



# Our plan for children and young people

How we will make Wales a wonderful place for  
children and young people



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of '**Children and Young People's Plan**'.

**March 2022**

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 27**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**.



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

# Contents

	Page
Introduction.....	4
Best start in life.....	7
School and college.....	9
Improving skills and getting a job.....	11
Healthy lives.....	13
Making things fair and kind.....	16
The climate and nature emergencies.....	19
Our joint aims.....	22
How you will know we are doing what we say we will.....	23
How you can help.....	25
How we will involve you.....	26
Hard words.....	27

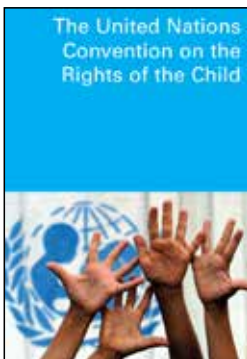
# Introduction



We want Wales to be a wonderful place to live, work and grow up.



We are committed to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**, also known as the **UNCRC**.



The **UNCRC** is a list of rights for children and young people.

Countries across the world have signed up to it. This means they will work to make sure children and young people have the rights listed in the **UNCRC**.



We will think about the **UNCRC** in all the decisions we make.



We believe all our children and young people should enjoy the rights in the **UNCRC**.



In 2021 Welsh ministers wrote their plan for the work they will do until the next election in May 2026. This is called the **Programme for Government**.



The plan includes a list of some important things they will do for children and young people.



We want you to see what we are doing for children and young people.



And we want you to help us achieve our goals.



This document tells you about some of the work we have done before. And what we plan to do in the next 12 months.



This is not a list of everything we have done so far. And there are other things we are working on too.



We will update this list every year. So you can see what we have achieved, and what we will focus on next.



We will talk to children and young people every year, before we update this plan.



# Best start in life

## So far we have:



- Offered childcare to children aged 3 and 4 years old, whose parents work.



- Provided support from health visitors for all families with a child under 7.

- Provided help and advice for parents.



## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Pay for childcare for more children.



- Help families speak Welsh with their children.

- Make sure there are more Welsh language childcare and parent and toddler groups.



- Make it free to enter the **Urdd Eisteddfod 2022**.

- Help more children with their speech, through our project called **Talk with Me**.



- Give free Baby Bundles to more families. Baby Bundles are boxes with things like baby toys, clothes and changing mats in them.

- Provide **advocacy** for parents whose children are at risk of going into care.



**Advocacy** is when someone helps you and speaks up for you.



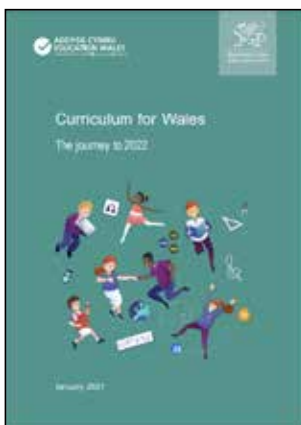
# School and college

## So far we have:



- Made school class sizes for 4 to 7 year olds smaller.
- Helped families who do not have much money, to buy school uniforms and sport kit.
- Provided free period products in schools and colleges. For example, tampons and pads.

## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Start the new **Curriculum** for Wales. This will start in September 2022.

The **curriculum** is a plan for what children and young people should learn at school.



- We will start thinking about if we could, or should, change the school year and school days. For example, looking at how long holidays are and when they happen.



- Support people to use more Welsh, at schools and colleges, at home and in the places they live.



- Make sure all children and young people have a fair chance of getting an education in the Welsh language.



- Pay for more children to have free school meals.

- Keep working to make sure disabled children and young people, and those who need extra support in their education are given what they need to reach their potential.



- Support all children and young people to stay in education longer, if they want to. And to get better results and a qualification.



- Give better support to young people who finish school. Help them to get a job or get more training or education.

# Improving skills and getting a job

So far we have:

- Created 100,000 **apprenticeships**.

An **apprenticeship** is when a person learns the skills of a job whilst working.

- Provided better careers advice.

- Supported people with complex needs who do not have a job.



## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Give everyone under the age of 25 the chance to work, get an education or training, or set up their own business. This is called the **Young Person's Guarantee**.



- Support 16 to 18 year olds to get skills for work, through our project called **Jobs Growth Wales Plus**.



- Work towards creating 125,000 more **apprenticeships**.



- Make it easier for young people to get job matching services.



- Help people learn and use Welsh at work.

- Help young people through our plan called **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework**.

# Healthy lives

## So far we have:



- Changed the law so that no one is allowed to use physical punishment on children. For example, smacking. There is more information about [ending physical punishment on our website](#).
- Funded the **Summer of Fun**, and **Winter of Wellbeing**.
- Written the **Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit**: a set of things like websites, apps and helplines that can help young people look after their mental health.



## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Work with schools and other partners to give children **vaccines**.

A **vaccine** is a medicine that helps people fight off infections to stop them getting sick.



- Help children and families live healthier lives and be more active through our **Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales** project.



- Improve youth work so more young people have somewhere safe to make friends, learn and talk about their problems.



- Continue our work for looking after mental health and feelings in schools.

- Make sure each area in Wales follows our planning tool called **NYTH/NEST**. This is for looking after the mental health of young people from when they are babies.



- Improve the support young people get for their mental health in colleges and universities.



- Provide specialist mental health support in schools.



- Test how well safe spaces in the community work for supporting young people in **crisis**.

A **crisis** is when someone needs help quickly because they are in a difficult or dangerous situation. For example, because their mental health suddenly gets worse.



# Making things fair and kind

## So far we have:



- Given 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in Wales.



- Improved support for **asylum seeking** children, who have come here without an adult.

An **asylum seeker** is someone who leaves their country to escape danger. They ask to live in another country.



- Done more to find and help young people who are at risk of homelessness.

## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Build homes for children with complex needs in Wales. So they can stay close to where they are from.



- Work with children's homes and foster care services to change how we provide these services.



- Test our new housing options for young people at risk of homelessness. We will do this through our work called **Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund**.



- Write and act on plans to improve the lives of people with **protected characteristics**.

**Protected characteristics** are things like a person's sex, race, religion and sexual orientation – who they love and are attracted to. We must make sure people are not treated unfairly because of them.





- Create plans to protect young girls from **domestic abuse**, **harassment** and **sexual violence**.



**Domestic abuse** is any behaviour that causes harm to someone, and is carried out by a partner, ex-partner or family member.

**Harassment** is behaviour that upsets or hurts someone. For example being bullied.

**Sexual violence** is a sex act done to someone when they do not agree to it.



- Carry on with our plan for young people who have been in trouble with the law. Help them settle back with their families when they leave places like prison. This plan is called the **Youth Justice Blueprint for Wales**.

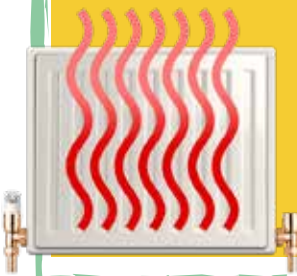


# The climate and nature emergencies

So far we have:



- Argued against things that harm the environment, like mining for coal in Wales.
- Lowered the cost of public transport for 16 to 21 year olds.
- Helped families who do not have much money to heat their homes in winter.



## In 2022 to 2023 we will:



- Ban single use plastic – like plastic bottles and plastic knives, forks and spoons.
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- Help protect nature and wildlife through our **Nature Networks scheme**.
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- Carry on with our projects called **Size of Wales** and **Eco Schools**. These projects teach children and young people about our environment.
- 



- Write a document about working together to deal with **climate change**.

**Climate change** is changes in weather patterns over a long time, that cause things like floods and storms.

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- Start creating a **National Forest for Wales**.



- Work with schools to make roads safer and help children to walk and cycle to school.
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- Make the speed limit 20 miles per hour on roads with houses on.



# Our joint aims



We will work together as a government and with other organisations like local authorities, the NHS and voluntary organisations.

**Working together, our aim is for all children and young people from all backgrounds to:**



- Have the best start in life.
- Be treated fairly in education.
- Be supported through education, training and to get work.
- Have the support they need to have good mental health.
- Have a fair chance in life.
- Have a good safe home to live in.
- Have the support they need to stay together as a family. Or come back together with their family if possible.



# How you will know we are doing what we say we will



There are 9 important things we want to achieve. By 2050 we want:



- Nearly all children in Wales to have 2 or more healthy behaviours.



- 3 out of every 4 adults to have a level 3 qualification or higher.



- Very few adults of working age to have no qualifications.

- Wales to only use its fair share of world resources.



- Women and men, disabled and non-disabled people and people from different backgrounds to earn the same money for the same work.





- Nearly all 16 to 24 year olds to be in education or training or to have a job.

Cymraeg

- Wales to have 1 million Welsh speakers.



- Wales to have **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions**.

**Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** means we do not let off more harmful gas into the air, than we can clear from the air.



Every year we will check how what we said we will do in this plan is helping us achieve these 9 goals. We will let you know about how we are doing too.

# How you can help



We know children and young people are helping each other and their communities all over Wales.



When we work together we can do more.



There are lots of things we, the Welsh Government, can do. Along with people like parents, carers, teachers, youth workers, doctors, nurses and so on!

We would like to ask everyone to:



- Work with us to make Wales a wonderful place to grow up, live and work.
- Choose what you will do to help make it happen.
- Work together to improve local services, and the lives of children, young people and families.

# How we will involve you

We will:



- **Listen** to children, young people and families when we make decisions that affect their lives.
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- **Talk** with children, young people and families to check what we are doing is working.
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- **Respond** to what children and young people tell us.



If you want to contact us, [you can find our contact details on our website by clicking here.](#)

# Hard words

## Advocacy

Advocacy is when someone helps you and speaks up for you.

## Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is when a person learns the skills of a job whilst working.

## Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is someone who leaves their country to escape danger. They ask to live in another country.

## Climate change

Climate change is changes in weather patterns over a long time, that cause things like floods and storms.

## Crisis

A crisis is when someone needs help quickly because they are in a difficult or dangerous situation. For example, because their mental health suddenly gets worse.

## Curriculum

The curriculum is a plan for what children and young people should learn at school.

## Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is any behaviour that causes harm to someone, and is carried out by a partner, ex-partner or family member.

## Harassment

Harassment is behaviour that upsets or hurts someone. For example being bullied.

## **Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions**

Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions means we do not let off more harmful gas into the air, than we can clear from the air.

## **Protected characteristics**

Protected characteristics are things like a person's sex, race, religion and sexual orientation – who they love and are attracted to. We must make sure people are not treated unfairly because of them.

## **Sexual violence**

Sexual violence is a sex act done to someone when they do not agree to it.

## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or UNCRC**

The UNCRC is a list of rights for children and young people.

Countries across the world have signed up to it. This means they will work to make sure children and young people have the rights listed in the UNCRC.

## **Vaccine**

A vaccine is a medicine that helps people fight off infections to stop them getting sick.