Data Cymru update – WSLC June 2020

COVID-19 update

Like most public sector colleagues, Data Cymru offices have been closed since just before lockdown in Wales. However, we are working remotely and providing support to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Welsh Government and others to help understand how COVID-19 is impacting on local authorities and the wider public sector. For many of us, the last couple of months have been some of the busiest we've experienced in our time at Data Cymru.

Examples of some of the work we've been involved in during the pandemic include:

- Preparing a regular (initially daily) summary of the impact of the pandemic on local authority services (circulated to Leaders).
- Extending Dewis Cymru functionality to provide additional information on care homes (e.g. bed status), including developing national reports/dashboards.
- Supporting the testing of social care workforce.
- Undertaking a daily (web-based) data collection on the provision in education settings (hubs). This is passed to Welsh Government daily and published in aggregate form.
- Collection of data on Free School Meals arrangements and numbers.
- Undertaking a daily collection of information on the numbers and value of small business grants processed by authorities.
- Supporting WLGA and Welsh Government on the collection and analysis of data on the likely financial impact of the pandemic on authorities' finances.
- Providing a Wales summary of the Office for National Statistics death figures – http://www.data.cymru/covid19/mortality.

We are now beginning to turn our focus to what support local authorities will need as we come out of the pandemic, particularly around data and information to understand the ongoing impact and the progress of the recovery.

We are also still available to support local authorities and partners with all their other data needs, as normal, so please contact us if you have questions or queries!

For more information please contact Andrew Stephens on 029 2090 9500 or email enquiries@data.cymru

COVID-19 impact on data and statistics

It is now clear, from a statistical perspective, that COVID-19 will have a substantial impact on the data and statistics we use on a daily basis within our work. Some indicators have been suspended, others have seen a change in methodology (look at school exams and attendance for instance) and others will be hugely impacted (as I write this update, Wales has just seen a seven-fold increase in benefit applications in one month for instance).

Glyn Jones, Chief Statistician, has published guidance on this issue. Data Cymru is developing additional guidance for users of InfoBaseCymru and our other on-line tools to provide further

information and advice. This will be published on our website and relevant tools, please check these locations and our social media feeds for notices.

Thriving Places Wales: 2020 update

We published the 2020 update to Thriving Places Wales in March. This coincided with the Centre for Thriving Places (formerly Happy City) publishing their update for the Thriving Places Index for England. We will provide some analysis and commentary later in the Summer for users.

This year's update includes several new indicators, which are listed on the [website](#).

For more information, please contact [Duncan Mackenzie](#).

LARIA update

We have worked with LARIA, the Local Government Association and CACI to offer local authorities free access for a limited time to CACI customer segmentation data to support their understanding how COVID-19 might be affecting their communities. More details can be found on our [website](#).

The LARIA Summer conference has been moved back from its traditional June date to a tentative date of 12-13 October. A final decision on whether to go ahead with this date will be made shortly and details will posted on the LARIA website.

Data Cymru is your Wales lead. If you are a member of LARIA and have any research or intelligence questions, please contact [Duncan MacKenzie](#).