



Wales Centre for Public Policy
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru

Reigniting Debate on Rural Poverty:

Evidence, Practice
and Policy
Implications

Ailddechrau'r Drafodaeth ynglŷn â Thlodi Gwledig:

Tystiolaeth, Ymarfer a
Goblygiadau Polisi

13 July 2018 / 13 Gorffennaf 2018

@WCfPP

#WCPPruralpoverty



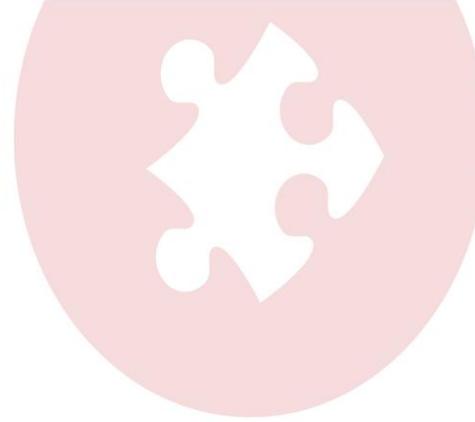
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Dr Greg Thomas

Powys County Council

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Poverty and the Rural Economy

The case of Powys

Dr Greg Thomas, Powys County Council

Reigniting Debate on Rural Poverty: Evidence, Practice & Policy Implications

Wales Centre for Public Policy

Bangor University, Friday 13th July 2018.

Powys

At just over
2,000 sq mi

Powys is the largest geographic county in Wales accounting for a quarter of the country



Powys has
99
schools



The council is responsible for
5,500km
of roads

The county's largest employer with
6,100 staff

Travelling from north to south of Powys is like travelling from Bristol to London



The council owns



150
farms



We look after
5,348 council
houses



The council and its partners deliver **12,767** hours of home care a week to approx. **915** clients

Population = 
132,642

making it the sparsest county in both England and Wales, and home to less than 5% of the country's population



We're home to the Brecon Beacons, the Elan Valley, and Powis Castle



Yn agored a blaengar - Open and enterprising



Powys and Poverty

- Key Challenges:
 - Demography;
 - Remoteness;
 - Labour Market;
 - Employment;
 - Lack of affordable housing.
- In Powys causes and manifestations of poverty are unique, and often hidden from public view.



What are we doing?

- Powys Vision 2025:
 - Co-produced plan focusing on all areas of local government activities.
 - Based on the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, and the Social Services and Well-being Act.
- Four key areas:
 - The Economy;
 - Health and Care;
 - Learning and Skills;
 - Residents and Communities.
- Tackling poverty cross-cuts across all aspects of Vision 2025.
- Monitored by programme boards, and the Tackling Poverty Cross-Party Group.



What are we doing?

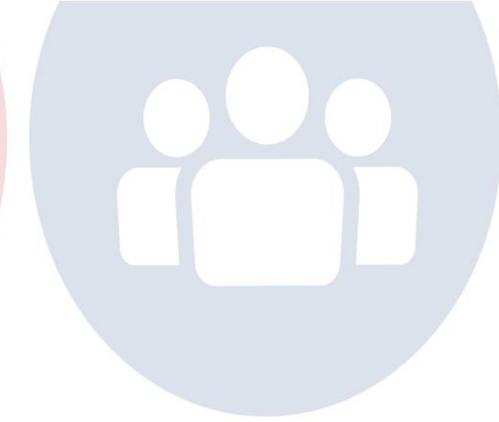
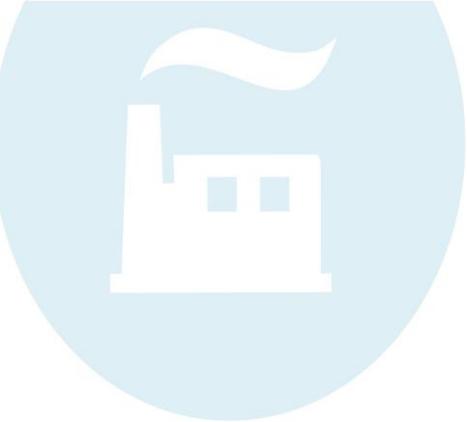
- Providing support for businesses to grow.
- Promoting Powys as a place to live, visit, and do business.
- Improving availability of affordable and sustainable housing.
- Improving infrastructure to support regeneration and attract investment.
- Improving skills and supporting people to get good quality jobs.



Conclusions

- Rural context of Powys means the causes and manifestations of poverty are unique, and often hidden.
- Traditional poverty interventions (and funding) tend to focus on geographical concentrations of poverty. The sparse nature of poverty in Powys means it is often ignored in policy.
- Poverty in Powys provides challenges, but also opportunities to be innovative, and to engage with private and third sector colleagues.
- A new, bottom up, social science approach is needed to address rural poverty.





Thank you

Any Questions?

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