

UNCRC

Children's Rights

Child Poverty

Voice

Respect

Protection

# Compliance Report

Our work on children's  
rights and explaining the  
UNCRC law in Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

## Overview

This document explains what the UNCRC is and why it's important in Wales.

It tells you how things have developed in Wales and about how we have a law on children's rights.

It explains a little about what the law says and what the Welsh Government has to do. It also describes the kind of things that have been done to make sure children's rights are thought about.

## Further information


If you want to know more about children's rights in Wales visit:

[www.childrensrights.wales](http://www.childrensrights.wales)

or e-mail:

[childrenandyoungpeoplesrights@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrenandyoungpeoplesrights@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

# All children and young people in Wales are important.

 The Welsh Government is made up of Ministers and the head of the Welsh Government is the First Minister.

Each Minister has a different area of responsibility e.g. health, education and the economy.

Staff all over Wales work to support us to make decisions.



## We are Welsh Ministers.

We want all children and young people to have the best lives possible. To make sure this happens everyone needs to take notice of children's rights in their work.

This **Compliance Report** tells you about the work we do on children's rights and the **UNCRC**.

## What is the UNCRC?

The **UNCRC** is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It's a list of rights for all children and young people, no matter who you are, where you live or what you believe in. They apply to you up to the age of 18.

The UNCRC lists 42 articles – rights that children and young people have to be safe, healthy and happy.

Find out more about your rights and UNCRC articles here: [www.childrensrights.wales](http://www.childrensrights.wales)

## The UNCRC in Wales

In 2004, we decided to make sure that children's rights are thought about in everything we do.

We took all the rights in the UNCRC and sorted them into 7 different areas, called **The Seven Core Aims**.

### 1 Early years

*I have everything I need to give me the best start in life!*

### 2 Education and learning

*I can take part, enjoy learning and have the best education possible.*

### 3 Health, freedom from abuse and bullying

*I have a healthy life in all areas including emotional health and I'm kept safe from harm or abuse.*

### 4 Play, sport, leisure and culture

*I enjoy playing and have opportunities to enjoy sport and cultural activities with my friends.*

### 5 Participation and respect

*I am listened to and treated with respect.*

### 6 A safe home and community

*My home is a safe place to live and I have lots of things to do close to where I live.*

### 7 Freedom from poverty

*I don't have to live in poverty and we have enough money for what we need.*

## What we have done to promote children's rights

We want everyone to enjoy their rights so we have put in place things like:

- **A Children's Commissioner for Wales** – The Commissioner champions children and young people. The Commissioner is independent of Welsh Government. Find more information here: [www.childcomwales.org.uk](http://www.childcomwales.org.uk)
- **School Councils** – Every school must have a school council so pupils have a voice in running their school.
- **Play areas** – All councils in Wales must make sure there are enough spaces to play.
- **School nurses** – All secondary schools in Wales must have a nurse.
- **Counsellors** – All secondary schools must have counsellors to help pupils have good mental health.
- **Child Poverty Strategy** – This helps to make sure we're doing all we can to support children and families living in poverty.



## In Wales we have a law for children's rights

In 2011, we decided to take an extra step and make the UNCRC law in Wales.

This law is called the **Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011**.

The Measure has changed the way we work. It means we have to consider children's rights in everything we do.

The law is there to change the way we and the staff who help us do our job, think about children's rights and how the things we do affect your rights.

The Measure says all Ministers have to think about children's rights when we are making decisions. This is called 'due regard'. The decisions can be about anything – from building roads to deciding on how hospitals treat children.



## The Children's Rights Scheme

To explain how we are doing what we should and are thinking about children and young people's rights, we have to publish a Children's Rights Scheme. The Scheme:

- explains the things we must do, such as making sure staff are trained and that they follow the rules, to make certain we consider children's rights.
- explains our roles and responsibilities in making sure children and young people access their rights.

The Scheme also says that we must publish a Compliance Report.

The Compliance Report explains how we are doing what the Scheme says we should and describes how things are working.

## Who does what?

We have many different people working together to make sure your rights are being thought of:

- **Welsh Ministers**  
All Welsh Ministers must think about your rights and the UNCRC in all their work and when making decisions.
- **Welsh Government staff**  
Many different people work for the Welsh Government. They play an important part in giving Ministers information and helping them make decisions.
- **Welsh Government Measure Implementation Team**  
This team support Welsh Ministers and staff with information and advice on your rights. They do this through the website, supporting staff, giving training, making resources and lots of other ways.
- **Welsh Government Children's Rights Scheme Implementation Group**  
This group is made up of different people who champion children's rights.

### National Assembly for Wales

The Assembly is made up of Assembly Members who are voted in from all over Wales from different political parties. They check and question the Welsh Government on how we are thinking about your rights and looking after all children and young people.



# Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) – what is it?

When we are making decisions that impact on children and young people, for instance policies, laws or projects, we complete a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA).

Completing a CRIA is a way in which we can show we've thought about children and young people and their rights before we make a decision.

A CRIA does not mean a decision has to be changed but we have to prove that we have thought about how the decision will affect children and young people.

We use the CRIA to:

- show that we've thought about children's rights before we make our decisions.
- give us better information before we make our decisions.
- find ways of having more positive effects on outcomes.
- find ways of reducing the negatives effects on children, young people and their families.

A CRIA helps Ministers prove they have thought about your rights.

The CRIAs are available to anyone who wants to see them.

More CRIAs are being completed than ever before - this means children's rights are being thought about now more than ever.

If you don't think children's rights have been thought about you can ask for a CRIA or you can contact us with your comments here:

[gov.wales/contact\\_usmakeacomplaint/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/contact_usmakeacomplaint/?lang=en)



## An example of a CRIA process

We wanted to introduce a law to make sure there are easy ways to reach places by walking and cycling. This is called the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

### **A CRIA was done and published.**

The Children's Commissioner for Wales said the CRIA was quite good but thought that there was not enough about personal safety of children on routes which would be used, such as lights on the routes.

As a result, we decided to change the rules under the law so that children and young people could have more of a say on how the routes could be better.

This has meant that children and young people can have their voice heard and they will feel safer using the routes.




## Raising awareness – letting people know

The law says we must try to make everyone in Wales aware of the UNCRC. We do this in lots of ways but the three main ones are:

**Providing different types of information** – we help people understand the UNCRC and children's rights. We have postcards, posters, lesson plans, activity sheets and lots more.

**UNCRC training** – we make sure there's training for all our staff and others, like youth workers and the police.

 Over 3,000 Welsh Government staff have done our e-learning training on children's rights.

**Participation** – we give money to many children's organisations so they can help you be heard in decisions that affect your life.

### Example:

**Young Wales** – we want to make sure children and young people can have their views heard by us. [www.youngwales.wales](http://www.youngwales.wales)

## Information

We think it's important to understand the lives of children and young people in Wales.

We collect information to help us do this. One way we do this is through the **Children and Young People's Well-being Monitor for Wales**.

This is based on themes taken from the seven core aims for children and young people.



**Example** – we look at the number of children who eat fruit and vegetables on a daily basis and the number of children who have used facilities for sport and exercise in the past year.





## Working together

We know that we can't make sure children and young people enjoy their rights on our own. So we work with different organisations. Such as:

- **the Children's Commissioner for Wales** – checks we have done what we've promised and tells the Welsh Government how she thinks we are doing.
- **Rights group** – people outside of the Welsh Government who help us discuss the best way to do things and come up with ideas from different places.
- **Voluntary organisations** – they help us to understand how things are working out locally and let us know how we are doing.
- **Local authorities** – they often deliver services at a local level so can tell us how our policies are working and tell us if there are any problems.

## Next steps

We are always looking at ways to improve the way we work by:

- making sure more people know about the UNCRC.
- training more people who work with, and for, children and young people.
- working more with others to make sure we are getting the message to everyone – children's rights are important.

Thanks!

