

Time for change in North Wales?

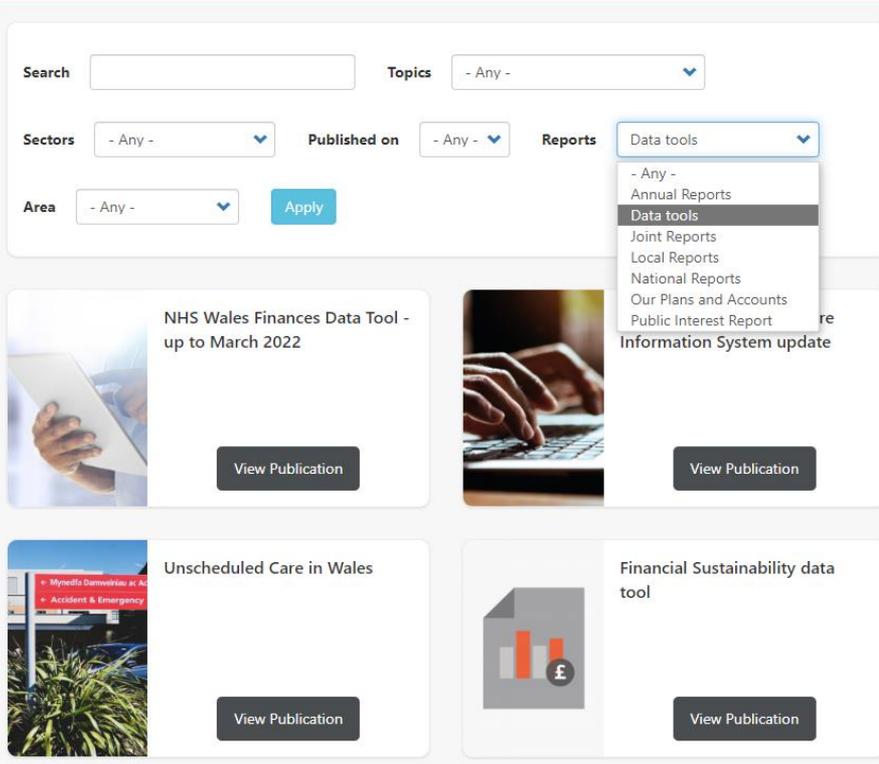
Audit Wales data tool – what the data tells us about the challenges of tackling poverty in North Wales

Workshop plan



- Introductions
- Poverty data – the story so far
- Poverty data tool
- Discussion groups & feedback

Why do we need a data tool?



The screenshot shows the website's navigation and search interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Topics' dropdown menu set to '- Any -'. Below this are filters for 'Sectors' (- Any -), 'Published on' (- Any -), and 'Area' (- Any -). A 'Reports' dropdown menu is open, showing options: '- Any -', 'Annual Reports', 'Data tools' (highlighted), 'Joint Reports', 'Local Reports', 'National Reports', 'Our Plans and Accounts', and 'Public Interest Report'. Below the filters, there are four publication cards, each with a 'View Publication' button. The cards are: 1. 'NHS Wales Finances Data Tool - up to March 2022' with an image of a hand holding a tablet. 2. 'Information System update' with an image of hands typing on a laptop. 3. 'Unscheduled Care in Wales' with an image of a hospital entrance. 4. 'Financial Sustainability data tool' with an image of a bar chart and a pound sign.

- Audit Wales commitment to use data – why?
 - Helps tell a story – wanted to emphasise impact of the data on people in poverty
 - Helps focus minds on poverty as a inter service challenge
 - Encourage bodies to make more use of their data

The Challenge



- Poverty is multi-dimensional. Vast amount of data
- Make the data meaningful
- High level and detailed data
- Different footprints. Local/regional/national
- Different availability of years
- Individual lived experiences can get lost in the data

The tool



- Built around the dimensions in poverty in our report
- Wealth of data available. Some more extensive than others (and some gaps)
- We will draw out some key examples from North Wales authorities

Spotlight on housing data

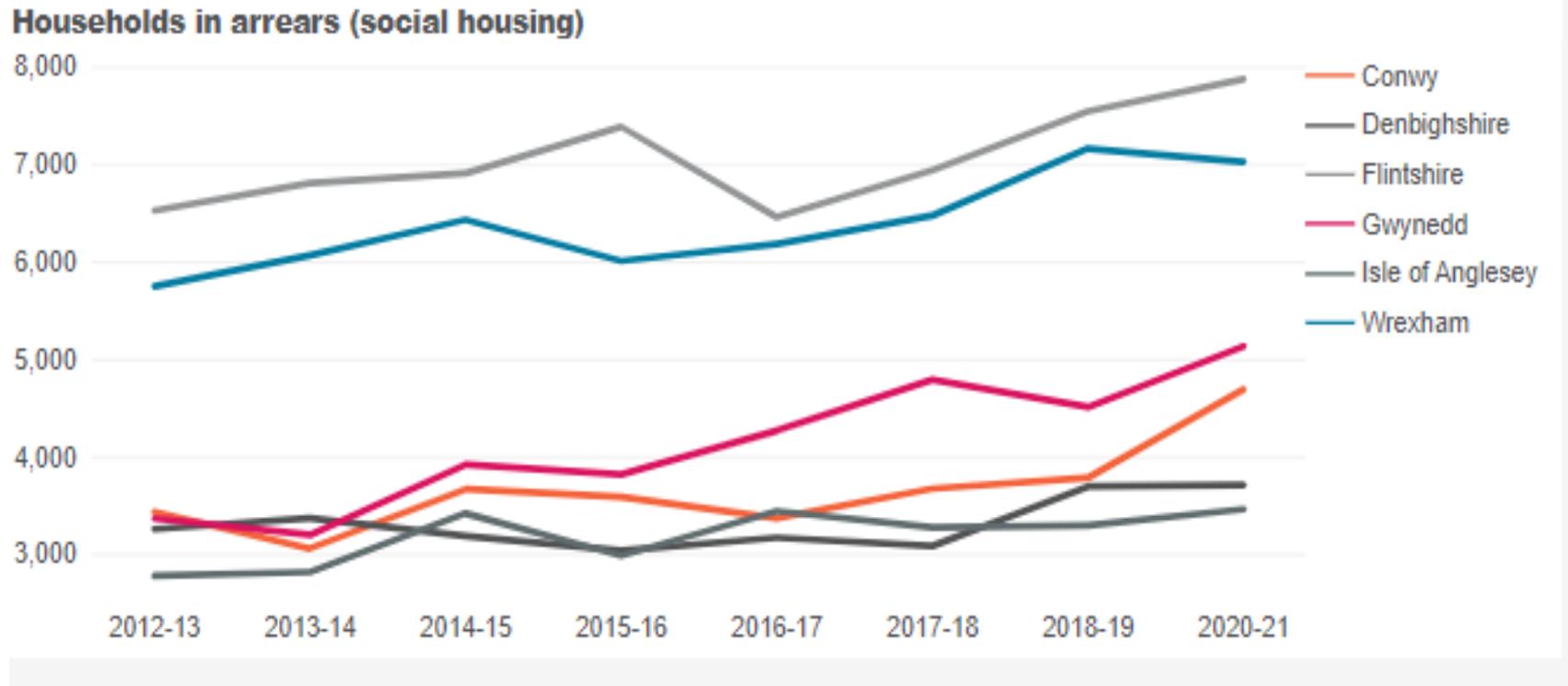


“We thankfully don't have a mortgage or rent. God help if we did. I am always into my overdraft as its very hard to live”

Audit Wales lived experience survey response

- I have experience of being **homeless**, street sleeping and/or sofa surfing
- My **home is insecure**, and I fear losing it
- I am unable to afford to **pay my rent or mortgage**
- I live in **poor quality/substandard housing**
- People in my home share bedrooms and have **inadequate space**
- I **cannot afford furniture** or white goods in my home

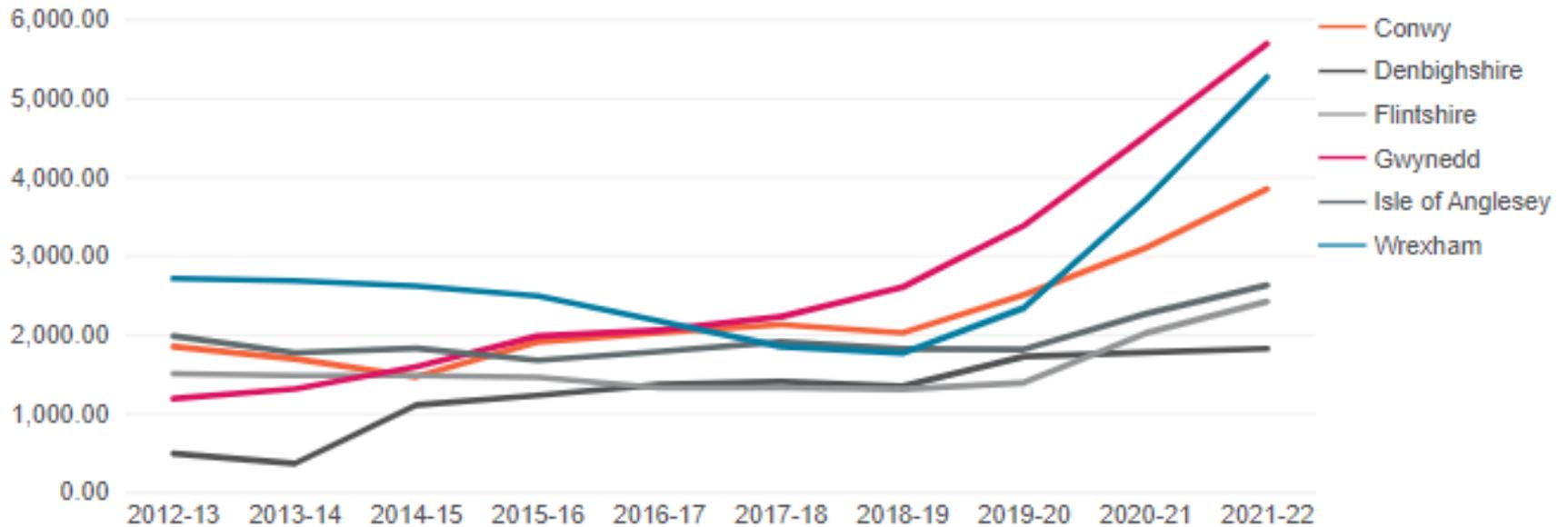
Housing – examples from tool



Housing – examples from tool



Households in council tax arrears



Housing – examples from tool



Goods / services

Furniture and furnishings

Glassware, tableware and h...

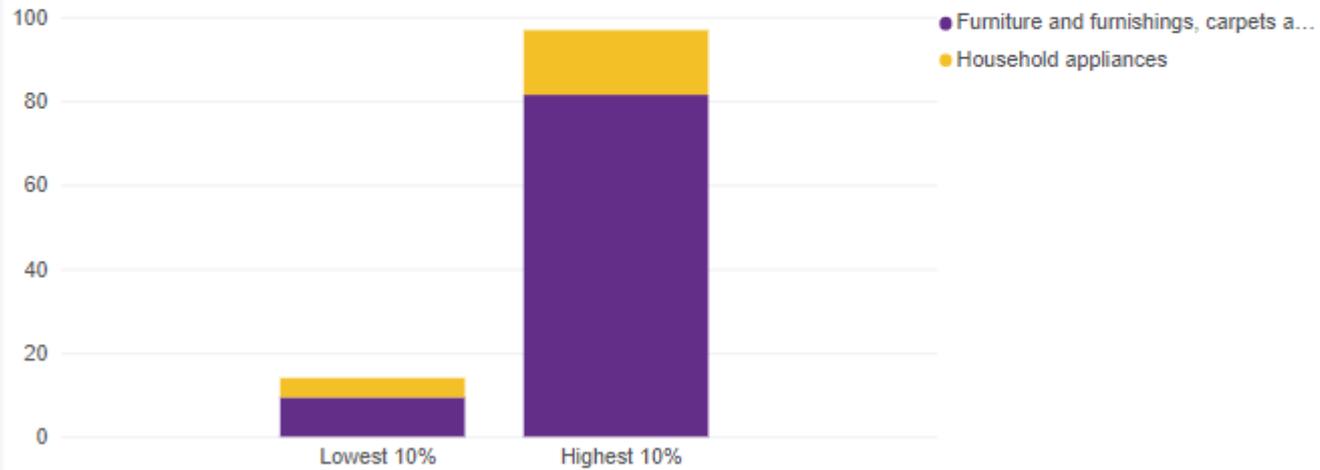
Household goods and hardware

Tools and equipment for h...

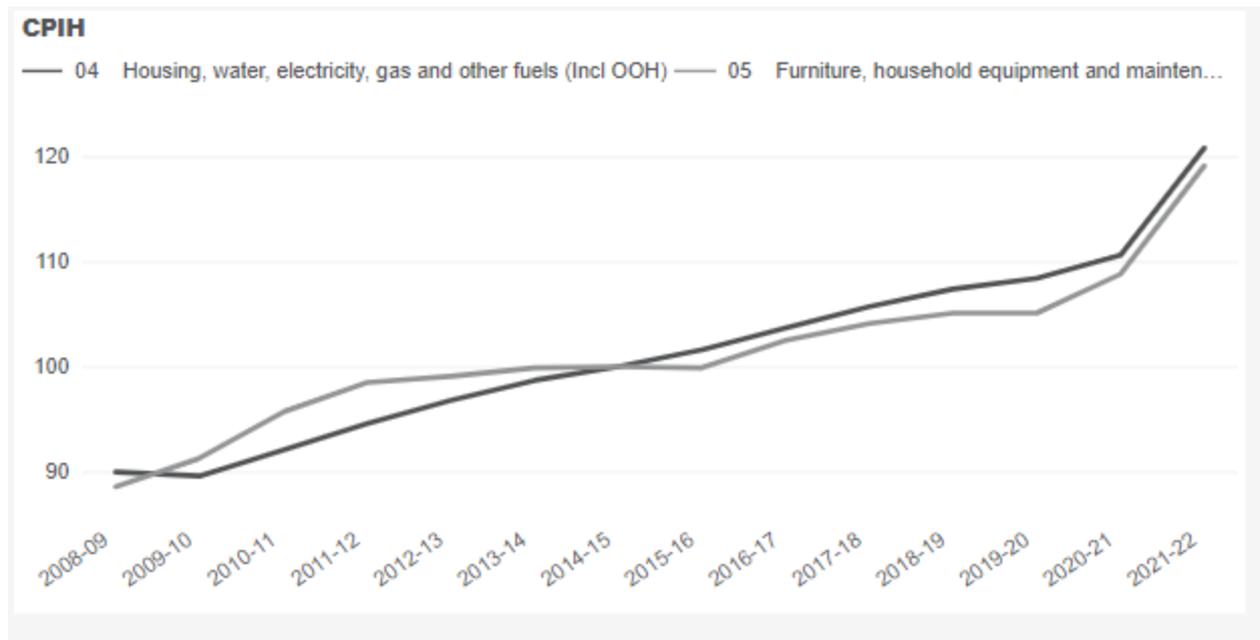
Furniture and furnishings, car...

Household appliances

Household textiles



Housing – examples from tool



Spotlight on fuel and energy data



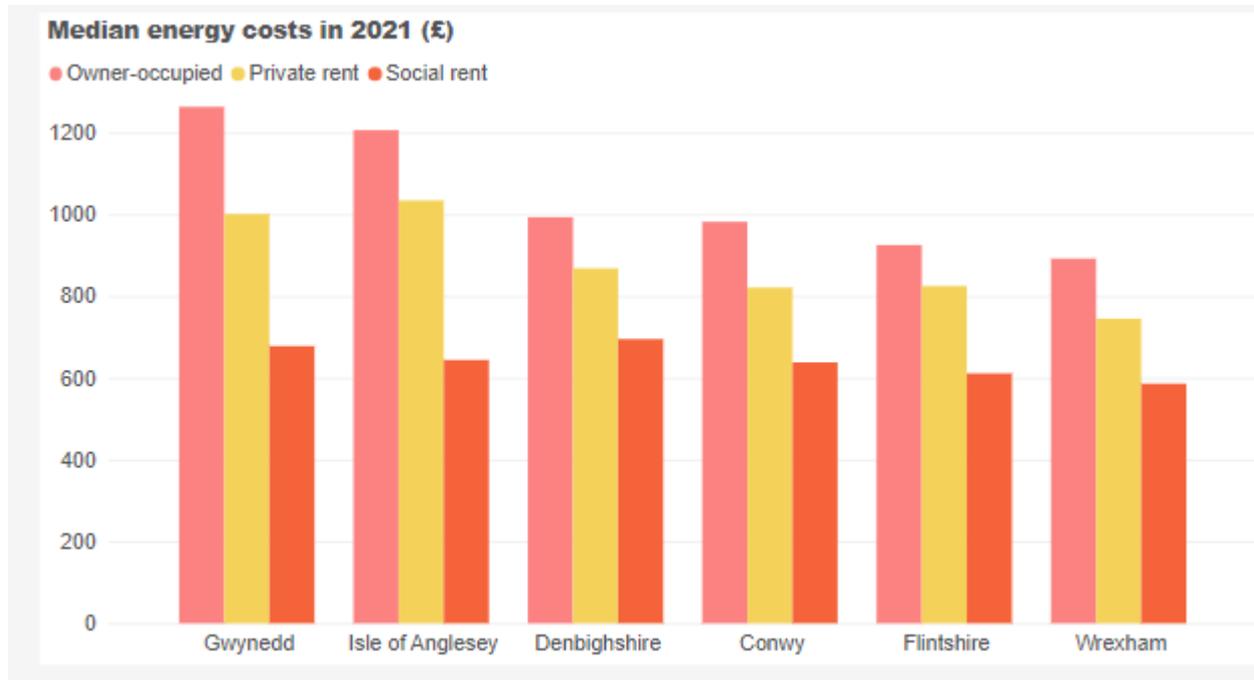
- My home has **poor energy efficiency**
- I have to use prepayment meters and/or have to use high-cost tariffs
- I have **high energy usage** due to my and/or my family's ill health
- I have **high energy use** due to the size of my family
- I am regularly **unable to afford** to use electricity or gas
- I **depend on an off-grid**, more expensive energy supply – oil

“We are on pay as you go gas and electric and if we run out we run out.

Its hard and very very stressful”

Audit Wales lived experience survey response

Fuel and energy – examples from tool

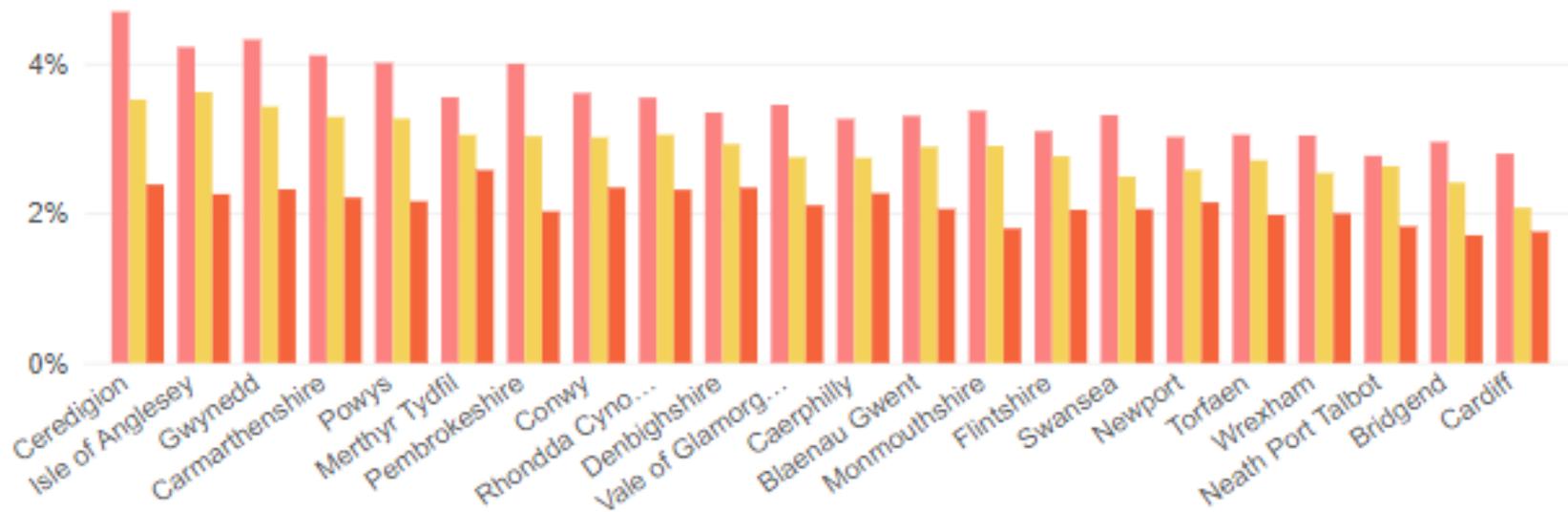


Fuel and energy – examples from tool

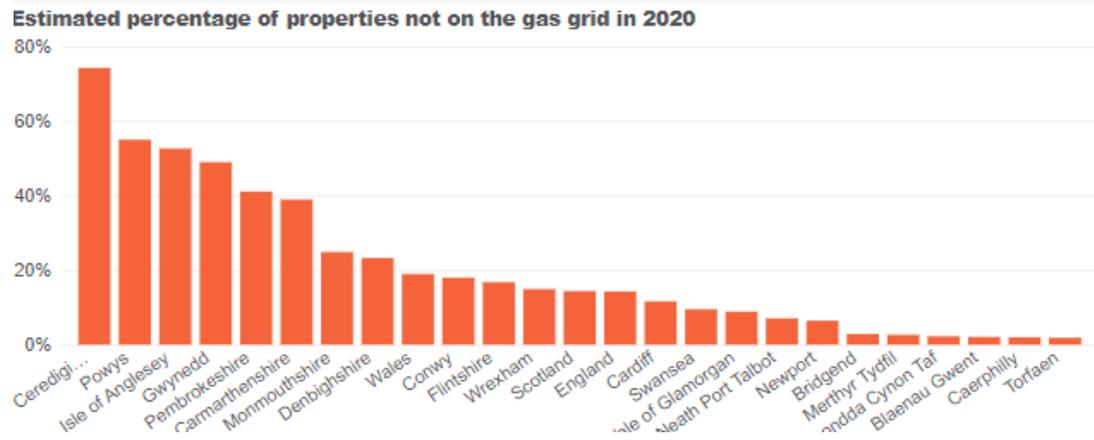
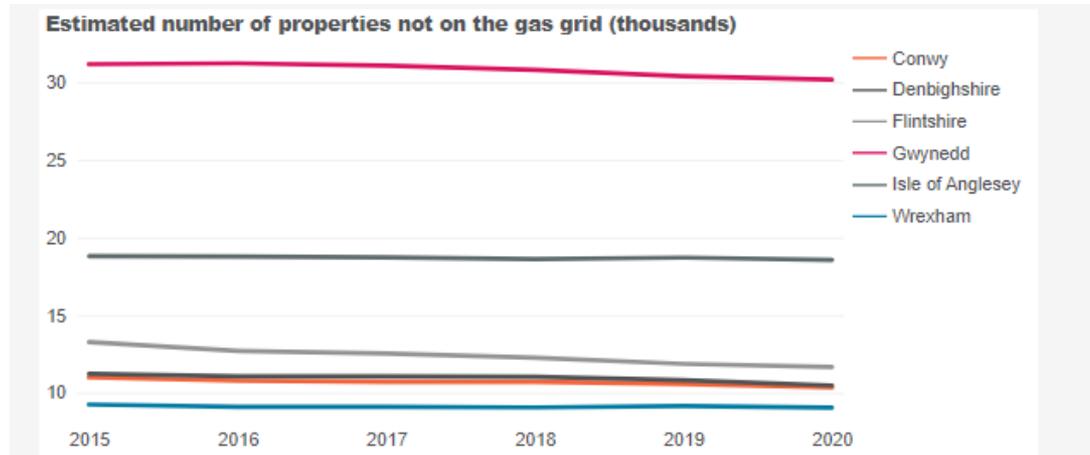


Weekly median energy cost as percentage of average weekly income (2021)

● Owner-occupied ● Private rent ● Social rent



Fuel and energy – examples from tool



Spotlight on food data

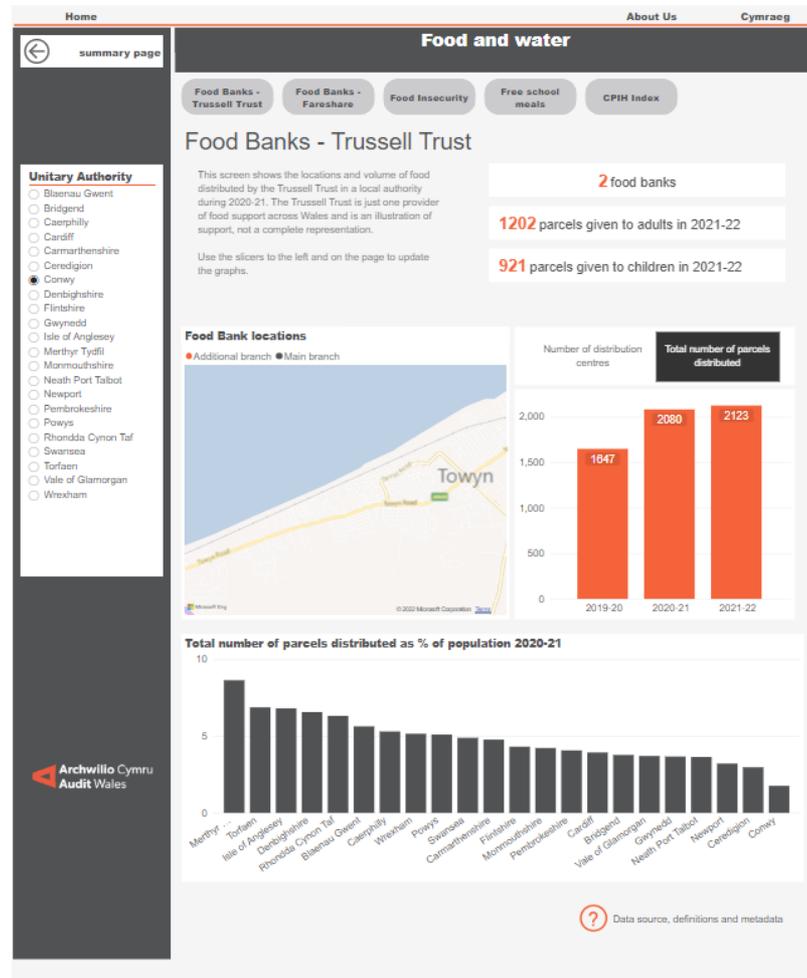


- I cannot guarantee a regular and **sufficient supply of food and water**
- I am **unable to purchase sufficient food and water** to meet me and my family's needs
- I am unable to **eat healthily**
- I periodically have **no food** available
- I regularly **miss meals**
- I am unable to afford to **wash myself and/or my clothes**

“Trying to buy reduced / yellow label foods...
Anxiety increased about food bills and the Autumn /
Winter energy bills”

Audit Wales lived experience survey response

Food – examples from tool

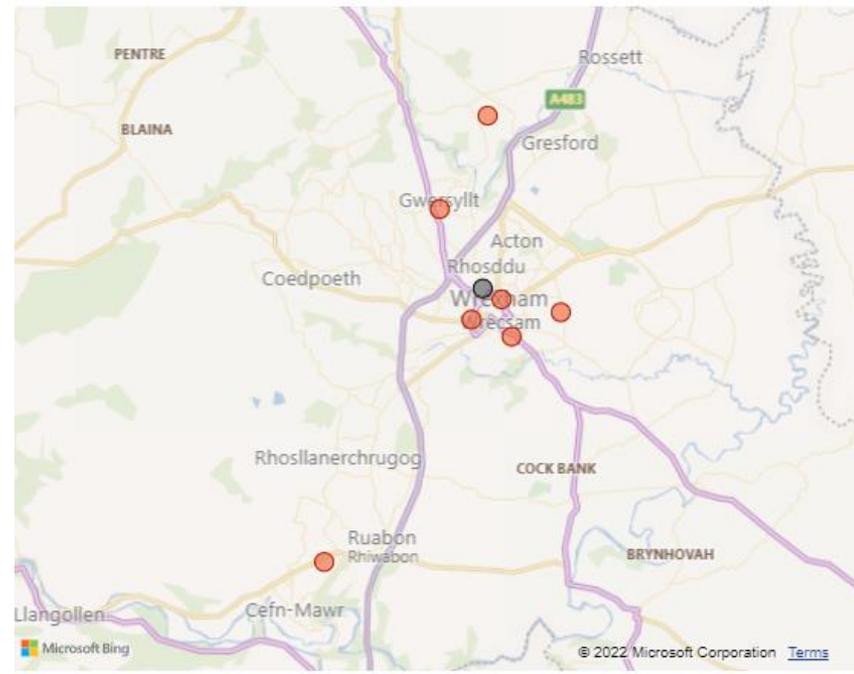


Food – examples from tool



Food Bank locations

● Additional branch ● Main branch



Food – examples from tool

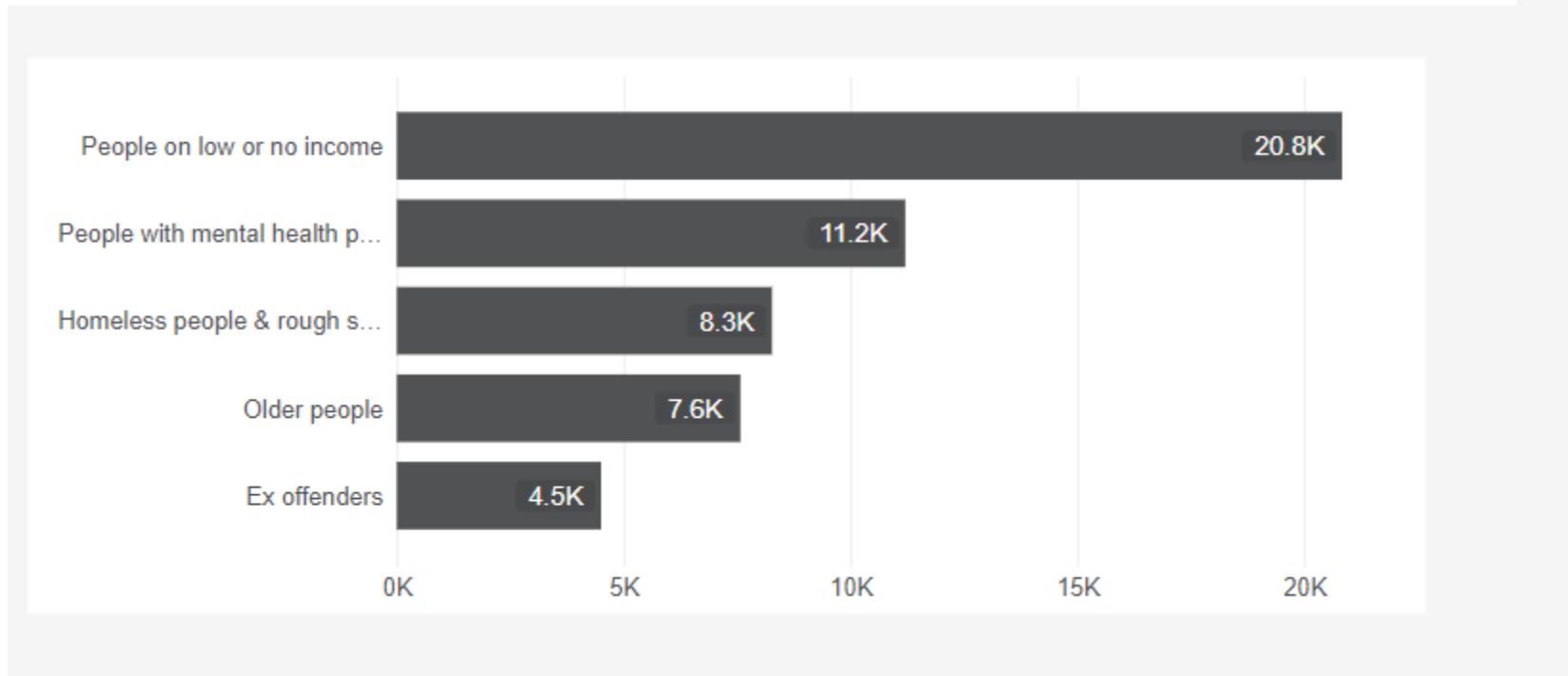


Attribute

Community Food Member Beneficiaries

Food Moved (KG)

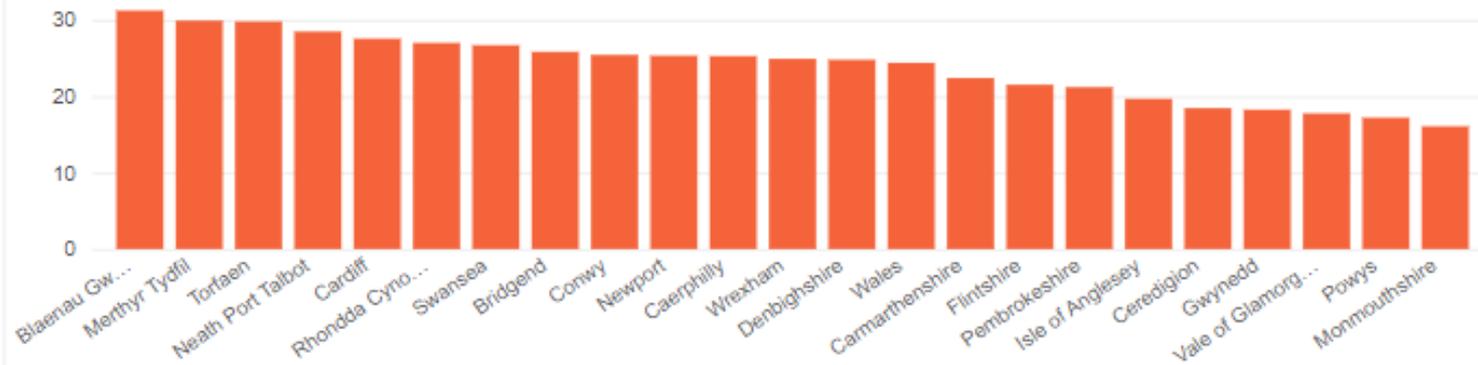
Food Moved Meal Equivalents



Food – examples from tool



Pupils eligible for free school meals or transitionally protected as % of all pupils (2021-22)



Spotlight on financial data

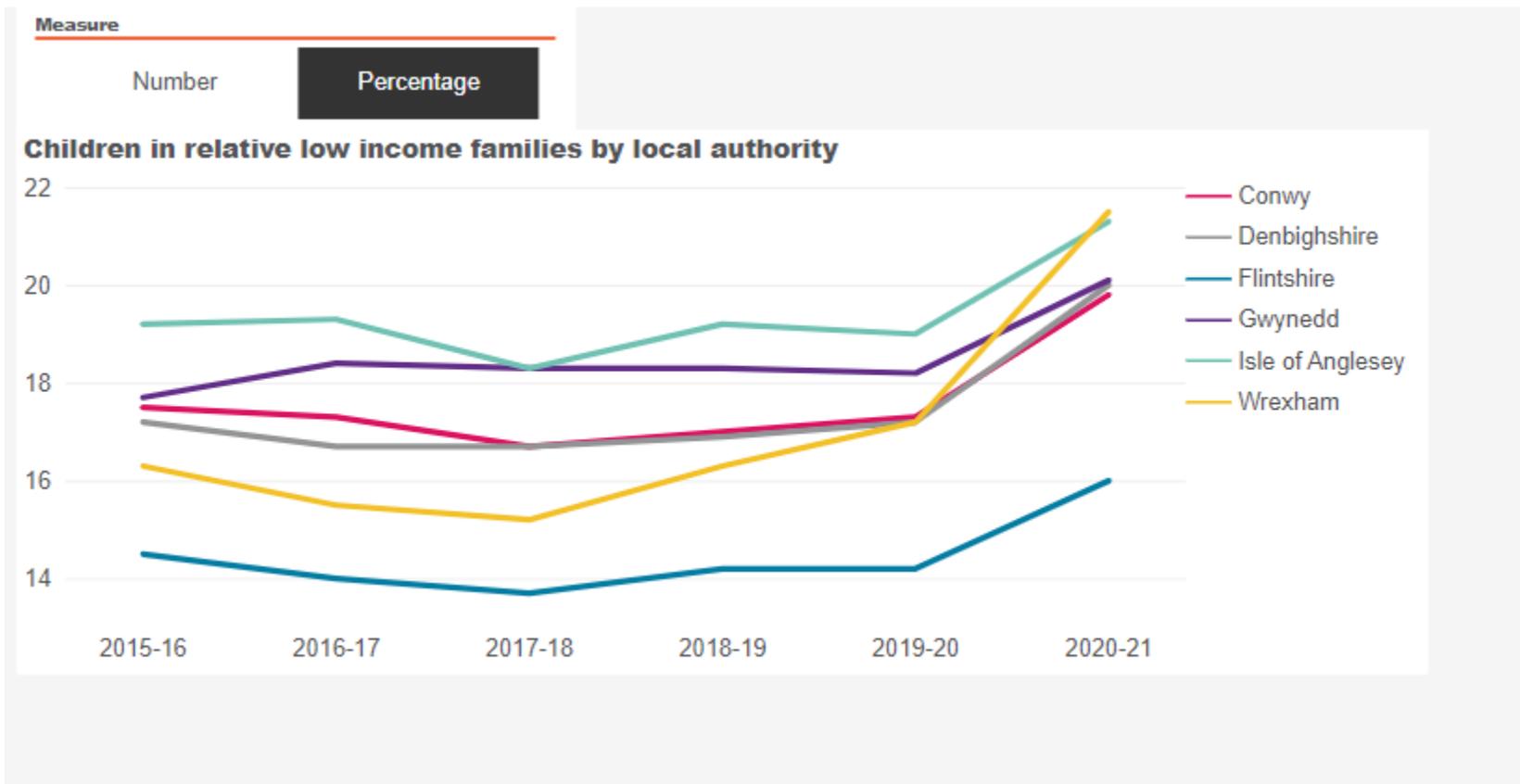


- I have **insufficient income** to afford to meet my living costs
- My **income is unstable**, and I do not know how much money I have week to week
- I am **unable to access credit**
- I have **no savings**
- I am in **debt**
- I depend on **welfare benefits** and/or charity

“I am trying my best but am really struggling and I work 60+ hours a week as a self employed single mother”

Audit Wales lived experience survey response

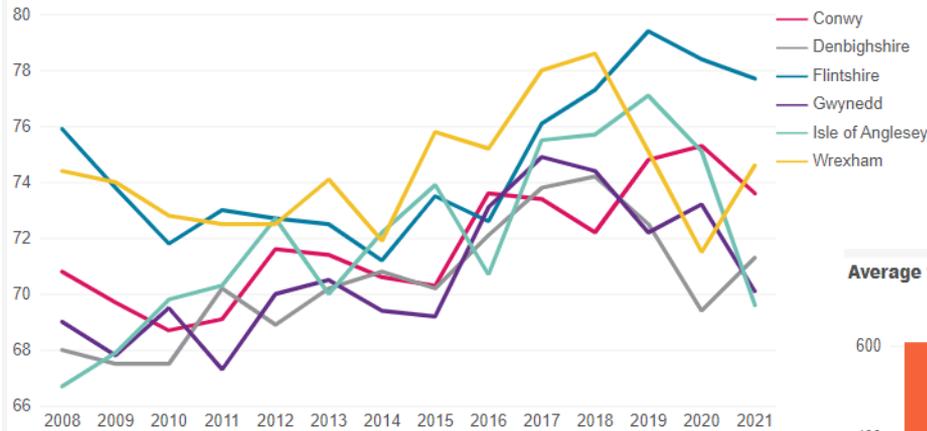
Finances – examples from tool



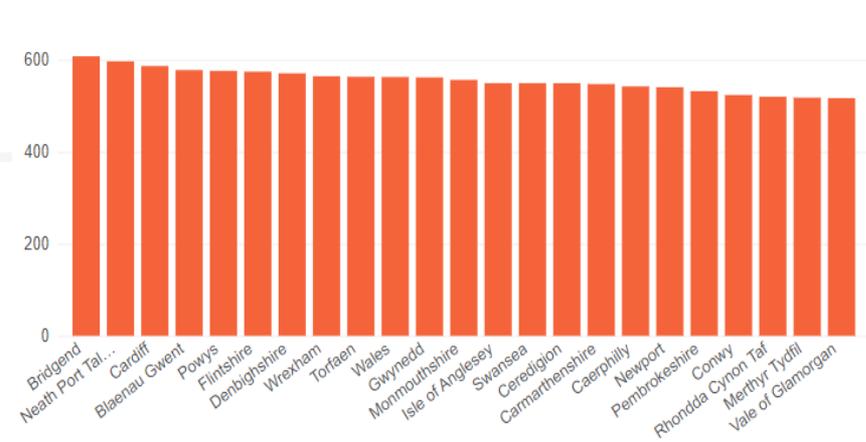
Finances – examples from tool



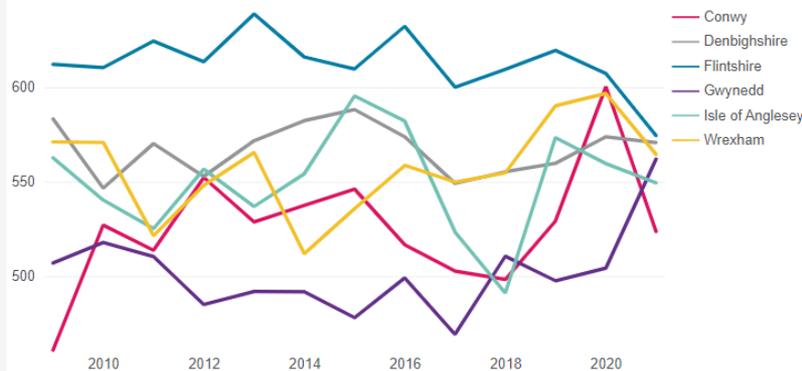
Employment rate over time



Average weekly earnings in 2021 (£, real terms)



Average weekly earnings (real terms)



Spotlight on exclusion from services data



“Going to the services is like continually hitting a brick wall”

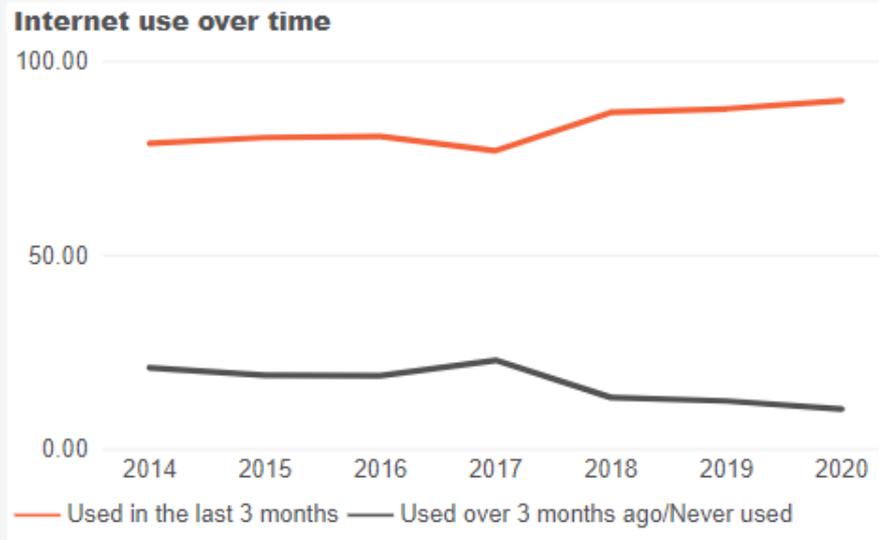
a Poverty Truth Commissioner with lived experience

- I am **unable to register for health, dental and care** services
- Transport is unreliable and I find it **difficult to access and/or afford transport**
- I do not have a **computer**, a SMART phone and/or tablet
- I do not have **access to the internet** at home
- I find it **difficult to access the essential public services** I need
- I find it **difficult to participate** in or influence decisions that affect me – eg not registered to, or do not vote
- I find it **difficult to get the advice and information** I need to help me
- I **feel marginalised** by the services I seek help from

Exclusion from services – examples from tool



9 % of respondents across Wales do not have internet access in their household
National Survey for Wales 2020-21



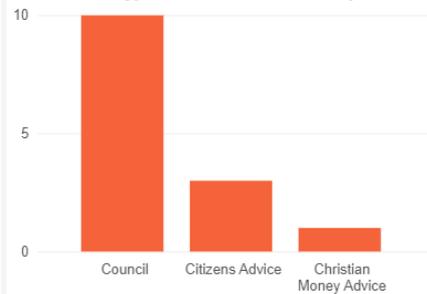
Exclusion from services – examples from tool



Advice providers

This screen shows the number and type of advice providers available in each local authority. This data has been sourced by Audit Wales from local authority websites, the Citizens Advice website, and MoneyHelper.org.uk, a website provided by the Money and Pensions Service and the UK Government. It is provided for illustrative purposes to understand the scale of advice provision and is not a complete representation of all advice services. Use the slicer to the left to update the top graph and map.

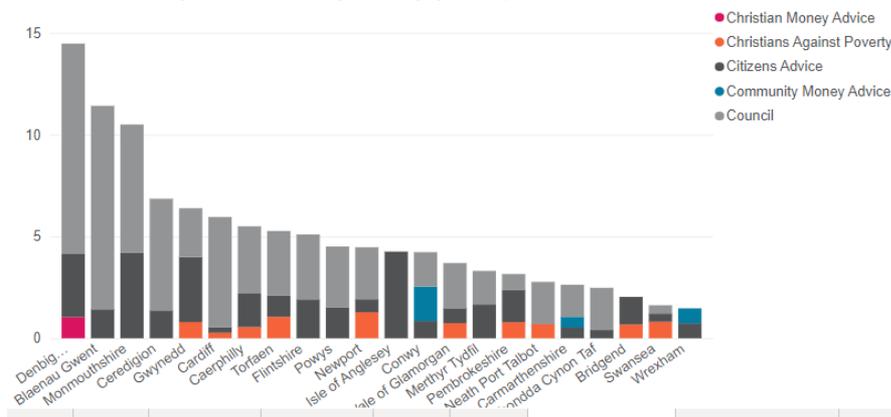
Number and type of face to face advice providers



Location of providers



Face to face advice provider locations per 100k population, 2020



“Haven't been to any advice providers. Didn't know there was help out there”

“I would definitely agree taking advice off professionals would ease the everyday stress”.

– Audit Wales lived experience survey responses

Other sections

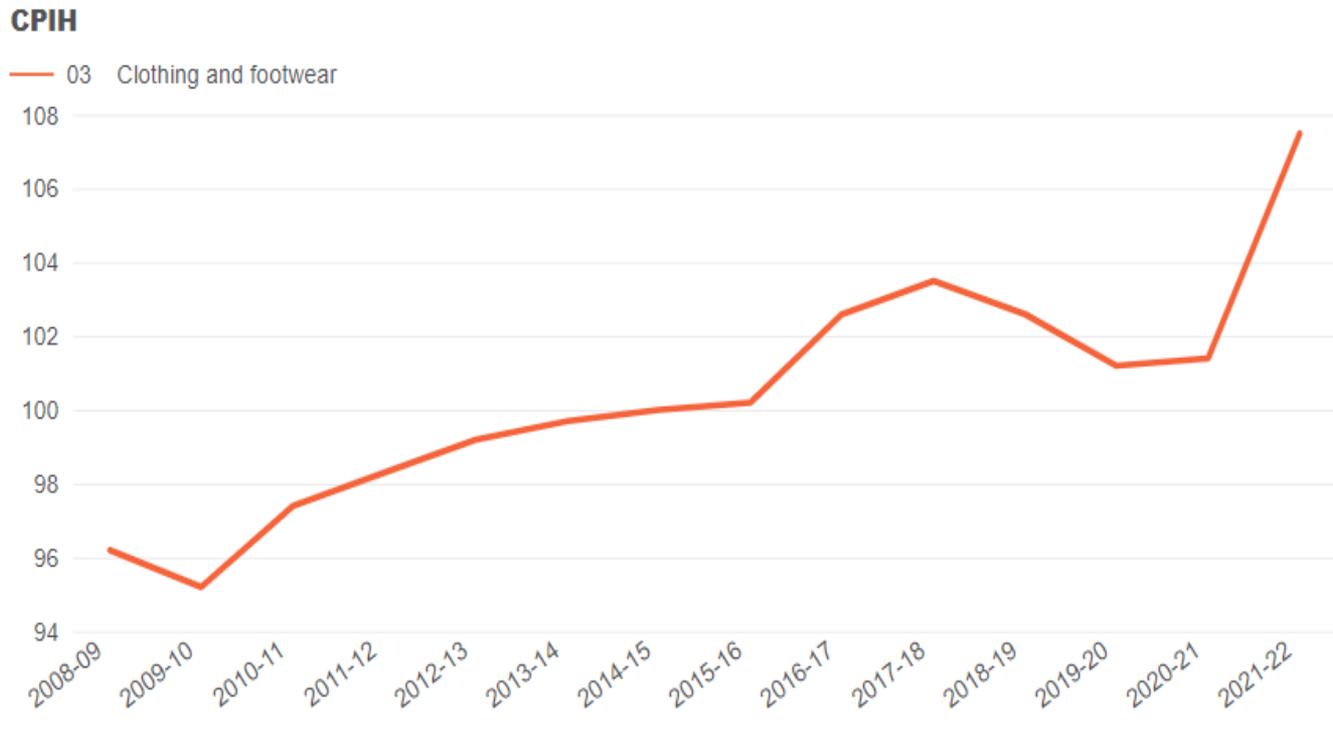


- I lack confidence and self esteem and find it difficult to deal with problems
- I find it difficult communicating with people and services and find it difficult to build relationships
- I experience feelings of shame and stigma
- I do not have warm clothing in winter
- I depend on handouts and charity for clothes

“I am scared for the future. I am trying my best but am really struggling”

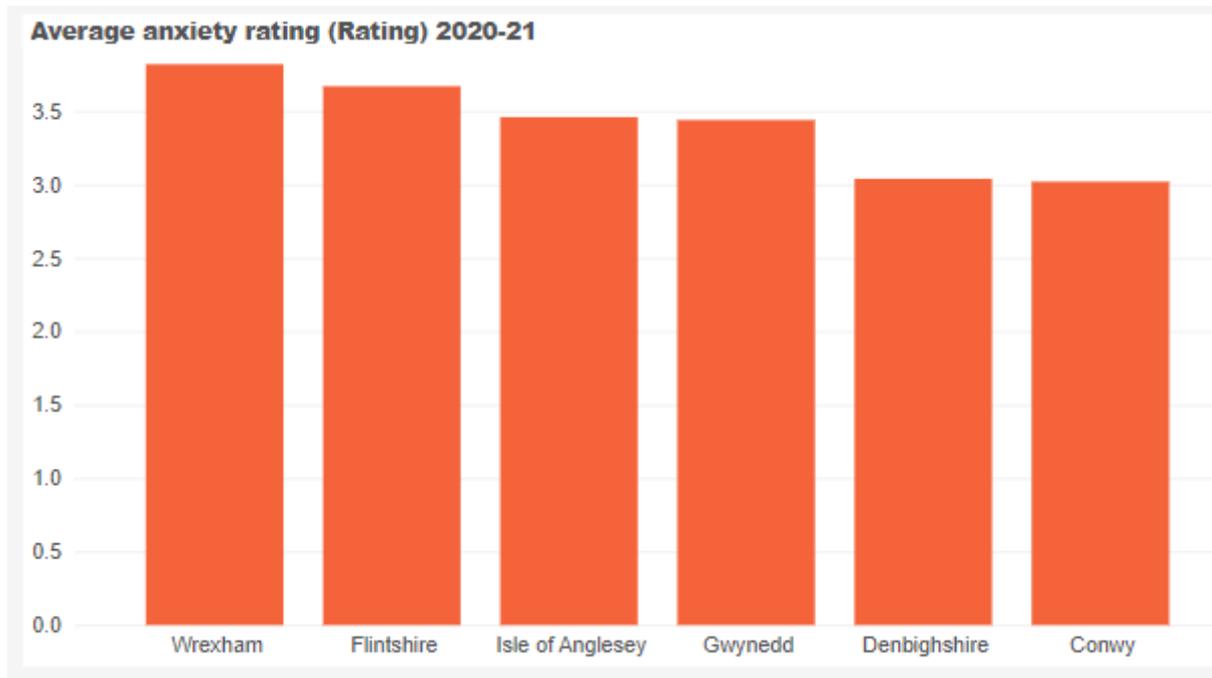
– *Audit Wales lived experience survey response*

Other sections



Clothing and footwear - Less data available but CPIH index gives a flavour of rising prices

Other sections



Emotional and relationship issues – Touched upon in data tool but better understood through lived experience groups, for example Poverty Truth Commissions

Breakout exercise



1. Split into groups to look at four areas of poverty data.
2. Work through the themes to discuss as a group. Identify any common issues and add these to the post-it notes provided. Focus on barriers, solutions, and sharing any examples.
3. Briefly share these back with the group.

Key themes for discussion



1. New ways of using poverty data
2. Making the most of internal and external poverty data
3. Valuing poverty data to help inform decision making
4. Analysing data to understand what works to support people living in poverty

Barriers

Solutions

Examples



New ways of using poverty data

- How can services be more open with data? Is the balance right between openness and data protection risks?
- How can public bodies create space to experiment with the data?
- How can data tools be deployed to allow further exploration and to enable better scrutiny to identify gaps?



Making the most of internal and external poverty data

- Do you have access to the poverty data you need?
- Do you know the limitations of available poverty data?
- What needs to be done to improve data quality?
- What gaps do you need to address in your poverty data?
- What examples can you share of good data mapping?



Valuing poverty data to help inform decision making

- How do you look at existing poverty data more strategically and break out of service area silos?
- What are the barriers?
- When is poverty data good enough?
- Perfection vs timeliness of poverty data. What is the right balance?
- How do you improve ‘real-time’ poverty data reporting?



Analysing data to understand what works to support people living in poverty

- Profiling – what are the barriers to identifying those who are at most risk of poverty, who may not be known to public bodies?
- How can these barriers be overcome?
- How can public bodies make better use of workforce skillsets to reach out to these groups?
- What examples can you share of good use of data analytics to identify groups at risk?

Next steps

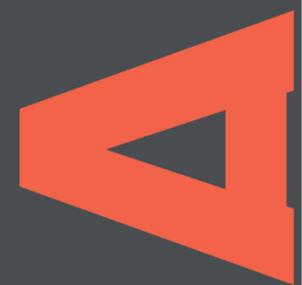


- Please leave your feedback on the workshop using the post-it notes, including any comments on Audit Wales data tools...
- Or email council.studies@audit.wales

We'd love to hear from you!



Understanding where to target action and demonstrating the value of their work



- Most councils draw on WIMD data - historic and out of date (2019).
- Focus more on recording delivery of projects capturing numbers assisted and not enough on impact, wellbeing and the wider benefits of investment.
- Report information in silos and do not collate data to create comprehensive picture across the council area.
- Little comparison or benchmarking to identify opportunities for improvement.
- The lack of national indicators and targets does not help this.



Positive emerging work



- The Isle of Anglesey and Ceredigion councils have developed dashboards of publicly available data to help prioritise future action.
- Neath Port Talbot low-income tracker used to target support for those who are known to the council and already receive services.
- Data Cymru have recently published a data tool that collates publicly available key data in one place.
- Cardiff collect good data to demonstrate the impact of their interventions. E.g. in 2020-21 the Council assisted roughly 17,000 people and claimed an additional £14 million in welfare benefits.
- Caerphilly Cares' programme secured an additional £5 million of income for council house tenants and prevented evictions from council housing.