

- ***Our Vision is an age friendly Wales that supports people of all ages to live and age well.***
- ***We want to create a Wales where everyone looks forward to growing older.***
- ***A Wales where individuals can take responsibility for their own health and well-being whilst feeling confident that support will be available and easily accessible if needed.***
- ***A Wales where ageism does not limit potential or affect the quality of services older people receive.***
- ***Ultimately, we want to be a nation that celebrates age and, in line with the UN Principles for Older Persons, a nation that upholds the independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older people at all times.***

<b><u>Creating an age friendly Wales</u></b>			
<b>We will:</b>			
Support local authorities to work with partners to create age friendly communities			
<b>How will we achieve this</b>	<b>Delivery sector /organisation</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
Support local authorities to develop or improve mechanisms for engaging with older people and work towards membership of WHO Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.	Welsh Government, local authorities, health boards, community and town councils, older people's groups and forums, third sector	Ongoing across term of government	<p>£1.1million funding allocated between local authorities in 2022-23 and agreed for 2023-24.</p> <p>Welsh Government hosts regular meetings with local authority age friendly leads to share good practice and monitor progress.</p> <p>Cardiff joined WHO network in 2022. Flintshire and Anglesey are currently awaiting approval from the WHO.</p> <p>21 local authorities have appointed a local councillor to act as an age friendly champion.</p>

**Promoting a rights based approach**

**We will:**

- Raise awareness of older people’s rights amongst older people and professionals
- Work across government and sectors to address inequality experienced by older people with protected characteristics or who experience intersecting inequalities.

How will we achieve this	Delivery partner	Timescales	Progress update
<p>Work in partnership with Age Cymru and others to raise awareness of older people’s rights -</p> <p>Continue to identify ways to embed older people’s rights across public sector service development and delivery.</p> <p>The Older People’s Commissioner for Wales (OPCW) is funded by WG and is an independent voice and champion for older people. Ending ageism and age discrimination is a key priority for the OPCW.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, third and public sector, older people’s groups and individuals, Social Care Wales, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales</p>	<p>Ongoing across term of government</p>	<p>Funding of £100,000 made available to Age Cymru in 2021-22 to deliver older people’s rights campaign which ran into 2022-23. Campaign messages disseminated on pharmacy bags, in printed media and on posters displayed in hospitals. Toolkit and <u>animated video</u> launched in 2022.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Human Rights Advocacy Toolkit</a> and printed materials have been distributed at engagement events across Wales attended by over 400 people. Events held in a diverse range of venues in all parts of Wales, from supermarkets to arts centres. Age Cymru also presented to organised groups, such as the WI. Last August Age Cymru staff, the Deputy Minister, and project participants attended the Eisteddfod to talk about human rights. In October, toolkits were sent to Libraries Wales to support their Age Well with Welsh Libraries project.</p> <p>More recently, Age Cymru has recruited seven older people to be trained as Ambassadors by Professor John Williams. The aim is for Ambassadors to host meetings in their communities to raise awareness of human rights and empower older people to feel confident in talking about human rights. Volunteers have been recruited from under represented groups, such as Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBT communities, and people with disabilities.</p>

			<a href="#">Making Rights Work for Older People</a> Guidance for the public and public bodies updated March 2022 with a video created to explain guidance in April 2022.
<p>Publish An Anti-Racist Wales: Race Equality Action Plan for Wales with goals, actions timelines and tangible outcomes. The plan is built on the values of anti-racism and calls for zero tolerance of racism in all its guises.</p> <p>The Welsh Government is committed to creating an anti-racist nation by 2030.</p>	Welsh Government and all sectors including health, housing and the economy.	Ongoing	<p>Anti Racist Wales action plan was launched in June 2022. The plan sets out WG aims by 2030. The Governance Structure is in place with the first meeting of the Internal Support and Challenge Group held on Thursday 14th July. The Group is now meeting monthly.</p> <p>We have completed the recruitment process to appoint six external experts on anti-racism and eleven diversity representatives with lived experience to join the External Accountability Group. The first meeting of the External Accountability Group held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Prof. Emmanuel Ogbonna and Andrew Goodall, Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government, are the Co-chairs.</p> <p>In July 2022 the Minister for Social Justice issued a letter to Welsh public sector leaders and other key stakeholders, asking them to work with us in delivering the Anti-racist Wales.</p>
The LGBTQ+ Action Plan seeks to tackle the existing structural inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ communities, to challenge discrimination and to create a society where LGBTQ+ people are safe to live and love authentically, openly and freely as themselves.	Welsh Government and all sectors including health, housing and the economy.	Ongoing	<p><a href="#">Plan published February 2023</a></p> <p>The plan will specifically seek to address health inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ older people through improving the inclusivity of health and care provision and ensure appropriate professional training is in place.</p>
Embed feminist principles across Welsh Government policies and programmes via the Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan	All sectors	Long term	A Gender Equality Forum has been established. It is co-chaired by the Minister for Social Justice and brings together stakeholders working on gender equality issues across Wales. The Forum has

			<p>been instrumental in identifying key actions and priority areas for the next phase of the Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan.</p> <p>The work we are doing on gender budgeting and through the creation of our Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units will drive forward important changes in the way we work.</p> <p>Gender budgeting is a key tool in ensuring our budget and tax processes fully consider the needs of all genders and address the economic vulnerabilities of women. Embedding this approach is more than considering process changes, it requires a cultural shift in the way all areas of Welsh Government consider the impact of decisions and policies. We continue to learn from our three existing gender budgeting pilots (Personal Learning Accounts, Young Person’s Guarantee and E-Move), working collaboratively across the areas to share the ongoing learning and inform how this work can be further embedded and expanded.</p> <p>The Equality, Race and Disabilities Evidence Units were established in January 2022 to improve the availability, quality, and accessibility of evidence about individuals with protected and associated characteristics. Their work will help us fully understand the level and types of inequalities across Wales. It will enable us to develop better informed policies and to assess and measure their impact.</p>
<p>Deliver Action on Disability: the Right to Independent Living</p>	<p>All sectors</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the framework is led by the Disability Equality Forum and Strategic Equality Plan Board</p>

## Aim 1: Enhancing well-being

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<b><u>Priority 1: Improve support for unpaid carers</u></b>			
<b>We will:</b> Publish plan to support delivery of Strategy for Unpaid Carers			
Implementation of delivery plan to support Strategy for Unpaid Carers.	Welsh Government working in partnership with all sectors	Plan published in November 2021- delivery over term of government.	<p>Officials providing six monthly reports to Ministerial Advisory Group on Unpaid Carers and <a href="#">first annual update published March 2023</a>.</p> <p>£9million over three years awarded to Carers Trust Wales to establish and deliver a new short breaks scheme for unpaid carers. The scheme aims to increase opportunities for carers to take a break and have a life alongside their caring role.</p> <p>£4.5million invested over three years to continue the Carers Support Fund offering grants of up to £300 to carers struggling to cope with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>£500 payment to all unpaid carers in receipt of Carers Allowance allocated in 2022.</p>
Promote good practice by acting on learning from Age Cymru, Carers Wales and Carers Trust Wales' Sustainable Social Services Grant funded projects	Welsh Government, Age Cymru, Carers Wales, Carers Trust Wales	Implementation of Strategy for Unpaid Carers – long term – end of 2024	<p>Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant extended by two years to March 2025.</p> <p>Funded provided to Carers Trust Wales to engage with unpaid carers. Work to include focus on older women carers.</p>
Raise awareness of carers' rights via campaign and messaging	Welsh Government with local authorities	Short term - carers campaign	<p>Carers Rights campaign delivered in 2021.</p> <p>Coproduced Charter for Unpaid Carers published in September 2022. Sets out carers' rights under Social</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
	and third sector organisations	delivered in 2021  Ongoing via Unpaid Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan	Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and Human Rights legislation:  <a href="#">Charter for unpaid carers [HTML]   GOV.WALES</a>
<p><b><u>Priority 2: Improving access to health and social care services</u></b></p> <p><b>We will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support vulnerable people in their own homes, in hospitals, in care homes, in supported accommodation or other settings, building on new ways of working and innovation where appropriate.</li> <li>• Improve early access to allied health professionals (AHPS)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Improve access to GP services</li> <li>• Make it easier for people to access Welsh language services and use their Welsh wherever they are on their Welsh language journey</li> <li>• Introduce an all-Wales framework to roll out social prescribing</li> <li>• Reviewing funding available to social care</li> </ul>			
Deliver a new five-year Revenue Investment Fund to build on the work and learning of the Integrated Care Fund and Transformation Fund.	Welsh Government, Regional Partnership Boards, public and third sectors	COMPLETE - the new fund will run from April 2022 to March 2027	<p>The Regional Integration Fund came into play 1<sup>st</sup> April 22. Guidance is available at: <a href="#">Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p>The activities funded to support the development six national Models of integrated Care (MoC) are especially relevant to an ageing society, specifically the interrelation and cross cutting relationship between the two Community Based Care MoC (Prevention and Community Co-ordination and Complex Care Close to Home and Home from Hospital MoC).</p> <p><b>RIF funded examples include:</b></p>

<sup>\*1</sup> Allied Health Professionals include occupational therapists, dental hygienists, dietitians, physical therapists, speech language therapists and paramedics.

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Home for Hospital MoC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D2RA, Home First, the role of the Trusted Assessor and What Matters conversations</li> <li>- Carers Discharge Support Services</li> <li>- Community Based Support to avoid readmission delivered by the third sector</li> <li>- Stay Well @ Home</li> <li>- Fast track adaptations</li> <li>Intermediate care: step up/step down facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Based Care MoC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Prescribing</li> <li>- Development of Community Hubs</li> <li>- Dementia Community Support</li> <li>- Unpaid Carers Short Breaks</li> <li>- Community Health and Well-being Teams</li> <li>- Local Area Co-ordination and Connections</li> <li>- Home support services</li> <li>- Reablement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Provide direct, timely access to Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in communities and integrated health and well-being centres via delivery of the <a href="#">Allied Health Professional Framework for Wales</a></p>	<p>Health boards, local authorities, third sector</p>	<p>Long term and ongoing</p>	<p>The AHP Framework Programme Team are now in place and are working to a programme of transformation, including earlier and more direct access to AHPs. AHP Professional Collaboratives have now been established in each health region to provide advice to Pan Cluster Planning Groups of the most effective way to provide locality based AHP services.</p> <p>The Programme for Government commitment to increase access to wider professionals in Primary Care includes AHPs. We have commissioned research to gain views from the public in Wales around accessing primary care services, including allied health professions, and understand what 'good access' means to people in Wales. The findings will help</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>inform policy development, delivery and in particular decisions made around improving access.</p> <p>On 24 January 2023, the Minister for Health and Social Services announced £5m to increase the number of allied health professionals (AHPs) and increase access to community-based care to help people remain active and independent.</p>
<p>Recruit more GPs by launching the <a href="#">This is Wales: Train Work Live</a></p>	<p>Welsh Government/ NHS Wales</p>	<p>Medium term – life of campaign</p>	<p>The GP speciality training programme has been significantly expanded over the past three years and since the launch of the Train Work Live campaign, there has been a significant increase in the fill rate for GP training. The current recruitment target of 160 new GP trainees each year is consistently being achieved.</p> <p>The Train Work Live marketing campaign has worked with partners to deliver a significant increase in the take up GP training places over recent years. A total of 175 trainees were recruited in 2022.</p> <p>We have also provided financial incentives to attract GP trainees to speciality training schemes in north and west Wales, areas that are historically difficult to recruit to.</p> <p>We continue to invest in increasing training places for GPs and this is reflected in the current data.</p>
<p>Delivering the <a href="#">Primary Care Model for Wales</a> - priorities for action include prevention, a 24/7 service, the multi professional workforce, data and digital technology, communication and engagement, cluster working.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, NHS Wales</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>Organisations are expected to monitor and deliver their plans for innovative and integrated models of care.</p> <p>Organisations should demonstrate with specific and measurable actions in their integrated medium-term plans (IMTP) how they are working with partners, service users and carers to create seamless services. In particular, there should</p>



How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>be a focus on the priority areas for integration under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (older people with complex needs and long-term conditions – including dementia, people with learning disabilities, carers).</p>
<p>Implement changes to GP contract to improve access to appointments - £12million of investment announced in December 2021.</p> <p>Reform of the national primary care contracts.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, NHS Wales</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>The first phase of the General Medical Services (GMS) Access Standards was introduced in April 2019 and focussed on systems and processes to make it easier for patients to contact their GP practice. At the end of March 2022, 89% of GP practices across Wales had achieved all the standards, compared to 76% in March 2021. These initial standards will become mandated for all through the GMS contract from 1 April 2023.</p> <p>The second phase of standards were introduced in April 2022, these aim to ensure practices take a forward-looking and planned approach to managing patient need, addressing the 8am bottleneck we know has been an ongoing issue. This Access Commitment requires GP practices to adopt a blended model of access, offering a mix of remote, face-to-face, urgent, on-the-day and pre-bookable appointments. Patient feedback supports this blended model, with many patients appreciating a telephone consultation to avoid the need to take time out to travel to the surgery, or the ability to seek non-urgent advice using digital software, whilst there are others who prefer a more traditional approach.</p> <p>The aim of the Access Commitment is to ensure patients who have less urgent or routine needs do not need to contact their GP practice multiple times but are instead given an appointment scheduled for an appropriate date and time, which may be in the future.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			Practices have until 31 March 2023 to demonstrate achievement of this commitment. By this date, they will need to demonstrate to health boards the improvements they have made to reflect the access needs of their patients.
Promotion of active offer and delivery of <a href="#">More than Just Words</a> - the Welsh Government's strategic framework for Welsh language services in health, social services and social care.	Local health boards, local authorities, third sector	Long term	<p>A new More Than Just Words plan was launched in August 2022. As part of implementing the plan a new mandatory Welsh language awareness course was launched for NHS staff which explains the importance of the Welsh language in delivering services.</p> <p>The first annual report on progress with the actions in More Than Just Words will be published in Summer 2023. An Advisory Board is in the process of being established to monitor and scrutinise progress.</p>
The Dementia Action Plan published in February 2018 outlines our vision for dementia care and support in Wales.	Welsh Government	Work priorities currently focussed on 2022.	<p>The evaluation of the Dementia Action Plan has been delayed due to the pandemic but is currently ongoing. The report will include a literature review and a focus on primary research. This will include two phases. Phase 1, which involves engaging with stakeholders, professionals, and other frontline staff as well as persons living with dementia (PLWD), families and carers, via interviews and focus groups is ongoing with an interim report due this summer. Phase 2 will further this research through follow up questionnaires, qualitative depth interviews and small discussion groups with the aim of publishing full reports on phase 1 and 2 by May 2024.</p> <p>The evaluation will inform our successor arrangements and officials will be working closely with The Dementia Oversight Implementation and Impact Group going forward.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>Embed social prescribing as part of self-management and prevention services, aligned to primary and community services. secure quality, governance and supervision for social prescribers via AHPs services</p>	<p>Local health boards, local authorities, Welsh Government, third sector</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>The national framework for social prescribing consultation period closed October 2022. The consultation feedback analysis is currently being considered and used to help inform the development of the structure and work programme which will be implemented to develop the framework. Part of the framework will be guidance relating to monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Libraries work with several organisations to deliver health and wellbeing campaigns across Wales. We provide funding for social prescribing through the Reading Well campaign.</p>
<p>An Expert Group, created as part of Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru has been formed to provide recommendations on practical next steps which can be taken towards the creation of a National Care Service where care is free at the point of need.</p>	<p>Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru Designated Members working with Expert Group</p>	<p>Short-term – Primary aim takes Group up to April 2022</p>	<p>The Co-operation Agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru described a shared ambition for the creation of a National Care Service which is free at the point of need. It committed to social care remaining a responsibility of local government and continuing as a public service, embedded in the shared commitment to equalities and human rights and where the service user voice is clearly heard.</p> <p>An Expert Group was established by Ministers and the Plaid Cymru Designated Member. They met between February and September 2022. The membership included individuals with backgrounds in social care, local government, finance and economics, the trade union movement, academia and those with experience of caring and the interface between social care and the NHS.</p> <p>The Expert Group's role was to prepare recommendations on practical steps which can be taken towards this shared ambition. This is with a view to agreeing an implementation plan by the end of 2023.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>The Expert Group's report has now been published and is available <a href="#">here</a>:</p> <p>The Expert Group has produced a thorough and detailed report with far-ranging recommendations about how a national care service could be developed. These recommendations are being thoroughly considered and discussed, particularly in the context of the very difficult financial situation, which has arisen since this work began.</p> <p>Officials are currently finalising the development of Draft Implementation plan comprising a three staged approach.</p> <p>A further statement is to be made in due course once Ministers and the Plaid Cymru Designated Member have had opportunity to consider this implementation plan in detail and determined the appropriate next steps.</p>
<p>Consider a sustainable way forward for Wales' adult social care charging.</p>	<p>Welsh Government working with social care sector</p>	<p>Long term – over current term of government</p>	<p>A sustainable way forward for Wales' adult social care charging will be considered in the context of the next steps arising from the Expert Group's report.</p>
<p>Continue to promote the <a href="#">Armed Forces Covenant: Healthcare Priority for Veterans</a></p> <p>Monitor the numbers of 50+ year old veterans who are recorded as 'veterans' in accordance with the Covenant.</p>	<p>Welsh Government working with NHS and third sector</p>	<p>Long term (2021-2026). Over current term of Government</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In 2021, around 115,000 people in Wales reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 4.5% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
Publication of a national framework for the delivery of bereavement care.	Welsh Government	Long term (Grant from 2021 – 2024)	Work is ongoing to implement the National Framework for the Delivery of Bereavement Care in Wales. We are embedding National Bereavement standards into the NHS Delivery Framework from April 2023, allowing us to hold health boards to account and to measure the impact of the Bereavement Support Grant. Good working relationships have been established with the Welsh Covid 19 Families for Justice Group and we are learning from the experiences of their members to help improve bereavement provision across Wales.
<p><b><u>Priority 3: Improving access to mental health services</u></b></p> <p><b>We will:</b></p> <p>Deliver and evaluate Together for Mental Health Strategy to inform development of successor plan</p>			
Our current Together for Mental Health strategy finishes in 2022. We have recently commissioned Opinion Research Services(ORS) to undertake an independent evaluation of this strategy to gauge what progress has been made and what needs to be put in place for the successor plans. This includes reviewing the all age approach.	All sectors	Long term (2021-2026) – over current term of government	The independent evaluation has been completed and will be published in early spring 2023. This report will inform the next steps.

## AIM 2: Improving local services and environments

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p><b><u>Housing</u></b></p> <p><b>We will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the growth of new housing models that support people to age well</li> <li>• Co-ordinate housing, health and social care capital programmes</li> <li>• Make sure housing in Wales is of an acceptable standard</li> </ul>			
<p>The new 5-year Regional Integration Fund will build on the successes of the Integrated Care Fund by continuing to enable integrated and collaborative working between social services, health, housing, the third sector and independent sectors.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, Regional Partnership Boards, local authorities, local health boards, third sector, private sector.</p>	<p>Long term - the new fund will run from April 2022 to March 2027</p>	<p>RIF launched in 2022 and intends to invest in intermediate care settings such as extra care flats and re-enablement 'step down' accommodation to support older people to regain independence and prevent admission to a residential care setting.</p> <p>The Housing with Care Fund is up and running, with a budget of £60.5m available to Regional Partnership Boards in 2022-23, and the same in 2023-24. An annual report will be available in due course.</p> <p><b>Independent Living</b></p> <p><b>Enable:</b> this capital grant to local authorities increased from £5m in 2021-22 to £6m in 2022-23. The additional funding is to ensure all local authorities can provide Disabled Facilities Grants for all small and medium adaptation without applying a</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>means test. In April 2023, 21 of 22 local authorities will be compliant with this policy. Information on the 1 outstanding authority to follow.</p> <p><b>Physical Adaptations Grant:</b> traditional housing associations receive £10.5m capital funding to provide adaptations for their tenants.</p> <p>Capital grants in 2022-23 totalled £19.5m. An additional £1.6m capital funding was found in year to supplement the Physical Adaptations Grant budget, and Regional Partnership Boards distributed an additional £3m from the Housing with Care Fund to supplement local authorities' Disabled Facilities Grant. Total capital expenditure on adaptations in 2022-23 will therefore reach c.£24m. RPBs are also able to meet the cost of the most expensive adaptations which are over the £36,000 DFG statutory upper limit from their HCF budgets. It is too early to say how much additional funding has been used for this purpose in 2022-23.</p> <p>There is evidence that all providers are experiencing increased demand for adaptations. This is primarily attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health and rehabilitation needs of older and disabled people, and the impact of long Covid on individuals.</p> <p><b>Care &amp; Repair (C&amp;R):</b> £4.8m revenue grant, an increase of £0.5m on the previous year. The increase is to enable C&amp;R Agencies to provide additional services in relation to complex hospital discharge cases for example where the client's home needs essential maintenance work before adaptations can be provided, or where the client needs help with issues relating to hoarding that prevent the safe installation of adaptations. The</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>C&amp;R capital grant for Rapid Response Adaptations also increased, from £1.64m in 2021-22 to £3m in 2022-23.</p> <p>In 2021/22 C&amp;R helped 56,897 older people to stay independent by completing over 58,000 home adaptations and housing repair works, to a value of £14.6 million. They also helped over 2,100 people increase their annual income on average by £3,865.</p> <p><b>Improving Access to Health and Social Care Services</b></p> <p>C&amp;R has been delivering its <b>Hospital to a Healthier Home</b> Service since 2019. This is now operating out of 17 hospitals across 5 Health Boards. This scheme helps older patients with a quicker safe discharge by improving the homes they are returning to, for example by providing quick adaptations, repairs, home energy efficiency works and ensuring older patients are receiving all benefits they are entitled to. After discharge, C&amp;R carry on supporting older people with longer term home improvements, which supports their well-being and reduces re-admissions to hospital.</p> <p><b>Improving Local Services and Environments - Housing</b></p> <p>WG Local Government and Housing Committee is undertaking an Inquiry into the Right to Adequate Housing with a view to introduce a Bill in 2023. C&amp;R Cymru has called for older homeowners living in poor housing to have this right introduced in law. My understanding is that a Bill will be published on this shortly.</p> <p>C&amp;R published this report <a href="#">“The State of Older People’s Housing in Wales”</a>.</p>



How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>Address fuel poverty and energy efficiency by taking measures to support households through the current cost of living and energy crisis.</p> <p>The consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme was launched on 22 December 2021.</p>		Long term	<p>This consultation ended April 1 and we are finalising the consultation response, lessons learned and policy statement for the next iteration of the programme to go for Ministerial approval in the next few weeks, after which we will continue to develop the new programme detail which will be brought forward late this year.</p> <p>We have also continued to deliver Nest and energy advice alongside our prosperous futures colleagues who have delivered a package of support to households.</p>
<p>Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains.</p>	<p>WG, Local Authorities, RSLs, Regional Skills Partnerships and sector representative bodies</p>	Long term	<p>Optimised RetroFit (ORP) is a whole house, pragmatic, approach to decarbonising existing homes. It is open to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and local authorities (LAs) to install a variety of home decarbonisation measures in existing social housing stock.</p> <p>ORP has provided funding to RSL and LA in their procurement of products &amp; services for the decarbonisation of 7,000 social homes across Wales.</p> <p>ORP will feed in to <a href="#">WHQS 2023</a> with the objective of decarbonisation of Wales 230,000 social homes. Lesson learnt are now being used in <a href="#">Leasing Scheme Wales</a> and will form part of Welsh Govt approach to Owner Occupiers.</p> <p><a href="#">Optimised RetroFit Programme   GOV.WALES</a></p>

### **Open spaces and buildings**

**We will:**

- Ensure our natural and built environment is safe and age friendly
- Improve availability of public toilets

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinvigorate town centres</li> </ul>			
<p>We are pressing on with amending existing legislation so officers can issue fixed penalty notices for vehicles obstructing the footway and looking at introducing legislation for a national default speed limit of 20 mph in residential areas</p>	<p>Welsh Government, local authorities</p>		<p>Written statement on progress towards amending legislation relating to vehicles obstructing footways published January 2023:</p> <p><a href="#">Written Statement: Welsh Pavement Parking Taskforce Amended Recommendations (18 January 2023)   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p>On 12th July the Senedd passed the legislation to change the National Default Speed Limit in Wales on restricted roads from 30 mph to 20 mph. Highways authorities are currently preparing for the necessary changes in advance of the 20mph default speed limit on restricted roads coming into force in September 2023:</p> <p><a href="#">Written Statement: Publication of Exceptions Guidance to 20mph speed limits (9 November 2022)   GOV.WALES</a></p>
<p>Through the age friendly communities programme and our support for older people's groups and forums, we will actively encourage older people to have their voices heard when local authorities are planning key services, such as public toilets.</p>	<p>Local authorities, Welsh Government, third sector, Town and Community Councils, citizens</p>		<p>All local authorities are required to publish a public toilet strategy. Accountability for implementation is with the local authorities.</p> <p>Local authorities should now be working on reviewing their existing strategies and making progress reports and (if necessary) revising and republishing their strategies. This is a statutory requirement.</p>
<p>We will reshape and relaunch all existing regeneration capital programmes from 2021 as a single Transforming Towns Fund to create</p>	<p>Welsh Government, local authorities, town and</p>		<p>The requirement for Placemaking Plans to support regeneration activity was set out in the Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant Framework and shared with local authority partners in July 2022. The current schedule for local</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>town centres that provide jobs, homes, leisure and services, but that also look great, feel safe and are easily accessible and vibrant whilst also supporting actions on the climate and nature emergency</p>	<p>community councils, third and private sector</p>		<p>authorities to access the Transforming Towns programme and funding is 2022-2025.</p> <p>The Programme for Government makes clear our commitment to empowering local communities to have a greater stake in local regeneration, and Transforming Towns support is very much focussed on transformational opportunities that are shaped through a Placemaking Plan which has been developed locally across all sectors. Welsh Government has made funding available to support Placemaking Plans and is working closely with the Design Commission for Wales in ensuring that planning processes are shaped by the DCfW Placemaking Charter (which includes community engagement). Transforming Towns funding for the development of 10 town Placemaking Plans has been awarded to date in 2022-23 and local authorities are currently working up Placemaking Plan proposals for more than 30 further settlements across Wales, and officials are collating information as to community engagement methodologies utilised.</p> <p>The Transforming Towns Programme was launched in January 2020 and is underpinned by place making principles and robust master planning. It actively encourages mixed use towns as places to live, work, visit and stay. The programme composes of a main £100m capital fund along with a loan fund and support for local authorities to deliver placemaking plans.</p> <p>Through a series of task and finish groups convened by the Ministerial Town Centre Action Group, a "Town Centres Position Statement" has been developed. This also responds to key reports on town centre regeneration published during 2021. The position statement sets out the key challenges facing town centres and a series of cross-policy actions aimed</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>at addressing those challenges. The position statement has received WG cabinet approval.</p> <p>Position Statement due to be published in May 2023 and a series of groups established to take forwards the Actions.</p>
<p><b><u>Transport</u></b></p> <p><b>We will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support people to plan journeys door to door</li> <li>• Improve bus services</li> <li>• Develop more demand responsive transport</li> </ul>			
<p><a href="#">Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy 2021</a> includes four cross-cutting delivery pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonisation Pathway</li> <li>• Equality Pathway</li> <li>• Integrated journey planning Pathway</li> <li>• Rural Pathway</li> </ul>	<p>Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, local authorities</p>	<p>Transport Performance Board.</p> <p>Strategy aims to transform transport over the next 20 years.</p>	<p>We have set up a Transport Performance Board to review our overall progress on Llwybr Newydd and will involve stakeholders including users, the commercial and third sectors, local authorities, and equality groups to support the Board's work.</p> <p>On 9 March we published a <a href="#">white paper on the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (Wales) Bill</a>. Our proposals will deliver on our Programme for Government commitment to modernise the taxi and private hire vehicle sector - addressing cross-bordering and reforming licensing to make services safer, greener, and fairer.</p> <p>Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) play a vital role: making public transport a more practical choice by providing connections for the first and last mile of journeys and moving people at times when other transport services are not operating or in places where they are not available.</p> <p>Given the importance of the sector, we should expect consistent standards across Wales. Currently, there is far too</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>much variation in terms of suitability checks and training requirements for drivers, vehicle age and emissions standards, and the requirements to become an operator.</p> <p>This leads to an inconsistent service and is unfair on drivers and operators facing competition from drivers licensed to lower standards in neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>We recognise that we need to level that playing field and our proposals will deliver better, safer, more consistent services. We will achieve this through the introduction of national minimum standards for licenced taxis, PHVs, drivers and operators, improved local authority enforcement powers, and better information sharing.</p> <p>As the taxi and PHV sector has modernised rapidly in recent years, the legislative framework has not kept up with the pace of change. Our proposals are based on extensive engagement with the industry and key stakeholders on the most pressing issues facing the sector, but we recognise that some issues will need to be re-visited as the industry landscape continues to evolve.</p>
<p>We have set aside £2.5 million for Bus Network Reform.</p> <p>We are currently developing a 5-year plan, <i>Bws Cymru</i>, setting out our vision for buses and how the Welsh Government will use its powers and levers to help improve bus services in Wales.</p> <p>We will continue to fund improvements to bus infrastructure to</p>	<p>Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, community and town councils</p>	<p>Long term – five year plan in place</p>	<p>We published our White Paper setting out our plans to regulate the bus industry in the Easter of 2022. Legislative reform is the lynch pin of the Bws Cymru strategy and we remain on target to introduce the bill in this government term.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
ensure more stops and key interchanges are fully accessible to all in the community. We are also looking to put in place strengthened arrangements for the TrawsCymru bus network to provide better quality services and improved connections with rail and other key bus services at important hubs and interchange points.			
We are working with the Community Transport Association Cymru to develop a five-year Delivery Plan setting out how we will achieve to our vision for community transport. This forms part of the Third Sector Mini Plan in our new Wales Transport Strategy, Llwybr Newydd.	Community Transport Association Cymru/Welsh Government	Via realisation of outcomes set out in delivery plan  Mid term for development of new plan	We continue to work with the community transport sector.

### **Aim 3: Building and retaining people's own capability**

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
Support the development of Age Friendly communities	Welsh Government, local authorities, Community and Town councils, Older People's	Longterm – end of 2024	£1.1million funding allocated between local authorities in 2022-23 and agreed for 2023-24.  Welsh Government working in partnership with local authorities, Older People's Commissioner and Regional

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
	Commissioner, third sector		Partnership Boards via the Regional Integration Fund to embed age friendly practice and service development.
Fund a three-year grant scheme to build the capability and sustainability of front line grass roots voluntary and community organisations that bring people together and help them build social connections	Welsh Government	Medium term - March 2024	<p>As part of the work of the Third Sector Partnership Council, the Volunteering Cross-Sectoral Leadership group has been established to lead on the delivery of the “Volunteering” workstream of our <a href="#">Third Sector Recovery Report</a>. The group will be undertaking this substantive piece of work during the remainder of this Senedd term. It will lead to the creation of an “All Wales” approach to volunteering which builds on the energy and momentum created through the pandemic. This will not be a WG policy, but rather a statement of principle on what volunteering means to us a nation. Including the role public policy has in enabling it. This work will use the Well-being of Future Generations Act’s 5 ways of working, in that it will be co-produced with all sectors. Older people will be central to this vision and the voice of older people and their representative groups and networks will form a key part of this process.</p> <p>Each local authority and county voluntary council partnership will be required to monitor and evaluate the use of the funding and to share the learning. Using feedback from the partnerships, the Welsh Government will also monitor outcomes and impact and lessons learnt.</p>
Fund a national programme of Time Credits	Welsh Government	To 2026	Welsh Government provided <a href="#">Tempo Time Credits</a> with three-year funding in 2020. The current grant funding to TEMPO to run the programme ends at the end of this month but we have now agreed to continue funding them to deliver the programme for a further 3 years.

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
Support volunteer programme across Cadw sites involving a range of ages but in particular retired and older people. These programmes involve training, social events and interaction with members of the public.	Welsh Government / Cadw	Ongoing programme.	Ongoing
We will continue to promote volunteering via continued investment in the existing County Voluntary Council infrastructure and through grant mechanisms such as the Volunteering Wales Grant and Third Sector Sustainable Social Services Grant. Also via small grants of up to £25,000 and a small number of strategic investments to enable the progress that has been made during the pandemic to be further explored and 'hard wired' into ongoing work.	Welsh Government / WCVA / County Voluntary Councils	Long term 2022 - 2025	Combined Funding of over £4.5m has been committed for the Volunteering Wales Grants over the next 3 financial years (2022-25)
<p>We will introduce a new model of Community Learning Centres, providing extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day.</p> <p>We will encourage local authorities to work with town and community councils and public sector organisations to make spaces in existing publicly-funded or publicly-</p>	Welsh Government, local authorities, community and town councils, town and community councils	Long term	<p>We launched a £15million capital grant for Community Learning Centre pilots across Wales. 21 bids have been supported, including projects to enable community use of school facilities and co locate services.</p> <p>Our Community Facilities Programme has provided over £41million since 2015 to help communities all over Wales buy, develop and improve crucial local buildings and green space. We have also made a firm commitment to supporting Community Asset Transfers and community led developments by providing a support framework that delivers advice, guidance and finance</p>



How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
supported buildings available for community participation.			
<p>Working closely with the implementation of the Strategy for Loneliness and Isolation, we will encourage all local health boards and local authorities across Wales to establish, embed and grow intergenerational practice.</p> <p>We will also work with the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales and Children’s Commissioner for Wales, local authorities and older people’s groups and forums to map intergenerational activity and explore how to replicate good practice.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, local authorities, community and town councils, local health boards, third sector, Bangor University, citizen groups, Commissioners.</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>At the international intergenerational week in April 2022, we showcased a series of 7 videos which showcased activity from across Wales. The videos received over 1000 views during the week and have inspired a range of projects and activities. Further work needs to be done to involve the LHBs.</p> <p>One notable example is that Repair Café Wales have since received support from the Foundational Economy fund to set up 10 new repair cafes in deprived areas with at least 2 based in schools. Establishing the cafes in schools is more challenging than in a community setting, a revised timeline is in place to build on learning and meet the targets.</p> <p>In preparation for the 2023 International Intergenerational week in April, we are working with the Age Friendly Officers in the local authorities and the Older People’s Commissioner to showcase existing projects from across Wales as part of one communications campaign. Another initiative is to shine a pink light on community buildings across Wales to showcase intergenerational activity.</p>
<p>We will examine how we can use intergenerational work to help younger people gain or improve Welsh language skills in line with our national policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families.</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p>		<p>We have appointed specialists in behavioural science to work with us and our partners to create and trial interventions and to support families where some or all individuals have ability to speak Welsh, to transmit the Welsh language to their children.</p> <p>We have engaged in substantial outreach work and are now progressing to building the trial interventions. This work is ongoing and builds on evidence provided by the analytical</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			work already carried out for Prosiect 2050 by Claremont Communications.
We will ensure that the National Plan to Prevent Abuse of Older People aligns with other Welsh Government strategies such as the Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse strategy and addresses all forms of abuse.	Welsh Government, third sector, Older People's Commissioner, Regional Safeguarding Boards, National Independent Safeguarding Board.		<p>Following public consultation, the action plan is due to be published in spring 2023.</p> <p>A Consultation Summary Report will be published shortly. It is a cross government piece of work with a focus, not only on addressing abuse and neglect of older people, but on creating the circumstances in which abuse and neglect of older people is less likely to take place.</p> <p>It references and aligns with the Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy 2022-2026.</p>
We will work with the Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing to explore how to encourage people to consider the psychosocial factors that can support them to age well.	All sectors	Medium term	No action taken in 22/23
<p>Work with Business in the Community Age at Work (BITC) Project</p> <p>Encourage and support businesses to be more age-inclusive in retaining, retraining and recruiting older workers</p> <p>Raise awareness of the impact of an ageing workforce and the need for an age-inclusive agenda in government, business and wider society</p> <p>Support older individuals (aged 50+) to remain in or return to work to</p>	BITC, small, medium and large Companies in Wales, Welsh Government	<p>Medium term</p> <p>Programme funded until April 2024</p>	<p>Business in the Community offer a range of services to encourage businesses to become age inclusive and to support older workers. Between May 2022 and Feb 2023, 94 people have attended Mid-Career Review sessions, 18 businesses have completed their Age-inclusive Business Reviews and 21 Age inclusive Employer Toolkits have been distributed.</p> <p>BITC's Age at Work programme features in Age Cymru's ENVISAGE publication and at the Senedd event on 31 January 2023. This built on previous research into "Perceptions and attitudes regarding older workers – what employers in Wales think." This showed a disconnect</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
continue to earn, stay connected and develop new skills.			<p>regarding what employers say about older workers and what support they offer. It is felt that Age does not get the same recognition in the workplace as other protected characteristics.</p> <p>Since January 2023 BITC have been working with Business Wales to try and engage with more businesses to change perceptions. We are also looking to contact larger businesses across Wales.</p>
Working with Money and Pensions Service to align our work with the implementation of their UK Strategy for Financial Well-being	Money and Pensions Service, Welsh Government	Medium term	Awaiting update
<p>Provide funding to each local authority in 2021-22 to develop effective mechanism for engaging with older people</p> <p>We will improve citizen engagement mechanisms on Regional Partnership Boards</p>	Welsh Government, local authorities, third sector, Regional Partnership Boards, Local Health Boards	By end financial year 2022 and ongoing subject to budget confirmation	<p>£1.1million funding allocated between local authorities in 2022-23 and agreed for 2023-24 to support engagement with older people.</p> <p>Regional Partnership Boards published a <a href="#">Charter</a> setting out key commitments for the meaningful participation of service user, carer, third sector and provider members in February 2023. The commitments are based on the principles of co-production and voice as set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.</p>
We will work with Working Wales and other partners to ensure that older workers are encouraged to think proactively about their career opportunities and skills needs throughout their lifetime.	Welsh Government, third, private and statutory sectors and employees	Ongoing	<p>The participation of older people (50+) in the labour market was discussed at the Employability and Skills Board meeting (internal to WG) on 8 March.</p> <p>The discussion focussed on barriers to retention and putting in place the conditions for older people to re-enter the labour market.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			This is now being considered as part of a wider discussion on economic inactivity where options will be considered on what more Welsh Government can do and next steps.
We will continue our All Age Apprenticeship Programme - in 2019-20 there were over 4000 people age 50+ undertaking an apprenticeship at level 2, 3 and 4.	Welsh Government, third, private and statutory sectors and employees	Ongoing	At the start of Apprenticeship Week Wales 2022, the Minister for Economy confirmed Welsh Government's commitment to delivering 125,000 all-age apprenticeships across Wales during this term of government – with a significant investment of £366 million to deliver the programme over the next three years: <a href="#">Apprenticeship Week Wales 2022: Minister commits £366 million to deliver 125,000 all age apprenticeships in Wales   GOV.WALES</a>
We will work in social partnership to raise awareness of the rights of workers and the legal responsibilities of employers and sign post to sources of advice and support.	Welsh Government, trade unions and employers	Ongoing	As noted above, BITC are engaging with businesses across Wales to raise awareness of the rights of older workers and to ensure that businesses support their 50+ workforce.
We will work in social partnership to promote the principles of fair work and the benefits of an equal and diverse workforce. This supports our ambition for a Fair Work nation where everyone, including older workers, is included and no-one is held back or left behind.  We will work with employers and their representative bodies to encourage	Welsh Government, trade unions and employers	Ongoing	We are continuing to use all the levers available to us to raise awareness of workforce rights and responsibilities, and to promote fair work and the benefits of a diverse workforce, including older people. We are delivering this by working in social partnership with employers and trade unions. Progress in this area includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The establishment of Fair Work fora in specific sectors such as retail and social care. These provide opportunities to engage with employers and trade</li> </ul>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>them to provide age friendly workplaces that support the increasing number of older workers and carers in our workforce.</p>			<p>unions to work together to improve working terms and conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The development of a Fair Work Guide to help employers understand what fair work is and how this can be applied in the workplace. This includes examples around equal, inclusive and diverse workforces.</li> <li>○ Action to promote the role and membership of Trade Unions as a means of protecting rights in the workplace.</li> </ul>
<p>Our Employability Plan will set out our vision for making Wales a full-employment, high-tech, high-wage economy.</p>	<p>Welsh Government, third, private and statutory sectors and employees</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>An update of the Employability Plan was published in March 2022:</p> <p><a href="#">Stronger, fairer, greener Wales: a plan for employability and skills: summary [HTML]   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p>The priorities for action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young people realising their potential.</li> <li>● Tackling economic inequality.</li> <li>● Championing Fair Work for all.</li> <li>● Supporting people with a long-term health condition to work.</li> <li>● Nurturing a learning for life culture.</li> </ul>
<p>We aim to support the provision of social engagement courses through clubs and self-directed learning groups which will support people to</p>	<p>Welsh Government, education and third sectors</p>	<p>Levels of participation in adult learning.</p>	<p>Update from Cadw: we have groups of volunteers who we provide training for and who add to the visitor experience at Plas Mawr, through costume creation/ meet the household and Tudor dancing for which they train every week and create resources for at Basingwerk. about 60 across the two groups</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>continue to learn in an informal way to benefit their health and well-being.</p>			<p><a href="#">Perceiving the Past: Basingwerk Abbey   Cadw (gov.wales)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Plas Mawr volunteers win British Museum Marsh award for Wales   Cadw (gov.wales)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Plas Mawr Volunteers Shortlisted for Prestigious Award   Cadw (gov.wales)</a></p>
<p>Support citizens to become digitally confident</p> <p>The <a href="#">Digital Strategy for Wales</a> (March 2021) makes clear we will equip people with the motivation, access, basic digital skills and confidence to engage with an increasingly digital world, based on their needs. Below are several key pieces of work which will support this commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with the Centre for Digital Public Services (CDPS) to undertake a mapping of digital inclusion activities. The map will be made publicly available and provide citizens and organisations with a clear outline of where they can go for support to become digitally confident.</li> <li>➤ To explore a minimum digital living standard for Wales which includes a recognised</li> </ul>	<p>Welsh Government and all sectors</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>The National Survey for Wales (NSW) provides our annual measure for progress against the national indicator. NSW 2021-22 data (July 2022) showed that 7% of people living in Wales aged 16 and over do not personally use the internet (digitally excluded). Older people remain the group most likely to be digitally excluded with 32% of people living in Wales aged 75 and over offline. In addition, 22% of people living in Wales (aged 16 and over) lack the five recognised basic digital skills – increasing to 59% when focused on those aged 75 and over.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The initial phase of mapping was completed by CDPS in May 2022. Since then, officials have been working with wider stakeholders and DataMapWales to create an interactive map, which once published will allow those supporting people to search by postal code for places offering digital support.</li> </ol> <p>The map was published on gov.wales in February 2023 with a further iteration planned for later this year - <a href="#">How to help someone you know get online   GOV.WALES</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The report '<a href="#">Towards a Welsh minimum digital living standard</a>' was published in February 2023 with a secondary phase of work due to begin in April 2023 for</li> </ol>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>baseline for what it means to be digitally included.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate interventions are in place to support citizens to gain the digital confidence to engage with digital and know where to go for help. In addition, ensure front line staff and volunteers are able to access training to become digitally confident.</p>			<p>a further six months. The secondary phase will consider the impact of not achieving the defined standard for priority groups, including older people. <a href="#">Towards a Welsh Minimum Digital Living Standard: final report   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p>3. The Digital Communities Wales: digital confidence, health and well-being contract has been extended until June 2025. This will ensure ongoing and appropriate interventions are in place and organisations have central and well-established programme to go to for support.</p> <p>Through the pandemic and cost of living crisis the issue of affordability for gaining and maintaining connectivity has been a recognised barrier to digital inclusion.</p> <p>Working closely with Welsh Government infrastructure leads and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) we are exploring ways to raise awareness of social tariffs for broadband and mobile. A social tariff is a reduced cost option for either fixed or mobile connectivity eligible for people in receipt of benefits – this includes pension credit.</p> <p>Welsh Government continue to raise awareness when working across sectors of the need to ensure options for engaging with services are developed based on the user needs and consider those who either cannot or choose not to engage digitally. There remains no formal requirement on sectors (private for example) to ensure offline is provided nor is there resources. However, working with partners, including the Centre for Digital Public Services (CDPS) we can embed the principles of user design of digital inclusion.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			The Older People's Commissioner for Wales has led this work through the " <a href="#">Getting the information and services you need in a digital world: Know Your Rights</a> ".

#### **Aim 4: Tackling age related poverty**

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<b><u>Commencing the socio-economic duty</u></b>			
The Socio-economic Duty, which came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021, will encourage better decision making and ultimately deliver better outcomes for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged.	Public bodies	Ongoing	<p>In the summer 2021, Welsh Government published a <a href="#">progress tracker</a> tool to support planning processes. A review of evidence on socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome was published in October 2021.</p> <p>The Equality and Human Rights Commissions plans to undertake future research into the impact of the Duty, it is our understanding that this is intended to take place no earlier than late 2022, giving relevant public bodies the time and space to embed the Duty – <i>this report has been delayed – update to follow.</i></p>
<b><u>Increasing take up of pension credit</u></b>			
<b>We will:</b> Work with stakeholders to devise the Charter that will be at the heart of a Welsh benefits system, which works for everyone in Wales.			
We have funded awareness raising sessions with support workers working with people with disabilities and are launching a tender to do another training programme.	Welsh Government, third sector, local authorities,	Rate of pension credit take up.	We have set up an Income Maximisation Task and Finish Group. Through cross-government approaches and by joint working with local authorities and other key partners this group will drive improvements in the take-up of welfare benefits and payments.



How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
<p>Under our Income Maximisation Programme, we have established a series of working groups. Group 3 is considering how to increase take up of pension credit.</p> <p>We will explore how local and national 50+ groups and forums can help to combat stigma of claiming benefits.</p>	<p>community and town councils,</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>In December 2022 we launched our new national integrated communications campaign – ‘Here to help with the cost of living’. The campaign aims to reassure the people of Wales that help, and support is available for those struggling financially due to the cost-of-living crisis. The main Call to Action signposts people towards Advicelink Cymru and encourage them to check their eligibility for further financial support. The campaign's key, reassuring message will be that Welsh Government is ‘Here to help with the cost of living.’</p> <p>The campaign went live through all channels including TV, radio, out of home, press, digital and social media.</p> <p>This work builds on the success of our previous national Claim What’s Yours’ campaigns. Over 8,000 people responded to the campaign and were helped by the Welsh Government funded Advicelink Cymru to claim over £2.1m of additional benefit income.</p> <p>The Welsh Government is doing all it can to put money into the pockets of the people across Wales to deal with the rising cost of living. We are delivering excellent results with our welfare benefit take-up projects, including helping older people to claim benefits like Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance.</p> <p>Through the Welsh Government’s Single Advice Fund, partners are also working together to reach older people to raise their awareness of their welfare benefit entitlements. So far almost 4,000 people aged 65+ have been helped to claim welfare benefit income totalling £12m and to manage debts of £1.9m.</p>

How we will achieve this	Delivery partner	Timeframe	Progress update
			<p>Older people are a key priority group for all the Single Advice Fund services. 33% of all people accessing the SAF are older people.</p> <p>The outcomes from our take-up work evidences there are too many people in Wales who are still not aware of their entitlements and there is further work to be done to raise awareness and provide access to the support people need to make welfare benefit claims.</p>
<p><b><u>Investing in Wales' foundational economy</u></b></p> <p><b>We will:</b> Re invigorate our town centres (Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work)</p>			
<p>We will build on our Foundational Economy approach and establish a Backing Local Firms Fund with a specific focus on Social Care; Decarbonisation of homes and buses; Food; and Public Procurement.</p> <p>In addition, the Foundational economy unit will perform a bridging role to assist Welsh Government departments to embed Foundational Economy in policy strategy and delivery plan. Embedding Foundational Economy thinking across Welsh Government will support development of approaches that improve age friendly access to vital goods and services.</p>	<p>Welsh Government and public sector partners</p>		<p><b>Community Bank for Wales</b></p> <p>In January, the Monmouthshire Building Society (MBS), the commercial lead for delivery, has with regret put development of Community Bank on hold currently due to current UK economic circumstances and the prevailing financial uncertainty.</p> <p>Welsh Government (WG) recognises that the Community Bank is a commercial venture on the part of MBS, and WG accepts that the vision and operation need to be sustainable in the long-term. The Chief Executive has confirmed that MBS remain fully committed to their programme of work to develop and deliver a Community Bank within this Senedd term.</p>

