



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Children and Young People's Plan.

Updated 2023

This document covers a broad range of topics. You may have experience of topics such as mental health, suicide, or bullying. If you find these upsetting, there is always someone to talk to. For more support you can visit **Home – Meic (meiccymru.org)** as a starting point.



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

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





Welsh ministers published their Programme for Government after they were elected in 2021. It includes some of the important things they will do for children and young people before the next election in 2026.

Everything we do in Welsh Government is aimed at making life better for the people of Wales. That includes providing services to improve the lives of children and young people.

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

In 2022, we published the Children and Young People's Plan. The Plan set out the promises Welsh Government has made to support children and young people.

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

This is our first update to the Plan.





Best start in life.

All children have the right to life, to grow up
and reach their full potential.

All children have the right to relax and play.



What we've done:

Paid for more
children to
receive childcare.

Encouraged
families to speak
Welsh with their
children.

Talked to
people about Baby
Bundles (Bwndel Babi)
to find out what
would be useful for
new parents.

What we will do:

Continue work on making the Bwndel Babi Programme the best it can be.

Publish an Early Childhood Play, Learning and Care Plan for 0-5 year olds in Wales.

Continue to promote the Childcare Offer and the expansion to parents in education
and training.

Help more children with their speech through **Talk With Me**.

Promote the importance of high-quality play opportunities for all children through the
All Wales Play Opportunities grant.

Continue to fund Welsh medium early years and childcare support through
Mudiad Meithrin.

Phased expansion of funded part time, high-quality childcare through Flying Start.

Launch new guidelines and standards for those delivering the new-born infant physical
examination. The examination will be at birth and six weeks.

Treated fairly in education.

All children have the right to be the best they can be.



What we've done:

Started the new Curriculum for Wales.

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

Worked to make Welsh medium education more accessible for all children and young people.

What we will do:

We expect most learners in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be offered Free School Meals by April 2024.

Organise youth engagement sessions after we publish a new national Welsh Language Charter Framework (Siarter Iaith).

Publish early findings on the evaluation of the ALN system. This will assess how the new arrangements are going.

Consult on further guidance for schools' offer to 14-16-year-old learners under the Curriculum for Wales.

Consult on the updated school improvement guidance.

Continue to review work with local authorities to improve school and college buildings and estates in Wales.

Continue to monitor and support implementation of local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP). We will ensure authorities are making progress against their targets to promote equality and tackle discrimination.

Continue to promote the Healthy Child Wales Programme to all school aged children in Wales.

Developing skills and getting a job.

All children have the right to be the best they can be.



What we've done:

Developed an offer of work, education, training or (self) employment for everyone under 25. This is called the Young Persons Guarantee.

Supported 16-18 year olds to gain skills for work through Jobs Growth Plus Wales.

Helped many young people, through the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework into education, employment and training.

What we will do:

Continue to meet with the Young Person's Guarantee Advisory Board. The Board will help shape the future direction of the Young Persons Guarantee.

Ask Estyn to review the role of youth lead workers in supporting Local Authorities. This will help them understand how their services support young people and how these could be aligned.

Prepare the new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research for its role in delivering and developing the Young Persons Guarantee.

Develop a new pathways resource to support young people and their parents and guardians in their choices.

Promote the Young Persons Guarantee through engagement with schools, colleges, universities, businesses and through Careers Wales, TV, radio and social media.

Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.

All children have the right to healthy food and quality healthcare.



What we've done:

Helped children and families live healthier and more active lives
– Healthy Weight;
Healthy Wales.

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

Developed the NYTH/NEST framework across Wales to join up mental health support.

What we will do:

Consider undertaking research into barriers to family involvement in sport and physical activity.

Work with partners to strengthen planning decisions that affect health and wellbeing across Wales.

Consider how we can provide a package of support to encourage physical activity throughout the school day.

Review the guidance on 'Responding to issues of self-harm and thoughts of suicide in young people and resources relating to disordered eating.

Support children and young people with their health and wellbeing through Healthy Child Wales.

A fair society, a kind nation.

All children have the right to a clean environment.

All children have the right to support from the government if their families don't have enough money to live on.

All children should be able to access their rights and be treated equally.



What we've done:

Started to create
a National Forest
for Wales.

Made 20 mph
the default speed
limit in residential
areas.

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

What we will do:

Deliver Phase 1 of our bans and restrictions on the supply of single use plastics.

Respond to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Child Concluding Observations report.

Complete and publish our Child Poverty Strategy.

Deliver and evaluate the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot.

Work with the British Deaf Association to take forward recommendations made in their Audit of Welsh Government report.

Review the Youth Justice Board Case Management Guidance on custody and resettlement.

Continue supporting children and young people affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, including through the "Children and young people's needs" workstream of our VAWDASV Blueprint.

Continue to deliver our action plans that tackle discrimination. This includes:

- The Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan.
- The LGBTQ+ Action Plan.
- The Anti-racist Wales Action Plan.
- The Child Poverty Strategy.
- Actions from our Disability Task force.

Update our anti-bullying guidance 'Rights, Respect, Equality' to help prevent prejudice-related bullying.

Good and secure home.

All children have the right to a safe and healthy home.



What we've done:

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

Published our **youth engagement and progression framework**.

Provided Youth Support Grants to local authorities.

What we will do:

Invest in the Youth Support Grant to continue to help find and prevent young people becoming homeless.

Publish new guidance to support the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This will include guidance on young people and families at risk of homelessness.

Publish a report with recommendations from the independent **Expert Review Panel on reforms to homelessness law**.

Publish an evaluation of our youth homelessness innovation fund projects. The evaluation will include case studies that can be used to share good practice.

Through our **rapid rehousing approach**, we will be working to reduce the number of families with children in temporary accommodation.

Publish plans for reforming homelessness law. We will engage children and young people as part of the consultation.

Local Housing Market Assessments will be completed by local authorities by March 2024. Welsh Ministers will review these to ensure the needs of families with children are met.

Families.

All children have the right to live with their families if that is what is best for them.



What we've done:

Started roll out across Wales of advocacy support for parents whose children are at risk of going into care. Services will be available in each of the seven regions in Wales.

Supported regional accommodation schemes for children with complex needs in Wales, so they can remain close to their home area.

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

What we will do:

Encourage all public, private and third sector organisations to become Corporate Parents.

Continue to work with the Corporate Parenting Implementation Group to consider future steps. This includes the development of guidance for local authorities.

Continue to support the roll out of advocacy support for parents whose children are at risk of going into care.

Continue to develop of new laws to support our aim to remove profit from the care of looked after children.

Continue to work on the National Practice Framework. We will talk to more people about the draft national standards as we develop a final version of the Practice Framework.

Invest in Foster Wales to ensure we can recruit diverse foster families to meet the changing and varied needs of children needing care and support.

Continue to work towards a consistent offer of support to foster families across Wales. This will ensure our foster families can access the support they need, whenever they need it, wherever they are in Wales.

How you will know we're making progress.

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

We have thought about how what we do can help us reach the milestones.

We will be doing more work on this and thinking about the different types of information that will be useful.



- » To increase the healthy life expectancy of adults and narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy between the least and the most deprived by at least 15% by 2050.
- » To increase the percentage of adults with two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours to more than 97% by 2050.
- » To increase the percentage of children with 2 or more healthy behaviours to 94% by 2035 and more than 99% by 2050.
- » 75% of working age adults in Wales will be qualified to level 3 or higher by 2050.
- » The percentage of working age adults with no qualifications will be 5% or below in every local authority in Wales by 2050.
- » Improve GDHI per head in Wales by 2035 and commit to setting a stretching growth target for 2050.
- » Wales will use only its fair share of the world's resources by 2050.
- » An elimination of the pay gap for gender, disability and ethnicity by 2050.
- » Reduce the poverty gap between people in Wales with certain key and protected characteristics (which mean they are most likely to be in poverty) and those without those characteristics by 2035. Commit to setting a stretching target for 2050.
- » Eradicate the gap between the employment rate in Wales and the UK by 2050, with a focus on fair work and raising labour market participation of under-represented groups.
- » At least 90% of 16-24 year olds will be in education, employment, or training by 2050.
- » Increase the percentage of people who volunteer by 10% by 2050, demonstrating Wales's status as a volunteering nation.
- » To improve adult and children's mean mental wellbeing and eliminate the gap in adult and children's mean mental wellbeing between the most deprived and least deprived areas in Wales by 2050.
- » All homes in Wales will have adequate and cost-effective energy performance by 2050
- » A million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- » Wales will achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- » To reverse the decline in biodiversity with an improvement in the status of species and ecosystems by 2030 and their clear recovery by 2050.

How we'll involve you.

We will listen to children, young people and families when we make decisions that affect their lives. One of the ways we will do this is through Young Wales.

We will talk with children, young people and families to check that we are making progress towards our ambition and priorities. This will include getting better at letting you know about opportunities to have your say.

Each year we will talk with children and young people before we update this plan. Members of Young Wales have helped us with this update.

We will respond to feedback from children and young people. You can contact us at **customerhelp@gov.wales**.



Cynllun Plant a Phobl Ifanc.

Children and Young People's Plan.

