

COMMUNITY PROFILE



(Otterburn, 2022)

INTRODUCTION

A community profile is a structured overview of the social, economic, cultural and environmental characteristics of a defined area. It brings together data to provide a clear understanding of the people who live in the community and the factors that shape their everyday experiences (Hawtin, Hughes and Percy-Smith, 2014). For youth workers, developing a community profile is essential because young people’s lives are influenced not only by their families and peer networks but also by the broader community contexts in which they grow up (Jeffs and Smith, 2010). By examining demographic patterns, local services, cultural norms, and the presence of both risk and protective factors, youth workers can design interventions that are relevant, targeted and culturally responsive (Payne, 2020). A well-constructed community profile also supports early identification of unmet needs, strengthens collaboration with community partners, and ensures that youth work practice remains evidence-based and grounded in real-world contexts (Dean, 2021). Ultimately, understanding the community enables youth workers to advocate effectively for young people and promote positive developmental outcomes within the environments that influence them most.

POPULATION AND CRIME

All Crimes (50)

▼

October 2025

▼

50 crimes were reported here in October 2025

Violence and sexual offences	24
Anti-social behaviour	12
Burglary	6
All other crime	8

(Policeuk, 2025)

Carmarthen has a population of around 189,177 residents according to the statistics ran in 2022, further statistics show Carmarthen holds 6% of Wales total population (Varbes, N.D).

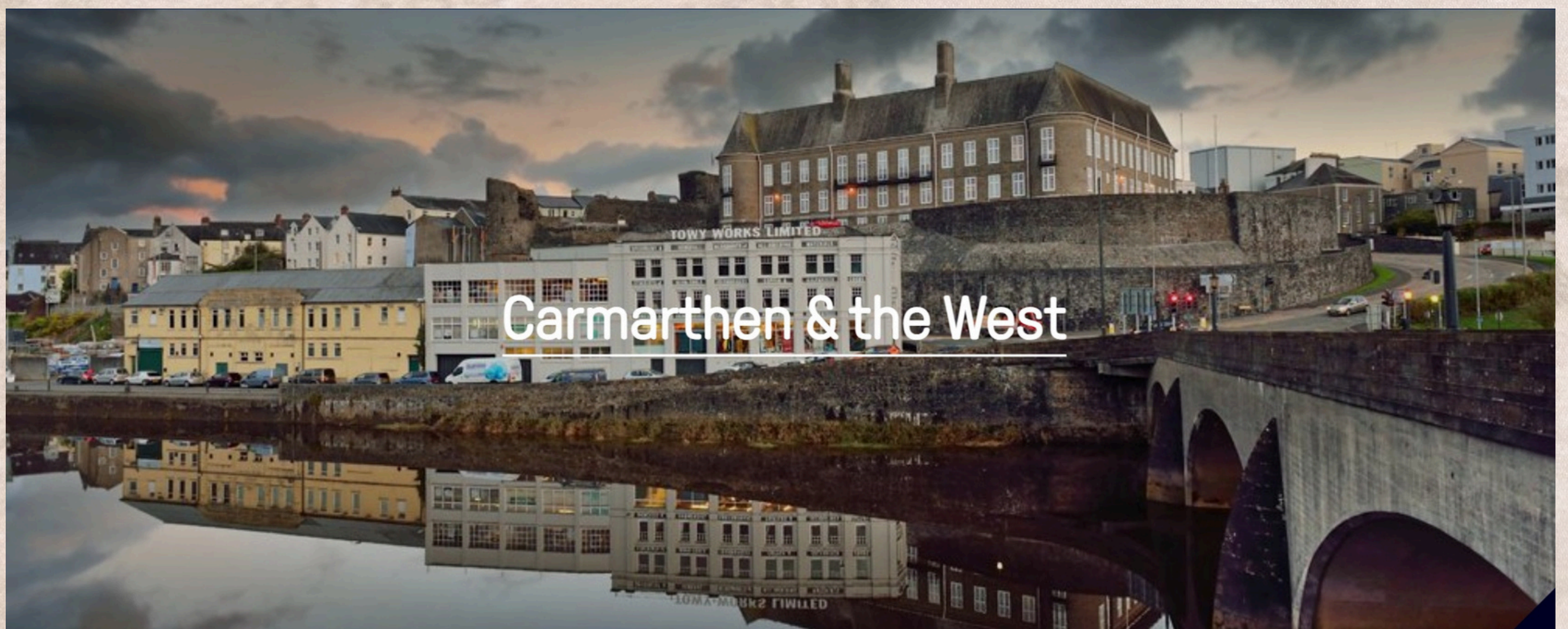
According to StatsWales (2019) around 80,000 of those residents are under the age of 25, having them fall into the young person category.

From January to October 2025, 475 crimes were reported to Dyfed Powys police. Most of these crimes included categories such as violence and sexual offences, as well as anti-social behaviour, theft and substance use (police uk, 2025).

LOCATION

Carmarthen lies along the River Tywi, around eight miles before this picturesque river reaches Carmarthen Bay. At this point, Wales's longest river remains tidal, which once helped Carmarthen earn a reputation as the country's largest port. Throughout the centuries, the river has influenced the town's history, offering protection, recreation, and a source of employment. One of Carmarthen's most renowned early figures is Merlin the Magician. The town's Welsh name, "Caerfyrddin," translates to "Merlin's Fort," and many believe it was named after King Arthur's legendary wizard. The Black Book of Carmarthen—the oldest surviving manuscript written entirely in Welsh—includes poems featuring Merlin (Discover Carmarthenshire, 2019).

A well-known local legend links Merlin to Carmarthen through the tale of Merlin's Oak. The tree once stood near Priory Street in the town centre, and folklore claimed that if it ever fell, the town would suffer misfortune. Although the oak eventually did fall, Carmarthen continues to thrive today. Whilst the river Tywi is a great addition to Carmarthen, it does also pose a risk to the local residents with at least 23% of residents being at risk of flooding (Friends of the Earth, 2025)



(Discover Carmarthenshire, 2019)

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Carmarthen's economy has shifted within the last few years, showing that there were improvements with employment rates, although Carmarthen still faces high economic inactivity such as long term sick, and carers. Although rates have improved in recent years, Wales still holds the highest rate of unemployment, this could partly be because of long-term sickness, and a high rate of retired individuals (Varbes, 2021). Qualification levels are also on the rise and are exceeding Welsh averages, which has supported in boosting employability. In Carmarthen, wages for full time staff is above the Welsh average, but is below the UK average, with Carmarthen having a higher than average rate of self-employment. Carmarthen is mainly focusing on digital and connectivity, tourism and leisure, while also focusing on Net Zero transition (Varbes, 2021)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Carmarthen has plans to improve transport, particularly on the A48, A40, A484 intersections and the Pensarn Roundabout due to them being major congestion points. Carmarthen also has plans to develop walking and cycling routes, including the Towy Valley Path, to support and boost active travel which aims to support mental health and the cycle to work schemes. There are future preparatory plans for transport schemes, including potential cycle/pedestrian paths to Llandeilo. Carmarthen has also recently created an Equestrian Strategy which is one of the first in Wales. This strategy is a 10 year plan to boost Bridle Paths, improve safety and connect rural areas (Gov.wales, 2019b). Carmarthen also wants to improve digital infrastructure through digital technology which should improve services and efficiency. Carmarthen has also introduced EV charging stations across the town with a 10-year strategy areas (Gov.wales, 2019b).

SOCIAL ASSETS

In Carmarthen there are buildings and spaces that the community can use for various purposes, often managed by the county council or community groups through asset transfers (Gov.wales, 2025).

Leisure centres and libraries: For residents and tourists to be able to use for recreational sports, learning and community gatherings.

Community and Day Centres: Spaces for various activities, support groups, and social interaction, particularly for older people or those with disabilities.

Markets: Carmarthen features both an indoor market and weekly open-air markets, which serve as key commercial and social hubs for the town, which also supports local and small businesses.

Extra Care Housing Schemes: Facilities like Cartref Cynnes in Carmarthen provide independent living with 24-hour on-site support staff, communal areas, and other amenities.

Health and Wellbeing Hwb (Upcoming): The former Debenhams site is being redeveloped into a state-of-the-art hub offering various community health services, it is expected to open in 2026.

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

These initiatives focus on community support, social justice, and collaboration, often involving third-sector organizations (Gov.wales, 2025b).

Social Enterprises: Businesses that reinvest profits back into social or environmental objectives, covering a range of sectors including health, education, and leisure.

Local Motion Carmarthen: An initiative aiming to use culture and creativity to build a movement for social, economic, and environmental justice in the town, fostering collaboration among local groups and educational establishments.

Carmarthen Family Centre: A charity that supports families with young children through workshops, home-based support, and group sessions to enhance family life and empower individuals.

CAVS (Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services): Provides advice and support to charities, community, and voluntary groups, helping them access funding and network partners..

Delta Wellbeing: The county's 24/7 Information, Advice, and Assistance Service for adults needing social care support.

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Program: This council initiative encourages community groups to take over the management or ownership of local land and buildings to deliver benefits for local people.

The Bureau: A "One-Stop Shop" providing advice on grant funding and helping community groups to network

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Carmarthen has one university, one college, two high schools, and eleven primary schools. Each school offers either Welsh, English or mixed medium. Queen Elizabeth High school also offers support to those with disabilities and this section is known as Canolfan Elfed. Each school is regularly inspected by the governing body Estyn (Gov.wales, 2025b).

YOUTH PROVISIONS

Carmarthenshire County Council works with young people aged 11 to 25 within Carmarthenshire. You can get involved in Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Youth Clubs, Holiday Activities, Residential opportunities, Multimedia, Film Making and Animation and Outdoor Education. The local council is also made up of 4 services within their young person services; these teams are the Universal Support Team, Targeted Youth Support Team (10-18 years), Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years) and the Youth Justice Team which also provides support from 8 years old. Within the council there is also a provision called Cam Nesa, which supports NEET young people (Gov.wales, 2019c). There is also a local youth club within Carmarthen, known as Dr M'z. This youth club has been running for 28 years, and is a great addition to the local town, offering support and therapies (Anon, n.d.).

As well as the Council and Dr M'z, there are also third party organisations that offer support to people in Carmarthen such as Young Carers, Mind, Hidden Harm, Iechyd Da, Action for Children, Area43, Choices, CYCA, Dewis, Families First, Oneplusone, Teulu Cymru, Foothold, Threshold DAS, The Roots Foundation, Calon Cymru, Adoption UK, POBL, Wallich, Priority Childcare, these are some to name a few. Whilst there are many agencies that can support young people (Carmarthenshire Family Information Service, 2025).

There are also local groups and activities that young people can join such as Carmarthen Quins Rugby Team, Carmarthen Town AFC, Carmarthen Bay Pony Club, Carmarthen Women's hockey club, Young Farmers, Carmarthen Netball Club (Merlins). Actif Carmarthen also have programmes to support young people in being active, these programmes stem from Early Years, supporting a child to be active, community programmes, and the accessibility and inclusive programme (Actif.wales, 2022).

CONCLUSION

This community profile of Carmarthen highlights the complex social, economic, cultural and environmental factors that shape the lives of young people in the area. While Carmarthen benefits from strong community assets, a rich cultural heritage, and a wide range of youth provisions and services, challenges such as economic inactivity, crime, and environmental risks remain present. Understanding these strengths and pressures is essential for youth workers to develop effective, targeted and inclusive interventions. By grounding practice in an informed awareness of the local context, youth workers are better positioned to support positive outcomes, reduce inequalities, and advocate for young people within the communities in which they live.