

Data Cymru update – WSLC October 2025

Recent activity and highlights

1. Sector Led Improvement: WLGA and Data Cymru Integration

We wanted to share some important developments regarding our future direction. Earlier this year, both the WLGA Executive Board and the Data Cymru Board approved plans for the two organisations to come together as one. This integration is scheduled for the latter half of 2025–26 and reflects a shared ambition to strengthen the support available to local councils.

Since then, we've been working closely to shape a joint vision and medium-term plan that builds on our existing programmes and commitments. Over the next three years, we are aiming for full integration across our data, digital, improvement and policy work.

As part of this transition, the Data Cymru 'brand' will cease, with all activities delivered through the WLGA. A new Sector Led Improvement Board will oversee this work. In the short term, you won't notice any major changes. We'll continue to deliver everything we've committed to and work with you as we always have.

We're particularly excited about the opportunities this presents. Reliable, sector-wide data will play a central role in shaping smarter policy, enabling timely interventions and informing future priorities.

We'll be engaging with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure our new approach reflects the needs of local councils and complements the work of others in this space.

We're looking forward to continuing this journey with you. For further information, please contact [Hayley Randall](#).

2. National resident survey

Virtual sessions have been held with officers and Councillors to gather feedback for the additional questions (module 2). The English questions have been finalised, and the full bilingual set has been available for use since 1 July.

Seventeen councils have now run or are planning to run the survey. Eight are currently active or preparing to launch, and three have already completed theirs this year. Seven of these councils are new to the survey. Carmarthenshire and Cardiff have shared data from their own surveys for benchmarking purposes.

Updates have been made to the dashboard to improve efficiency, and module 2 questions will be available from 19 September. A comparable authorities feature and further benchmarking information are also being added.

Work is ongoing to align the running of the National Resident Survey across Wales. This will support greater consistency, reduce duplication of effort and resources, and enable councils to share engagement approaches more effectively.

For further information, please contact [Hayley Randall](#).

3. Public Services Board Joint Dashboard

Cwm Taf PSB has worked with Data Cymru for a number of years and recently collaborated with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSBs to jointly commission a consistent dashboard. This approach has helped share costs and ensure a unified format across the three areas.

The dashboard provides access to a broader and more detailed set of data, supporting PSBs in understanding and communicating local priorities and outcomes more effectively. Officers from all councils within the three PSB footprints were recently invited to a demonstration session, where feedback was positive and highlighted the dashboard's ease of use and improved access to relevant data.

The dashboards are hoping to be published on each PSB's website during September.

For further information, please contact [Hayley Randall](#).

4. Benchmarking Wales

We've made a number of updates to the self-assessment performance dataset, our online resource that provides access to a broad range of performance and service delivery data. Recent changes include enhancements to the social care data and the addition of empty homes data.

Further updates are on the way, with planning data and additional workforce data including sickness absence due to be added shortly.

For further information, please contact [Ana Harries](#).

Outputs in development / redevelopments

1. Road safety (expected December 2025)

In March 2025, a road safety dashboard was developed and presented at the Road Safety Wales Conference to support improved understanding of road casualty and accident trends across Wales. The dashboard brings together STATS19 data in a clear and accessible format, enabling users to generate insights and carry out analysis at both local and national levels.

Its strong reception at the conference reflected its potential to inform decision-making and support targeted road safety interventions. Following the positive feedback, we will make the dashboard available on their website and will work with relevant stakeholders to further develop its features, ensuring it continues to meet user needs and add value across the sector.

For further information, please contact [Ana Harries](#).

2. Wellbeing in Wales (expected December 2025)

We are currently redeveloping the Wellbeing of Wales dashboard, originally launched in 2021 to help local authorities track their progress against the national well-being goals. As the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act marks its 10-year anniversary, the redevelopment will include a full data refresh and a redesigned interface to improve usability and insight.

We have been working closely with the Future Generations Commissioner's office to ensure the updated dashboard adds value, enhances impact, and continues to support meaningful progress towards Wales's well-being goals.

For further information, please contact [Ana Harries](#).

Training and webinars

1. Training guides

We have published training guides on:

- Getting your point across: An introduction to presenting data effectively;
- Understanding your information: An introduction to summary statistics;
- Hearing from citizens: An introduction to designing and running surveys;
- Engaging with citizens: An introduction to designing and running focus groups;
- Data 101: An introduction to understanding and using data; and
- Understanding and using performance data.

They are available free of charge on our [website](#).

2. 'Inform and Inspire' webinar programme

We host regular webinars as part of our 'inform and Inspire' webinar programme. For more information and to book tickets, please visit [TicketSource](#).

Recordings of our previous webinars can be found on our [website](#).

We are always looking for webinar content. If you have seen, done, or are doing something interesting, innovative and inspiring with data we'd love to hear about it – successful or otherwise. Equally, we'd love to hear your suggestions for future data, statistics or research topics you would you like to learn more about.

For further information, please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

3. Capacity building open training programme

Are you looking to learn more about collecting and using data? Do you work with data and want to extract more value from it? Are you thinking of expanding your skills?

We have a suite of training courses that will **introduce** you to:

- Summary statistics;
- Presenting data;
- Survey design and analysis;
- Planning and delivering focus groups;
- Data 101; and
- Performance data.

We run each of our training courses online twice each quarter where local council colleagues can register to attend for **free**. Other organisations can attend at a cost of £50 plus vat per person, per session.

We are now able to offer both English and Welsh language sessions.

To find out more and to book a place on one of our open sessions, please visit [Ticketsource](#).

Alternatively, for a small cost, we can provide training courses specifically for your organisation, online or in person, at a time and date that suits you.

If you'd like to discuss your requirements, then please get in contact with [Róisín Roberts](#).

Training course development

1. New courses

We are currently developing two new training courses, as a result of collaboration with different stakeholders:

- Working with one local council to develop a course for PowerBI end-users - the aim being to better help them understand the technology and how to use it effectively.

We are developing an introductory Excel training course, which resulted from working with an external organisation and as a result of feedback from local authority colleagues. We anticipate that the courses will eventually form part of our standard suite of courses.

2. Instructional videos

We plan to publish a series of instructional videos as part of our wider capacity building work programme. The videos will provide bite-size instructions on various topics, such as how to do specific calculations in Excel or tips and tricks in PowerBI.

The videos will be published on our website.

We plan to publish the first few videos this quarter.