

Easy Read



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Child Poverty Strategy: Progress Report 2025

**The report shows what we are doing to help
children in Wales live well**

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and bangs, wearing a light blue long-sleeved top, sitting on a light-colored sofa and holding a young child. The child is wearing a white shirt and blue patterned trousers. The woman is smiling and looking down at the child. The background shows a living room setting with a patterned cushion and a dark object on a shelf.

December 2025

How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version of: **Child Poverty Strategy Progress Report 2025.**



You might need help to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue** may be hard to understand. You can check what they mean on **page 37.**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government.** For more information contact:

Website: <https://www.gov.wales>



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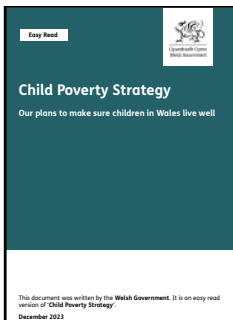
What this report is about



We made a new plan to stop child **poverty** in Wales.



Poverty is when someone does not have the important things they need to live well. This means they lack things like food, clothing, healthcare and education.



We shared the plan in January 2024. You can read about it on our website: [Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2024](#).



We set 5 big goals, which we call **objectives**.



We will write a report every 3 years to show what we have achieved. This is called a **progress report**.



This progress report shows:

- the work we are doing to stop child **poverty**
- what we have achieved.

About our work



Objective 1 – lower costs and make sure families have more money

What we have achieved

Health



People can get free prescriptions.



Women can get free period products.



From February 2026, new parents eligible for extra support can get items for their babies. They are called Baby Bundles.



We help families buy healthy food, milk and vitamins through the **Healthy Start Scheme**.



Children and young people under 25 get free check-ups with a dentist.



Many schools run a tooth-brushing programme.



Children and young people under 16 get free eye tests.



We have shared guidance to help children and young people with drug or alcohol problems.



We have a 10 year plan called **Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales** to help people stay healthy.



The [Healthy Child Wales Programme](#) gives health checks and support from birth to age 7.

Benefits



We are making the **Welfare Benefits** system easier to use.



Welfare benefits is money from the UK government to support people. For example Universal Credit, Child Benefit or Personal Independence Payments.



We are working to make changes so families will only need to give their information **once** to get:

- Council tax help
- Free school meals
- School grants



The aim is for this to be ready across Wales by April 2026.



Families with less money pay less Council Tax. Over 256 thousand families get this support.



Over 216 thousand families did not have to pay any Council Tax.



Care leavers under 25 do not have to pay council tax. Care leavers are young adults leaving foster or residential care.

Funding



There are many grants and funding to help families. For example:

- The **Single Advice fund** helps people get advice, money and reduce their debts.
- The [Discretionary Assistance Fund](#) gives emergency money or household items to families in need.
- The **Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot** gave money to young people leaving care.

Food



All primary school children in Wales get free school meals.



Many children get free milk and breakfast at school.



Schools get funding for Food and Fun programmes in summer. At Food and Fun, children eat healthy meals, try sports, and do art or cooking.



We are helping local businesses support community food projects.



Projects like FareShare Cymru and food banks help families get healthy food and reduce waste.

Heating



[Fuel Bank Foundation](#) gives fuel vouchers to help with heating and electricity costs.



The [Warm Homes](#) programme helps families save energy and money. They give support and grants to improve homes and save energy.

Education



School uniform costs can be high.



We shared guidance in 2023 to help schools keep uniform costs low.



[Children in Wales](#) also wrote a guide for schools.



The [School Essentials Grant](#) helps families buy uniforms and equipment.



The [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) helps young people aged 16 to 18 stay in education.



In 2024 to 2025 we worked with schools in 6 different areas. They looked into what school was like for children living in poverty.



They came up with actions that school can take to improve things and reduce costs.



We are still working on the findings. We will give funding to create online resources, guidance and advice.



Objective 2 – support children, young people, and families out of poverty

What we have achieved

The best start in life



Flying Start supports young children in the poorest areas. The programme helps families get free childcare and support.



The [Talk With Me](#) programme helps children with speech, language, and communication.

Education



Grants, like the **Pupil Development Grant**, help children from poorer areas do better at school.



There are new plans and resources to help children with **Additional Learning Needs**.



[Medr](#) works to make education fair for all learners aged 16 and over.



Unpaid carers get support through the Short Breaks Scheme and Carers Support Fund.



The Disability Rights Taskforce works to remove barriers for disabled people.



Their work helped make a plan called the [Disability People's Rights Plan](#).



There are grants and guidance to support:

- Ethnic minority children – for example, black and Asian children.
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller children in school.



The [Childcare Offer for Wales](#) helps working parents. The programme gives 3 to 4 year olds 30 hours of free childcare each week.

Welsh economy and fair work



The Welsh economy means how much money Wales has as a country.



We are helping people get fair paid jobs.



We work with businesses to create good jobs.



There are programmes to help young people and adults learn skills and find work.



There is support for disabled people and carers to find and keep jobs.



The [Young Person's Guarantee](#) helps 16 to 24 year olds get education, training, or work.



People can get help with self-employment, volunteering, or returning to work after illness.



We are working to close pay gaps and make work fair for everyone.



The [Flexible Skills](#) programme helps businesses train staff and improve skills.

Transport



Families living outside towns can find it harder to reach services.



Buses can be costly or difficult to use. Especially for disabled people.



We are working to make buses cheaper, safer, and easier for young people.





Objective 3 – support child and family wellbeing

What we have achieved

Communities



Community buildings help provide space for things like:

- Playgroups
- Parenting support
- Foodbanks
- Advice



The **Community Facilities** programme gives money to improve community buildings and green spaces, like parks.



Some hubs offer health and social care in 1 place for families.



Community Focused Schools work closely with their local area.



They support children and families and offer activities after school.

Play, sport and other opportunities



The [Playworks Holiday](#) project provides activities and healthy food in school holidays. We give funding for this work.



There are other groups that also give free activities. For example, **Urdd Gobaith Cymru** offers camping for children who cannot afford holidays.



Wales has laws that support children's play.



Councils get funding to make playgrounds safe and easy to use.



People on certain **welfare benefits** can visit Cadw historic sites for £1.



Charities and councils are working together to support young people.



A national youth work organisation is being set up. They will help manage and support youth work.



Roads are safer for children because speed limits have been lowered.



We give money to **Sport Wales** to help sports clubs so all children can take part.

Supporting families



The **Children and Communities** grant gives money to local councils for 3 years.



This money helps programmes like **Families First**, **Flying Start**, and **Early Intervention Parenting Support**.



We support parents through our [Parenting Give it Time](#) campaign. It gives advice, tips, and support for parents.

Mental health and wellbeing



Poor mental health can make life harder for parents and children.



We have a plan to improve mental health for all ages.



The plan focuses on health and social care.



Projects like **Sanctuary** help children with mental health needs or who are at risk.



Child mental health services have improved and waiting times are shorter.



Money is being spent to help children with ADHD and autism.



Waiting times for assessments are being reduced.



Health boards get funding to give children support when it is needed.

Homelessness and housing



Homelessness makes life harder for children and families.



We want to stop young people becoming homeless.



We work with councils and housing groups to help families.



Nearly £220 million is available to support homelessness services in 2025 to 2026.



Fewer families are living in temporary housing.



A new law will help prevent homelessness and improve support. This is called [Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation \(Wales\) Bill](#).



More council homes are being built. Over 1 thousand new homes will be built with extra funding.



There is **Housing and Care** funding to help children with complex needs.



Home adaptations help people live safely. Especially disabled people and people with health conditions. A home adaptation means making changes to a house.



Objective 4 – Make sure all children and families are treated well by services

What we have achieved

Making sure children and young people have a voice.



Wales follows the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). This is a law that protects children's rights.



All government policies must think about children's rights.



[Children in Wales](#) help children and young people share their views with the government.



The Children's Commissioner makes sure public services meet children's rights.

Delivering services in a kind way



We provide funding for [ACE Hub Wales](#) to support **trauma-informed** work.



Trauma is when something bad happens, and it makes someone feel sad or scared for a long time.

Trauma-informed is about understanding, caring, and responding to trauma in a way that helps people heal.



We have given more money for this work in 2025 to 2026.



ACE Hub and [Traumatic Stress Wales](#) provide training and free online learning.



These projects aim to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages living in Wales.



Tools like the [TrACE toolkit](#) help organisations support people in a kind, **trauma-informed** way.



We fund **Warm Hubs**, which are safe and friendly community spaces. They offer advice, support, and help reduce loneliness.

Supporting schools to improve



Schools get money to help children feel safe and supported.



Most schools now have plans to support mental health.



Counselling is available for all children, including young children.



Estyn helps schools understand **poverty**. They share best ways of working to deal with **poverty**. Estyn is an organisation that checks schools and learning places in Wales. They make sure children and adults get a good education.



Schools are making spaces welcoming for all children. Including those with additional learning needs.



Some children face extra problems because of things like race, disability or gender.



We are working to make things fair for everyone.



Objective 5 – The Welsh Government must work well together

What we have achieved

Sharing ideas



We work with councils, charities, and communities to help children in **poverty**.



People living in **poverty** have shared their experiences to improve services.



The **Child Poverty External Reference Group** was set up in 2023.



This helps make better plans to reduce child **poverty**.



This group helps organisations work together and share information.



Over 7,300 people got help in 2024 to 2025 through different projects under the Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities Grant.



We share what we learn so families can get better support.

Working together



The [Socio-Economic Duty](#) is a law that helps stop **poverty**.



Health services, schools, and community groups work together to help children.



[NYTH/NEST](#) is a plan to help children and young people get the right mental health and wellbeing support.



Services must work together to check how people are doing in their area.



They must also make a local plan to improve wellbeing.

Increasing awareness



Child Trust Funds give children money to use when they turn 18.



Child Trust Funds were set up for children born between 2002 and 2011.



Many children have not claimed their money yet.



The government is helping young people get this money for school, housing, or other needs.



We are also working with the UK Government to stop child **poverty**.

Hard words

Poverty

Poverty is when someone does not have the important things they need to live well. This means they lack things like food, clothing, healthcare and education.

Trauma

Trauma is when something bad happens, and it makes someone feel sad or scared for a long time.

Trauma-informed

Trauma-informed is about understanding, caring, and responding to trauma in a way that helps people heal.

Welfare benefits

Welfare benefits is money from the UK government to support people. They are called things like Universal Credit, Child Benefit or Personal Independence Payments.