

Easy Read



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Update on our Children and Young People's Plan

What we are doing to support children and young people in Wales



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of 'Update on the Children and young people's plan: January 2024'.

April 2024

How to use this document



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**.



Meic are an organisation that offer support to young people. If you think someone needs help please go to: www.meiccymru.org



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What this booklet is about



In 2022 we made a plan. The Easy Read version was called: **Our plan for children and young people.**



You can find it by going here: [Children and young people's plan | GOV.WALES](#)



This is an update about what we have done. And what we will do next.



We want to make life better for everyone living in Wales. That includes children and young people.

What we do

Here are some of the services we provide:

Families, Parents and Carers



We have a support service for parents. It is called [Parenting. Give it time.](#) It offers advice and information.



We also offer support through our [Family Information Services](#) and [Families First](#) programme.

Putting more money into families pockets



We have a helpline called [Claim What's Yours.](#) To help people claim the benefits they are able to get.

Supporting children and young people's health



Mothers get support for their unborn child when they are pregnant.



We support children to be healthy through the **Healthy Child Wales Programme**. This is for children up to 7 years old.



We have a new call service for people who need urgent support with their mental health.



We also offer all secondary school pupils the HPV vaccine. This is an injection that protects people from getting a type of cancer called cervical cancer.

Supporting Learners



We want all children to have a fair education. Whatever their background is.



All schools have started to follow the new **Curriculum for Wales**. It will be rolled out fully over the next few years.



We are also working hard to support children with additional learning needs.



We are supporting young people with careers advice through **Careers Wales**.



We are also making sure more people learn to speak Welsh.



All schools are given an online service called Hwb.

Safe and secure homes



We are working hard to make sure there are more affordable homes.



These homes should be warm, safe, and good quality.



We want to make sure those people in temporary homes are helped to move into a longer-term home as soon as possible.



Supporting children and young people in care



All children in care should have a support plan from their local council (local authority).



Local councils should place the child in the right home for them.



They should be kept safe and well.



Young people should also get the support they need when they leave care.

What is important



In 2021 we made a plan called a **Programme for Government**.



This talks about all the things we want to achieve, including for children.



We have some really big goals to make sure children are treated fairly.



Also, to make sure children are not living in poverty. This means, they have enough money to live well. And can use good services.



We will now talk more about these big goals.

1. All children should have the best start in life

We said the most important thing was to make sure:



- All children have the best start in life, including good early years services.



- There are services and support for parents and carers.



- Children should be supported wherever they are.



What this means:

- Support for parents during pregnancy.



- Support for new-born babies.



- A good education.



- Childcare.

- Support services like **Flying Start**.



- Chances for children to play.



- Chances to learn Welsh at an early age.

What we will do next



- We will keep working on a programme called **Bwndel Babi**. This will give some new parents essential items for their baby. Like blankets and clothes.



- Make a plan for children aged 0 to 5 years. It will be about playing and learning.



- Help children with their speech through a programme called [Talk With Me](#).



- Keep funding the service to help learn Welsh at an early age.



- Keep growing the **Flying Start** programme.

2. All children should be treated fairly in school

What this means



- We will make sure children have a good experience in school.



- We will give children the support they need to do well.



- We will give children more support when they leave school.



- We will make sure learners with **Additional Learning Needs** have the support they need to do well.



- We will make sure school meals are healthy.

What we will do next



- All primary school learners will get free school meals by September 2024.



- We will work with local councils to improve school buildings.



- We will find out what more support 14 to 16 year old learners need.

3. All children and young people should be supported with education, training and employment

What this means



- We will make sure every young person over 16 years old has an option for after school. It could be employment, education, or training.



- We will support them in their choices.



- We will improve education and training.



- We have increased the amount of money young people can get for training, meals, and transport.



- We offer free Welsh lessons to 16 to 25 year olds.



- More people can use a learning programme called **Jobs Growth Wales**. This is a work-based learning programme for young people. It gives them the skills and experience they need to get paid work. Or further training.



- We held a year-long national conversation with young people aged 16 to 24. We talked to young people through surveys, focus groups and workshops. They helped us understand how to improve the way we support young people.

What we will do



- We will keep meeting with a group called the **Young Person's Advisory Board**.



- Make sure there is support to help young people make choices about learning and work.

4. All children and young people should be supported to be well

What this means



- We will think about children's wellbeing in everything we do.



- We will support activities to do with helping improve wellbeing.



- We will make sure there is more support for children's mental health. Whatever kind of support they need. Some people need a little. And some people need a lot.



- We have updated the **Youth Mental Health Toolkit**. This gives advice and information about mental health.



- We have a long term plan to help children be a healthy weight.



- We have support services for young people about sexual health.



- We are supporting young people to learn about the harms of Vaping. Vaping is something people use to stop smoking. But some people have started doing it as a regular habit.

What we will do next



- Work with other organisations to look into health and wellbeing more.



- Look into how children could get more exercise when in school.



- Make it law to stop companies advertising food that is very unhealthy.

5. All children and young people should have a fair chance in life

What this means



- We will support children and young people to know their rights. And to be treated equally and fairly.



- We will help stop poverty. Poverty is when people do not have enough money to live well. And we will give support to people who do not have enough money.



- We will give children the support they need. Whatever their needs are.



- We will try to stop bullying. And violence.



- We are making sure the environment is cleaner. This is important for children to have a healthy future.



- We set up a scheme for young people to get cheaper bus tickets.



- We have lowered the speed limit of cars on many roads. This will help make roads safer for children.



- We have done more work with families whose children have committed crimes. This is about how to support them well.

What we will do next



- We will publish our report called **Child Poverty Strategy**.



- Make sure all children are treated equally and fairly. Whatever needs they have. And keep making plans about these issues.



- Update our guides about stopping bullying.



6. All children should have a healthy and secure home to live in

What this means



- We will do all we can to stop children from being homeless.



- If they are homeless, we will do all we can to change this.



- We have put a lot of money into funding housing and support services.



- We made a plan about supporting young people leaving care.

What we will do next



- We will keep funding the Youth Support Grant. This is to help stop young people from becoming homeless.



- We will publish a report about new changes to homeless laws.



- We will reduce the number of families with children in temporary homes.



7. All children should get the support they need to be with their families

What this means



- We will support families going through a difficult time.



- We will protect children from harm.



- We will improve care and support for children who cannot stay with their family.

What we will do next



- Offer support to parents at risk of their children going into care.



- We will give money to Foster Wales. Foster families provide safe homes for children who cannot live in their own home.

How you will know we are doing what we say



We will report on what we have done.

How we will involve you



- We will listen to people's views.



- We will talk to young people and their families.



- You can tell us what you think by emailing: customerhelp@gov.wales



- You can make a complaint by:
phoning: 03000 251738
or emailing: complaints@gov.wales