WLGA update – WSLC February 2026

Recent activity and highlights

1. Sector Led Improvement: WLGA and Data Cymru Integration

The planned integration of WLGA and Data Cymru took place on 01 December 2025. As outlined in our previous update, we will continue to deliver everything we've committed to and work with you as we always have. Over the next three years, we are aiming for full integration across our data, digital, improvement and policy work.

We'll continue to engage with stakeholders throughout this integration 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

Seventeen councils have now run or are planning to run the survey. Sixteen Councils have completed the survey and one is going live soon. Of these sixteen, eight are new to running the survey this year. Carmarthenshire and Cardiff have shared data from their own surveys for benchmarking purposes.

Additional features have been added to the dashboard to improve benchmarking including an all respondents percentage and a comparable authorities feature. A new benchmarking section will soon be added to the dashboard which will allow councils to compare response rates and engagement methods.

Together with councils it has been agreed that the running of National Resident Survey will be aligned as of September 2027. All councils will open their survey mid-September and will run the survey every other year. Councils do have the option to run the survey annually if they wish but will still be expected to run in line with all other councils in September of odd years. This alignment will support greater consistency, reduce duplication of effort and resources, and enable councils to share engagement approaches more effectively.

For further information, please contact Brenna Organ.

3. Public Services Board Joint Dashboard

The public services board dashboard went live in October 2025 for Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea PSBs.

The dashboard continues to gather positive feedback and discussions for future developments to include other stakeholders and more data have begun.

For further information, please contact Hayley Randall.

4. Benchmarking Wales

Workforce benchmarking: The latest open workforce data is now available. We are expecting revisions to the data from 2 Local Authorities. A full headlines report will be available in the coming weeks.

For further information, please contact Ana Harries.

Youth services: The latest data for 2024-25 youth work is now available in the Benchmarking Wales Hub.

The dataset covers many aspects of Youth Services' activity, including:

- workforce;
- expenditure, income and budgets;
- accreditations gained; and
- contacts made and young people reached.

It uses published data, collected by Welsh Government, but seeks to add value by calculating relevant measures to aid understanding and comparison across Wales.

If you require access to the Hub, please contact Adrian Smith.

Outputs in development / redevelopments

5. Road safety (now available)

The Road Collision Insights Portal is now available on the website. The portal 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.

We will work with relevant stakeholders to further develop the portal's potential to inform decision-making and support targeted road safety interventions.

For further information, please contact Ana Harries.

6. Self-Assessment Performance dataset (SAPD) Communities of Practice

The SAPD tool is a resource for Welsh Council's to access a standardised set of performance data that allows them to understand how they are performing against their objectives and how this compares to others. The dataset brings together a range of data from multiple reliable sources to allow users to access, interrogate and understand their performance. The tool is refreshed weekly and continues to be updated to include new and relevant data. For example, planning services data and sickness data have recently been made available in the tool.

Work is currently underway to develop a "Corporate view" within the SAPD tool. This development is being led by the Welsh Council's Performance Information Community of Practice (WCPI CoP), more information on the CoP can be found below.

7. Welsh Council's Performance Information Community of Practice (WCPI CoP)

The WCPI CoP brings together policy and data leads from Welsh Council's to strengthen the quality, consistency, and strategic value of performance information shared with senior leaders.

- National Outcomes Guidance (due to be published soon), developed in collaboration with the CoP, and the Service User Feedback Guidance (available) provide a shared reference point and consistent approach for developing outcomes frameworks.
- Audits of council outcomes and performance measures highlighted gaps in consistency, quality, and outcome focus; SAPD has been enhanced with additional measures based on subgroup learning.
- A **Corporate Lens within SAPD** is being developed:
    - Data grouped by seven thematic areas derived from analysis of 22 Corporate Plans.
    - Performance data type (quality, impact, service user, shared outcome, resident voice).
    - Data is currently undergoing quality assurance and policy sense-checking (available February 2026).
- Next phase: develop **new outcome measures**, subject to senior leadership sign-off.

For further information, please contact Ana Harries.

8. Data in Wales Community of Practice

Grown from Welsh Government's Data Science Seminars, the Data in Wales Community of Practice has been established by Welsh Gov, CDPS and WLGA and is currently chaired by Imran Roper from SRS.

It aims to bring data professionals from across public sector together through monthly meetups. These meetups take the form of open-discussions, seminars or presentations on different data related themes (both strategic and technical). Membership has steadily grown since meetups began in mid 2025. If you're interested in joining, sign up information is available here.

For further information, please contact Rob Pascoe.

9. Net Zero Scenario Planner

Originally hosted through local partnerships, the Net Zero Scenario Planner dashboard is now hosted by WLGA and will be relaunching very soon. The dashboard allows council staff to forecast how different approaches and measures to building decarbonisation net zero will affect carbon emissions and costs. We'll be talking with the councils about updates to the data and adding new features through the year.

The dashboard is accessible to net zero teams in the councils only and the Climate Change Support Programme team in WLGA. Communications for new access will be sent out shortly along with an invitation for feedback and suggestions.

For further information, please contact Richard Lewis.

10. WIMD – postcode lookup

Following the publication of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2025 there has been a need for tools to allow users to quickly access the most recent WIMD indicator data.

After a request from Ysgol Gyfun y Strade in Carmarthenshire, we developed an excel spreadsheet that enables users to input one or multiple postcodes. The spreadsheet identifies their local area and automatically views the WIMD data for those postcodes. This removes the need for complex or repetitive manual calculations for multiple areas.

Following feedback, an excel spreadsheet was created to enable users to view all available WIMD data at the local authority level. This spreadsheet takes all the WIMD data from StatsWales and displays it in a more user-friendly format. Containing: Local authority Summaries, dynamic filters, individual indicators, ranks, quintiles and more.

For further information please contact Ana Harries.

Training and webinars

11. 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.

12. '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](#).

13. 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

14. From data to dashboard: An introduction to Power BI visuals and dashboards

After developing an introductory training session for Power BI users for a specific service within a local authority, we have now scheduled work to reimagine this session for all local authorities across Wales.

15. Introduction to Microsoft Excel

Work continues on our introductory Excel training course, which resulted from working with an external organisation and as a result of feedback from local authority colleagues.

We aim to add both of these new courses to our current open training programme before the end of this financial year.