

# Children and Young People's Plan.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



The Welsh Government is committed to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and to having regard to it in all of the decisions we make. We believe all our children and young people should enjoy these rights.

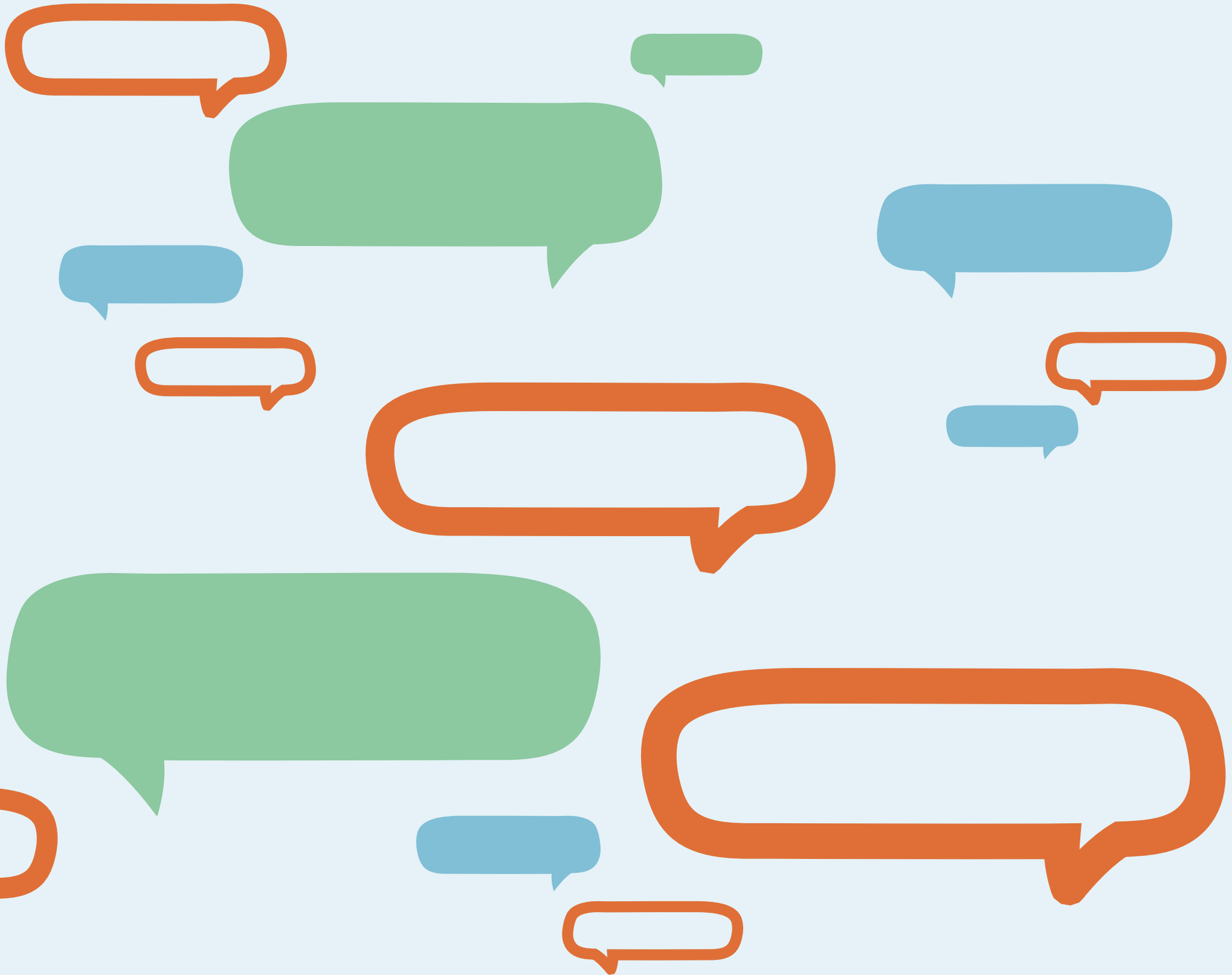
**We want Wales to be  
a wonderful place to  
grow up, live and work,  
now and in the future.**





**Welsh ministers published their Programme for Government after they were elected in 2021. It includes a list of some the important things they will do for children and young people (as well as adults) before the next election in 2026.**

We want you to see what we're doing to turn those commitments into action and how we're achieving our priorities. Most importantly, we want to encourage you to help us achieve our ambition.





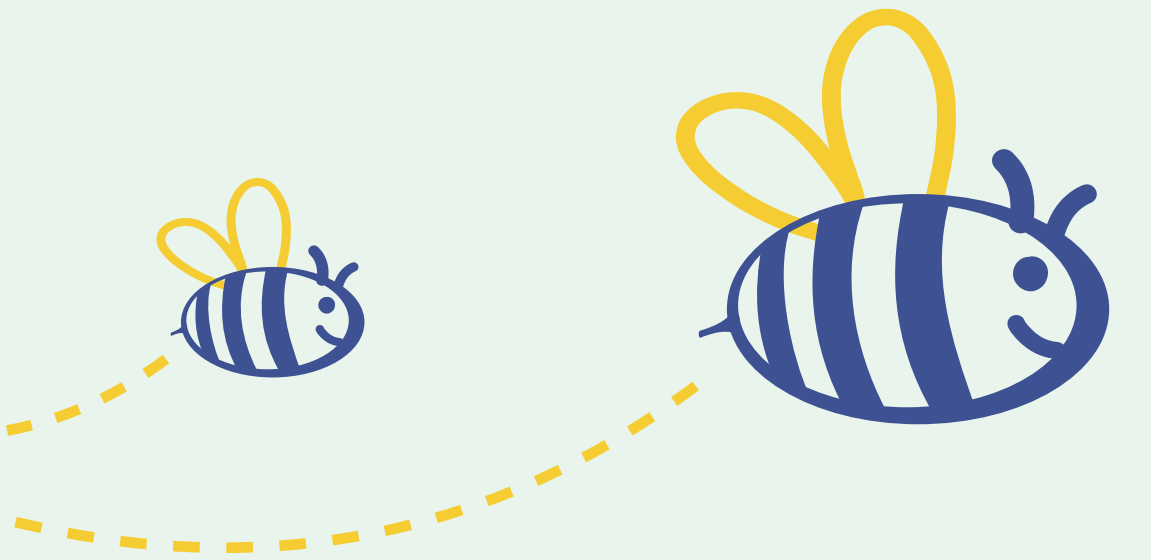
# What we've done, and what we plan to do.

The next few pages tell you about some of the work we've done before and what we plan to do in the next 12 months.

This is not a list of everything we've done or will do to support children and young people. We will take forward other work. We will update this list each year, so you can see what we have achieved and what we will focus on next. Each year we will talk with children and young people before we update this plan.







# Best start in life.



## What we've done:

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

Provided childcare for three to four year olds with working parents.

Provided help and advice for parents.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Take steps to create a single system of early childhood education and care.

Pay for more children to receive childcare.

Encourage families to speak Welsh with their children.

Increase the availability of Welsh medium childcare and parent and toddler groups.

Make entry to the Urdd Eisteddfod 2022 free.

Help more children with their speech through Talk With Me.

Gift Baby Bundles to more families.

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



# School and college.



## What we've done:

Made infant classes smaller.

Helped low income families to buy school uniforms and sports equipment.

Provided free period products in schools and colleges.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Start the new Curriculum for Wales in September 2022.

Start exploring reform of the school day and school year.

Support the use of Welsh in schools and colleges as well as at home and within communities.

Ensure Welsh medium education is more accessible and fair for all children and young people.

Pay for more children to receive free school meals.

Continue to remove barriers for children and young people with additional learning needs or impairments.

Support all children and young people to stay in education longer, get better results and achieve a qualification.

Give better support to young people who finish school to get into employment, training, or continued education.



# Developing skills and getting a job.



## What we've done:

Created 100,000  
high-quality  
apprenticeships.

Provided better  
careers advice.

Supported  
unemployed  
people with  
complex needs.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Provide an offer of work, education, training or (self-) employment for everyone under 25 through the Young Person's Guarantee.

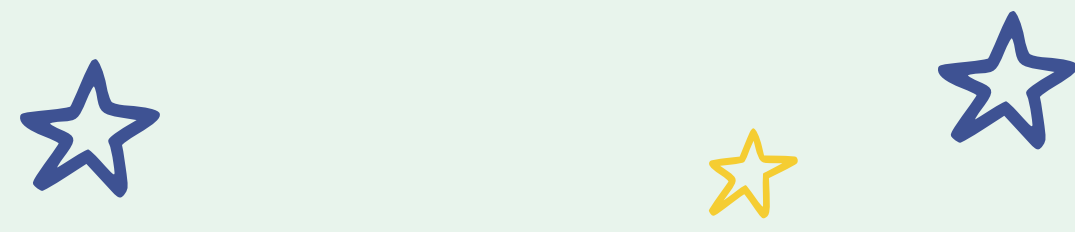
Support 16 to 18 year olds to gain skills for work.

Work towards creating 125,000 more apprenticeships.




Give young people improved access to job matching services.

Encourage learning and using Welsh in the workplace.

Help young people through the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.



# Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.



## What we've done:

Changed the law to end physical punishment of children.

Funded the Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing.

Published the Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Work with schools and other partners to give childhood vaccines.

Help children and families live healthier and more active lives.

Improve youth work so more young people can access a safe space to make friends, learn and talk about their problems.

Continue our work on the whole school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Deliver the NEST/NYTH model across the regions of Wales to improve earlier help and support for young people's mental and emotional health.

Improve wellbeing support in colleges and universities.

Provide "in reach" specialised mental health support to schools.

Test how community sanctuary type facilities can help support young people in crisis.



# A fair society, a kind nation.



## What we've done:

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

Improved  
support for  
unaccompanied  
asylum seeking  
children.

Done more to spot  
and help young  
people at risk of  
homelessness.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Build residential homes for children with complex needs in Wales, so they can be close to their home area.

Continue our work and engagement with private providers of children's residential and foster care, about the move to a not-for-profit system of care in Wales.

Continue to test new housing approaches for vulnerable young people through the Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund.

Improve the lives of those with protected characteristics through a series of action plans looking at race, impairment, gender and LGBTQ+.

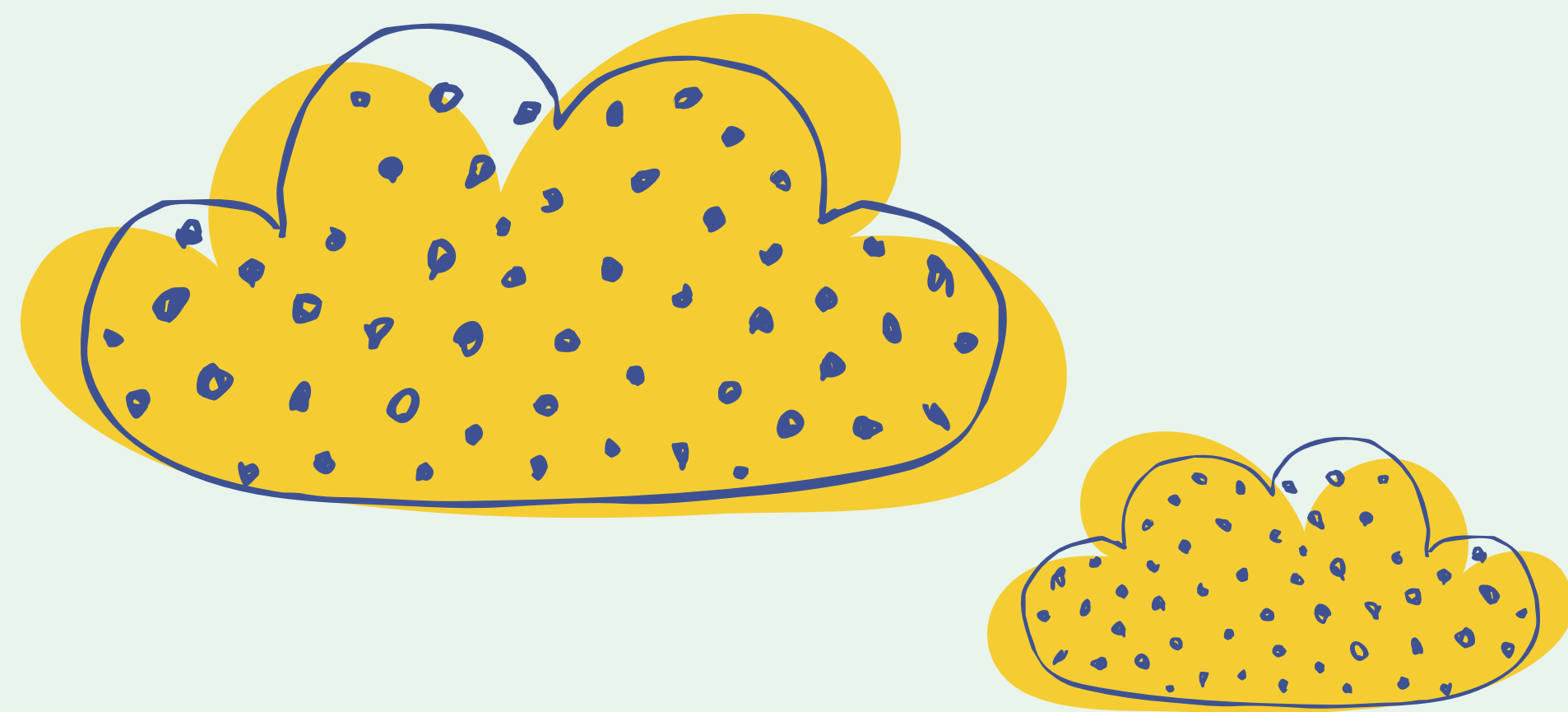
Develop plans to help protect young girls from domestic abuse, harassment and sexual violence.

Continue to deliver the Youth Justice Blueprint for Wales ensuring there is family-focussed resettlement ahead of release.





# The climate and nature emergency.



## What we've done:

Opposed fossil fuel extraction in Wales.

Reduced the cost of public transport for 16 to 21 year olds.

Helped low income families buy fuel in winter.

## What we're planning to do in 2022–2023:

Ban single use plastics.

Deliver our Nature Networks scheme.

Continue our environment education programmes Size of Wales and Eco Schools to give children and young people the opportunity to influence what happens next.

Publish a document about using collective action to tackle the climate emergency.

Start creating a National Forest for Wales.

Work with schools to promote active travel and road safety.

Make 20 mph the default speed limit in residential areas.





# Our priorities.

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The Welsh Government is doing a lot of work to support children and young people, in order to achieve our ambition and our commitments in the Programme for Government.

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# Working together, our aim is that children and young people from all backgrounds:

will have the best start in life, including good early years services and support for parents or carers. They should be supported at home, in childcare and in schools, and when they move between these places.



will be supported to have a fair chance in life.



will be treated fairly. They should be supported to overcome barriers and fulfil their potential.



will have a good and secure home to live in.



will be supported in their journey through education, training and (self-) employment, and when they move between these places.



will receive the support they need to stay together or come back together with their family, if possible.



will be supported to help them feel mentally and emotionally strong.

Some of this work can be done by one minister. Other work is more complicated and needs two or more ministers to work together. Some work is so complex that it can only be done if all ministers work together, as one Welsh Government, and in partnership with other organisations like local authorities, the NHS and the voluntary sector.



# How you will know we're making progress.

Welsh ministers have set nine milestones they want Wales to achieve by 2050.

Each year we will measure and report how the actions in this plan are helping us reach them.

The percentage of children with 2 or more healthy behaviours will be more than 99%.

75% of working age adults will be qualified to level 3 or higher.

The percentage of working age adults with no qualifications will be 5% or below.

Wales will only use its fair share of the world's resources.

The pay gap for gender, disability and ethnicity will be eliminated.

The gap between the employment rate in Wales and the UK will be eradicated, with a focus on fair work and raising labour market participation of under-represented groups.

At least 90% of 16–24 year olds will be in education, employment or training.

Wales will have a million Welsh speakers.

Wales will achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.



# How you can help.

We know children and young people are helping each other and their communities across Wales. Working together we can do more. There are many things the Welsh Government and ministers can do to support children and young people.



Many other people work with, help and support children and young people every day, like parents, carers, friends, teachers, youth workers, sports coaches, doctors, nurses, health visitors... far too many to list here!

**We would like to ask everyone to:**

**Join us in our ambition to make Wales a wonderful place to grow up, live and work.**

**Decide how you will turn that ambition into action.**

**Work together to improve local services and outcomes for children, young people and families.**



# How we'll involve you.

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**We will listen to children, young people and families when we make decisions that affect their lives.**

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**We will talk with children, young people and families to check that we are making progress towards our ambition and priorities.**

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**We will respond to feedback from children and young people.**  
[You can find our contact details here.](#)

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg ac mewn braille.  
This document is also available in Welsh and in braille.  
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