



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our Valleys, Our Future

A young people's summary



13%
25%
32%
28%
35%
41%



The South Wales Valleys are a beautiful place to live and work.

They are full of life, culture, history and strong communities.

There are many opportunities for people living here, but there are issues too.

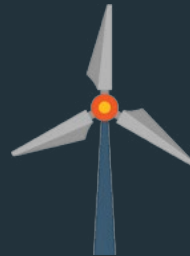
The Welsh Government want people to:

- have good quality jobs close to where they live
- have the skills to get work
- grow and do well in every area of their life
- have the best life possible.

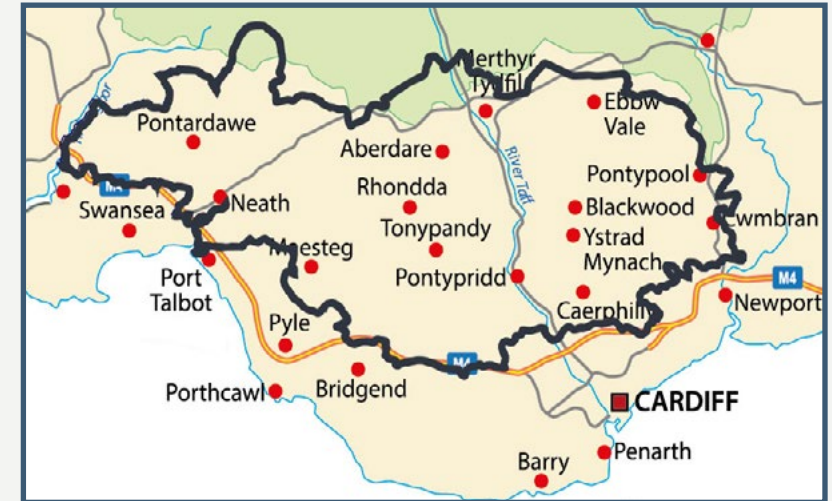
This means making some changes.

So, we set up a group to listen to people in the Valleys and find out what needs to happen.

This is what we did and what our plans are.



What we know











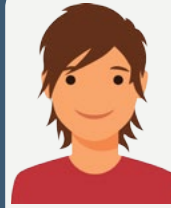
- Up to 30% of the Welsh population live here.
- Lots of people travel to Newport, Cardiff and Swansea for work.
- People come here for holidays and adventure sports.

Listening to communities

We've been talking with, and listening to, people, businesses and communities.

We've:

-  • studied information and data
-  • held events
-  • had public meetings
-  • met with focus groups
-  • met with children and young people
-  • met with families
-  • met with businesses
-  • used social media too.



Everything you've said has helped us shape this plan and decide our priority areas.

We will focus on

- 1. Good quality jobs and the skills to do them**
- 2. Better public services**
- 3. My local community**

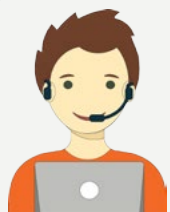


1. Good quality jobs and the skills to do them

Lots of people said they like living here but they need more good jobs and opportunities to get skills.

By 2021 we will have:

- helped 7000 people into work
- supported businesses to grow and bring well paid, secure jobs
- made sure people get the right skills for a good job.



You said:

There aren't enough job opportunities.

We will:

- create new job opportunities across the Valleys
- look at moving some of our own offices, as well as local government's, to the Valleys
- make sure public land and public property can be used in the right ways
- help people to take up job opportunities in retail, care and the food industries
- support new and growing businesses to create more jobs
- use the "Better Jobs Closer to Home" in the Valleys to create new jobs
- use our "Warm Homes" programme, house building, and transport plans to create more jobs.

You said:

Businesses need more support to start up and grow.

We will:

- improve our business support
- make sure people get support when they ask for it
- identify the 100 businesses that are ready to grow and give them extra support.

You said:

People need more help to get the jobs that are available.

We will:

- give young people better careers advice
- help businesses link to schools and colleges so young people know what skills they need to get jobs
- run programmes to help unemployed people get skills and a job
- have more training for people who've been unemployed for a long time
- have more training opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), health, tourism, hospitality, farming and woodland management
- have more apprenticeships in services, sports and youth work
- help students learn Welsh or improve their Welsh skills where jobs need it, for example in health and social care.



You said:

There's not enough childcare, and it's expensive. This can put people off going back to work.

We will:

- test our new childcare offer in parts of the Valleys from September 2017
- work with the National Day Nurseries Association to encourage people who are out-of-work to take up work placements in nurseries.

You said:

Young people need more good quality careers advice and work skills.

We will:

- work with Careers Wales' and give more information to schools
- support digital businesses to connect with schools and give career advice
- make sure people get the right skills to work in digital businesses.



2. Better public services

Lots of people said services are good but should work together more.

By 2021 we will have:

- supported services to work together with communities and organisations
- supported more people to lead a healthy life
- better and joined-up public transport that people can afford
- improved education outcomes for children.



You said:

Public services need to talk to each other and work together more.

We will:

- work with three Valleys communities to see how public services can work together better
- work with councils to put the needs of people first.

You said:

Buildings (like schools) and services should be used better.

We will:

- decide where to have community hubs (centres) and what services should be based in them
- look at moving some services into school buildings
- have skilled managers based in schools to help communities and schools make decisions.

You said:

Health services need to be better at helping our aging population and work together better.

We will:

- look at new ways for people to get support for mental health conditions
- look at ways for GPs and services to work with local organisations
- develop a programme for young people who want to work in health and social care.

You said:

People don't feel supported by mental health services.

We will:

- look at expanding the Wellbeing bond in the Valleys
- connect people to projects that support mental health, like arts projects, sports and choirs.

You said:

Poor quality housing and empty properties are bad for the community. It can cause crime and anti-social behaviour.

We will:

- work with councils
- get community support for energy and home improvement projects.



You said:

There isn't enough good-quality housing that people can afford to buy or live in.

We will:

- look at the South Wales Metro plan to see where we need more housing
- work with the new city deal partnership to restart building on housing sites where work has stopped
- support local builders
- look at other housing options.

You said:

Public transport costs a lot and doesn't join-up in the right ways.

We will:

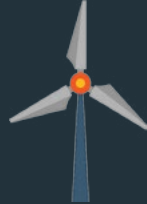
- work with rail and bus companies to make buses and trains run more often and make travel more affordable
- look at a young people's discounted fare scheme
- try out new bus routes in more areas
- have more travel information
- use digital technology and apps to give travel information.

3. My Community

Lots of people said they're proud of their communities and want to show off the Valley's beauty and heritage.

By 2021 we will have:

- created a Valleys Landscape Park to help communities celebrate and make the most of the natural resources and heritage
- helped town centres to be lively places
- increased tourism in the Valleys.



You said:

We aren't making the most of our natural resources or cultural heritage.

We will:

→ test the idea of a Valleys Landscape Park.

You said:

Town centres need to have a new focus and drive.

We will:

- improve Valleys town centres based on what communities need and want
- support ideas that bring homes, business and green spaces to local communities
- see if free parking helps town centres.

You said:

Renewable energy could bring opportunities for local communities.

We will:

- look at growing community renewable energy projects
- use energy produced in the Valleys to help communities
- show people how to lower their energy use and costs.

You said:

We need more tourism in the area.

We will:

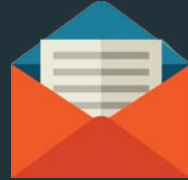
- show people what the Valleys have to offer
- support projects that support tourism
- bring new events to the area.

You said:

We need to look after our environment. Issues like fly-tipping and littering must stop.

We will:

- invest more in green projects and building plans
- work with communities and businesses to act on rubbish and fly-tipping.



Next Steps

Our Valleys, Our Future is your plan.

We want to hear what you think. Your feedback will help us with the next steps – the delivery plan.

The delivery plan will set out:

- how to do these actions
- who will be involved
- the benefits we want to see
- how long it will take
- how we will measure success.

The delivery plan will be published in autumn 2017.

Thanks for reading this

If you want to get involved then visit:

gov.wales/talkvalleys

 facebook.com/talkvalleys

