

Area Profile

Gwynedd Social Services

Introduction

This area profile has been developed to support Gwynedd County Borough Council's Director of Social Services' Annual Report which sets out Gwynedd social services' performance. The information about Gwynedd in this report supports the director's report by putting that performance into context relating to the way that Gwynedd's social services operate.

Three broad areas of information are set out:

- Firstly, the general demographics of the area, including details about population and health;
- Secondly, the service demands placed on Gwynedd social services from the needs of vulnerable groups, including children and young people, and older people; and
- Lastly, the level of resources that Gwynedd invests in its social services delivery.

Where appropriate the profile makes comparisons between Gwynedd's operating context and both the all Wales picture and that of comparable local authorities. The comparable authorities are chosen based on similar characteristics for specific demographic and deprivation indicators. For more information on the comparable authorities methodology please see appendix one. The authorities that have been used for comparison purposes are Pembrokeshire, Powys and Conwy.

This information has been developed solely to put Gwynedd social services' performance into a wider context and does not judge their performance.

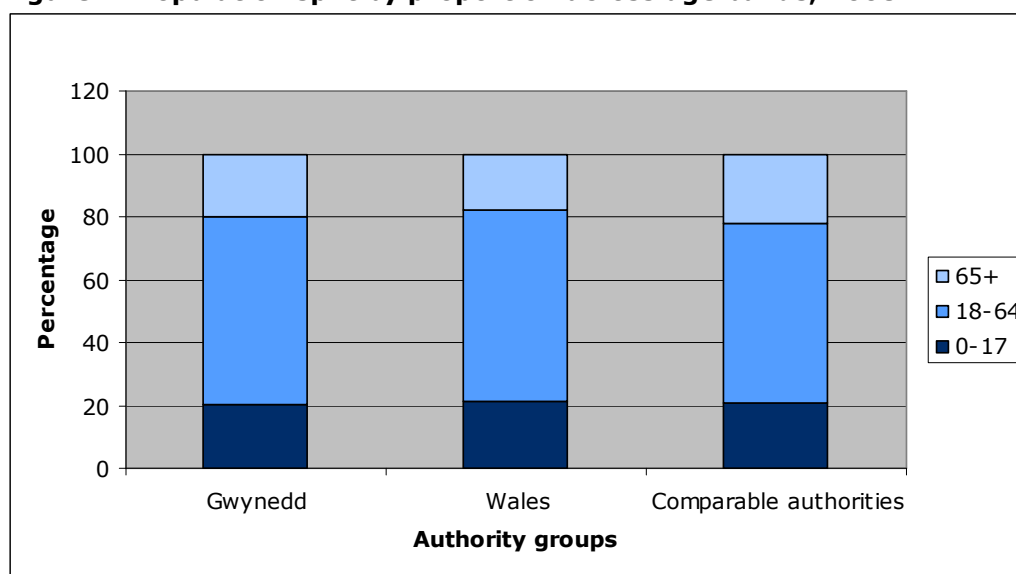
What does the County look like?

This section sets out some general information about Gwynedd.

Population

According to the 2008 mid-year estimates, Gwynedd had a population of over 118,000. This compares with an average population across all the Welsh local authorities of 136,000 and an average of 121,000 across the comparable authorities. Figure 1 shows how the populations were proportionately split across different age bands. Since 2001, like most Welsh authorities, Gwynedd had seen a steady increase in the total population and the populations of those aged 18-64 and 65+, whereas the population aged 0-17 had steadily decreased. However 2008-09 also saw a slight decrease in the total population and the population aged 18-64.

Figure 1: Population split by proportion across age bands, 2008.



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

In 2001 99% of Gwynedd's population were from a white background, the same proportion as the comparable authorities. Across Wales the percentage of the population from a white background was 98%. In 2008 the percentage of Gwynedd's population from a non-white background remained at 1%. This compares to 2% for the comparable authorities and 3% for Wales.

Table 1: Percentage of population in each ethnic group, 2001.

	White	Mixed	Asian	Chinese or other	Black or Black British
Gwynedd	98.81	0.41	0.37	0.30	0.10
Wales	97.88	0.61	0.88	0.39	0.24
Comparable authorities	99.07	0.35	0.28	0.22	0.08

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

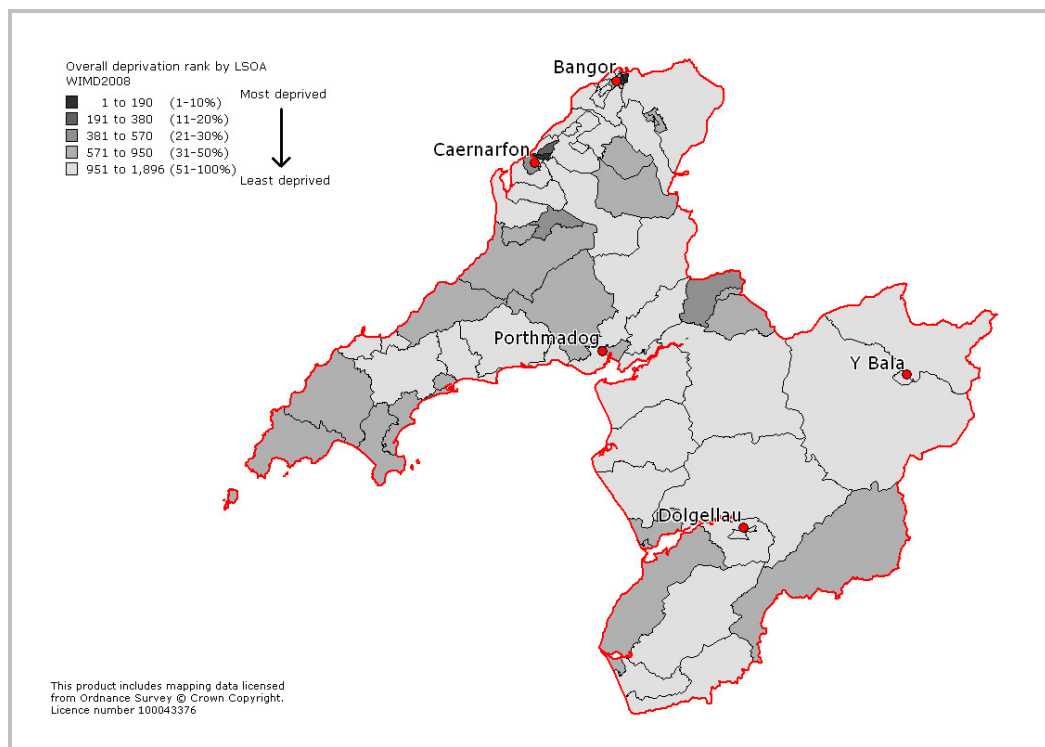
Figure 1 and Table 1 show that the population profiles of Gwynedd and the comparable authorities are broadly similar.

Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) takes information produced for local areas across different factors, for example unemployment and benefit claimant rates, which affect the lives of individuals and communities. WIMD brings this information together to paint a picture of relative deprivation across Wales. Gwynedd has three of its local areas in the most 10% deprived in Wales.

Figure 2 shows Gwynedd's deprivation profile from WIMD 2008. The darker the colour the more the area is deprived. Four of Gwynedd's local areas, (parts of Marchog and Cadnant), are amongst the top 20% deprived areas in Wales. In general, taking into consideration wider factors, Gwynedd has a below average overall level of deprivation. In 2008-09 the proportion of benefit claimants amongst people of working age was lower than in the comparable local authorities.

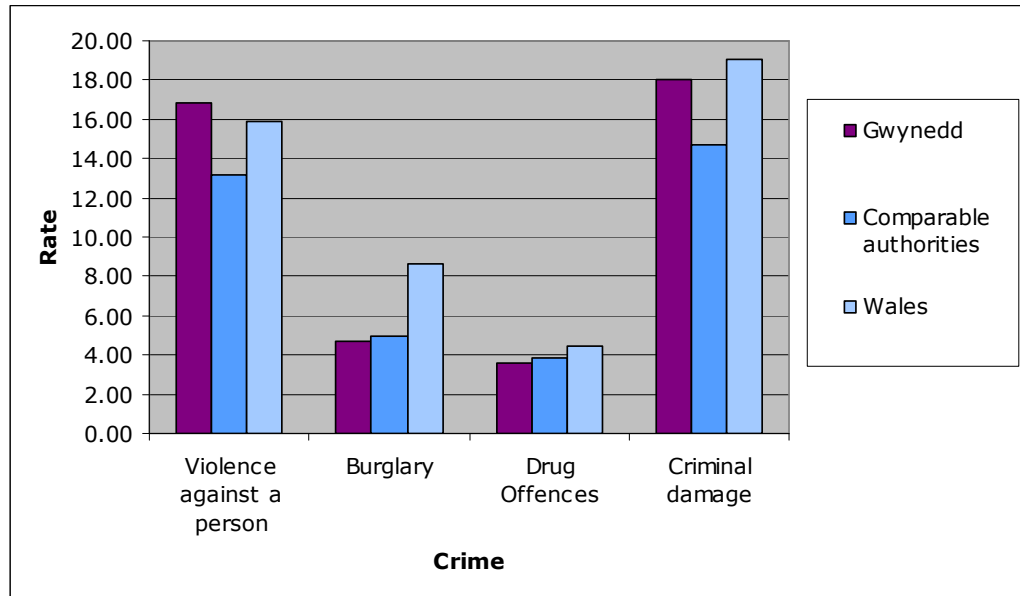
Figure 2: Relative picture of deprivation across Gwynedd (WIMD 2008).



Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

An area that contributes to Gwynedd's overall deprivation profile is recorded crime. Figure 3 shows the level of recorded crime across different categories. Gwynedd had a higher rate of recorded violence against a person than the comparable authorities.

Figure 3: Rate of recorded crime per 1,000 population, 2008-09.



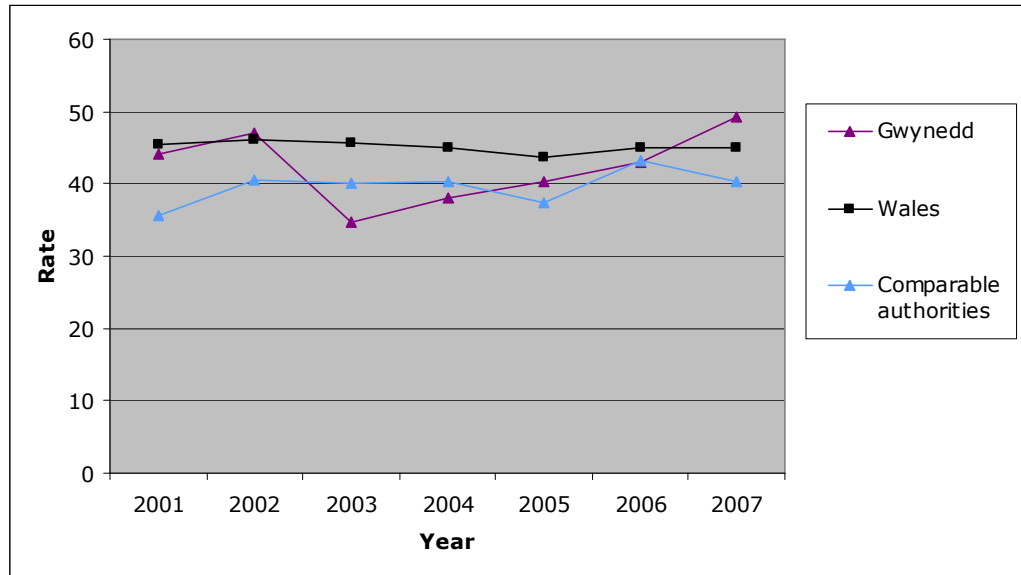
Source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime England and Wales

Health related issues

24% of people in Gwynedd reported that they had a long term limiting illness, compared to 27% across Wales. The number of people of pensionable age reporting a long term limiting illness in Gwynedd was 11,558, compared to an average of 13,497 across all Welsh authorities. In addition, Gwynedd had less people under 65 who claimed severe disability allowance than the average across all Welsh authorities and the average of the comparable authorities.

Figure 4 shows the rate of teenage conceptions in Gwynedd. According to the latest data (2007) the rate of teenage conceptions in Gwynedd increased and was once again higher than both Wales' rate and the comparable authorities' rate.

Figure 4: Rate of teenage conceptions per 1,000 female population aged 15-17, 2007

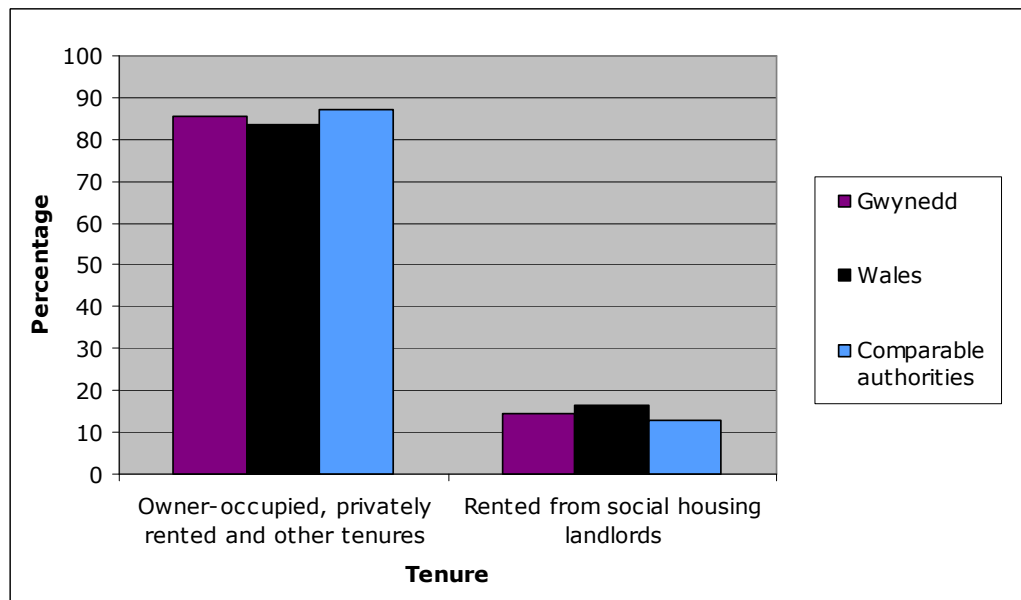


Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS)

Housing

In 2008-09 more households rented from social housing landlords in Gwynedd than in the comparable authorities. Figure 5 shows that the majority of household tenures in Gwynedd were either owner-occupied or privately rented.

Figure 5: Dwelling stock estimates by tenure, 2008-09.



Source: Welsh Assembly Government

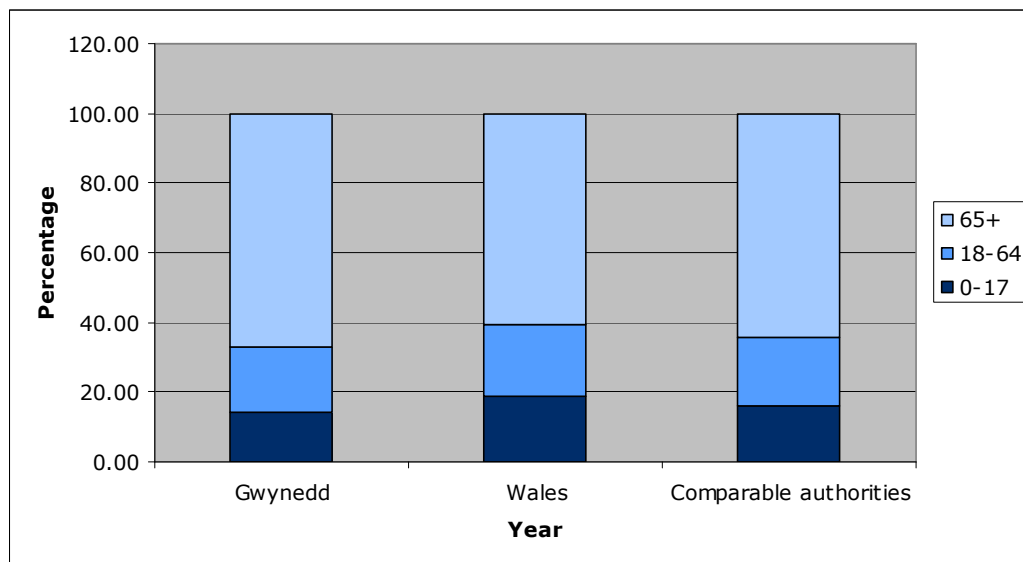
Demands and supply in Gwynedd's social care

This section considers some indicators of demand for social care services and also the authority's investment in resources. As well as giving a general picture, this section considers each service user group individually.

The overall picture

Gwynedd had a higher rate of social care clients aged 65+ than both the comparable authorities and Wales but a lower rate of social care clients aged 0-17 and 18-64. Figure 6 shows the authority's client age profile.

Figure 6: Social care clients split by proportion across age bands, 2008

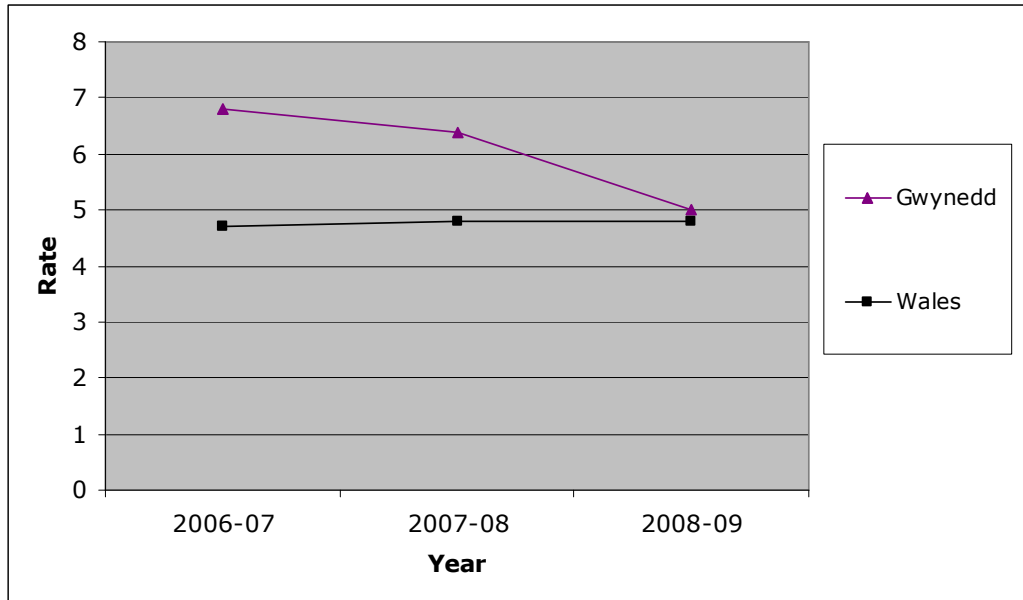


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Gwynedd prioritised 25% more spending on social care provision than the level set out by the Welsh Assembly Government; an increase on the 23% in 2007-08. The comparable authorities spent, on average, 8% less.

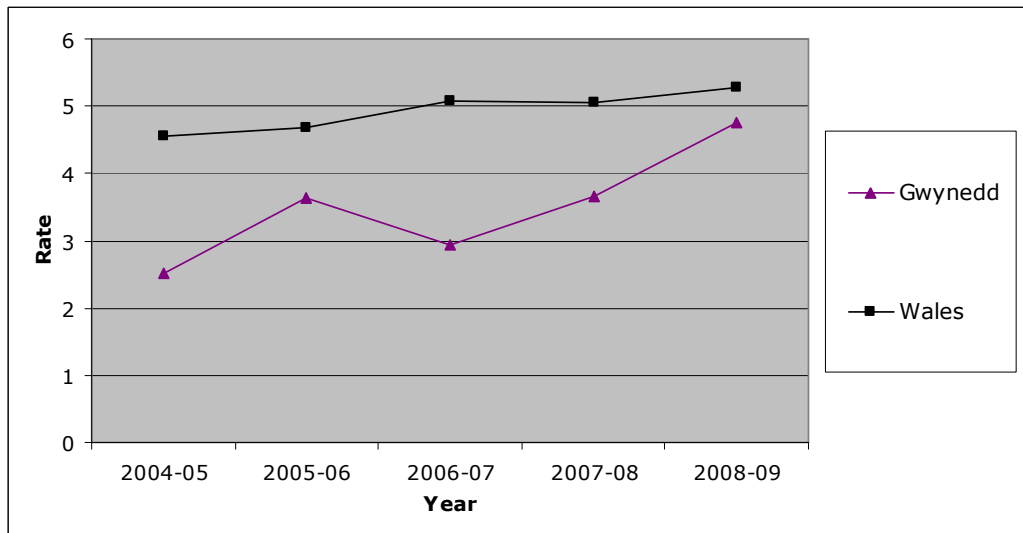
In 2008-09, Gwynedd continued to increase the total number of social work staff it employed, for both children and adults. For the same period the number of social service staff employed across Wales also increased, for both children and adults. Figures 7 and 8 show the rates of social workers for adults and children.

Figure 7: Rate of senior social work practitioners, senior practitioners and social workers for adults per 100 adult service users aged 18-64 at 31 March.



Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Figure 8: Rate of senior social work practitioners, senior practitioners and social workers for children per 100 service users aged 0-17 at 31 March.



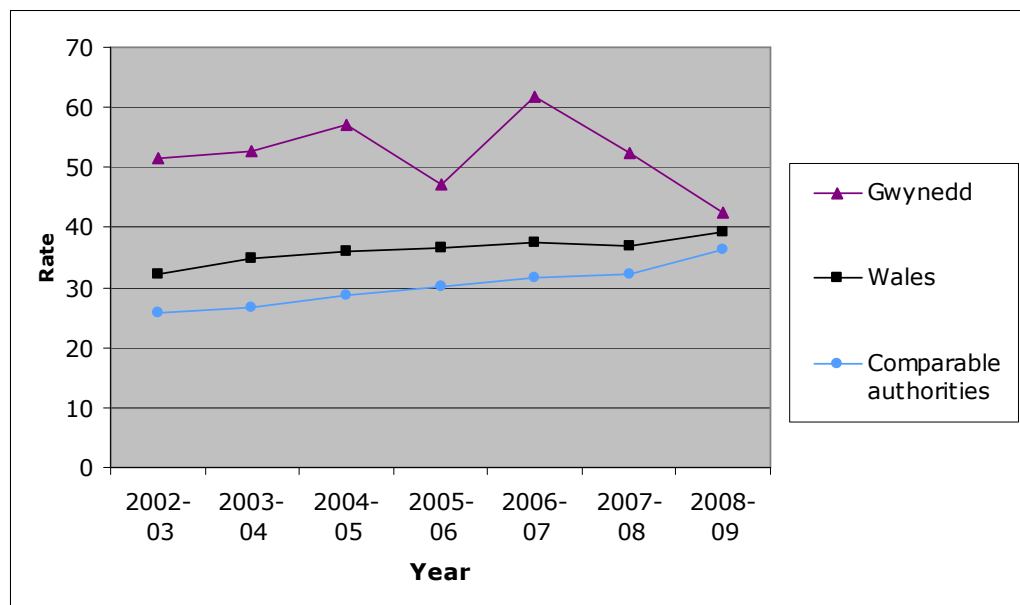
Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Children

According to the 2008 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), 6% of Gwynedd's children lived in areas that are amongst the top 10% most deprived in Wales. This compares to 12% of children across Wales and 4% of children across the comparable authorities. However, it had a higher percentage of children living in social rented housing in 2008-09 than both Wales and the comparable authorities. In addition, the rate of child social care users was, at 43 per 1,000 population aged 0-17, higher than Wales' rate of 39 and the comparable authorities' rate of 36.

Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, the rate of child social care clients per 1,000 population aged 0-17 decreased. This compares with a relatively slight increase across Wales and the comparable authorities. Figure 9 shows the trend over this period.

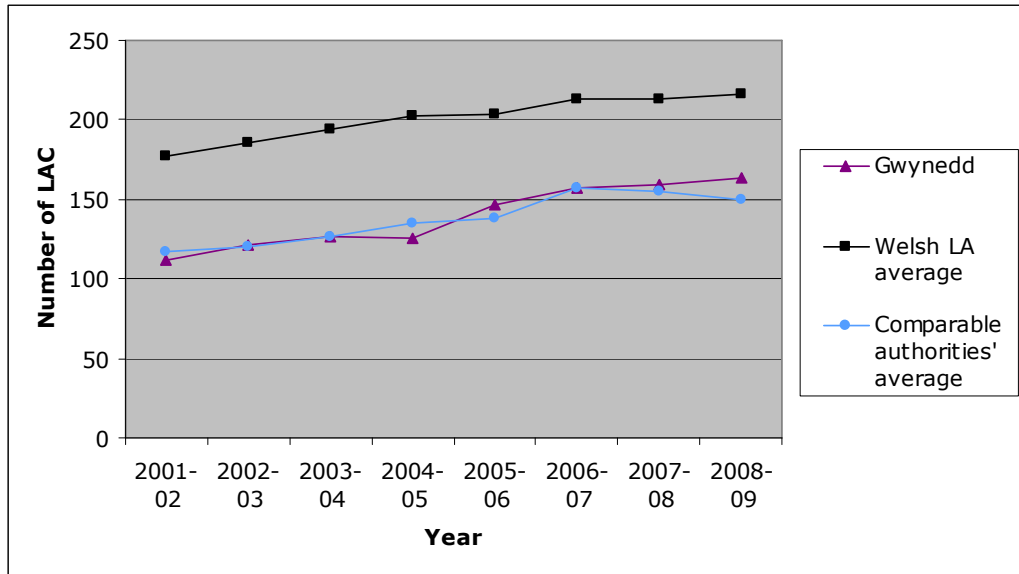
Figure 9: Rate of social care clients aged 0-17 per 1,000 population



Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Children and young people who are in the care of the local authority (looked after children) are a key part of this client group. Figure 10 shows the number of children looked after at 31 March across the eight years to 2008-09. During this time the number of children looked after by Gwynedd continued to increase. Likewise the average numbers across the Welsh authorities and the comparable authorities had also risen. For 2008-09 the number of looked after children remained above the comparable authorities' average.

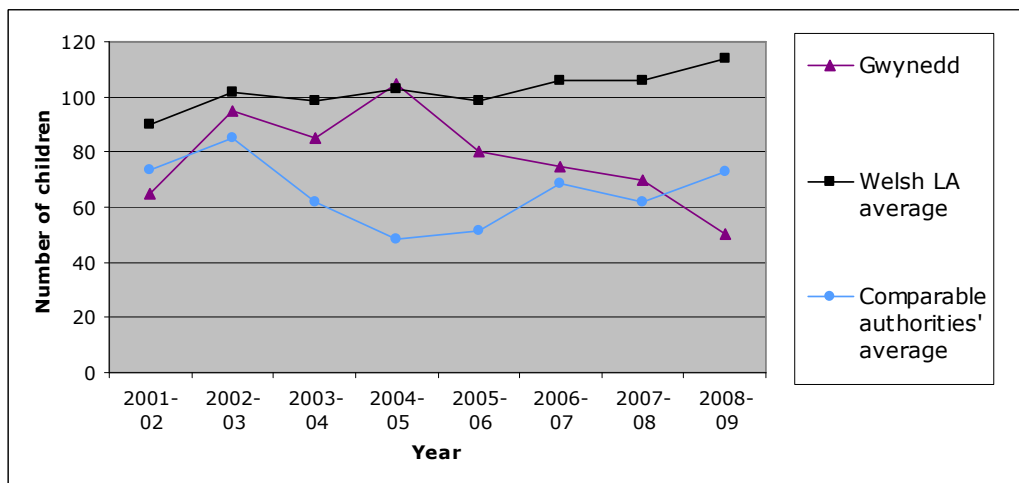
Figure 10: Number of children looked after at 31 March.



Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Child protection registers (CPRs) are maintained by every local authority in order to improve child protection procedures for children and young people. Figure 11 shows the trend in numbers on the child protection registers across the period 2001-02 to 2008-09. It is clear from the graph that 2008-09 saw a sharp decrease in the number of children and young people on the CPR in Gwynedd, whereas both the average for all Welsh authorities and the average of the comparable authorities' saw an increase. Gwynedd's figure was below that of the comparable authorities' average for the first time since 2001-02.

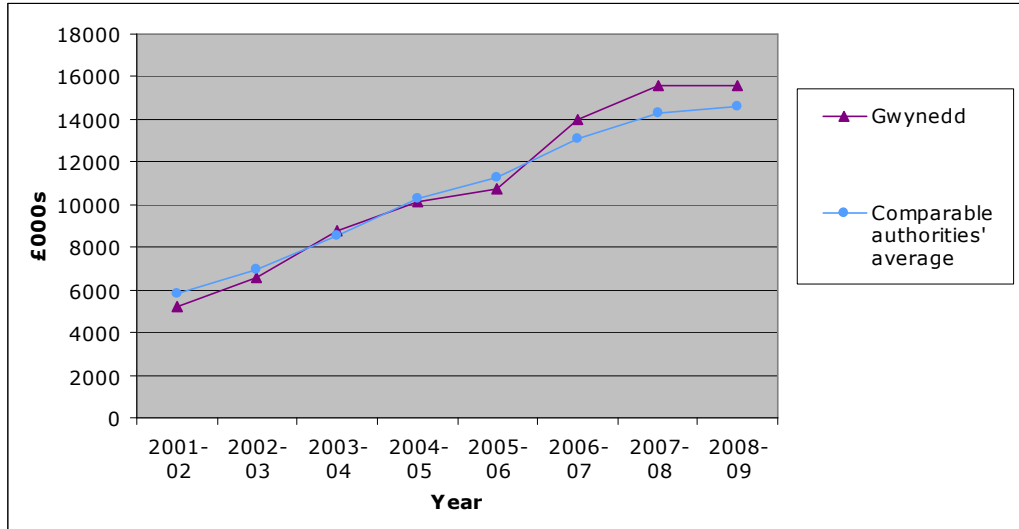
Figure 11: Number of children on the Child Protection Register at 31 March.



Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

In the period 2001-02 to 2008-09 Gwynedd’s spending on children and young people’s services had almost trebled, although 2008-09 saw a less than 1% increase on the previous year’s figure. In the same period the average expenditure of the comparable authorities also continued to increase, at a very similar rate to Gwynedd. Figure 12 shows the trend of expenditure for both Gwynedd and its comparable authorities since 2001-02.

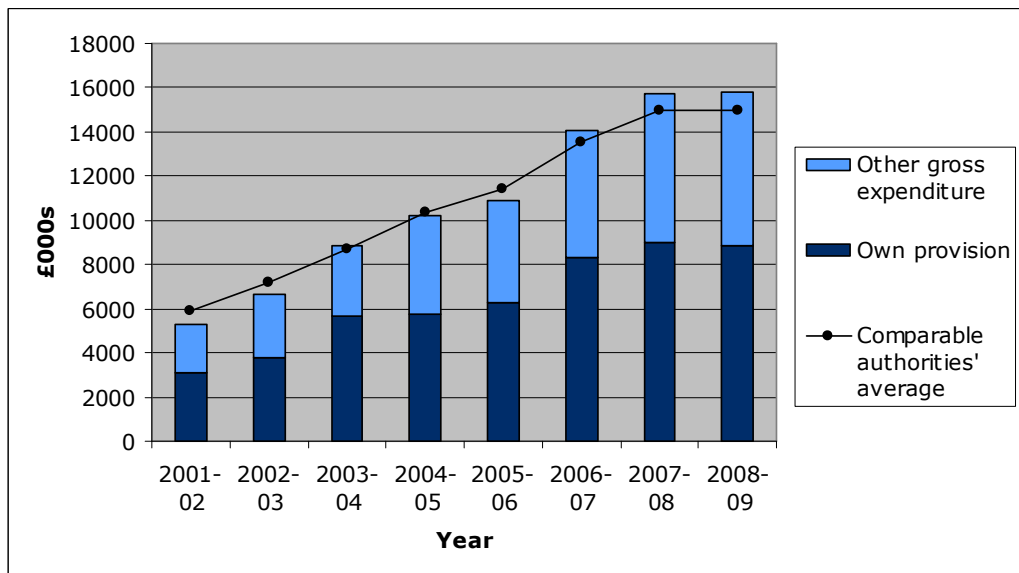
Figure 12: Net expenditure on children’s and family services.



Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Figure 13 shows Gwynedd’s gross expenditure pattern on children and family services. It shows that the proportion invested in its own provision remained steady between 2001-02 and 2008-09.

Figure 13: Gwynedd’s gross expenditure on children’s and family services proportionately split between its own and other provision.

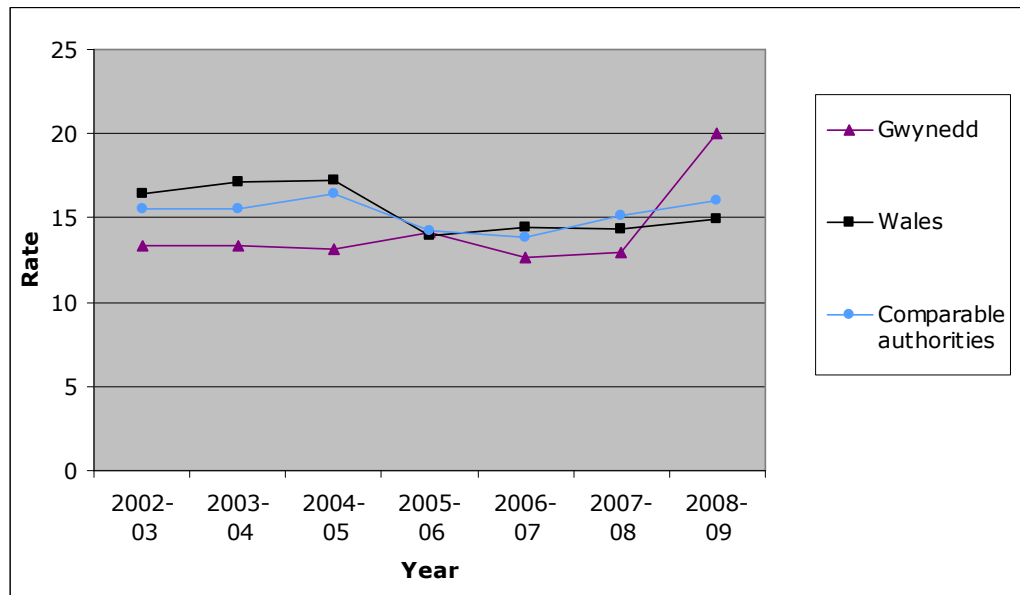


Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Adults 18-64

In 2008-09 Gwynedd had a rate of 20 adult service users aged between 18 and 64 receiving services per 1,000 population aged 18-64. This rate continued to be well above the comparable authorities' rate of 16 and Wales' rate of 15. Like the comparable authorities and Wales, Gwynedd's rate had also increased since the previous year. Figure 14 shows the trend over the period 2002-03 to 2008-09.

Figure 14: Rate of adult service users aged 18-64 receiving community and residential services per 1,000 population aged 18-64.

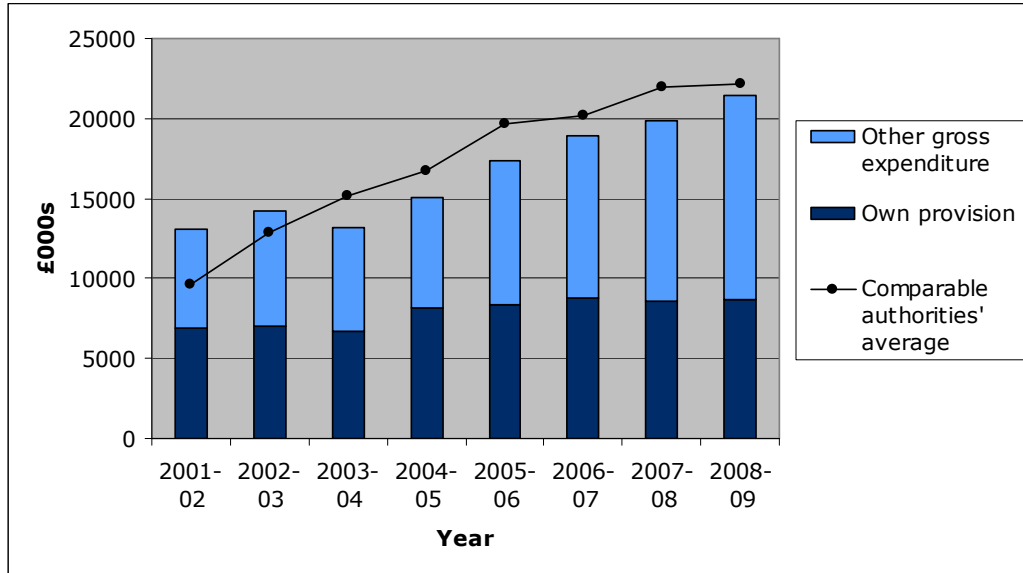


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales. Please note that in 2004-05 the comparable authorities figure does not include data for Isle of Anglesey, which was unavailable for this year.

Of the 1,414 adult service users in Gwynedd in 2008-09, 96% were supported in the community. This was an increase on the 92% in 2007-08. In contrast, the proportion for Wales remained at a steady 94% and the proportion for the comparable authorities decreased to 92%.

Since 2001-02, Gwynedd, like other Welsh authorities, increased its spending in adult social services significantly. In the same period, apart from a couple of exceptions, the proportion spent on its own provision decreased. The same trend is evident for Wales and the comparable authorities. However, while the downward trend continued in 2008-09 for both Gwynedd and Wales, the comparable authorities remained steady at 31%. Figure 15 shows Gwynedd's investment in provision.

Figure 15: Gwynedd's gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 proportionately split between its own and other provision.



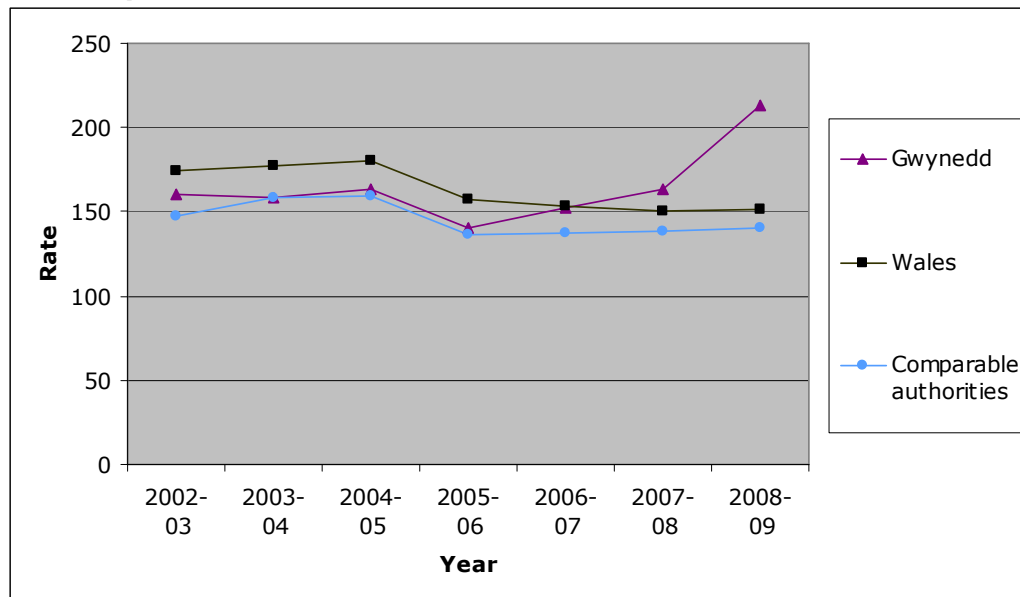
Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Older people (65 and over)

Older people aged 65+ made up the largest proportion of Gwynedd's social care clients. In 2008-09 67% of all Gwynedd's social care clients were aged 65+. This compares to 64% across the comparable authorities and 61% across Wales.

In 2008-09 the rate of social care clients aged 65+ increased by 30% on the 2007-08 figure to 214 per 1,000 population aged 65+. This compares to a less than 1% increase across Wales to 151 in every thousand and a 2% increase across the comparable authorities to 140 in every thousand. Figure 16 shows the trend in the rate of adult service users aged 65+ since 2001-02.

Figure 16: Rate of adult service users aged 65 and over receiving community and residential based services per 1,000 population (aged 65 and over).

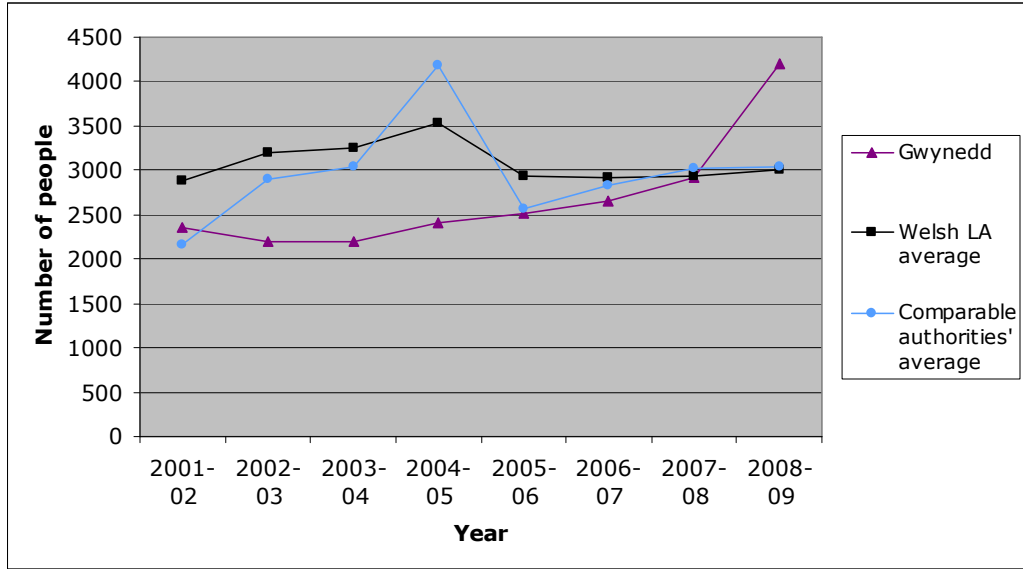


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Of the 4,960 social care clients aged 65+, Gwynedd helped 85% to continue living independently at home. This equates to 18% of the entire population aged 65+. The percentage of clients aged 65+ helped to live at home across the comparable authorities was also 85%. However, while the percentage of social care clients helped to live at home had risen steadily across Wales since 2005-06, both Gwynedd and the comparable authorities had shown some variance in their figures.

Since 2001-02 the total number of service users in this age group receiving community based services had risen steadily, with a couple of exceptions, and remained higher than the comparable authorities' average. For 2008-09 Gwynedd showed a much sharper rise in the figures than both the comparable authorities' average and the Welsh LA average. Figure 17 shows the numbers of older people that Gwynedd supported in a community setting and includes assistive technology.

Figure 17: Number of social care clients aged 65 and over receiving community based services during the year.

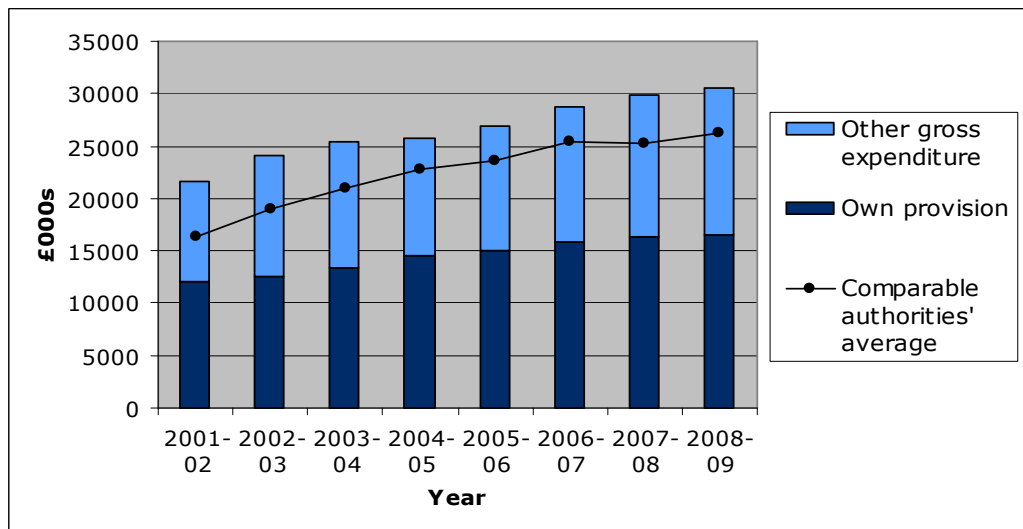


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales

Spending on social care clients in this age category had been rising steadily in Gwynedd over the last few years and 2008-09 saw a 40% increase on 2001-02. This trend was also reflected across the comparable authorities' average. Overall, spending on social care clients aged 65+ remained more than the comparable authorities' average.

Since 2001-02 the proportion of spending on its own provision decreased. This is also true for the comparable authorities and Wales. However, in 2008-09 Gwynedd's expenditure on its own provision remained steady at 54%. Figure 18 shows the trend in Gwynedd's expenditure and the pattern of that expenditure.

Figure 18: Gwynedd's gross expenditure on adults aged 65 and over proportionately split between its own and other provision.

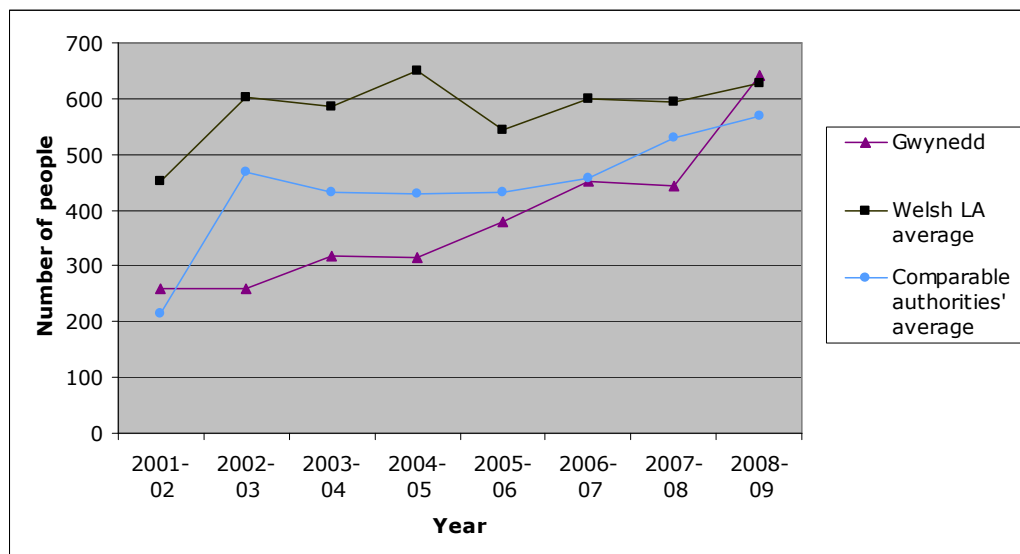


Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Adults aged 18-64 who are physically and sensory disabled

In 2008-09 Gwynedd had significantly more clients with physical or sensory disabilities receiving community and residential services than it did in 2001-02 and, as shown in Figure 19, the numbers were, once again, on the increase. In fact 2008-09 saw a 45% increase in client numbers on 2007-08. In 2008-09 Gwynedd had 641 social care clients with physical or sensory disabilities. This compares to an average of 628 across the Welsh local authorities and 568 across the comparable authorities.

Figure 19: Number of adults aged 18-64 with physical and sensory disabilities receiving community or residential based services during the year.

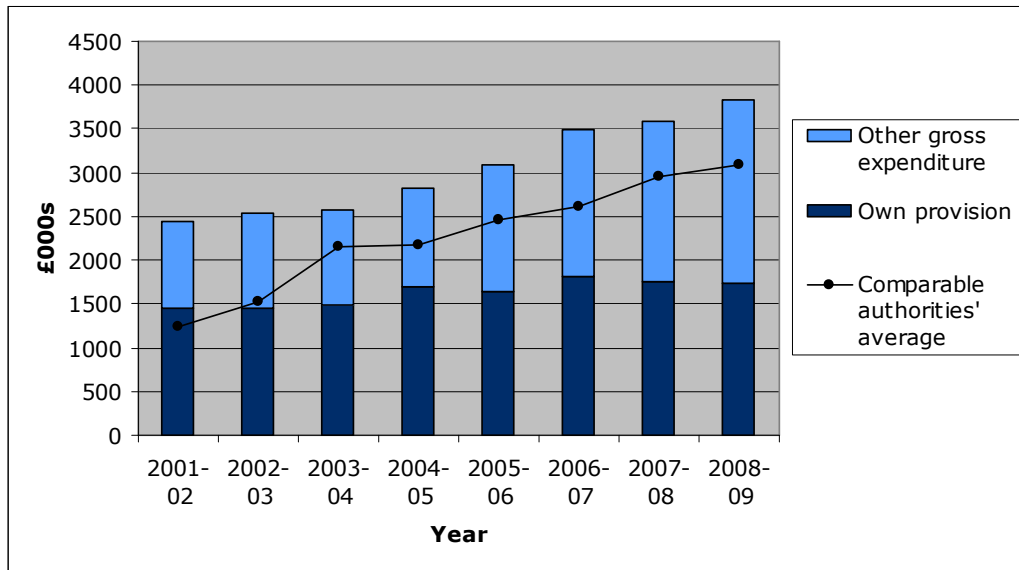


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales. Please note that in 2004-05 the comparable authorities average does not include data for Isle of Anglesey, which was unavailable for this year.

Since 2001, Gwynedd had increased expenditure in this area. Likewise, the average expenditure across the Welsh authorities and the comparable authorities also increased. In 2008-09 Gwynedd's spending level remained higher than the comparable authorities' average expenditure.

Over the same period the proportion of expenditure invested in its own provision decreased. Gwynedd spent 45% on their own provision in 2008-09 compared with the comparable authorities who spent 42% on their own provision. Figure 20 sets out the trend in Gwynedd's expenditure in this area and the pattern of that expenditure.

Figure 20: Gwynedd’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with physical and sensory disabilities proportionately split between its own and other provision.

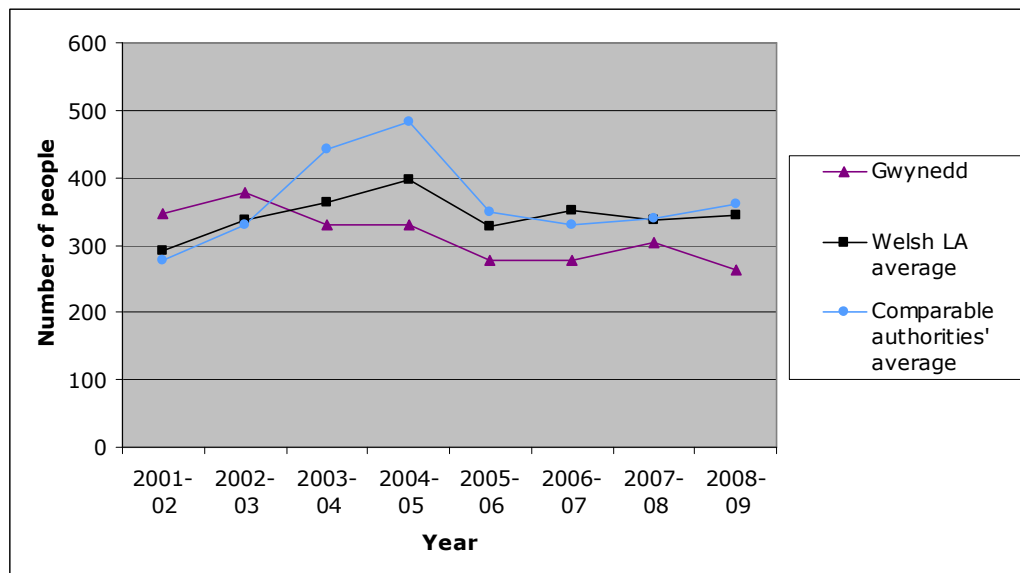


Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities

2008-09 saw a big decrease in the number of people with learning disabilities receiving community and residential based services. Conversely the average client numbers across the Welsh authorities and the comparable authorities showed a slight increase. In 2008-09 Gwynedd's client numbers in this area were less than in 2001-02 and remained below the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities' average. Figure 21 shows the trend in the numbers receiving services in this client group.

Figure 21: Number of adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities receiving community and residential based services during the year.

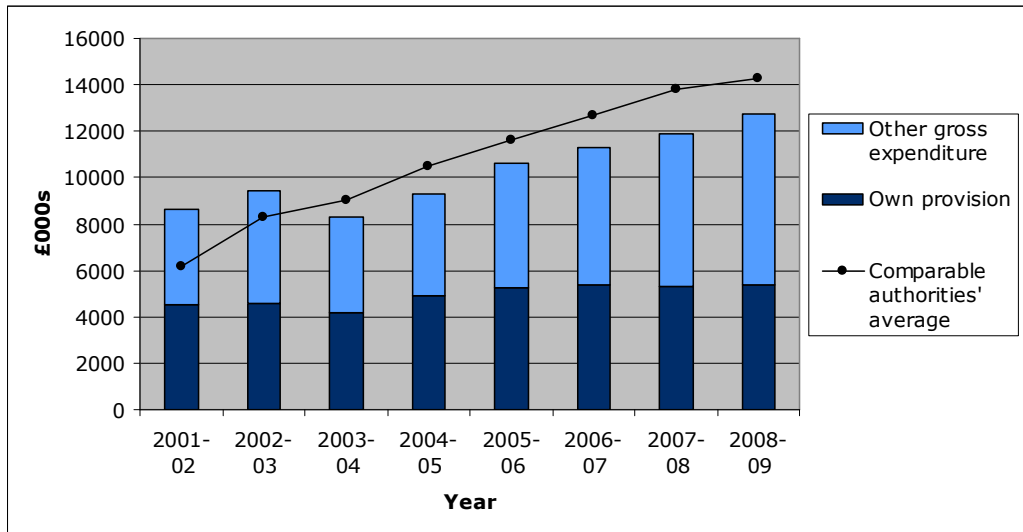


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales. Please note that in 2004-05 the comparable authorities average does not include data for Isle of Anglesey, which was unavailable for this year.

Despite a drop in client numbers, Gwynedd's spending in this area continued to increase. In fact, 2008-09 saw an 8% increase in Gwynedd's spending compared to just 4% across the comparable authorities.

In 2008-09 the proportion of spending on its own provision decreased slightly from 2007-08 and it remained less than the relative proportion in 2001-02. The proportion across Wales and the comparable authorities continued to decrease. Figure 22 shows the level and pattern of spending in Gwynedd.

Figure 22: Gwynedd’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities proportionately split between its own and other provision.

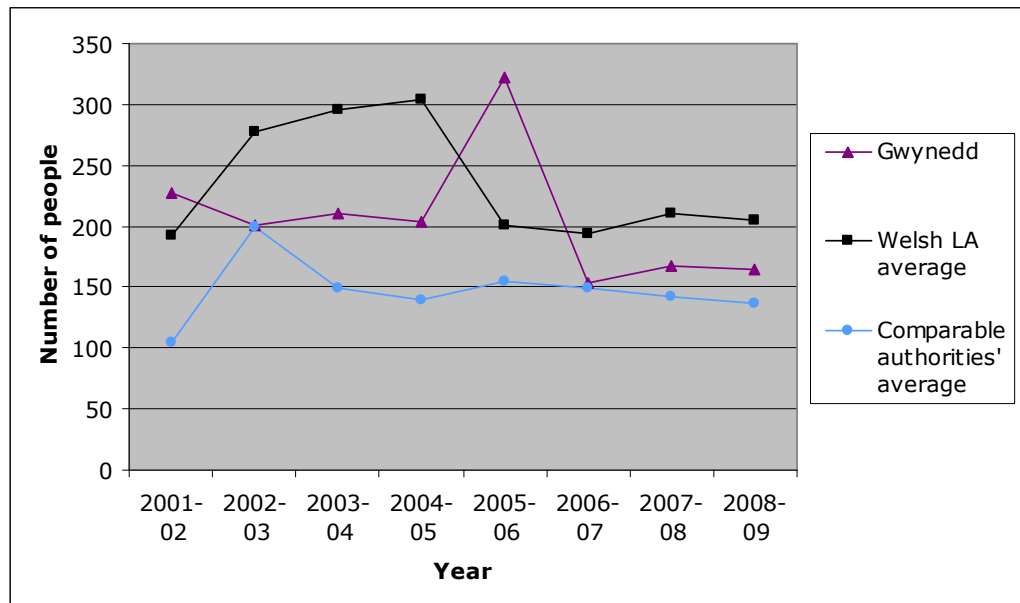


Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Adults aged 18-64 with mental health problems

2008-09 saw a slight decrease in the number of people with mental health problems receiving community and residential based services in Gwynedd. For the same period both the Welsh LA average and the comparable authorities' average also decreased. In 2008-09 Gwynedd's client numbers in this area were below the 2001-02 level, although they remained higher than the comparable authorities' average. Figure 23 shows the trend in the numbers receiving services in this client group.

Figure 23: Number of adults aged 18-64 with mental health difficulties receiving community and residential based services during the year.

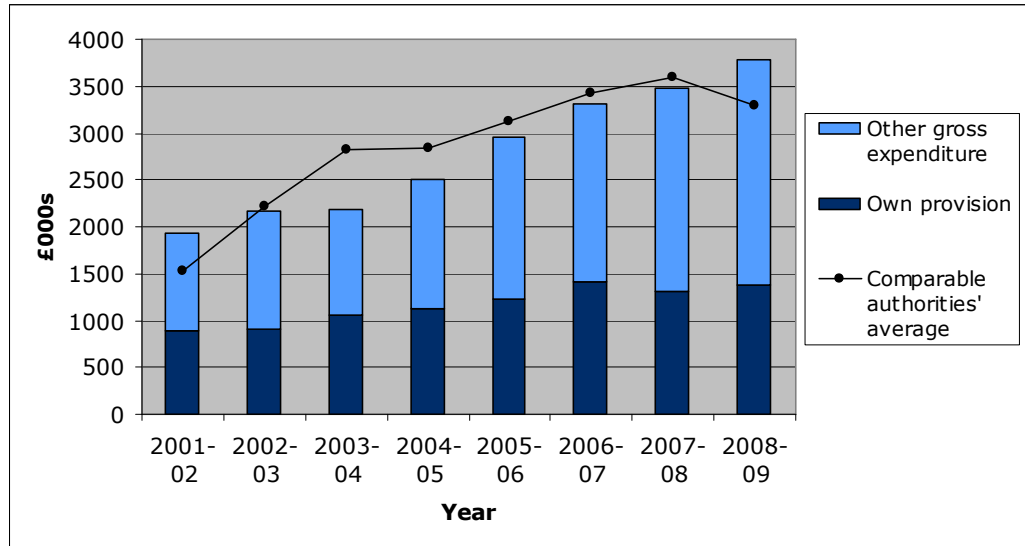


Source: Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales. Please note that in 2004-05 the comparable authorities average does not include data for Isle of Anglesey, which was unavailable for this year.

Compared with other service areas this is a relatively small area of spend. Despite a drop in client numbers in 2008-09 spending in this area has almost doubled since 2001-02. The average spend across the comparable authorities had also doubled in this period.

Gwynedd's proportion of spending on its own provision had been fairly stable since 2001, although 2008-09 saw a decrease on the previous year's figure. In contrast, the level of spending on own provision had increased across both Wales the comparable authorities in 2008-09. Figure 24 shows these trends as well as the split in Gwynedd's expenditure between its own and other provision.

Figure 24: Gwynedd’s gross expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with mental health difficulties proportionately split between its own and other provision.



Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Appendix 1

Arriving at our comparable authority list

To arrive at our list of comparable authorities we have used a [comparable authorities' model](#). This is a piece of statistical software that is freely available on the [Local Government Data Unit's website](#). It lets authorities choose either socio-demographic and/or service specific data (indicators), in order to arrive at a set of nearest statistical neighbours.

This method gives a score (distance), to all pairs of authorities according to the similarity between them:

- We call this the 'distance' calculated, because the method for calculating the difference in a variable is the same as calculating a geographical distance.
- The 'distances' are then combined to give an overall score.
- The smaller the score, the more comparable the authorities are.
- Increasing the number of indicators decreases the probability of getting a 'close' match.

We chose the following variables in order to arrive at the nearest neighbours:

- Population;
- Population density;
- Dependent children in families receiving income support;
- Population aged under 18 in wards with weighted density greater than 1.5 times the Welsh average;
- Dependent children in overcrowded housing;
- Dependent children in social rented housing;
- Population aged under 18;
- Population aged 18 to 64;
- Adults aged 18 to 64 in non-white ethnic groups;
- Severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance claimants aged under 65;
- Households where head is aged 18 to 64 with no carer;
- Income support and job seekers allowance claimants aged under 65;
- Pensioners with a limiting long-term illness;
- Income support recipients aged 60 and over/65 and over (from 2005-06);
- Pensioners living alone in households; and
- Population aged 85 and over.

For further information please see our website.