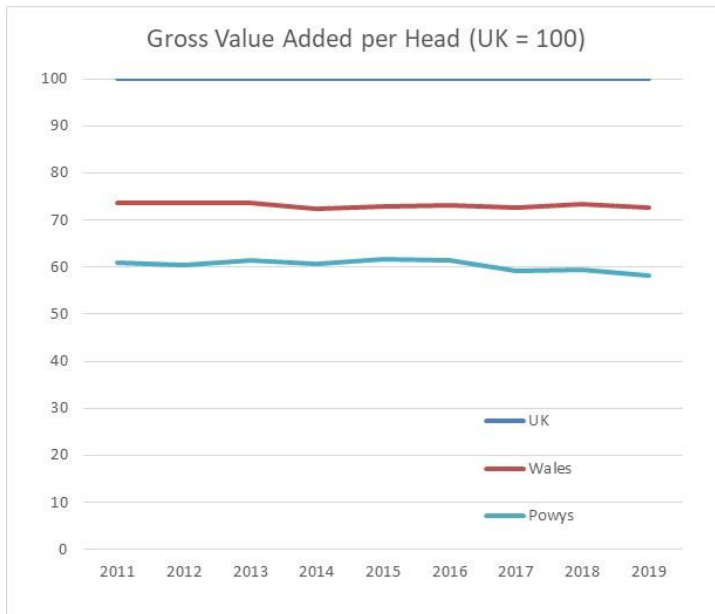
Powys has had the smallest increase between 2015/16 and 2019/20 in the number of children in low income households with an adult working. It increased by 15%, with the Welsh figure being 27%.

**Median gross weekly earnings in Powys were £519 in 2020.** This was below the Welsh average of £542.

[Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings © Crown Copyright]

*\*Low income households defined as where income is below 60% of median income*

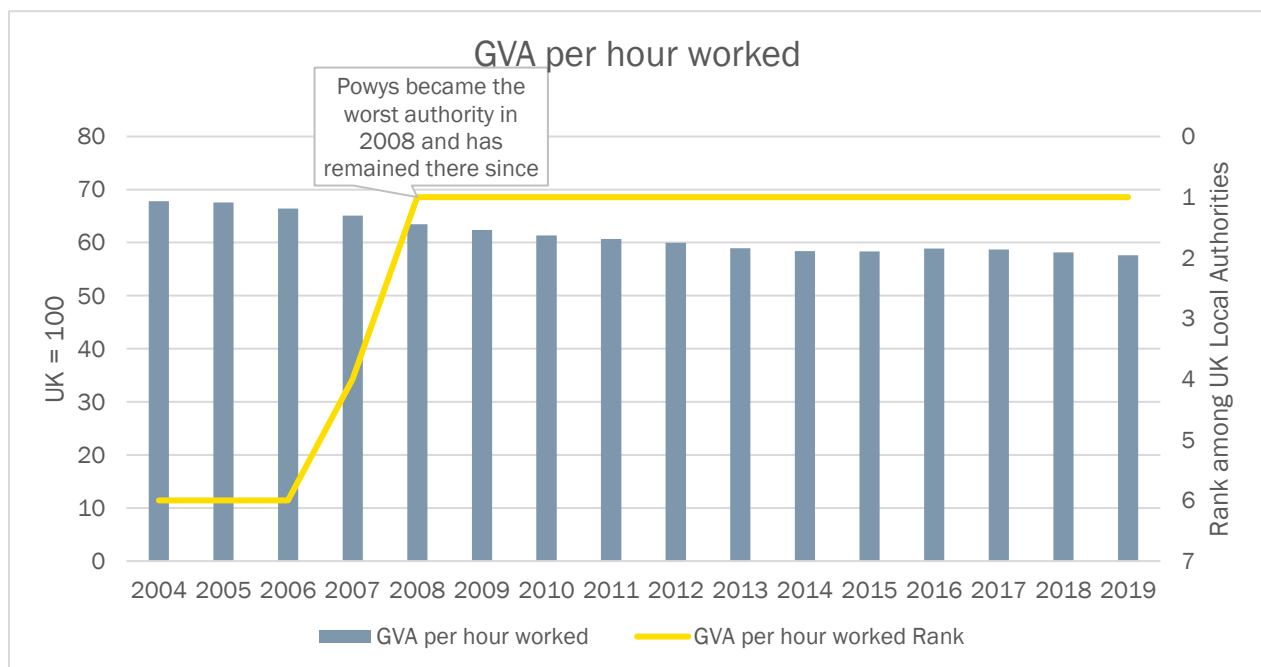
## GROSS VALUE ADDED



The left graph show **Gross Value Added per head** for Powys, Wales and the UK over the last 8 years. Powys has **fallen** from **61%** of UK average in 2011 to **58%** in 2019 (it peaked at 62% in 2015).

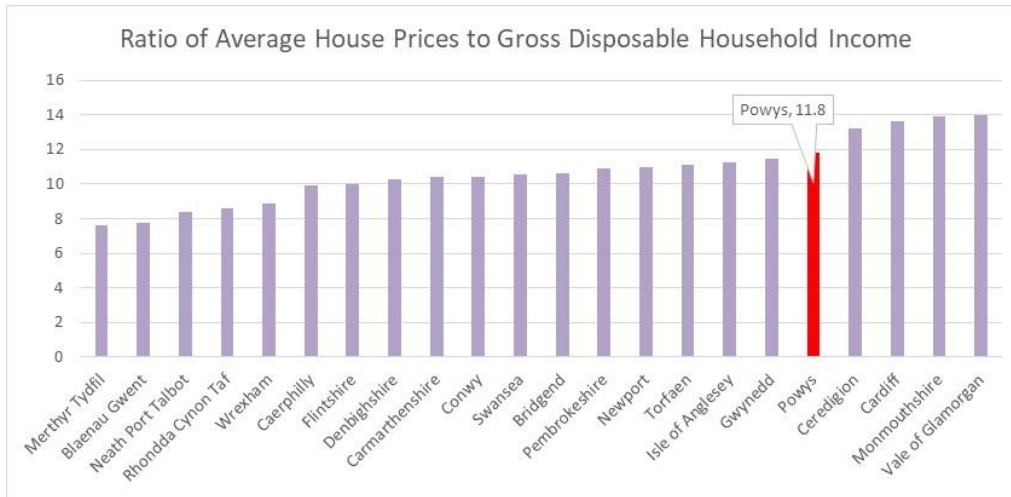
The below graph shows **GVA per hour worked** for Powys compared to the UK. This shows Powys falling from **69%** in 2004 to **58%** in 2019, and being the **lowest ranked authority in the UK since 2008**.

[Source: Office for National Statistics, Sub-national Gross Value Added © Crown Copyright]



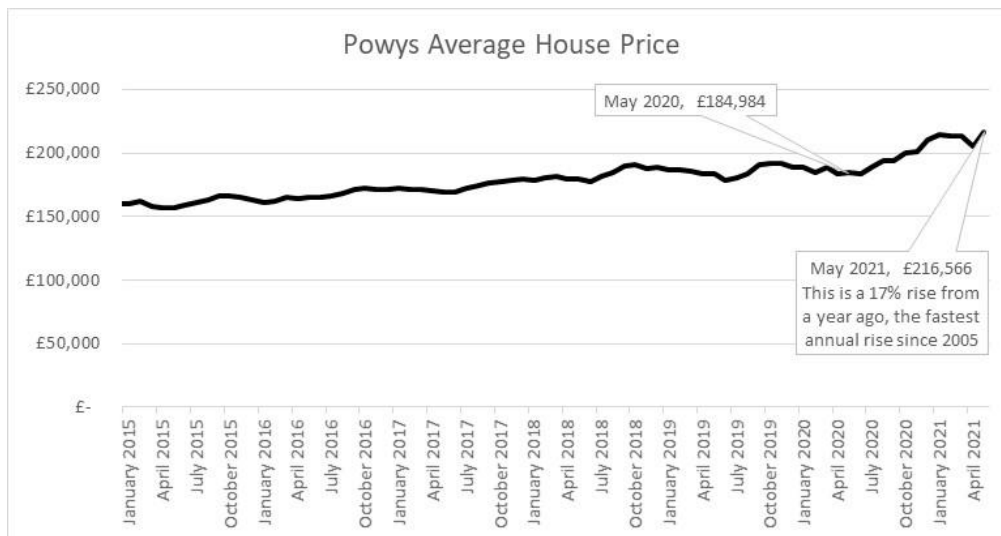


## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



The above chart tries to look at the relative cost of housing in each local authority, comparing average house prices to disposable income. This shows that **Powys ranks 5th highest** amongst the 22 Local Authorities in Wales **for having the most expensive houses compared to gross disposable income.**

From May 2020 to May 2021, **house prices in Powys increased by 17%** (Wales 13%).



Source: UK House Price Index May 2021, HM Land Registry © Crown Copyright. Gross Disposable Household Income, Office for National Statistics Regional Accounts © Crown Copyright

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN POWYS

Free School Meal eligibility is a key proxy measure of household income. At all key stages, **learners eligible for free school meals tend to perform significantly less well than those not eligible.**

Poor educational attainment is likely to harm children and young people's future life chances and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

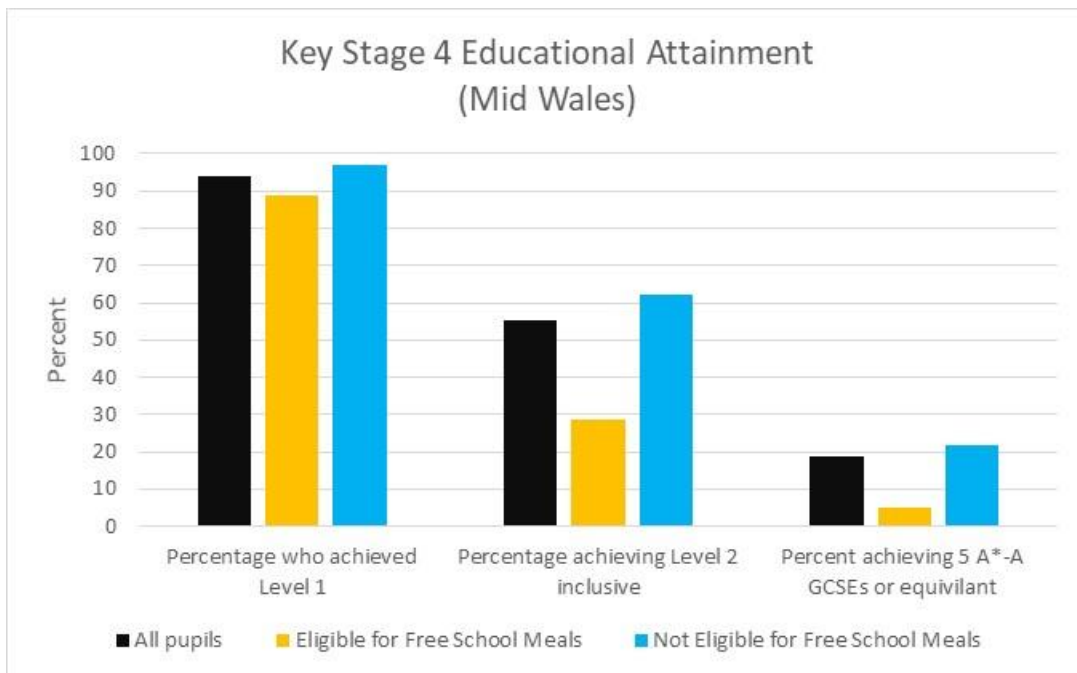
- **1,921 (12%)** of pupils in Powys are eligible for free school meals, **which is lower than the national Average of 18%.**
- **16%** of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals **are currently not receiving them.**

[\[Source: Welsh Government Free School Meal © Crown Copyright\]](#)

[To view information about Powys' schools including free school meal eligibility and uptake please click here](#)

- Educational attainment for pupils in Mid Wales at Key Stage 4 shows that **those eligible for FSM have lower outcomes than the rest of the population. The gap** between those receiving FSM and those who are not achieving Level 1\* **is 8%.** At Level 2\*\* it was **33%** and those achieving 5 A\*-A grades **was 17%.**

[Source: Welsh Government, Welsh Examinations Database/PLASC © Crown Copyright](#)




\*Level 1 – 5 GCSE's A\*-G

\*\*Level 2 – 5 GCSE's A\*-C

- In 2020, **4.6%** of Year 13 school leavers in **Powys** were NEETs, compared to the **Welsh average of 3.7%**  
[Year 13 Pupil Destinations from Schools in Wales 2020 | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

TRANSFORMATION PROJECT -Affordable Housing	THIS TRANSFORMATION WILL ACHIEVE:	HOW WE WILL KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING:
 <p><b>We will ensure there is an increased range of affordable housing, so people have greater variety of where to live and stay in their communities.</b></p> <p><b>* This project also contributes to our Equality Objective 3.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Increased and better-quality output of affordable homes</li> <li>➔ Increased housing that meets need at affordable, social rent levels</li> <li>➔ Homes that make significant contributions to the lives and well-being of their occupants</li> <li>➔ New homes will be energy efficient, and where possible, use locally sourced materials and locally based tradespeople in their construction</li> </ul>	<p>By the end of 2025 we will have built 250 new council-owned homes (dependant on availability of WG grant funding) (50 during 2021-22, 50 during 2022-23, 75 during 2023-24, and 75 during 2024-25).</p> <p>The number of additional affordable housing units delivered per 10,000 households will be 29 in 2021-22, 23 in 2022-23, 46 in 2023-24, and 36 in 2024-25 (at the end of 2019-20 this was 12.4).</p>

**What did we do in 2020-21?**

In 2020-21 the council had 118 Council properties under construction across the county on sites in Newtown, Llanidloes, Clyro and Brecon. A further 109 homes are at an advanced stage in the development process and plans are being drawn up to expand the programme.

Nineteen families have moved into the first homes to be completed at Maes Maendy in Brecon. This development includes a mix of 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom homes, all let on secure tenancies with affordable rents.

**EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 3: BY 2024, WE WILL IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF ACCESSIBLE HOMES, ADAPTABLE HOMES AND LIFE-TIME HOMES, THAT PROVIDE SUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**Why is this objective important and how will it support people with protected characteristics?**

- ➔ Disabled people face a shortage of accessible and adaptable homes and long delays in making existing homes accessible.
- ➔ Powys is recording a high number of applicants that are in need of appropriate accommodation due to a medical need or a disability and whose existing home is not appropriate.
- ➔ The Equality and Human Rights recent housing inquiry showed that disabled people are demoralised and frustrated by the housing system and living in homes that do not meet their right to live independently.
- ➔ Disabled people can experience serious deterioration in their mental wellbeing due to living in unsuitable accommodation. Nearly three times as many disabled people report poor mental health than non-disabled people. By providing disabled people with suitable accommodation we aim to reduce the number of disabled people reporting poor mental health.
- ➔ Findings from our regional engagement showed that the groups rated as having the worst experiences of accessing housing than the population as a whole were, younger people and disabled people. Other groups were seen to have an approximately neutral experience of housing.

**What we will do**

**How we will know we are succeeding**

Between 2021 and 2024, the 'Fit for Life' programme will improve access arrangements to 500 homes. .

➔ By March 2022, 168 homes will benefit from the Fit for Life programme, followed by 168 by March 2023, and 164 by March 2024.

Between 2021 and 2024 the Disabled Facilities Grants programme will improve the quality of homes for 40 households each year.

➔ We will deliver aids, adaptations and disabled facility grant funded works within 130 calendar days.

We will ensure there is an increased range of affordable housing, so people have greater variety of where to live and stay in their communities.

➔ By the end of 2025 we will have built 250 new council-owned homes (dependant on availability of WG grant funding) (50 during 2021-22, 50 during 2022-23, 75 during 2023-24, and 75 during 2024-25). (This measure also supports the Affordable Housing Transformation Project.)

**EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 4: BY 2024, WE HELP PEOPLE TO GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS**

**Why is this objective important and how will it support people with protected characteristics?**

- ➔ Rough sleeping has increased, and levels of homelessness remain a concern.
- ➔ Between February 2019 and January 2020, 697 people across Powys have sought advice and assistance with regards to homelessness. 515 (74%) of these are age 25+ and 182 (26%) are aged 16-24.
- ➔ Anyone might be at risk of being homeless, however the young, single men, single females and single females with children are more likely to be in need. The top two reasons for being at risk of homelessness in Powys s were a breakdown in relationship, followed by parents no longer able, or willing to accommodate their children.
- ➔ Findings from regional engagement showed that the group rated as having the worst experience of accessing housing were younger people, reflecting the difficulties of young people finding affordable housing.

**What we will do**

**How we will know we are succeeding**

Expand and improve the effectiveness of locality-based support to help prevent homelessness and social isolation.

- ➔ Total number of people who received Housing Related Support in the quarter. (This will be Housing Support Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant funded activity).
- ➔ Total number of service users no longer requiring support and/ or who have moved on from their current support services.
- ➔ Quarterly reports on the causes and incidence of homelessness, and the impact of work to prevent people becoming homeless .

Develop housing options for people with special accommodation needs (including young people, those with learning disabilities, people experiencing domestic or sexual abuse and people with disabilities and sensory impairment).

➔ Total number of service users no longer requiring support and/ or who have moved on from their current support services.

Improve services to help people whose well-being and tenancy sustainability is at risk as a consequence of hoarding behaviours impairment).

- ➔ Total number of people who received Housing Related Support in the quarter. (This will be Housing Support Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant funded activity).
- ➔ Total number of service users no longer requiring support and/ or who have moved on from their current support services.
- ➔ Quarterly reports on the causes and incidence of homelessness, and the impact of work to prevent people becoming homeless.

**What did we do in 2020-21?**

The Housing Services Development Team have started a 'value engineering' exercise to make sure that the design, specification, and development of new municipal housing is as efficient as possible. The production of a suite of standard house types is under way, which will reduce costs. The detailed design of properties is being reviewed to make sure that chosen designs and materials do not add unnecessary costs to both initial construction and ongoing maintenance. The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review for 2021-2022 is now underway to identify efficiencies that may allow the Council to generate surpluses to help support the continued development of council-owned homes.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**IMPROVE SKILLS AND SUPPORT PEOPLE TO GET GOOD QUALITY JOBS**

What we will do	How we will know we are succeeding	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
We will help support people into work and better paid employment opportunities.	Number of people progressing to employment as a result of taking part in employability activities.	50 people	50 people	50 people	50 people

**EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 1: BY 2024 WE WILL ENABLE PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY TO HAVE IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES FOR VALUED OCCUPATION INCLUDING PAID EMPLOYMENT.**

**Why is this objective important and how will it support people with protected characteristics?**

- ➔ Disabled people's employment rate is less than half that for non-disabled people and disabled people are less likely than non-disabled people to work in managerial or professional occupations, which tend to have higher pay.
- ➔ UK-wide research indicates that employment rates for disabled people vary considerably according to the type of disability or health condition, and that people with mental health conditions and those with learning difficulties have the lowest rates (Brown and Powell, 2018).
- ➔ Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty and experience severe material deprivation than non-disabled people. Median hourly earnings were higher in 2016/17 for non-disabled (£10.67) than for disabled (£9.72) employees, a disability pay gap of 8.9%.
- ➔ As well as helping disabled people to become independent, self-sufficient and feel valued, paid employment will provide social opportunities and support them to live full and productive lives.
- ➔ Findings from our regional engagement showed that the groups rated as having the worst experiences of work, compared with the population as a whole were disabled people and older people.

What we will do	How we will know we are succeeding
By March 2022, we will explore commissioning options to ensure that people have optimum opportunity to gain employment	Number of Adults with a disability being supported to undertake employment. Information recording mechanisms being developed and will be used to baseline appropriate targets when available.
By March 2023, we will use strengths-based approaches to ensure that supported employment converts to independent employment where possible.	
By March 2022, we will create a work, leisure and learning partnership (including citizens and carers) to lead to the development of employment opportunities.	

**What did we do in 2020-21?**

We continued to deliver the Communities for Work+ project aimed at getting people into work and improving their employability prospects. Between 2018 and 2021, 57 of the 83 of Workways+ participants were still in work after 6 months, and 79 of the 83 of Communities for Work+ participants were working full time (77 of the 83 participants gained permanent employment). The team received additional funding from Welsh Government, allowing the recruitment of two new members of staff, an employment mentor, and an employer liaison officer. This will enable us to provide an enhanced service to people in Powys in need of support, especially given the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment. For more information about the project and the help and support available, please visit: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9667/Communities-for-Work-Powys> Our success measures and targets for 2020-21 2018-19 Performance 2019-20 Performance 2020-21 Performance Trend

### IMPROVE THE SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS

What we will do	How we will know we are succeeding	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
We will improve routes to employability into the Council through an apprenticeship scheme, promoted to schools and people who want to return to employment across the County, as part of this we will strengthen work based learning across the council and provide opportunities for work experience and employment / development in apprenticeship roles.	→ By March 2024, the Council will employ a further 27 apprentices as part of a new programme due to commence during 2021-22	10 Apprentices employed	12 Apprentices employed (total of 22 apprentices in the Council)	15 Apprentices employed (total of 27 in the council. The 10 employed in 2021-22 will have completed their apprenticeship)	To be agreed.
We will support all schools to improve routes to employability and further education.	→ By March 2025, the percentage of 16 years olds who are NOT in education, employment or training will be maintained below 2% (this was 1.7% in 2018/19).	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%

#### What did we do in 2020-21?

The last data released showing the percentage of 16 years olds who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) identified that Powys had the third lowest number of 'NEETS' in Wales (1.0% in 2019-20, which was below the 2% target).



# CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

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## EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 5: BY 2024, WE WILL IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY.

### Why is this objective important and how will it support people with protected characteristics?

- ➔ Poverty has increased and a quarter of adults and a third of children are now living in poverty in Wales. In 2015/16 one in three (34.1%) children in Wales was living in poverty.
- ➔ In 2016, 9% of households across Wales were classified as 'food insecure'. Evidence from food banks suggests their use continues to rise. In 2017/18, the Trussell Trust's network of food banks in Wales provided 98,350 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis compared with 85,656 in 2015/16, an increase of 13%
- ➔ A survey of Trussell Trust food bank users across Britain found that certain groups may be more affected by food poverty. Single male households were the most common household type (38%), followed by female lone parents with children (13%).
- ➔ Features of socio-economic disadvantage are complex and are often interlinked. Early adverse life experiences, such as community or family poverty, have a detrimental effect on young adults' social economy attainment, such as income, assets and job quality.
- ➔ As part of developing our equality objectives, targeted focus groups were run with some mother and toddler groups and feedback from these confirmed that this should be a priority area for the council.

### What we will do

During 2021 to 2024 we will support effective use of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) to improve literacy and numeracy skills. This will include:

- ➔ Working with our schools to appropriately target the PDG and undertake an annual evaluation of the effectiveness / impact.

### How we will know we are succeeding

- ➔ The percentage of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals attaining the Foundation Phase Indicator will be 75% by July 2023.
- ➔ The percentage of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals attaining the CSI at Key Stage 2 will be 75% by July 2023.
- ➔ The percentage of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals attaining the CSI at Key Stage 3 will be 78% by July 2023.
- ➔ The average Capped 9-point score of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be 340 points by July 2023.



During 2021 to 2024 we will support school to ensure all children in Powys are able to attend school without the associated financial costs. Our actions (outlined below) will lead to equality of opportunity for all.

- ➔ During 2021-22, we will undertake an engagement exercise with schools and pupils about the establishment of a schools savings scheme (and work to establish the scheme in 2022-23).
- ➔ By March 2022, we will trial a programme of youth outreach and virtual support.
- ➔ By March 2023, we will ensure that the Welsh Government's Period Dignity programme is fully supported in all our schools.
- ➔ By March 2024, we will raise awareness of Free School Meals entitlement and our Income and Awards department will identify children who are entitled to free school meals and target advice to encourage take up.
- ➔ By 2024, we will increase the number of schools that participate in the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP).
- ➔ We will continue to provide Pupil Development Grant Access grants to eligible parents for school uniform, other clothing worn at school such as sports kits, equipment for out-of-school-hours trips (including outdoor learning) and equipment for activities within the curriculum such as design and technology.

During 2021 to 2024 we will provide families with support and advice to help them reduce costs of living. This will include:

- ➔ By March 2022, we will provide Financial Hardship support through a Council Tax scheme.
- ➔ By 2022, we will provide Housing Support through a Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme.
- ➔ Between 2021 and 2024, we will undertake a fuel poverty take up exercise with NEST.
- ➔ We will explore providing additional support by reducing council tax for foster carers.
- ➔ We will support families who are in 'in work' poverty in individual cases through debt / budgeting / benefits optimisation and fuel support.

- ➔ Between 2021 and 2025, an increased number of children that are entitled to Free School Meals will take up the service.
- ➔ Increased number of pupils using the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) over the summer holidays which benefits their health & wellbeing. (This objective also supports Well-being Objective 4.)
- ➔ Between 2021 and 2025, we will report on the value of Pupil Development Grant Access grants provided.

- ➔ Between 2021 and 2025, we will identify the number of families that receive financial (debt / budgeting / benefits) advice from the Council.

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### *What did we do in 2020-21?*

- The support provided to disadvantaged pupils during the COVID-19 period has been significant, with nearly all accessing childcare provision, digital devices being provided to ensure they are not disadvantaged, and many schools providing weekly welfare support for these learners.
- During the pandemic supermarket vouchers and direct BACS payments were issued to all entitled free school meal families/pupils. We saw a 19.5% increase from December 2019 to December 2020 in free school meal entitlement claims. The Council regularly informs schools and posts to all Parents via the ParentPay communication system to sign post free school meals.
- An annual review uptake exercise was undertaken to identify children who are entitled to free school meals and target advice to encourage take up and 25 claims were added.
- We continued to support families with the cost of living through advice and assistance. During the year, 742 awards for school clothing grants have been made to the value of £105,075; £11,076,591 has been paid out to 10,214 customers through the council tax reductions scheme and we provided Discretionary Housing Payment support to help residents with housing related issues to the value of £585,000.
- We are committed to supporting the Period Dignity initiative and will be extending its contract to provide feminine hygiene products to all our schools, including via the coin-free vending machines in our secondary schools. Due to the success of the coin-free vending machines, secondary schools have been offered further units and larger primary schools have also been given the opportunity to have units installed. Period dignity vouchers were issued to the families of 657 young girls aged 9 and over who were in receipt of free school meals to support with the cost of feminine hygiene products during lockdown. Following the success of the teen starter pack which were issued during 2020, further stock has been purchased for each girl aged 9 and over, in preparation for the new financial year. Joint working with Youth Services has ensured that packs of teen starter packs are also available to young people through outreach services and youth clubs.
- As part of their school improvement plans, all schools identified how they use their Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to support vulnerable learners. Provision is in place for educational support for children who are entitled to free school meals during periods when the schools are closed. Welsh Government have allowed schools to use the PDG funding up to the end of the summer term 2021 due to the fact schools have been providing remote learning for most pupils during the spring term 2021.
- Nearly all governing bodies continue to give due consideration to the Welsh Government School Uniform Guidance. As part of the measures to re-open schools a Powys wide decision was made to relax uniform rules for practical reasons as well as the additional costs to families potentially needing to purchase new uniform. Letters have been issued to all eligible families who have children in receipt of free school meals, or who are caring for children looked after, to inform them that the PDG Access uniform grant is available and provide details of how to claim. 79% made a claim.



## REFERENCE TO SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

### STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES

What we will do	How we will know we are succeeding	2021-22 Target	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target	2024-25 Target
We will work with partners and organisations to support and deliver a range of opportunities for culture and leisure throughout Powys, with a focus on the health and well-being agenda.	→ At least 2% more people are physically active throughout Powys per year as a result of participating in the range of schemes on offer.*	1,573,134	1,604,596	1,636,688	1,669,421
	→ Attendance (footfall) at libraries and museums (includes virtual visits for libraries)*	200,000	210,000	220,000	230,000
	→ Participation in arts & cultural events; activities; workshops*	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
	→ Attendance at arts and cultural events; performances; exhibitions (including virtual)*	Libraries: 1,000 Arts: 150,000	Libraries: 1,100 Arts: 150,000	Libraries: 1,200 Arts: 150,000	Libraries: 1,300 Arts: 150,000
	→ Increased number of pupils using the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) programme over the summer holidays which benefits their health & wellbeing.	400 pupils (10 schools)	600 pupils (15 schools)	800 pupils (20 schools)	1,000 pupils (25 schools)
* these targets will be subject to lockdown restrictions.					

### What did we do in 2020-21?

Due to COVID-19, the School Holiday Enrichment Programme was cancelled and data is not available. Five schools have signed up to provide this during 2021.

## REFERENCE TO POVERTY IN POINT 3

**EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 6: BY 2024, WE WILL IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES TO BECOME MORE DIGITALLY INCLUSIVE, ENABLING THEM TO EASILY ACCESS THE SERVICES THEY NEED AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EVERYDAY LIFE.**

### Why is this objective important and how will it support people with protected characteristics?

- Those who are considered "digitally excluded" are not able to enjoy the benefits of being online and use technology confidently to improve their day-to-day lives.
- Digital is unavoidable in our daily lives. Digitally excluded people miss out on the social and economic benefits the internet provides.
- With increasing digitalisation of services and communication, being older, a disabled person, having no qualifications, low income or living in social housing remain risk factors for digital exclusion, particularly in rural areas of Wales. The proportion of older people who use the internet was 22% in 2012/13 increasing to 40% in 2016/17. In 2016/17 they remained the age group with the lowest proportion of internet users.
- In Wales, households in social housing were less likely to have access to the internet in 2016/17 (72%) compared with those in privately rented or owner-occupied housing (88% and 87%).
- Findings from our regional engagement survey showed that the groups rated as having the worst experiences of access to information and digital services than the population as a whole were older People, disabled people and BME people. Younger people were perceived to have a much greater positive experience of accessing information and digital services.

What we will do	How we will know we are succeeding
Through the Hwb programme we will enable safe smart technology in schools and give pupils equitable access, through improved network infrastructure by March 2022.	→ By March 2022, all schools will have an environment to deliver blended learning (classroom and home based together) through digital technology.
By March 2022, we will implement integrated telephony and web channels to improve accessibility and user experience when contacting the Council.	Measures to be determined.
By 2024, we will understand how to inspire and encourage our local digital economy to use the transformative power of technology and encourage engineers and developers to build the next wave of inclusive technology for people with disabilities, by research to understand the gap in provision.	Measures to be determined.

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## Summary

This report contains the findings from the Child Poverty in Powys survey conducted online from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The survey was advertised to stakeholders via external communications channels including press, email, and regular social media posts.

There were 121 respondents in total.

*Please note: Not all questions were answered by all respondents.*

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## Background

Powys County Council are committed to promoting equality and diversity, and improving our services and employment practices, to meet the different needs of our residents and employees. In doing so, we aim to contribute towards improving outcomes for those who experience disadvantage in life.

One of our Equality Objectives as part of Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2021-2025 is:

- By 2024, we will improve opportunities and outcomes for children living in poverty

Powys County Council's Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee is undertaking an investigation into child poverty in the county and is interested in the views of residents and organisations.

As part of the investigation, a survey was conducted to understand the picture of child poverty in Powys and to ensure that the council targets its resources effectively to improve the opportunities and outcomes for children living in poverty.

## Survey results

### Q1. Please provide your postcode (to help us identify locality-based issues or required interventions)

Postcodes that were submitted include:

- LD1
- LD2
- LD3
- LD4
- LD6
- LD7
- SA9
- SA10
- SY5
- SY10
- SY15
- SY16
- SY17
- SY18
- SY20
- SY21
- SY22

Full responses are available in Appendix A.

### Q2. Are you answering this survey as....?

A Powys service/organisation	5
A Powys resident	116

**Respondents who answered 'A Powys service/organisation' were directed to an extra set of questions (Q3 - Q9) at this point. Those who answer 'A Powys resident' skipped straight to Q10.**

### Q3. What are the main reasons for children and families using your service/organisation?

Benefit changes	0
Benefit delays	0
<b>Low income</b>	<b>2</b>
Delayed wages	0
Debt	0
Homelessness	0
Domestic abuse	0
Refused short term benefit advance	0
Sickness/ill health	0
Child holiday meals/holiday hunger	0
No recourse to public funds	0
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>3</b>

The three responses to 'other' included:

- Children's home
- Changes in benefits e.g. ESA to JSA create big problems
- The question asks for reasons (plural) but it's only possible to tick one option. In our case, all of the above, although domestic abuse and NCPF a bit less so

**Q4. How many children and families has your service/organisation supported over the last 12 months?**

This question had four responses:

- 1
- 100
- 6
- 30

**Q5. Based on the experience of your service, what more needs to be done to tackle child poverty in Powys?**

This question had five responses:

- More funding into prevention and interventions
- More decently paid local jobs. In previous periods, more jobs were provided by the County Council, but these are outsourced / privatised or cut; more economic development; better educational opportunities for children and adults
- Reduce poorly paid jobs - when you apply for a job, it's labelled 'full time' at only 30 hours - this will not pay enough at hospitality rates, so people are forced to look for another job of 10 or 15 hours - these are obviously thin on the ground, so many people are dependent on UC instead to top up their income. This then means that they are in limbo and can't take some jobs as their benefit would be cut and they'd be worse off because they need childcare and can't afford it. If they then take another 20-hour job, they never get to see their children and/or still can't afford childcare. The jobs should pay decent wages and offer decent hours, otherwise, businesses and tourists are being supported by state benefit while workers get all the blame for their own poverty and benefit needs.
- Better benefit support, Higher paid jobs
- Increase the daily allowance for Fsm pupils to £5 enable them to access food during break time and lunchtime. This would help pupils to perform to their potential.

**Q6. To what extent does stigma contribute to the experience of living in poverty?**

<b>To a large extent</b>	<b>4</b>
To some extent	0
<b>To a small extent</b>	<b>1</b>
To no extent	0

**Q7. What could be done to address this?**

This question had four responses:

- Education
- By ensuring children do not miss out on activities because of lack of money; self-help (clothing bank, cookery); more council houses; buying back old stock; provision low-cost broadband; energy assessments and determined effort to draught proof cold homes
- Stop victim-blaming in society, government, and the press
- Better monetary support

**Q8. What do you think are the levels of awareness and understanding of the importance and effects of poverty among public services like the Council?**

Excellent	0
Good	0
<b>Fair</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Very poor</b>	<b>1</b>

**Q9. In your opinion, what impact do you think youth work and youth services have on outcomes for young people in poverty?**

This question had five responses:

- If intervention happens soon enough then outcomes can be achieved. Sometimes intervention happens too late and not much change can be made
- Youth work has potentially the capacity to make up for poverty, but we have no service here since 2016 and are having to reinvent it locally, also trying to provide a Family Centre to help very young children and their families
- I think some people do benefit from youth work but too many slip through the gaps due to mistrust of social workers and poorly conceived limits on service provision
- Support through peers
- They are a vital source of resources. Able to support schools' staff with their extended knowledge.

*The following questions were open to all respondents.*

**Q10. What is your gender?**

<b>Female</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>26</b>
Transgender	0
Gender neutral	0
Other	0

**Q11. How old are you?**

Under 16	0
16-24	0
<b>25-34</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>35-44</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>45-54</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>55-64</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>65-74</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>75-84</b>	<b>2</b>
85+	0

**Q12. Over the last five years, do you think that child poverty in Powys has increased, decreased, or stayed at about the same level?**

Increased	104
Decreased	7
Stayed the same	10

**Q13. Over the next five years, do you think that child poverty in Powys will increase, decrease, or stay at about the same level?**

Increased	104
Decreased	5
Stayed the same	11

**Q14. Do you think that child poverty has become worse for families living in poverty since the start of the Covid pandemic?**

Yes	104
No	5
Unsure	11

**Q15. Why do you think children live in poverty in Powys?**

Inadequate benefits like Universal Credit	8
Parents/guardians in low paid, insecure jobs	41
Their parents/guardians have been out of work for a long time/are unable to find work	5
Parents/guardians have low levels of education/skills	8
They – or their parents/guardians – suffer from a long-term illness or disability	3
Housing costs	10
The cost of living	21
Discrimination because of class, gender, ethnicity, disability, age, sexuality, religion or parental status	0
Weak relationships	1
Abuse, trauma, or chaotic lives	5
Other (please specify)	19

The 19 responses to ‘other’ included:

- All of the above
- Parents spending money on the wrong things
- Closing rural schools
- Lack of economic development

*Full verbatim responses are available in Appendix B.*

**Q16. Do you think the Council needs to do more to attract local, well-paid jobs?**

Yes	116
No	5

**Q17. Do you think the Council needs to do more to provide skills and training opportunities?**

Yes	111
No	5
Not sure	4

**Q18. Do you think the Council’s plans to improve opportunities and outcomes for children living in poverty (mentioned above) are working?**

Yes	8
No	64
Not sure	49



**Q19. What changes do you think the Council should make to tackle child poverty in Powys?**

This question had 94 responses, including:

- Access to education
- Affordable housing
- Reduce council tax
- Community events/groups/youth centres
- Free meals during school/holidays
- Help working parents
- Keep local schools open
- Teach life skills
- Local employment/apprenticeships and training

*Full verbatim responses are available in Appendix C.*

**Q20. Can you think of any examples where something good has been done to tackle child poverty in your area?**

This question had 72 responses, including:

- No
- Breakfast club
- Free school meals
- Community volunteer support
- Foodbanks
- School uniform swap shops
- County councillor support
- Emergency grants

*Full verbatim responses are available in Appendix D.*

**Q21. Is there anything else you would like to say about how poverty affects children and young people in Powys?**

This question had 65 responses, including:

- Poverty carries on for generation to generation.
- Poverty is often hidden in rural communities such as Powys.
- It affects children and young people's physical and mental health.
- Parents worry about school closures and extra travel expenses.
- Remember that parents and children are genuinely afraid to ask for help because they think kids will be taken away and put in care.
- Every child deserves opportunity, and every child should grow up in a secure, warm home.

*Full verbatim responses are available in Appendix E.*

**Appendix A: Please provide your postcode**

LD15UF	LD38EJ	SY10 0EZ
SY20 8HR	LD3 7BU	SY218HF
SA91QN	LD3	SY5 9BT
SA9 1EJ	LD3 7RT	SY210AT
LD38PB	LD71LE	SY21 OBH
SA10 9PN	SY16 1BD	SY21 7NQ
SY17	SA9 1TS	LD3 7DU
LD3 0	LD3 9SY	LD16AY
SA9 1YX	SY16 1RQ	LD30BA
SA9 1GB	SY16	LD3 9BR
LD1 6BE	LD1 5YB	LD39EA
SA9 1YR	SY175SG	LD39PL
SY21 9EA	SY210SF	LD3 9BS
SY17 5LL	SY218NB	SY20 8JB
SA10 9PL	SY156AE	LD3 8LJ
SY161HF	SY10 7PX	LD39HH
SA9 1QT	SY226QB	LD38DE
SY186JQ	SY15 6AQ	LD4
SY10	SY217HY	LD3 9HT
LD1 6AS	SY15 6BA	LD39UF
SY225HJ	SY21	LD37PP
SA9 1LU	SY21 0AD	LD3 9LH
SY21 7NQ	SY16 3HA	LD39LH
LD3 9BS	SY21	LD3
LD3 9HH	SY21 0BU	LD3 7NF
SA9 1FA	SA91YT	LD38EQ
LD7 !BD	SY21	SY21 0DR
LD16HT	LD23NG	SY16
LD3 8RS	SY15 6DL	SY16 3HB

SY18 6EX  
LD2 3SB  
SA9 2JU  
SY21 7NG  
SY16 4NY  
SY16 2QQ  
SY21 0JE  
SY19 7AB  
LD3 7YQ  
LD1 6YE  
SY10 7JQ  
SY109LA

LD7 1HY  
SY208HR  
LD15LF  
SY16 1HQ  
LD1 5HW  
SY217GY  
SY15 6HE  
LD2 3EQ  
LD38PB  
LD39PL  
LD15L  
LD1

LD6 5BH  
LD23BP  
SY16 1NW  
LD1 6LL  
SY225DL  
SY15 6JR  
SY21  
SY161NE  
SY16 3AD  
SY20 8TS

## Appendix B: Why do you think children live in poverty in Powys?

- Clearly a combination of all Of these things
- All of the above. But I cannot select multiple. Poverty is a factor that builds on our resilience. The more resilient we are the more challenges we can face without resorting to aggression through frustration. Of we break the poverty line we will see a drastic reduction in domestic abuse and unemployment as children and young people will be able to experience opportunity and see life outside their immediate area. The travel footprint of a child in poverty is usually confined to within a mile of their home or so.
- All of the above
- All of the above reasons but it doesn't give you that option.
- All of the above apply-not one single reason
- I don't think it is one thing. Cost of living, inadequate funding and non-financial support - many children falling through the net as they do not meet criteria for intervention by different agencies. Parents on low income but don't meet criteria for extra financial support. Parents trying their best but costs of childcare (scandalous) mean they can't afford to work - please don't think childcare voucher is similar schemes help - they do not, it is still a substantial amount - think over £800 for 4 days for under 3s. Powys' decision to cut nursery teachers - which hasn't saved them money and also has caused an increased gap in the education of children has caused issues - parents not working only qualifying for 10hrs a week childcare, most not taking up that offer. Working parents gets 30hrs once the child is a term older than 3 but actually they need to be earning above a certain threshold to get those hours. No incentives for parents to work - it's not financially viable for some parents.
- Combination of a lot of the above, Parental Education Housing costs Chaotic lives, inadequate benefit system
- Parents spending money on the wrong things
- Powys county council closing rural schools resulting in children travelling miles away from their safe community to areas they do not know, resulting in a deterioration of children's mental health and wellbeing becoming at high risk. Also with the closure of schools many families will have no choice but to give up their employment to transport children to other schools
- It can be a combination of above reasons. Each child/family will have reasons specific to that family. It is unlikely that it will be only one reason.
- All of the above. It is a complex problem.
- All of the above
- All of the above
- All of the above
- All of these reasons
- All of the above. I can't just pick out one of these reasons.
- Because small rural schools have been shut and larger schools don't work as well for those in poverty. To attract more local well-paid jobs you could have used the attraction of smaller rural schools - but you're shutting them down. It wasn't what people wanted, but you did it anyway. Also, you have fallen into

the trap of referring to the social insurance we all pay as "benefits". We all pay in and expect to get something out if we need it. Some of us are lucky enough to not need to claim, but if we do it's not a "benefit".

- All of the above. To claim one on this would be a lie as they all have effects on different households
- Lack of economic development, specifically in more valuable industries, eg high tech.

## Appendix C: What changes do you think the Council should make to tackle child poverty in Powys?

- Ensure that children have access to an education that meets their needs, there is too much emphasis on Welsh medium education and school transformation that does not factor in poverty at all. Families need accessible access to education not faved with extra travel costs to other schools that will meet the need of their families. All schools should be more involved in the community and strive to bridge the gap between poverty and attainment, by following Hafren School in Newtown example and running schemes in holidays to further educate pupils and families. All areas of Powys need the same provision and opportunities it's a post code lottery fir some services.
- Affordable housing, bigger houses,
- Support for businesses trying to find employees such as apprenticeship opportunities and the like
- Easier access to mental health support for adults and children. Support finding work or starting up own business for people unable to work out of the home due to other commitments.
- More community events for children
- Ensure that all school and nursery children have enough to eat throughout the day which will then lead to better education to help lift them out of poverty.
- It should look to provide opportunities and encourage adequately paid jobs. For example through its contracts ensure providers pay their staff (especially carers) the national living wage. This will mean an impact in finances, that will need to be taken back to central and national government. It should look through all aspects of the service to improve childhood aspirations, similar to the NHS and every contact counts to improve health.
- Free school meals for families with income under £20k. Food vouchers for families in school holidays. All school uniform provided free of charge for every child in Powys regardless of parents/guardian income. Tablets/iPads given to children on free school meals for use at home. Permanent rent reduction for families on free school meals and a substantial heating allowance paid to families on benefits.
- Free meal provision during holidays
- Additional funding needed for youth services and youth groups. Additional funding needed for schools, particularly for children with learning difficulties
- More/fairer funding from Welsh Gov
- Encourage people to not have more children than they can afford.
- Community education
- The council needs to look at more variety in job training not everyone wants to be a farmer or carer
- The council should and could do more to tackle food poverty. Many low-income households do not have affordable access to nutritional food. The councillors should be telling the British government not to cut universal credit in September. The council needs to think about how it can use digital solutions to table poverty. The council should invest in youth services and youth centres.
- As above

- Many parents are doing multiple jobs just to exist and pay their bills. These people get little support. Parents on universal credit seem to get far more support. It saddens me that responsible hard working parents are neglected.
- Make sure they aren't living in poverty.
- More resources to improve the educational attainment of children living in poverty-its the only way to break the cycle Ensure the council spends all WG funding eg families first, flying start entirely on front line services for children and not to fund management posts/project leads etc Find ways to improve the resilience of communities and citizens living within them. Work with successful organisations such as young farmers to learn from them how they engage young people, so that those children living in poverty have similar opportunities and experiences
- Stop demanding extortionate council tax for very little service. Let children go to school in their own community it costs parents a lot when children are forced to go to school in another town, Welsh speaking children in particular
- Offer non-financial services to families. Support working families by providing affordable childcare from a younger age (term after 3 is too late) - reinstate Nursery Teachers in schools - parents will have a safe and affordable setting to send their children, children will have access to education earlier giving them a better start in life!! 5 years old is late and the attainment gap due to those children not attending the settings at a younger age is becoming wider. This does link to poverty - you need to start thinking longer term - give them the skills and learning they need from a young age, stop disadvantaging children from the beginning. Support should also come in some form of financial support - bursaries for education, skills programmes etc. Making them free won't help if parents can't afford childcare to attend them for example.
- Better over all education, schools stop chasing targets and identify educational needs of individual, encourage more employers to work with schools and colleges. realistic goals and opportunities for every child.
- Local at locality instead of the whole authority, ystradgynlais has poor provision for young people and working families are on level incomes.
- Help single mum who work part time I struggle to pay my child's school meals because I work I don't qualify for much help
- At the heart of poverty is a lack of hope. Hope for a better future. People are trapped in a poverty mindset. Motivation is needed to better themselves. Family is the bedrock of society and family breakdown has a huge impact on children - usually negative. Role models and teaching on healthy relationships is needed,
- Introduce vouchers as part of benefits rather than all cash
- More funding for schools and extra curriculum activities to Support children reach their potential
- Keep local schools rather than depriving rural communities of support and expecting them to access support remotely or by travelling to towns.
- Leave local schools open
- Support families who are in insecure low paid jobs or who are unemployed and single parents by not closing Llansilin Primary School. Currently, parents can walk their young children to school. There are after school arrangements where parents can collect their children after the school closes. This provides a safe and secure environment for children which is a key factor in their emotional well

being. Parents can walk their children to and from school without stress and worry. If the school closes and young children have to travel by bus to another school, this is likely to have a detrimental effect on their well being and mental health. It will also have a similar effect on parents. It would mean that parents have an earlier start to catch the bus and a later finish to collect their children. This often creates problems, particularly those on insecure low paid jobs or on zero hours contracts. parents also have the additional worry of young children have to travel by bus when there is snow and ice on the roads. Well being and mental health will not be helped by closing a school where parents and children are happy and secure. Making young children travel to school on a bus in all weathers will only increase stress and worry on children and parents. One of your Well Being objectives is "We will support our RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES " You have the opportunity to put this objective into practice by listening to the residents of Llansilin who want the Village school to remain open

- Keep small village schools where these children feel safe and secure and are known by name by all the staff and students.
- Do not close rural schools
- Greater emphasis on agencies that do something such as Home Start rather than bodies that just identify what needs to be done. Greater emphasis on free events at leisure centres including organised sports
- Wow, not sure I can comment its so complex
- To tackle the reasons for the individual.
- Putting more money into school Ways to support children and parents over school holidays
- More skills given to older children in financial responsibility, cooking using fresh ingredients and life skills.
- Children will hide their families problems. Making it easier for them to get advice anonymously might help.
- Not closing local schools
- More encouragement for parents to work, or support for stay at home mums. Benefits can be misused, not sure how you change that. More support when children are in school. Support the third sector they can do more with less
- More affordable housing and reducing council tax
- Ensure that all children and families have access to schools in their own communities. Closing schools at the present alarming rate will only increase the hardships and lack of support suffered by children and families.
- Provide training to adults on basic issues such as good nutrition, money management , well being
- Free school dinners for all like England
- Better local authority housing, simple access to benefits, parent awareness such as budgeting or cooking on a budget.
- set up centres like surestart
- Secure employment, increased investment in social services.
- We need more jobs over a greater number of sectors to create a vibrant economy. We need better public transport to improve mobility. Stop closing schools. Bring back full youth service and youth clubs, along with a proper Arts service and schools music service.
- Lower housing cost
- Create more accessible training/apprenticeship opportunities open to all ages



- attract employers who pay better/ encourage employers to pay better. It's time well-off tourists actually started paying the right price for the services they get instead of local people suffering because well-off tourists want cheap holidays. There is also an issue of hidden poverty among the farming community but this is outside my experience - maybe encourage more farming co-operatives to help farmers get a better price from retailers like Morrisons
- Invest in preventative services like youth clubs and services that provide an earlier intervention. Fund schemes for families, do more to improve adult literacy and provide free travel for young people on our public transport.
- More of a focus on tackling poverty. Prioritisation on effective outcomes and allocation of resources.
- Better youth support for young people in ALL areas in Powys and not just concentrated in larger towns.
- Lower council tax which will lower the living costs.
- Resources and funding. Reopen our youth centre. Invest in children and family services. Tell UK government to keep universal credit up lift. Stop putting council up.
- Opportunities for parents to gain skills - training etc Improve childcare availability and cost - removing the Nursery setting from schools did not help matters - children are coming into school at a very low educational baseline.
- Uptake of free school meals
- More free arts and crafts activities. Build a splash pad in the Uplands park and for it to be free to use. Build more childrens park equipment such as twisting slides and climbing frames, monkey bars and a sandpit for children to use. Put a mud kitchen in the uplands park and encourage creativity in children. Build a bike pump track down the promenade. Build a mini cycle track down the promenade. Build at least 2 new basketball courts in the Brecon area especially in the Uplands area and promenade. Also, Put a fairy trail down the groves for children to complete. Put built in trampolines in the uplands park, beacons park and the groves park and the promenade.
- Help families on low income, as the living cost's are high, after the bills, you are left with literally nothing. Cheaper housing, more job opportunities, more support for low income families, more childcare but not at extortionate prices!
- To tackle child overtly you need to tackle the causes. All are listed in question 8 so you need to target resources to those areas. At the moment, I don't have confidence the in the councils ability to understand the problem and therefore how can they respond to it.
- More sure start places, better secure employment, better youth servuces
- Support local iniatives that work with schools, youth workers and social workers in a joined up way
- Set up arrangements like 'Sure Start' to help chilxren and families. Provide a full range of traing in technical and technology to equip children better for working in high skilled jobs.
- Increased opportunities for children and their families, more money given to local agencies or school to improve pupil wellbeing and mental health, support for parents in how to support their children (cheap healthy meals, play, support etc).
- Reduce council tax
- All children in primary schools should have free school meals

- Not close down the youth clubs
- Support the parents by running educational programs in literacy and numeracy.
- They should actually appreciate the huge impact it has on children, on their social and emotional well-being and their opportunities and experiences and life chances. Many families are relying on food and clothes bank referrals to live and meet their basic human needs. Funding opportunities should be available for children to have access to basic experiences, early childhood experiences, play opportunities, youth opportunities. Food voucher schemes should be available for those who cannot even afford to live week to week. Targeted funding should be made available to those who are working a minimum wage job on a 0 hours contract and are still living on the poverty line. All of this is reality for many families and children in the local area.
- Promote local employment.
- There needs to be a wholesale change in the attitudes of tenants and employers to provide people with work that rewards effort and leads people out of poverty. Prior to the introduction of Universal Credit (i.e. Legacy Benefits system) 33% of people receiving assistance were working. This means 67% of the 'working age population' don't (bother to) work or won't work. Transitioning to Universal Credit the new Welfare for Work Benefit produces the following statistics 33% of people receiving assistance were working. This means 67% of the 'working age population' don't (bother to) work or won't work. Universal Credit is 8 years overdue with its implementation, and possibly £6 Billion over budget. This indicates that Working does not pay?!?!? NOTHING has changed except that the Working People of this country have Funded the Universal Credit disaster. This benevolent group of people (who pay their way, Tax, National Insurance and council Tax - plus VAT/Excise Duty) of course will continue to be persecuted by the Government to fund the mess this country is in? and we will continue to see savage cuts in Council Budgets for the next 5 - 10 years. Encouraging people to work 16 - 20 hours per week to be backed up by a Benefits System [REDACTED] that is useless will continue to create LAZY PEOPLE who cannot comprehend the meaning of REWARD FOR EFFORT. Working and maximizing Income is the best way to improve Family Life etc.
- Pay all employees the real living wage
- The link between good affordable housing and child poverty is undeniable, however we are a low wage area, with childcare options both inaccessible and expensive- and whilst help is available for fees there is no allowances made for excessive travel. In a rural community with lacking public transport, running a car to access childcare is essential. This marginalises a lot of parents who are unable to access well paid jobs due to childcare issues.
- Provide much more support for young people identified as young carers. Also do far more work on promoting libraries as attractive places for young people to study after school and gain access to support and resources
- Consider adopting the Preston model to use purchasing power to support local businesses and communities. Use lessons learned from COVID to get better value for money on education services and redirect into improvements, including in school mental health services
- Job support with wellbeing at the heart of this and not penalise people with mental health/ trauma To support local schools to stay open as the extra costs

of schools being further away from home impacts on families such as childcare and fuel costs transport as some families don't have that luxury especially in rural settings Local shops supported to sell at low cost prices like supermarkets

- Because North Powys which is under resourced and always targeted for cuts in infrastructure due to its scattered population.
- support food banks
- Ensure education remains accessible to all children in their catchment area. Ensure children's services are funded well to get early intervention in place to support families
- Better paying jobs and childcare
- To link organizations together and additional funding
- Be more aware. In a rural county such as this the poverty is frequently hidden. Also de-stigmatise it like mental health issues are becoming less stigmatised.
- The most effective way to tackle poverty is to give people more money. The corporate plan seems to be focused on completing tasks rather than identifying needs and how to deal with them appropriately. For instance, no mention of supporting teachers to help them raise the quality of their teaching, but the schools infrastructure is improved. The former is well known to have the most impact on learning, the latter is easy for you to show you've done something.
- Cheaper school uniform. Iron on school badges? More fruit, veg and milk packets for more people. Those who are self employed that do not earn minimum wage need more help.
- More should be done to aid debt that's already been accumulated before benefit reform came in, parents are chasing their tail playing catch up.
- Equality and a voice to change
- More money to attract businesses
- Put caps on rent prices or pay more towards rent, ensure houses are fit to create homes in not just put a roof over people's head. Provide more services for young people living in chaotic families so they can move toward healthier ways of living for themselves. Provide excellent schemes to get people into work, schemes that reflect the need not schemes that tick boxes. Make sure staff delivering services of any kind are well trained and thus make any money spent good value.
- Stop Social Services default being to remove children instead of supporting families. Lower Council tax for new/small businesses. Lower Council tax to reflect the lack of services!
- Better education systems that support kids from every background. Better mental health provision. Free childcare so parents can afford to go to work. Better public transport so people can get there. Good quality work experience for kids long term.
- More play schemes for children, more help with childcare, and better help for low-income families with the cost of living, more resources and professional help for low income families of children with disabilities
- Rather than child poverty have the title 'child in need'..... This should cover children in poverty, children who have complex disabilities, children at risk . Highly trained specialist staff should be working closely along family and school
- See above

**Appendix D: Can you think of any examples where something good has been done to tackle child poverty in your area?**

- Food on evening in youth club
- No
- The fruit trees planted by Open Newtown is a good start.
- No
- The local school has a fund to help children in need to which I donate. If everyone in the village who could donated a £1 a week it would help these children no end. The Ystradgynlais Food Bank has helped no end and the fuel poverty fund is amazing.
- No. There have been improvements at the lake some free which will provide alternative experiences, but flying start across the county is highly dependant on which area you live in. The council also need to do more to support settings in improving aspirations and recruiting qualified play leaders especially in low Welsh speaking areas.
- No.
- Free pre school breakfast clubs
- The schools try their best but need more funding from Powys
- UK gov support during the pandemic
- Charity work through a community centre to feed children and families, provide support for welfare and benefits and provide play opportunities.
- No
- Food Bank, Community Hub, Stay and Play, free meals; job opportunities through service building
- No
- I believe family centres are being set up across the county-these have the potential to improve community resilience
- The school providing hungry children with a free breakfast
- Community support - practical support from volunteers like tidying gardens, cutting lawns providing adequate areas for children to access play opportunities. Donations of unwanted toys, foods etc. Clothing banks, school uniform 'sales'. Voluntary services whereby children in poverty can be supported by volunteers who give them opportunities other children get i.e trips to the cinema, swimming etc.
- Ystradgynlais has an excellent community project supported by small business to provide for young people and low income families.
- The school meal voucher scheme during the pandemic
- Breakfast clubs and free school milk
- Individual support available locally to young families.
- Small village schools give children in poverty a safe and secure environment where they are known by name by all the staff and students. This means that they get the support they need as will be identified quicker. Also the parents have a known support network and are known by people in a position to help.
- Plenty of advice and support always received from Churchstoke CP School, a school PCC are currently consulting on closing
- My community is small so no
- Free school meals in Wales.

- The provision of schooling and free school meals through Covid was very good.
- A local person set up a FB page for giving things away instead of dumping them and I know it's really helped and given a nice sense of community. Our Community Action Group is very small and focussed on the kids. The nearby food Bank has a great, affordable charity store and they get to know people, run volunteer groups, get people active and step in gently and thoughtfully when help is needed but people might be afraid to ask for help because they dread that their children will be taken away. Funding and support with admin and advice to small community groups will always be very cost effective. We really, really, seriously need youth clubs: kids in difficult home situations need a neutral place to hang out where they can have relaxed conversations about how to cope. Child poverty and its causes are terrifying and very isolating to children.
- Most support comes from third sector foodbanks , uniform exchange , baby banks etc
- No
- Interventions during covid by caring, knowledgeable school that was threatened with closure
- Open door family centre working with parents while providing quality childcare for children Providing services in the west end of Welshpool , not expecting those in the poorest ward to walk a mile to east end of Welshpool to access services
- No
- No, lots of talk about it
- No
- External funding to create uniform exchanges.
- Nothing
- Free school meals during holidays
- Only from charities and this doesn't tackle poverty, only the effects of it. Obviously the £20 extra UC helped a bit
- School Uniform Swap Shop held at community centre by local councillors. Prepared meals service for families during pandemic. Local Foodbank helping people in crisis.
- No
- Food bank
- No
- Free activities in the hols in Llandrindod. Impelo dance also offered travel expenses to access their classes in Llandod
- Community garden, food banks, accessible psy equipment but it needs more promotion.
- Individual schools are great but the council doesn't give them resources and support. The council relies too heavily on goodwill and third sector responses.
- County councillors in Brecon working with individual families in poverty to help them access welfare services
- The development of the food bank and other support at St Johns.
- Local food bank by priory school
- No
- I was impressed with the quick response during pandemic for families receiving their FSM payments

- Giving families food vouchers during the school holidays.
- Free food exchanges (Welshpool)
- Laptops for 6th formers as they need them, but not everyone can afford them.
- No really see previous answer
- Free school meal payments during holidays.
- To be honest - no
- No
- Housing association housing being supported in the local area
- Recognising there is a problem.
- Machynlleth community children's project ( a charity) offering affordable flexible childcare for families to be able to work. Their staff providing support and information to families in a non intrusive way.
- I have not seen any, and I have 3 grandchildren in this situation
- Detached youth team working with young parents.
- Increased childcare hours were good but it is not accessible by the self employed parents working full time and not receiving a minimum wage have no help here.
- Food bank
- The community uniform exchange
- Nothing visible to young people.
- Flying start. Healthy Start Vouchers
- Credu giving emergency grants to Carers and their families
- Art connections gives free days on school holidays
- Our estate community hall organisation has looked for lottery funding to offer access to free sport and leisure in a safe environment
- Food parcels
- No



## Appendix E: Is there anything else you would like to say about how poverty affects children and young people in Powys?

- Poverty affects the child for the whole of its life! Early intervention and accessible education and support for families are crucial. Powys must ensure interventions are implemented as early as possible, this can be done by ensuring a multi-agency approach via health, social and education. Every area must have the same level of support available to them. PCC must also strive to support children's charities already established in Machynlleth who are successful in supporting those families. Instead school transformation are proposing to withdraw funding to such charities through the early years tender just because of a language issue. PCC will never reach the government's target of eradicating poverty when they follow the latest policy and ignore ongoing existing ones.
- Low self-esteem. Unable to reach full potential due to lack of funds for life experiences
- People are depending on food banks due to the increased cost of living and insufficient wages.
- Poverty has a huge mental impact on children. Not being able to afford to go on school trips, have decent clothes and being hungry has a terrible effect on the whole community let alone the children. The UK is one of the richest nations in the world and we should not still be having children going to school hungry and, in the winter, without a decent warm coat and shoes.
- Masses. Far too much than I can type in my phone. It all comes down to money. A well-invested youth service, services to support children and young people before they become vulnerable will allow them positive life opportunities. Anyone with good resilience has a strong mind, you can only coerce someone who is vulnerable to being coerced, if we improve resilience, improve non-formal and informal education we break down the vulnerable and allow all children and young people to start to love their full potential and not repeat their parents' cycles. First and foremost I'd access to good information - access to information for people who don't know how to access it is shockingly poor (as someone from a family information background I know this to be a fact, I also know if families can't access good information neither can busy professionals) secondly the information has to be good, no one is checking a DJ working on this information to make sure we have an up-to-date and accurate and real-time database individuals and professionals can look to, to find support in their area.
- Children and young adults can't help but make comparisons between those that have and those that don't. This obviously has a big impact on a child's confidence and affects their ability to succeed as they can feel inferior to children from financially secure households. A well-maintained home and a real living wage should be the council's priority for every family even if it means that wealthier households face much higher council tax bills.
- There is a poverty of expectation in Powys as generations have gone through underfunded systems.
- Strong, dynamic, low-taxation economy, well-paid employment, high educational outcomes delivered by school transformation. Fairer funding for rural Wales from the Welsh Government to enable resilient communities to be established. It is important to acknowledge the hidden poverty in rural areas

which must be addressed, currently all economic investment and support is directed to towns.

- Lack of health care, such as dentists & hospital, means those who cannot afford private care become less healthy. This prevents parents from working to provide for their children.
- PCC are poor at most things
- There is a very clear 3rd class in powys that is just getting bigger
- There is too much emphasis on reactive, specialised services for children that do not engage with communities and not enough on comprehensive preventative services and relationship building in communities.
- There aren't enough activities for children in Powys, especially in rural areas.
- Poverty carries on for generation to generation.
- Poverty is often hidden in rural communities such as Powys. Powys needs to create better opportunities for people, not just employment but social
- It's unacceptable that the council wastes so much money when children are going hungry. Many council decisions assume families have plenty of money
- Powys needs to think outside the box. Consider what is the root cause of poverty? It's not just about whether the parents have a certain set of qualifications or a 'good' job. It's about the family/parents as a whole. What barriers are in place preventing them from having what they need or families providing what their children need. Poverty also isn't what it used to be either. It's hitting families who would once have been considered above the 'poverty line'. What provisions are Powys offering to ensure parents can work? As stated earlier childcare vouchers and schemes are NOT working thus leaving parents making decision as to whether they can afford to work. School provision is varied - very little 2+ settings especially in the Brecon school catchments - coming at significantly high cost for working parents. Powys' decision to also start school at 5 years old has so many negative connotations. Other than working parents, the majority of children who would only qualify for 10hrs if not accessing those are missing out on some form of 'education' leading to an attainment gap before even starting school. Nursery classes run by teachers(!) helped this gap considerably. Consider the possibility of providing childcare earlier, education earlier thus providing a good start to the child's life (outside of home) but also allowing parents to upskill, go to college, university, look for work. Imagine trying to hold down a job when your child can only have 10hrs childcare a week. 2 hrs a day either morning or afternoon (not both) - can you honestly think of a well paid job that is that flexible that a person only needs to work 2hrs a day? Start after 9am and leave before 11 to be at the childcare setting for 11am? Or a job that starts at 12:30 and finishes at 2:30? Which allows travelling time? It doesn't happen. And there are extra costs to breakfast/after school clubs - some up to £7 an hour - again, less or equivalent to what they would earn working those 2hrs. The 'support' you are providing families doesn't reflect the reality of working and the cost of living for an average family. Also on this - the cost of living is extortionate today. The price of goods increases, house prices etc are all increasing at a rate higher than people's wages. And whilst this is somewhat out of your control you need to consider the barriers in place for families as previously stated. I am hopeful that others that respond will plug the gaps in my response as I am sure there are numerous things that I have missed also.



- Child poverty isn't really about money although that is important, it is about basic education. It is also not about academic qualification. There is far too much emphasis placed on academic education which puts pressure on both Child and parent. What is needed is the realisation that the country also needs quality practical/skill based education. I am aware that the county may be short of Social workers and Doctors and other professionals so academic education would help (make it easier to access and cheaper) but equally there is a shortage of people service skilled jobs like Hospitality/care/retail/Manufacturing and others that would traditionally be filled through work place apprenticeships. This type of work seemed to be considered below people now and this is what needs to change, 'a Mindset'. Instead of pushing academic education on all from the age of 14 start giving other options, stop setting some young people up to fail. It may not be possible for them to shine academically at 16 -18 but maybe able to when they get to 30. In the mean time give them the opportunity to find their own way with out them feeling the are wasting their life/time by not doing A Levels.
- Children are not able to participate in activities, have little food and often fall out of education resulting in potential anti social behaviour.
- It affects children and young people mentally seeing their parent struggle to feed the kids and half the time not the parent self
- It limits their opportunities in life and we all suffer as a society if we don't support our children
- Parents who are unable to drive, are unable to collect children from school for medical appointments, or if they become unwell in school hours, if PCC close rural schools and children are forced to attend other schools miles away from their home.
- Parents worry about school closures and extra travel expenses
- Important to tackle those who take advantage of children in poverty including scammers and abusers
- Many decisions need to come from Government
- Remember that parents and children are genuinely afraid to ask for help because they think kids will be taken away and put in care. When you are so stressed and humiliated that's how your thinking goes. Assurance that this isn't going to happen needs to be upfront and clear if you want children and /or parents/ relatives/neighbors to admit there is a problem and accept or seek help. Children need volunteer opportunities to get them out of the house and into safe, warm situations where they feel they have something to offer. Free, multigenerational evening classes were a godsend to me when I was a child in poverty. I met kind, helpful adults who treated me with respect. It was fun, very educational, and non judgemental.
- Partnership with third sector and involving businesses , private sector should do more for the area they are in.
- Children are being severely affected and it is having an impact on their future.
- Having a safe place for children known as their school, with staff who know the families and situations is of paramount importance. At the moment the village schools are an extension to families and offer support that just won't be practical from a school that covers a much larger area.
- The strong teaching tool of modelling is affecting children and young people in Powys such as :- Increase in food bank use . Mental health issues of parents

impacting on children. Cycle of non working households being generational .  
Increase of drug activity in the area

- The blanket shutting of community schools will have a direct impact on child poverty [REDACTED]
- I believe slashes on budgets, from the local authority to the individual has effected child poverty. More money and as mentioned appropriate level of informal education and support.
- behind in school not going on trips due to cost
- We lose many of our young people, there is a big lack of 20-30 year olds. Those who can leave, do. Within our aging population of Llandrindod there is little space for children or young people to access independently. Car reliance leaves fewer pedestrians and makes roads and quiet areas less safe. I'm not sure how much children living in poverty feel they belong or have a voice in our towns. They need a broad range of role-models and opportunities to raise aspiration and truly make Powys a great place to live. We need to attract excellent specialist teachers and headteachers and other key professionals such as dentists and GPs. Our cultural life needs a lift.
- Mental health
- Lack of opportunities will lead to lack of motivation
- It leads them to have very low expectations and therefore low motivation to work hard at school - they just see their parents working hard for nothing and wonder why they bother. It's really depressing for them and definitely affects their mental health. They have little to look forward to but are surrounded by affluence and a society that blames the poor for their own poverty, so their self-esteem is reduced, leading to further problems. This is a well-known cycle. We have more and more incidents of violence and anti-social behaviour from the young people for which they are blamed, castigated and punished but not helped. They feel excluded and demonised and have nothing to lose, so they express this inner anger in anti-social ways, it's hardly surprising.
- The council plans show no evidence of targeted resources or measurable outcomes. They're lovely aspirations but how will you know they are working and what ability do you have to change when you realise they're not.
- Social isolation possibly worse than in more urban areas.
- As above More opportunities for youngsters to get them off the streets.
- Some areas (like Llandod) seem well catered for. This isn't the case for all towns and villages
- Not tackling child poverty and it's causes is holding our young people back from reaching their full potential. Every child deserves the opportunity and every child should grow up in a secure, warm home.
- Holiday meals and activities, improved youth services.
- Too many children are unable to fulfill their true potential.
- No
- Need Powys to provide free childcare for 2 year olds inwards there are plenty of Pre schools that could provide this as there are many that have spaces.
- It has a devastating effect on their equality of life chances and opportunities as well as health effects. To not live in poverty, with all that this brings, is a basic human right that every child deserves.

- Lack of opportunities, educational, sports, music, arts etc. These things often rely on transport in this area and children in poverty often come from homes without transport available do can not attend these extra activities.
- Other than we have a system (nationally) that is completely broken and an abject failure - no not really
- Children in Powys, as they grow up will either languish in their communities, taking low paid work. Or will leave the area to access better jobs, leaving behind an ageing population.
- It affects performance in school through lack of access to learning resources at home together with aspiration and ambition. I have met many young people who do not have access to a quiet space at home where they can study and have the time to imagine and plan for their futures
- The fact that so many children are growing up in poverty affects the wellbeing of us all.
- Social care services need to be monitored and aimed at early years to prevent further costs in the future also a more local support network locally to be accessible
- School closures which the majority are based in North Powys illustrated perfectly the North South divide. Village schools have worked because they are based locally with the villagers taking part and looking after the well being of the children that go there. This is a rural community and trying to make one system fit all is not the answer, look again and make decisions on what works without tearing the community apart.
- Poverty does not give children a sens of their own worth and value. poverty breeds poverty.
- More support and better/improved housing stock
- There's no need for it. This is about distribution of wealth, not about a failure to create wealth.
- I have heard more and more stories about children loitering and council property being damage it would be great if the council could open an activity center for children of all ages to use where they can hang out play video games crafts practice new hobbies get drinks and socialise that's designed to encourage young teens and teens more so to use and feel included in your plans therefore staying off the street and out of trouble. Bonus points if an easily accessible current building is used for those who have no means of travel this will make young people feel more included in thier town. Also existing buildings/ barns need to be used they look a mess they are also more efficient when it comes to heating therefore reducing the amount of money parents spend on heating and are able to buy something else with the money that they have saved such as school uniform healthier food etc.
- Hunger, lack of electricity or gas... Clothing.
- Life long affect
- It means children are living without equal opportunity and makes it very difficult for young people to start living lives they may aspire to.
- People who live outside of towns are more effected as they can't get into town to do anything.
- There's no way to get out and do stuff so children are stuck inside which affects them mentally, the high cost of living means they don't get enough proper food, there's not enough help and long waiting times for children with special needs

- Basic needs such as healthy food is becoming unaffordable, children are eating unhealthy meals and foods causing weight gain. Poverty is evident in how people live with untidy homes and community areas. Many residents don't clean their gardens and outside their homes so children learn to not care. Parents spend money on materialism more than Basic needs then claim they don't cope!
- Breaking away from the poverty cycle is so hard. Children need champions and to be believed in ( with or without parental influence. Warmth, clothing and safety. If there are families needs clothes I would gladly donate any spares from my children if it would help a child or family.