FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

A. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Welsh Government is committed to considering children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in all that it does. The UNCRC provides a minimum standard, a floor for which no child should fall below.

The revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales sets the direction for Welsh Government actions to tackle child poverty over the next decade or more and to meet our ambitions for children and young people in Wales, no matter what their circumstances or background. It also provides a framework to maximise the levers we have at our disposal to make our contribution to eradicating child poverty.

The strategy seeks to ensure stronger integration across our national policies, programmes and action plans and to support collaboration at the regional and local levels. This will deliver our ambition to achieve greater equity of experience and outcome for all children and young people.

Our vision is for a Wales:

"That enables children and young people to access their rights, have good wellbeing and fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic circumstances)."

We want to work with our partners towards a Wales where all children irrespective of their family income can access their rights under the UNCRC, without discrimination.

The UNCRC article most closely associated with child poverty is Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

There are a lot of things the Welsh Government can do to support children in realising their right to an adequate standard of living and these are included in the objectives and priorities of the strategy. However, in terms of reducing the number of children living in relative income poverty (after housing costs) the fact that the devolution settlement does not provide us with powers over the tax and benefits system limits in some ways the impact we can have on household incomes.

Decisions about tax and public spending at the UK government level have a direct impact on the incomes of households in Wales and the budget available to the Welsh Government.

At the same time Article 26 (social security) Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support

and other benefits, to families in need of assistance, is a key safeguard against child poverty and in realising rights under Article 27 (an adequate standard of living). While we can take action to support parent/carers in accessing all of the entitlements available to them through the UK benefits system and progress work on the Welsh benefits system, there are UK policies currently in place that negatively impact on families with children.

That is why Welsh Ministers have consistently called on the UK Government to take further action to, abolish the benefit cap and two child limit, make changes to the Universal Credit deduction policy and increasing the Local Housing Allowance and funding for Discretionary Housing Payments.

According to the latest data, in Wales, 28% of children were living in relative income poverty (after housing costs) in financial year ending (FYE) 2020 to FYE 2022. This is approximately 180,000 dependent children under the age of 19.

Child poverty can be regarded as one of the most widespread and significant human rights issues that children face. Child poverty limits children's access to their rights under the UNCRC in a number of ways. For example:

However, the strategy cannot be considered in isolation and is by no means a standalone document. The ambitions set out here take into account a number of important legislative duties placed on Welsh Ministers and will influence and inform our polices, plans and programmes across government now and for years to come.

We have developed 5 long-term, high-level objectives to guide our efforts across the Welsh Government under current and future Programmes of Government.

The engagement and consultation undertaken to develop this strategy has helped us to understand where, as part of the wider delivery of the Programme for Government, we need to focus our efforts to achieve greater change in as short a time as is possible and to sustain that change.

Under each objective therefore we have also identified a priority for action to deliver on that need for sustained change.

Engagement with Children and Young People with lived experience of poverty

Children and young people who are disadvantaged because of their socio-economic background or circumstances can find it difficult to have their voices heard as is their right under Article 12 (respect for the views of the child).

When we developed this strategy for consultation, we heard from 1,402 children and young people with lived experience of poverty, who engaged via organisations that work with and for them. It is important that the policies set out in the strategy are delivered in a way that reflects the voices of children and young people with lived experience of poverty.

Organisations facilitating the engagement on our behalf worked with children and young people in a number of different ways.

- We commissioned Children in Wales, Save the Children, Voices from Care to work with 102 children and young people through schools and existing groups, including care experienced young people.
- We also commissioned EYST and Women Connect First to offer engagement events to Black, Asian and minority ethnic families and as part of that work they engaged with 68 children and young people through focus groups.
- Community groups and organisations who were awarded small grants under our scheme to engage families with protected characteristics, engaged with 1,070 children and young people including disabled and neurodivergent young people, children and young people with Additional Learning Needs, LGBTQ+ young people, young people with experience of homelessness, young parents and Gypsy, Traveller, and Roma young people. This work was carried out in a variety of ways, with existing groups, through standalone engagement events and as part of play and family activity sessions.
- Local Councils for Voluntary Services were awarded Welsh Government grants via a scheme administered via the WCVA on our behalf to engage with families and community members and as part of this work they engaged with 162 children and young people.

A young person's version of a Framework for Discussion was shared with these organisations and the organisations used various approaches to share 4 areas for discussion with children and young people. Children and young people were also asked to tell us about anything that was important to them and was not covered by the 4 areas of discussion.

Evidence from our engagement with children and young people

Cost of living: Children and young people spoke about the cost of food, fuel, housing costs and 'bills'. They are very aware of the financial pressures facing their families. Food poverty was most likely to be raised by children and young people from Refugee and Asylum-seeking families. Digital exclusion and the cost of transport was also an issue, especially for children and young people from Refugee and Asylum seeker families.

Cost of school: Food in school was a major theme for children and young people who wanted Free school breakfasts and Free School Meals to be available to more children and young people. Young people also spoke about the cost of food in secondary school. Some children and young people talked about going hungry in school. They said that their families can't afford the cost of school uniform, school equipment and school trips. Children and young people from Refugee and Asylum seeker families also spoke about a lack of free transport to get to school.

Income and advice: Children and young people spoke about their parents needing access to free childcare to enable them to work. Children and young people also spoke about the need for financial education and budgeting advice to be taught in schools to prepare them for the future.

Some children and young people spoke about the complexity of the benefits system, difficulties in getting information about and accessing entitlements and benefit levels (financial value). Care experienced young people spoke about this and their own difficulties with understanding and accessing financial support. Children who had parents who have English as an additional language talked about the importance of having information and claims forms available in different languages. Roma young people spoke about the need for more government support with providing job opportunities, food, money, and advice.

Education: Children and young people also talked about the cost of education when thinking about pathways out of poverty. They identified investment in education as an important in developing pathways out of poverty.

Young people spoke about wanting a broader offer of 'practical,' vocational and 'essential for life' education. Children and young people said that those growing up in low-income households need more support with financial literacy.

Young people also spoke about the need for access to training and lifelong learning for themselves and their parents so that people are inspired and can build skills to improve their employment prospects.

Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic child and young people said that there needs to be more educational support for those newer to the UK and joining the curriculum at later ages as well as those with lower attainment levels within their wider family network. Roma young people want more support in school and English lesson classes for all Roma.

Disabled young people, neurodivergent young people and young people with additional learning needs said they didn't get the support they needed in school. Others felt that teachers were not well-educated on learning difficulties, and there were not enough resources available to test if someone was on the autism spectrum.

Some young people talked about the need to maintain one-on-one support for children with disabilities and that there were not enough wheelchair-accessible schools,

Children and young people talked about wanting more careers advice and support. They also said they would value more contact with adults who could act as role models for them and help them to believe they could have and meet aspirations.

Enabling parents to work: Many children and young people said that their parents needed access to free childcare so that they could train or work. Children and young people also said that their parents need access to free training and skills to get into work or to progress in work. They spoke about the need for decent jobs and wages and support for parents to get them.

Transport: Access to low cost or free transport was identified by children and young people as important for them and their parents to access education, training, and

employment. Young people also said that free transport would allow them to access social, sporting, and cultural activities.

Children and young people also spoke about the availability and reliability of public transport, especially in rural areas. Roma young people also said that public transport was difficult to access. Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and young people told us about the need for subsidised transport to access education and training. Disabled young people told us about issues with accessible public transport, especially if they used a wheelchair.

Communities: Children and young people told us that they want access to safe communities to grow up in with more green spaces, places to play and things to do. Some young people talked about schools as a community hub that could offer support and access to activities.

Gypsy traveller children and young people spoke about a lack of quality outdoor space to play on official sites and poor transport links to access other activities. Roma children and young people want safe community spaces.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and young people, especially those who were from Asylum seeking families talked about feeling marginalised and isolated in their communities. Racism was also raised as an issue that impacts on children and young people and needs to be challenged and addressed.

Disabled and neurodiverse young people spoke about the need for inclusive activities and play opportunities in their communities.

LQBTQ+ young people felt that there needs to be better awareness and understanding at the community level to promote inclusivity and make them feel less marginalised.

Some children and young people also spoke about the need for information, advice and support for parents and families in the community. Some also spoke about the need for stable housing and nice homes to live in but the main focus was on the communities in which they live.

Children and young people also spoke about the importance of opportunities for them to inform decisions being made about developing things in their communities.

Cost of activities, play and sports: Children and young people talked about not being able to access activities including art and music, play and sports because of costs. They spoke about wanting free activities, play and sport in their communities as travel costs can also a barrier to accessing low cost/free activities.

Support for physical and emotional wellbeing: Children and young people said that it can be difficult to access support for their wellbeing.

Being heard: Children and young people who were part of a group/receiving support from a service spoke about wanting more local services that listened to them, recognised their needs and were inclusive, this was especially true for those attending a specialist group/service related to a protected characteristic.

Feeling stigmatised and that poverty is poorly understood: Children and young people also spoke about feeling embarrassed and stigmatised outside education because of poverty. This was focussed on feelings that their family's economic situation was very visible. Children and young people gave us clear and strong messages about feeling stigmatised and excluded in the school community.

Related to this was the ways in which children and young people feel judged, singled out and stigmatized because of the way in which support for learners from low-income households is managed. Children and young people felt that poverty issues are often poorly understood by school staff and that some learners are embarrassed or bullied by other learners because they need financial support.

Some young people reported being penalised and punished for not having the correct uniform or the right stationery because they cannot afford it. They also spoke about being punished for arriving late with a good explanation but not being listened too.

Children and young people told us that people working in education and other services need training so that they better understand the impact that poverty has on learners. Some of them also spoke about the need for education for other learners so that they better understood poverty issues.

Children and young people also spoke about the need for work to support them to be heard and have a voice as a way of overcoming embarrassment and stigma about asking for help.

Discrimination: Children and young people also spoke about discrimination and a lack of understanding of issues including ethnicity, sexuality, neurodivergence or because they are care experienced.

Some Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and young people talked about racism and discrimination. Asylum seeking children and young people talked about feeling made to feel that they don't belong to Welsh society.

Gypsy Traveller and Roma young people talked about stigma and discrimination in school and in communities.

LGBTQ+ young people talked about being discriminated against because of their sexuality.

Some young people who have dyslexia, autism or ADHD talked about their anxieties in dealing with agencies and asked for a better understanding and more flexibility. They wanted conversations with people and not having to deal with forms.

Young people with experience of homelessness and substance misuse also felt that they were stigmatised and treated poorly by services because of their experiences.

Care experienced young people spoke about being judged and labelled.

Children and young people spoke about the difference it can make when they do feel heard and respected.

How does the Child Poverty Strategy responds to evidence from engagement with children and young people

Objective 1 sets out all the Welsh Government policies and programmes that are aimed at ensuring children and young people have enough financial and material support for what they need.

Priority 1 includes a commitment to put in place a Welsh benefits system underpinned by the Charter that is delivered with compassion and accelerate work with our partners to passport and streamline the application process for Welsh benefits to make them more accessible.

Objective 1 sets out all the Welsh Government policies and programmes that are in place to reduce costs and support families and schools with education costs.

Priority 1 includes a commitment to accelerate our work with Estyn and school improvement partners (local authorities, Consortia) to ensure education is a cost-neutral experience for children, young people and their families.

Priority 1 of the strategy includes a commitment to work with partners to equip everyone who works with children, young people and families to make every contact count, so that people get face-to-face information and advice about getting support with claiming their full financial entitlements.

The children and young people who participated in the pre-consultation engagement talked about what they thought would make a difference to help them reach their potential, but they also told us about the support they think would help their parents.

Objective 2 sets out all the Welsh Government national mission to achieve high standards and aspirations for all by tackling the impact of poverty on educational attainment and supporting every learner. All learners, whatever their background, will be supported to be healthy, engaged, enterprising and ethical citizens, ready to play a full part in work and life. This includes education-based practical careers, work-related experiences, and careers advice. Objective 2 also sets out legislation and policy for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs.

Priority 4 includes a commitment to urgently refocus our work with Estyn, our partners and wider stakeholders to tackle the barriers to implementing approaches to poverty proof education and to consistently creating inclusive education environments which are based on the Rights of the Child, and anti-discriminatory values.

Objective 2 sets out the Welsh Government approach to developing a strong economy for wellbeing, which aims to grow the economy and to reduce inequalities across communities throughout Wales. Objective 2 also sets out the work we are already doing to promote the provision of quality childcare and to deliver the childcare offer for eligible families. Objective 2 includes our policies that aim to reduce the cost and improve the accessibility of sustainable transport for everyone in Wales, including students.

Priority 2 includes commitments to champion the Real Living Wage, promote access to trade unions, and embed fair work within wider skills and economic development interventions. We will also implement the provisions of our Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act. Remove barriers to employment and career pathways for disabled people, women, carers, and ethnic minority people whilst improving workplace practices and culture. Focus work across government to find affordable solutions to childcare and transport costs to remove barriers to work and make work pay. This must be achieved without compromising the need to ensure that the all childcare is of a quality that meets the needs of children and that transport solutions are driven by our Net Zero Wales commitments.

Objective 3 sets out the policies and programmes that the Welsh Government has in place to support communities, to promote approaches like Community Focussed Schools to promote play, sport and youth opportunities and policies to promote mental health and wellbeing.

Priority 3 includes commitments to Think Community' when developing, reviewing and funding relevant policies and programmes, promoting 'one-stop shop'-style multi-agency services in the community to help address the range of interconnected needs and disadvantages people living in poverty experience. To ensure that we continue to support schools to develop as community focused schools, responding to the needs of their community, building a strong partnership with families and collaborating effectively with other services. To push forward, working with partners, on the delivery of more community-based offers for play, sports, youth opportunities and access to arts, culture and natural resources for children and young people and low cost family activities to support health and wellbeing.

Priority 3 includes a commitment to ensure that in developing our Communities Policy, we identify new, co-productive, and inclusive to all, ways of working, using a community action approach to inform the development of local joined up services to tackle poverty without stigma.

Objective 4 sets out the ways in which we are supporting ways for us to listen to the voices of children and young people when we develop policies that affect them, this is part of our responsibility under the UNCRC. We make a clear commitment to agree ways to involve children and young people in letting us know if we are making progress on delivering against our objectives and priorities to tackle child poverty in Wales. We also set out that we will work with our partners to make sure that children and young people from low income households consistently have opportunities to be heard at the community, local and regional levels. We set out the ways in which we expect all organisations and systems to work in a trauma-informed way and how we want to promote kind and compassionate services. Objective 4 also sets out the policies and programmes supporting inclusive education and to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and the Convention on the United Nations Rights of People with Disabilities in schools.

Priority 4 sets out the Welsh Government commitments to take a children's rights approach to the delivery of our Programme for Government, in line with the UNCRC, with tackling poverty and inequality as cross cutting policy drivers. Work with the ACE Support Hub and Traumatic Stress Wales on implementing the Trauma

Informed Wales Framework, which will include the identification of any additional resources required, including help and support for organisations. Urgently refocus our work with Estyn, our partners and wider stakeholders to tackle the barriers to implementing approaches to poverty proof education and to consistently creating inclusive education environments which are based on the Rights of the Child, and anti-discriminatory values. Challenge discrimination and drive equality so that protected characteristics do not make it more difficult for children, young people and their families to do well. Retaining a clear focus on our equality plans to achieve this.

When we carried out the pre-consultation engagement we included 4 areas for discussion, these are directly related to objectives 1-4 of the strategy. As part of the pre-consultation engagement we heard from 220 people working across organisations services that support and/or speak out on behalf of children, young people and families with lived experience of poverty.

They told us that in order to make a difference for children and young people in poverty there is a need for stronger integration across Welsh Government and support for further collaboration between partners at the regional and local levels. If we are going to deliver against our objectives in an effective way, we need to create the right conditions to enable change to happen.

As we take forward work under Objective 5 of this strategy, we will work with our partners to ensure that we do all we can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights through policies and delivery that promotes and protects children's rights.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has developed a set of resources, <u>The Right Way - A Children's Rights Approach</u>, that places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery. As we work with partners to strengthen collaboration, find solutions together and promote good practice, it will be important to ensure that together we take a children's rights approach. We will use the available resources, such as The Right Way to underpin this work.

Children's rights under the UNCRC and the Child Poverty Strategy

Article 2 - All children should be able to access their rights and be treated equally without discrimination. Equality means making sure children's individual needs are met so that they have equal chances to others to fulfil their potential. This also means removing barriers that children face to be able to do this.

Everything we do must be without discrimination under Article 2 of the UNCRC. Intersectionality is a term that can be used to help us think about discrimination, inequality and disadvantage. Intersectionality asks us to think about how every person has a combination of different identities (like economic background, sex and gender identity, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, disability and more). These could mean they are marginalised or treated unfairly, including through an interplay of characteristics, and we must take all of these into account in considering how discrimination operates.

In everything we do we to tackle child poverty we will also think about equality issues including a consideration of how we promote:

- Article 22 (refugee children),
- Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion),
- Article 23 (disabled children),
- Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups).

Our <u>Strategic Equality Plan</u>, sets out our equality aims and objectives up to 2024, together with the main actions to achieve those objectives.

When we are delivering the Child Poverty Strategy we will consider, with our partners, intersectionality and Article 2 of the UNCRC, in everything we do. At the same time the delivery of each of the Action Plans below will need to consider the intersectionality between poverty and discrimination:

- Anti-racist Wales Action Plan
- Advancing gender equality: action plan
- Action on disability: the right to independent living framework and action plan
- LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales

Article 3 (Best interests of the child): The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers.

We have considered evidence from our pre-consultation engagement with children and young people, evidence from children and young people who took part in the Children's Commissioner for Wales <u>national consultation</u> and evidence from children and young people who took part in Children in Wales annual <u>survey</u>. This has helped us to understand how our decisions affect children, what matters to them and what we needed to do to meet their best interests in the development of a strategy to direct work over the long term.

The work under Objective 1 and Priority 1 aims to promote children's rights under the following articles of the UNCRC:

- Article 26 (Social Security) promoting the availability of face to face information and advice and developing the Welsh Benefits system is intended to ensure that families can claim their full entitlements to social security,
- Article 27 (adequate standard of living) provision of the social wage and help with essential items will keep more money in the pockets of parent/carers and support an adequate standard of living for their children,
- Article 24 (health and health services) help with food and fuel poverty is important to support the health and wellbeing of children.

The work under Objective 2 and Priority 2 aims to promote children's rights under the following articles of the UNCRC:

Article 6 (life, survival and development), Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)
 We know that poverty can impact adversely on child development and access to learning through play in the early years and we have set out the ways we are seeking to address this.

- Article 28 (right to education), Article 29 (goals of education) Every child has
 the right to education, but poverty can impact negatively on the educational
 experiences, engagement and outcomes for children. Our ambition is to
 achieve high standards and aspirations for all by tackling the impact of poverty
 on educational attainment and supporting every learner.
- Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Building a strong economy and supporting young people and parent/carers into fair work will support children in this and future generations to have an adequate standard of living. Working to remove barriers to employment for disabled people, women, carers, and ethnic minority people is important as children growing up in a family where someone is disabled, with a lone parent (the majority of whom are women) and in ethnic minority families are at greater risk of poverty

The work under Objective 3 and Priority 3 aims to promote children's rights under the following articles of the UNCRC:

- Article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance), Article 19
 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) The strategy sets out how we
 are supporting parent/carers and how we want to strengthen the support
 available to low income families in the communities where they live. The
 relationship between abuse and poverty is not straight forward but early
 support to families can reduce the risks that children will get harmed, as can
 building thriving communities.
- Article 24 (health and health services) Child poverty is strongly associated
 with health inequalities the strategy sets out our policies to support mental
 health and wellbeing and for energy efficient decent housing, we know that
 poor housing conditions impact negatively on children's health. Access to
 open spaces, play, sporting and leisure opportunities are also important for
 supporting the health and wellbeing of children.
- Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Our plans for energy efficient decent housing and preventing homelessness will help children to enjoy an adequate standard of living. Promoting community based, accessible information, advice and support will help parent/carers to secure entitlements and interventions that can support them in providing an adequate standard of living for their children.
- Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) We set out that we will work towards joined up services in communities and local access to play, sport, youth opportunities support health and wellbeing.

The work under Objective 4 and Priority 4 aims to promote children's rights under the following articles of the UNCRC:

- Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) We will agree ways to involved children and young people in helping us to understand if we are achieving against the objectives and priorities of the strategy when we report on our progress.
- Article 24 (health and health services) Kind and compassionate services will help children and young people to enjoy good experiences in education and reduce the impact of child poverty on their mental health and wellbeing.

- Article 29 (goals of education) We will work through delivery of the strategy to
 ensure that children are not stigmatised because of the financial
 circumstances of their families, in education settings to improve opportunities
 for children to feel included and engaged so that they can reach their potential
 in education.
- Article 42 (knowledge of rights). As we deliver the strategy, we will support
 people who work with children, young people and families to understand the
 ways in which poverty impacts on children's rights and how to make sure
 children and young people are not stigmatised.

The work under Objective 5 and Priority 5 aims to promote children's rights under the following articles of the UNCRC:

- Article 4 (implementation of the Convention): The strategy sets out that as we
 work with our partners to deliver on the objectives and priorities of the strategy
 we will use an approach that promotes and protects children's rights.
- Article 42 (knowledge of rights) The strategy sets out that as we do work with partners to enable collaboration and support good practice we will think about a children's rights approach as a principle underpinning the work we develop and deliver together.

Ministerial advice and decision

Officials in the Tackling Poverty and Supporting Families Division set out proposals regarding the development of the Revised strategy in a submission to the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip.

The Minister agreed to the overall approach at the end of May 2023. The Welsh Government Cabinet approved the Strategy for consultation on 5 June 2023.

The strategy was co-constructed with families with lived experience of poverty and the organisations that support them. Over 3,200 individuals, including 1,402 children and young people have given their time to talk to us and help us understand what we needed to prioritise.

A full 12-week consultation took place on the Child Poverty Strategy closing on 11th September 2023, Responses were invited through a webpage as well as directly to the Tackling Poverty Policy Team either by email or by post. A summary of responses document was published on 23 January.

The Minister agreed to a final of the Strategy in November 2023. The Welsh Government Cabinet approved the Strategy for publication on 20 November 2023.

The final Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2023 together with its Integrated Impact Assessment was published on 23 January.

Communicating with Children and Young People

We produced a Youth Friendly version of the strategy for consultation and we shared this with all the organisations that supported pre-consultation engagement with children and young people. As part of the pre-consultation engagement with children and young people we asked how they would like to hear from us about the ways in which we used the evidence they gave us and about the final strategy. Children and young people said that hey wanted the information to be shared with them via their school or an organisation that they are working with.

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip wrote a letter to thank children, young people and others for participating in the pre-consultation engagement and asking them to respond to the consultation. This letter let people know that What they had told us helped us to make decisions about what to focus on in our Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. We asked the organisations that supported the engagement sessions to share the letter with the children and young people who participated.

We will publish a Youth Friendly version of the final strategy and promote it in a similar way. We are thinking about other ways to best communicate with children and young people about the strategy itself and about the work to deliver it. This includes thinking about social media channels and accessible format media.

Monitoring and Review

When the Welsh Government introduced the <u>Children and Families (Wales)</u>
<u>Measure, 2010</u> it placed a duty on Welsh Ministers to set child poverty objectives and to report every 3 years on progress towards achieving those objectives.

This strategy has been co-constructed with the children and young people, families and organisations who have given their time to help us understand what will make the greatest difference to them. We are committed to continuing this way of working as we deliver the revised strategy.

We are progressing work to identify how we can most effectively employ the <u>Wellbeing of Wales National Indicators</u> to monitor and report on the impact of this strategy in the future.

We will also take advice to help us find the best ways to directly involve children and young people with lived experience of poverty in helping us to understand whether we and our partners are making progress through the delivery of the strategy. Most importantly in helping us to understand if the work delivered under the strategy is promoting the right of and outcomes for children and young people.

The next Child Poverty Strategy Progress Report will be available in December 2025. We will also consider the best approaches for communicating our progress to children and young people.