

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

£2064

The number of Covid-19 support grants awarded to Blaenau Gwent businesses

MyST

The BG My Support Team engages with the whole support network around the child. This include school, youth workers and any community activity.

**Circa
£2M**

The Council has utilised monies to provide ICT facilities across all schools in BG as part of the Hwb Tech initiative

**October
2022**

Council agree its Corporate Plan 2022/27. A strategic document which clearly sets out the priorities of the Council and how it will target its limited resources

92%

The occupancy level of the Council's property portfolio with **736** jobs supported

**650
jobs**

The Council has approved for the Ciner Glass Factory to be developed on the industrial site in Rassau.

**Community
Hubs**

The Community Hub model continues to be strengthened with relevant and focussed support provided to the community in the community.

**User
Voice**

An important aspect of providing Social Services to service users is that their voice is heard and they are able to shape the services they receive.

For 2021/22 the Council's sickness outturn was 16.74 days on average per full time employee. This is an increase of 5.07 days per employee in comparison to 11.67 days the year before. If the COVID related absence is removed from the 16.74 days, the sickness outturn reduces to 14.20 days – which is still an increase in comparison to last year's 9.98 days (excluding COVID).

The next recycling target for Blaenau Gwent to achieve is 70% and if not met will incur a financial penalty from Welsh Government. Currently the recycling rate has plateaued. Assuming the total municipal waste remains constant, to achieve 70%, the Council would need to reduce residual waste and increase recycling by 1562.44 tonnes. For every 1% increase there would be a need to divert 308.66 tonnes from the residual tonnages to recycling/composting tonnages.

The establishment of a Blaenau Gwent MyST will provide capacity and decrease the overall numbers of children in residential care by 2 children each year over the next 3 years. The current average weekly cost of a Blaenau Gwent child to be in a residential placement is £4,000 a week or £208,000 per year. If the goal is to bring 2 children in residential care back to Blaenau Gwent is achieved, this will save the authority £416,000 per year (and offset the additional cost of the team).

There is an increasing number of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM) in all areas of Gwent. These numbers have accelerated in the last year, showing increasing inequality in the region. There are noticeable variations in attainment and qualification levels between areas in Gwent. Similarly, there are differences in attainment between less and more disadvantaged groups of children.



Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent



Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities



An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place



Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient

Between 2010 to 2021 there was a significant reduction in the numbers of young people becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training) in Blaenau Gwent. This reduction was due to the work of the Youth Service's strategic multi-agency Raising Aspirations Group, and implementation of the Early Identification Tool. Continuing work has seen numbers remain low and reach an unverified level of 1.5% (9 young people) for 2021. This equals Blaenau Gwent's lowest level to date and is below the Welsh average of 1.7%.

The total number of adults suspected of being at risk of abuse or neglect reported during 2021/22 was 415, an increase from the previous year where the figure was 394. The number of children on the child protection register at 31st March 2022 was 64, an increase of 12 from the previous year.

In both 2019/20 and 2020/21, Blaenau Gwent exceeded the Welsh Government statutory recycling target of 64%, achieving 65.31% and 64.29% respectively.

As at 31st March 2021 the Council had £28.3M of usable financial reserves. This is the equivalent of 19.4% of the Council's annual spend, the 8th lowest of all 22 Welsh local authorities.

Corporate Plan Priority 1

Blaenau Gwent Council's Decarbonisation Plan

was adopted in September 2020 at the same time we declared a Climate Emergency. Blaenau Gwent was responsible for the establishment of the first Climate Assembly in Wales, which took place online in March 2021

The Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone's

performance at Key Stage 5 (KS5) for A-level A*-C and A*-E grades continue to be strong and in line with the all-Wales means at 99.1%.

The Energy Prospectus

has been designed to stimulate interest in energy development across the borough that will facilitate a supply of renewable energy to meet the future energy needs of Blaenau Gwent

The Council's **Community Hub model** continues to be strengthened with relevant and focussed support provided to the community in the community. The Hubs proactively look to support those in the community experiencing poverty and the options available to them.

The Council entered into a Joint Venture with the Welsh Government to develop **Hybrid Units** at **Lime Avenue**, creating high quality business space, comprising **3 separate buildings** housing **9 units**.

The Children Looked After (CLA) Reduction Strategy and Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy have supported a **downward trend of Children Looked After**, moving from **200 to 198**

Key Stage 4 (KS4) results for Summer 2021 **demonstrated progress** in

Capped 9 and Level 2 inclusive scores

415 adults suspected of being at risk of abuse

or neglect an increase from the previous year at 394.

Safeguarding is recognised corporately as being everybody's responsibility. The Safeguarding Policy has recently been updated.

32 Children and Young People took part in a **climate change workshop**

The Council has successfully raised awareness and understanding of numerous International and National **Equality and Cohesion Campaigns** via social media, as well as delivering on specific Initiatives with staff, communities and stakeholders

What you told us...

I have learned about the lets go

zero campaign

walk to school or cycle to save carbon dioxide

I learnt that climate change is affecting our Earth

Early intervention for homelessness has meant that **75.2%** of potentially homeless households were **prevented** from becoming **homeless**.

1015

Covid-19 support grants awarded to businesses, totalling

£146k to support biodiversity projects

1.6%

(9 young people)

NEET

(not in education, employment or training)

Supported 3,521 shielding residents and 1,353 vulnerable residents during the pandemic

33.3%

Pupils eligible for free school meals the highest of all Local Authorities in Wales.

Hwb Tech initiative Circa £2m for Schools ICT facilities

92%

Occupancy of councils property

736 Jobs supported

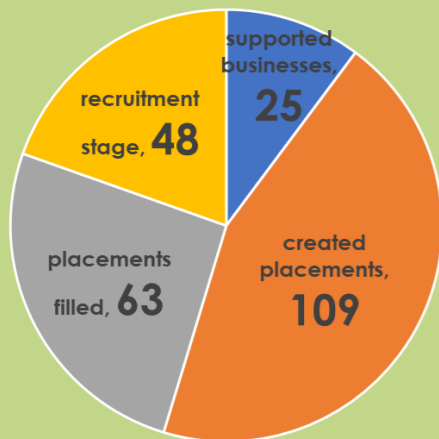
Increase of £828,401 received in our Housing Support Grant allocation

£252,393

awarded to 40 community groups to deliver local projects

Recycling rate was 64.94%

exceeding the national target of 64%



539 reablement packages completed up from 232 in previous year.

86 FOI requests processed

105 Complaints received

64 children on child protection register increase of 12 from previous year.