

Easy Read



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

We want to know what you think



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of 'Have your say about child poverty in Wales'.

January 2023

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 20**.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

Website: www.gov.wales/child-poverty-strategy-wales



Easy Read Wales made this document into easy read using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

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Introduction



We want to tackle **poverty**. And make life fairer in Wales. As part of our work on this we have to write a **strategy** to deal with **child poverty** in Wales.



Child poverty is when a child is brought up without the important things they need to live well. This means they lack things like food, clothing, healthcare and education.



A **strategy** is a plan of action that will help us achieve a certain goal.



Living in **poverty** can have an impact on a child's education, health and **well-being**.



Well-being means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do.



This document will help you hold a **consultation** event. A consultation is a meeting to talk about something.



In this document we explain our ideas for the **Child Poverty Strategy for Wales**. We want people to talk about these things at your consultation event.

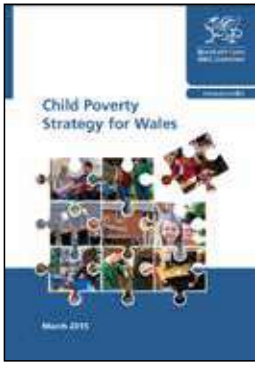
We want to:



- make Wales a fairer place to live where everyone has the same chances in life



- lower the number of children and families living in **poverty** in Wales.



We wrote our last **Child Poverty Strategy for Wales** in 2015. We now need to update the plan.



We need to make sure our new plan thinks about the impact things like Coronavirus and the **cost of living crisis** has had on families.



The **cost of living crisis** means the cost of things people need like food, gas, electricity and petrol is going up. But the amount we earn is not going up. So people now have less money.



We must think about how to spend money to support the most urgent needs of the people of Wales.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act



The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is a law about improving the **well-being** of Wales.



It makes sure **public services** think about the impact their decisions have on people now and in the future.



Public services are organisations that get money from Welsh Government to run services for people in Wales. For example the NHS and fire and rescue services.



This law also says **public services** should work better together to deal with problems. And should also work more with people and communities.

What we want the plan to be about



We must include all **public services** in the new **Child Poverty Strategy for Wales**.



We must all work together to help create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.



We are not in charge of things like benefits, taxes and how much money we get to spend on **public services**. The UK Government is in charge of this.



But there are still lots of things that the Welsh Government and **public services** in Wales can do to improve the lives of children and their families.



We must also work together with the third sector and private sector.



The **third sector** gives support to children, young people, families and communities in Wales. They have an important role in dealing with **child poverty**. **Third sector** means voluntary organisations and charities.



The **private sector** is also important. The private sector is businesses. They can support the work of small local charities. And also provide communities with jobs.

We want to know what people think



We want to hear views from children and young people, families, people from the community and other organisations that support children in **poverty**.



This will help us make decisions about what we should do to tackle **child poverty** in Wales.



We will check how the plan will affect things like children's rights and the Welsh language.



We looked through information from organisations like the **Wales Centre for Public Policy** and the **Children's Commissioner for Wales**. This information has helped us understand what we need to talk to people about to write our plan.



Please use this document to help you guide the discussion at your consultation event. And then answer the questions in the response form.

What we want people's views on



1. Making sure families have more money to support the needs of children and young people

This means doing things like:



- Making sure people have information about what benefits and money support they can have.



- Lowering the cost of food, fuel and housing. And important things like period products, items for new babies and school uniforms.



- Thinking about how to make things easier for children and families.



A light blue form with three sections. The first section is labeled 'Your name' and contains a small icon of a person. The second section is labeled 'Address' and contains a small icon of a house. The third section is labeled 'Phone' and contains a small icon of a mobile phone.

For example, by making it easier to fill out forms so you do not have to give the same information to the same organisation many times.



We do not know how long the cost of living crisis will go on for.



We need to make sure children and their families have the support they need now and in the future.

2. Making clear ways to help children and young people move out of poverty



This means making sure children and young people grow up with a better chance to move out of **poverty**.



We want organisations to focus on early years for children. This is the time from before a baby is born, up until they start school. This can help improve the health and development of a child.



We must make sure everyone can get an education.



And we must make our **economy** strong and make sure people can get better paid jobs.



The **economy** is how much money a country has.



We need to support parents and carers to develop their skills to get into work.



And make sure parents and carers can afford childcare and good transport.



We need to make sure work pays well, so parents do not have to struggle with the cost of living.



We need to make sure our plan is written to treat people equally and fairly.



We need to find ways to support families who have more difficulties because of **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when you are treated badly or unfairly because of your sex, race, religion, disability or sexual identity.

3. Thinking about children's rights and equality



We want to support children and young people to enjoy their rights. Especially those with **protected characteristics**.



A **protected characteristic** is a term used to talk about different groups of people who might be treated less fairly. This includes:

- Disabled people
- Sex - being treated differently or unfairly because you are a woman, or a man
- People from different races or cultures
- People of different ages
- Straight, gay and lesbian people
- People from different religions or people who do not have a religion
- Women who are pregnant or have a new baby
- People who are married or who have a civil partner
- Transgender people - someone who identifies as a different gender to the one they were born

We believe all our children and young people have the right to:



- Have the best start in life.



- Take part in and enjoy learning and have the best education.



- Enjoy healthy lifestyles and be protected from harm, **abuse**, **neglect** and **discrimination**.



Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.



Neglect is when someone does not look after you properly.



- Be able to play and have fun.



- Be listened to and be treated with respect.



- Have a home and a community that is a nice place to grow up.



- Have enough money support for what they need.



We know that **poverty** can make it hard for children and young people to enjoy some of these rights.



We need to make sure our plans and our work help make sure children and young people are treated equally and fairly.

4. Making sure children and families are treated with dignity and respect



Dignity means valuing someone and treating them with respect.



We want the people and services who support children and families to work in ways that do not make things harder for people living in **poverty**.



We should find ways to make systems easier. So it is easier to find and get support.



We need to make sure children and young people do not feel left out because their families are poor.



Local authorities and **public services** should work with children, young people, their families and communities to find out what is important to them. And what needs to change.

What happens next



We cannot include everything in the plan, but we will think through everyone's views.



We must make hard decisions about how to spend public money to improve people's **well-being**. And protect the **economy**.



We do not know if we will get funding for the **Child Poverty Strategy for Wales** from the UK Government.



But we can still make a change by using the money we have in the best possible ways.



Please tell us if you want feedback on what we have learnt and about decisions we make.

Hard words

Abuse

Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.

Child poverty

Child poverty is when a child is brought up without the important things they need to live well. This means they lack things like food, clothing, healthcare and education.

Dignity

Dignity means valuing someone and treating them with respect.

Discrimination

Discrimination is when you are treated badly or unfairly because of your sex, race, religion, disability or sexual identity.

Economy

The economy is how much money a country has.

Neglect

Neglect is when someone does not look after you properly.

Public services

Public services are organisations that get money from Welsh Government to run services for people in Wales. For example the NHS and fire and rescue services.

Protected characteristics

A protected characteristic is a term used to talk about different groups of people who might be treated less fairly. This includes:

- Disabled people
- Sex - being treated differently or unfairly because you are a woman, or a man.
- People from different races or cultures
- People of different ages
- Straight, gay and lesbian people
- People from different religions or people who do not have a religion
- Women who are pregnant or have a new baby
- People who are married or who have a civil partner
- Transgender people - someones who identifies as a differnt gender to the one they were born.

Well-being

Well-being means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do. We need your help to decide what to include in the new Child Poverty plan for Wales.