

Community Profile on Carmarthen town

Carmarthen is a medium sized town with a good range of amenities suitable for all ages. Carmarthen had a population of 16,285 in 2019 (ONS, 2019, p.1) and the statistics show a fairly even spread of people in all ages. This suggests that the town is supportive of growing families and those of a working age and is not merely a student or retirement town.

Carmarthen offers a wide range of social, leisure and working facilities. There are several places of entertainment such as a cinema, bowling alley, a soft play centre and a large park. The town provides a wide range of fitness and sporting facilities. These range from a good sized leisure centre which includes a swimming pool to many playing fields for rugby and football training and games. In addition there are many fitness classes offered ranging from weight loss through to karate.

Carmarthen has a diversity of shops and edge of town retail parks providing all the needs for everyday living. These in conjunction with several industrial estates provide the community with job opportunities. Local work is also offered by a range of agricultural premises surrounding the town which support local business such as CCF (the farmers co-op in Pensarn). Childcare and education are well covered throughout the town. There is an abundance of childcare and creche placements. There are many primary schools throughout Carmarthen and a choice of two secondary schools, one being mainstream welsh. The University of Trinity Saint David offers higher level education.

There are sufficient doctors surgeries in Carmarthen and a large hospital. There are also places of worship such as churches and a mosque, which was founded in 1999 by 3 health care professionals from the local hospital. Carmarthen is not as ethnically or culturally varied

as for example Cardiff, where there was worldwide trade which brought in immigrant populations. Slowly there are more families coming to Carmarthen to live, work or study. I believe this will enrich our community provided both communities can accept one another.

Carmarthen has excellent road and rail links providing travel for commuters working as far away as Cardiff and Bristol, commuters can live in a quiet town and be able to work in larger cities. The west wales coast is also easily accessible from Carmarthen.

Carmarthen can seem idyllic for a working professional or a family but unfortunately like in any other community there are always people who need social, physical and emotional support. These can range from mental health to family support. There is a drug and alcohol problem within Carmarthen but this is eased by drug and alcohol support groups and centres such as Dyfed Drug and Alcohol (DDAS). Carmarthenshire community and council help with regards to funding to support young people in need. Grants are issued to help fund local youth centres such as Dr.Mz. This is a very well run youth club providing a safe environment for young children and adults. Not only are food and games available but there is also a vegetable garden for young people to learn and relax in. This year it did so well the club provided the children fresh vegetable packs to take home.

Conclusion

I feel Carmarthen is a viable growing town which can offer many opportunities to all ages. Like any other town it does have problems with unemployment and underprivileged individuals, social provision could always be improved but does exist as long as funding will allow. Taking a general overview Carmarthen is a town where the majority of people live happily in a fairly safe community.

References

DRMZ (2020) *Carmarthen youth project*, Available at: <https://www.drmz.co.uk/>, (Accessed: 01/11/2020)

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West Wales Islamic cultural Association & Masjid (2020) Available at: <http://www.wwica.co.uk/about-us>, (Accessed: 01/11/2020)