

Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

An Anti-Poverty Agenda for Action 2023



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



A consultation for young people

Hello

Living in poverty makes life more difficult, especially for children and young people.

The Welsh Government wants all children and young people in Wales to live healthy, happy lives. We want them to have everything they need.

But many children, young people and families in Wales are living in poverty.

In 2015 we wrote a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, but a lot has changed since then:



The Covid-19 pandemic put families under a lot of pressure.



The cost of food, fuel and housing have gone up a lot.



People's wages haven't gone up enough to cover these costs.



Local authorities have less money to run services, but more people need support.



Wales has less funding because of Brexit.

We must take action and find solutions in Wales, for Wales. So, we have written this new Child Poverty Strategy to help us fight poverty and create a stronger, better Wales for everyone.



We want to help people in Wales, but some things can only be changed by the UK Government. That includes the benefits people get, taxes and the money we get to help people.

We want to know what you think should be in the new Child Poverty Strategy. We want to check we haven't left anything important out.

Please answer the questions at the end and help us fight poverty in Wales!



Involving people

To write this new Poverty Strategy we have had help from:

1,402 children and young people

1,329 parents and carers and families

319 were grandparents and great grandparents

222 representatives from organisations

People told us:

Poverty affects day-to-day life.

Support should be in the local community so people have help quickly.

Childcare needs to be affordable.

Services should treat everyone with dignity and respect.

The benefit system can be difficult to use.

The rising cost of living is having a big effect.

Information and advice from services is important but it can be difficult to get.

Work needs to be flexible and pay well.

Public transport needs to be more affordable.

The cost of school uniforms, trips and activities is an issue for families.

There needs to be more affordable, good quality housing.





Goal 1: To reduce costs and make sure families have enough money for food, heat and meeting their needs.

We want to make sure all families know how:

- to claim benefits so they don't miss out on money
- to get help with the costs of food, fuel and housing
- to get help with the costs of baby clothes, school uniform and winter coats
- to get free period products in their communities
- to claim emergency funds and support if something unexpected happens.

We also want services and organisations to make it easier for families to get support.



Priority 1:

Helping people get the money they're entitled to – putting money in people's pockets.



Actions

We will:

- work with others to make sure people get the information and advice they need to claim benefits
- develop a Welsh Benefits system that is easy to use and helps people get any money they have a right to
- work with local authorities, Estyn and others to cut the costs of education for children, young people or families.



Goal 2: To help children, young people and families out of poverty.

Helping families out of poverty makes a big difference to their lives.

We want to make sure families have:

- support quickly, in the early years of a child's life
- support into work
- support to claim any benefits they have a right to
- opportunities to develop their skills
- opportunities to get well-paid jobs
- support with childcare and transport costs.

We want to make sure children and young people have:

- the support they need to learn
- support to reach their goals.

We want everyone to have opportunities to get out of poverty. We don't want anyone to miss out because of disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or any other reason.



Priority 2:

Creating a Fair Work nation – leaving no one behind.



Actions

We will:

- make sure everything we do as an employer promotes Fair Work
- lead the way and make sure everyone has opportunities to gain skills and find work
- find solutions to make childcare and transport more affordable.



Goal 3: To support families wellbeing, and make sure children and young people have their rights.

All children and young people have rights, no matter who they are, where they live or what they believe in. These rights are in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Poverty can stop children and young people from enjoying their rights.

We want all children and young people in Wales to have their rights to:

- the best start in life
- enjoy learning, and have the best education possible
- enjoy a healthy life, be safe from harm and treated fairly
- to play and have fun
- be listened to and be treated with respect
- a home and a community that is a nice place to grow up
- have what they need to survive and develop.



We will make sure this strategy links to other plans we have to protect children's rights.



Priority 3:

Building communities – making sure services work together to meet people's needs.



Actions

We will:

- think about communities and how they can support people when making decisions
- look at ways services can work together, in the community so people can get support easily – 'one-stop shop' style
- work with others to deliver more community-based sports and activities that are low cost and support health and wellbeing
- make sure our Communities Policy helps services work together to stop poverty without people facing stigma.



Goal 4: To make sure children, young people and families are treated with dignity and respect.

Sometimes people are treated unfairly or face stigma because they don't have a lot of money. **We don't want anyone being treated differently because of poverty.**

We want all services and staff to:

- treat people fairly and with respect
- not make life harder for families in poverty.

We want all children, young people and their families to:

- have good support no matter who they are, or how much money they have
- have support from systems that are easy to find and get
- be able to say what matters to them
- be listened to and involved in decisions that affect their lives.



Priority 4:

Welcoming – kind, open and compassionate services for everyone.



Actions

We will:

- use the new Trauma Informed Wales Framework to make sure services know how to help people
- make sure schools, colleges and universities know how to support children and young people in poverty
- make sure everything we do deals with poverty and supports children's rights
- make sure everyone gets support and no one is treated differently because of a disability, their sexuality, their culture, or any other reason.



Goal 5: To make sure everything we do helps services work together regionally and locally.

We want to make sure we deal with poverty across all of Wales. We don't want to leave any community behind.

We can't do this alone, we all have to work together. That includes local authorities, public services, charities, businesses and partnerships.



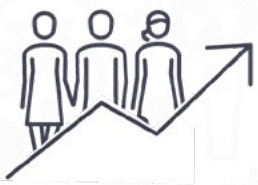
Priority 5:

Working together – across Wales and locally. ➔

Actions

We will:

- make sure our funding and policies help services work together to deal with poverty
- support local authorities, and services to share new ideas and focus their work where it's needed the most
- find the best ways to deal with poverty across the regions and support everyone to work together
- set up a forum where professionals and staff from across services can share good practice and learn from each other.



Monitoring our work

The Well-being of Future Generations Act means we have to make sure all our decisions improve life for people now and in the future.

This law has a set of national milestones. These check if we are reaching our goals for Wales. **Dealing with poverty is a big part of our goals for Wales.**



We will use these **national milestones** to check this Poverty Strategy is working.



We will **report** on these each year.



We will also continue to **talk to people across Wales** to make sure we are reaching our goals and fighting poverty.



Thanks for reading

You can read the full Child Poverty Strategy for Wales here:
www.gov.wales/draft-child-poverty-strategy-wales-2023



Please send your answers to:

 TacklingPovertyAndSupportingFamilies@gov.wales

 By 11 September 2023

Please answer the questions on the next page.



Questions

Just to remind you

? Do you agree with **Goal 1?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Do you agree with **Priority 1?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Why?

Goal 1: To reduce costs and make sure families have enough money for food, heat and meeting their needs.
Priority 1: Helping people get the money they're entitled to – putting money in people's pockets.

? Do you agree with **Goal 2?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Do you agree with **Priority 2?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Why?

Goal 2: To help children, young people and families out of poverty.
Priority 2: Creating a Fair Work nation – leaving no one behind.

? Do you agree with **Goal 3?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Do you agree with **Priority 3?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Why?

Goal 3: To support families wellbeing, and make sure children and young people have their rights.
Priority 3: Building communities – making sure services work together to meet people's needs.

? Do you agree with **Goal 4?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Do you agree with **Priority 4?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Why?

Goal 4: To make sure children, young people and families are treated with dignity and respect.
Priority 4: Welcoming – kind, open and compassionate services for everyone.

? Do you agree with **Goal 5?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Do you agree with **Priority 5?** **Yes** **No** **Don't know**
Why?

Goal 5: To make sure everything we do helps services work together regionally and locally.
Priority 5: Working together – across Wales and locally.

Questions



Monitoring our work

Is it clear and easy to understand how we will monitor and report on our work?

Yes No Don't know

Why?



Other questions

Is this Child Poverty Strategy for Wales clear and easy to understand?

Yes No Don't know

Do you think this Poverty Strategy can make a positive difference to everyone's life?

Yes No Don't know

The Welsh Language is important. Do you think this will impact the Welsh language?

Yes No Don't know

Is there anything else we need to think about?



