

Part 1:

Whiteside (1996) and Crafts (2023) discuss the change in political direction that began during the 1940s, with the introduction of support to all, from birth to their death, as a result of the findings of the Beveridge report. They discuss that The Beveridge report proposed that, in order to provide the people of Britain with “economic security”, universal benefits should be offered to support the elderly who are no longer working, those who were too sick to work, unemployed and children, without means testing. While this is described as the Welfare State, Whiteside (1996) argues that the term Welfare State is hard to define, however seems to first be used when discussing the policies in place to meet the findings of the Beveridge report. Crafts (2023) explains that the period of post war Britain saw policy reforms in “The Beveridge Era”, that hoped to mitigate poverty and illness, which then led to an increase in government spending. Terao (2023) states that many political influences have changed and shaped the current welfare system, however, argues that the Beveridge report was a pivotal moment for government welfare state. These were to be funded by tax revenues and National Insurance contributions, however, (Crafts, 2023) argues that Beveridge miscalculated the cost of such benefits and social security spending exceeded expectations. Within this time the NHS was also founded, for healthcare for all, as well as the *Education Act 1944* introducing state funded secondary education (Crafts, 2023). Additionally, Legislation.gov.uk (no date) and NSPCC (2025) state that, within this period, the *Children Act 1948* expressed a duty on local authority to maintain the care of children who had been abandoned, orphaned or whose parents or guardians were incapable of caring for the child(ren) themselves.

Glennerster (2020) describes many periods of political change since the 1940s to modern Britain, after the era of the Beveridge report – which it describes as “The Post War – Settlement”, it discusses a period of change and a more constrained spending as a result of economic instability of the 1970s which also reversed the course of Welfare State. This period between 1976 and 1997, labelled “Constraint and change”, is described as being far enough away from war that the need for being equal and sharing of risk is almost forgotten, as the rich are able to fend for themselves. With the economic insecurities of the 1970s, Glennerster (2020) states

that within this period there was a considerable rise in the gap between the rich and the poor. During the period between 1997 and 2010, Glennerster (2020) describes a reshaping of Welfare State priorities. This included Sure Start scheme as part of the expansion of Welfare State, to provide support in terms of parenting and health messages to families in more deprived areas, which can be linked to the priorities set out for Flying Start by Welsh Government (2010) and Welsh Government (2013). The period between 2010 and 2019, labelled “Austerity”, sees governments thinning spending, at its most drastic cuts since World War 2. With that being said, IFS (2012) states that the Beveridge report is now outdated due to the different contexts of family life and their dynamics changing from 1940s to 21st century Britain. IFS (2012) further argues that it is important that the government is in tune with the needs and context of families today. Action for Children (2025) states that there are four and a half million children in Britain who live in poverty and discusses government benefits as being one contributing factor to this. This is due to almost 50% of children who live in poverty currently being from families with multiple children, and government caps on child benefits at 2 children, which have now been scrapped. In Wales, one third of children live in poverty, with a quarter of those living in homes where their parents work (Children’s Commissioner for Wales 2026). Senedd Research (2023) defines living in poverty as being from a household whose income is less than 60% of the British average income. Children’s Commissioner for Wales (2026) states that the current percentage of children in Wales living in poor households is approximately 30%. However, one argument around the usefulness of state welfare is a possibility of a culture of dependency. Arthur (2021) states that it has long been debated whether the state welfare dependency exists and can contribute to the cyclical nature of living within poverty, as the dependency is passed from parent to child. Moreover, Arthur (2021) explores thinking that dependency on state welfare has historically been likened to drug addiction or infectious disease as it can sweep through families and wider communities.

There is much government guidance including legislation and policy that guides family and parenting support services in Wales and the UK. This can stem from safeguarding and child protection policies to policy around wellbeing and poverty eradication. Some of the policies which have shaped the current guidance around family support include *Children Act 1989*, *Children and Families (Wales) Measure*

2010 and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. NSPCC (2025) discusses the historical timeline of guidance for child protection which explains that such guidance has been updated following inquiries into the death of children because of instances of child abuse. Following on from this NSPCC (2025) discusses a number of changes made to the statutory duty of local authorities to ensure that children are given the best chance to thrive and live free from abuse. *The Children Act 1989* which established legal framework to ensure local authorities protect children from significant harm and introduces the idea of parental responsibility and the notion that the best place for children to be cared for is by their family (House of Commons, 2025). In 1990 the UK Government also signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and this came into force in 1992 (Joint Committee on Human Rights, 2010). Whilst the UNCRC is not a law, it does underpin how children are seen in new legislation (Joint Committee on Human Rights, 2010). However, in Wales children's rights are given an important platform within Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, meaning that the Welsh government must give due regard to the UNCRC when making decisions around children and young people as well as making sure that there is public knowledge of children's rights within the UNCRC (Welsh Government, 2022a).

As well as safeguarding children from the risk of harm, Welsh Government (2017) states the importance of ensuring children are safe from the harm caused by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Moreover, Institute of Health Equity (2015) states that children living in households with deprivation and poor socioeconomic status were more likely to experience ACEs and be placed on a child protection plan. Scourfield *et al.* (2021) states that as Flying Start operates in areas of deprivation, the programme could safeguard children from the risk of harm and abuse within these areas, as there are more professional eyes on the children. Although Scourfield *et al.* (2021) also recognises that the increase in number of referrals for at risk children may be as a result of that additional professional contact and not that harm is more prevalent in deprived areas. *The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* builds on what was set out in the *Children Act 1989* in a Welsh context and establishes the need for regional safeguarding boards. Moreover, the *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* is concerned with ensuring local

authorities are identifying needs of families and supporting early intervention to support those needs. Senedd Cymru (2023), Social Care Wales (no date) and Hywel Dda University Health Board (no date) state that the *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* also places families voices central to their support, so that they are able to guide and co-produce the support they receive. National Assembly for Wales (2013) and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill (2013) discuss the process of forming the *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*. One point discussed within these documents is how public bodies, their employees and the families and children they work with define well-being and what this means for the definition of well-being used within the act. The option to not define well-being but rather use the phrase 'have regard' was chosen, as well-being can mean different things to different people, dependent on many variables in their lives, for example their culture, living arrangements or relationships.

Early identification of needs is important so that authorities can minimise the need for a more critical support (Senedd Cymru, 2023). Moreover, Siraj – Blatchford and Siraj – Blatchford (2010) state that parenting support services working to keep children safe from harm can also increase educational attainment. In contrast to this, Children in Wales (2025) state that parenting support is needed to be more intense than the sector is able to deliver, due to capacity and funding.

Devaney, Mac Donald and Holzer (2024) argue that political ideologies have an impact on the way in which family support services are structured and delivered. Furthermore, stating that the intersectionality between political ideologies and family support delivery, in that governments have differing views in the amount of interaction and guidance which should be offered to parenting and to which sections of society the support should be offered for example the need of young mums or deprived families versus the need of refugees.

This is evident in 1998 Wales, when Wales became a devolved nation. Following this in 2007 Welsh Assembly Members were granted power to create national legislation for Wales, which then became law-making powers in 2011 (Welsh Parliament, 2025). Welsh Assembly Government (2004) sets a framework of seven aims – aim one being to provide children with “a flying start to life” which sets out the core aims of the Flying Start approach. Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 sets out

legislation around tackling child poverty, play sufficiency and participation, the registration of child minding and day care for children and the establishment of integrated family support teams. Section 8, within the part discussing eradicating child poverty, it states that local authorities should provide parental support in the form of improving parenting skills. Despite being a new measure, this also works alongside the *Children Act 1989*, using its definitions as seen in Section 67 point 5.

Since Wales became a devolved nation, Welsh policy and legislation has been debated and written by a government for Wales, in Wales, within the Senedd (Welsh Parliament, 2025). However, Wincott (2005) discusses the disconnect caused by the devolution of the “Celtic - nations” and the shake-up of the government structure which could affect the implementation of policies across the whole of the UK.

Furthermore, arguing that despite devolution hoping to achieve autonomy to support the needs of Wales, policies implemented within devolved nations could be less impactful than those made for the whole of the UK. Devolution may have not given Wales enough power, for example working within the constraints of money sent to them by the UK government, that this may not be adequate to make a difference within the policies (Wincott, 2005). In the early 2000s Welsh Government set out their vision for the future of children and young people’s services in Wales, whereby children and families voices were heard and services worked collaboratively and within the principles of the UNCRC (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010; Wincott, 2005). Wales was also the first British country to establish the role of the Commissioner for Wales in 2001, a role which promotes child safety and safeguarding of children and young people (Children’s Commissioner for Wales, 2007, Wincott, 2005). According to Wincott (2005) the creation of the Children’s Commissioner in Wales, soon after devolution, became the driver to Wales’ political attention on the Early Years.

Although keeping children safe from harm is one driver to Welsh Governments Flying Start initiative, another driver is to tackle the gap created by child poverty. Welsh Government (2024a) states that there is a gap created in children’s attainment and future life chances through living in poverty and describes poverty gap as the inequalities caused by living in the poorest households. Welsh Government (2021a) argues that living in poverty can be cyclical as living in poverty can reduce health and well-being outcomes which can cause the next generation to

experience the same as they age. The Marmot review (2010) discusses the links between unemployment and poor health as well as the link between those with minimal qualifications and unemployment, which evidences the need to ensure that children are given the best start to life in order to meet their highest potential in life. When the Marmot review was written it reported that levels of poverty in the UK were significantly higher than in some European countries and above the EU average. Welsh Assembly Government (2004) discusses the importance of a fairer Wales for all, including the children of Wales as they represent the future of the country. The document sets out the government's aim for offering a Flying Start to life in an attempt to close the poverty gap. This included offering antenatal care, Sure Start schemes to support disadvantaged and minority communities including young mums, parenting support, early language support and early years education. Additionally, Scourfield *et al.* (2021) states that Flying Start aims to tackle the inequality in skills and attainment, including language and social skills, to break the cycle of poverty. However, Devaney, Mac Donald and Holzer (2024) argue that family support initiatives can inadvertently miss the “average” section of society who may be in need. Additionally, in contrast to the aims of Flying Start, Arthur (2021) argues that giving parental support and access to education around child development, the importance of the early years and attachments is not always enough to break the cycle of poverty and attainment and support children to high attainment. Furthermore, Scourfield *et al.* (2021) explores links between living in poverty and the risk of harm to children and identifies that the increase in contact with professionals could create increased protection, which could be seen as surveillance by families and indeed deter them from interacting with the service.

With that said, in Wales, closing the poverty gap is made duty for public bodies by the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*. The act aims to ensure that Wales is more equal for all, creating a more prosperous country, with more joined up and safer communities for all, to enable Welsh Government to reduce the numbers of households living in poverty. This act has targeted to reduce the poverty gap by 2035 and suggests furthering this target to 2050 (Welsh Government, 2024b). This speaks of the governments long term effort to ensure public bodies are working to tackle the effects of poverty, including the effects poverty has on children and young people, as this is seen as a challenge facing Wales both now and, in the future

(Welsh Government, 2025b). These public bodies include local authorities and health boards, who come together in the delivery of Flying Start family support (Welsh Government, 2017) must report back to government annually with the progress made to meet the targets of the act (Welsh Government, 2025b). Additionally, there is a duty on the Children's Commissioner for Wales to report to the Senedd with progress made across the country in the year before a Senedd election.

The success of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* has seen it move to a more global field with the United Nations taking inspiration from the act in creating the declaration of future generations (Welsh Parliament, 2021, and Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, 2024). The United Nations state that poverty remains a global problem at the heart of creating a more successful world and a brighter future for the children and young people of today (United Nations, 2024). However, United Nations (2024) states that, globally, the effects of poverty have increased since 2015 and therefore states that support for families is needed. Furthermore, on a global scale, Littmarck, Lind and Sandin (2018) discuss family support from a Swedish perspective during the 1960s to 2000s and states that the UK's family orientated policies were used within the Christian Democrats critique of policy, noting that Swedish policies were not family centred in the same way as the UK's policies were. The UK secretary of state commissioned a review in 2010 to investigate "strategies for reducing health inequities" which include living in poverty, in which the importance of quality parenting programmes and key workers was noted as recommendations, to ensure children were able to meet their highest potential, acknowledging the importance of the first 1000 days (The Marmot review, 2010). Although written for the UK government these findings and recommendations have been adopted in Wales in 2025 and work alongside the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (Welsh Government, 2025a). However, the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* omits from its writing the importance of children's voice and the UNCRC, which resulted in the creation of "The Right Way" (Holland and Howe, no date). This tool kit aims to inform public bodies of their duty to consider existing commitments to the rights of a child when navigating duties around the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*.

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2023) states that so far, the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* has established a preventative lens to health inequalities including poverty and education. This is supported by The Marmot review (2010) which states that prevention is key to tackling the impact of poverty in terms of the way people tend to live while in poorer income homes. This includes smoking, poor diet and exercise and obesity. The importance of the early years of a child's life is additionally acknowledged in Welsh Governments programme for government (Welsh Government, 2021b) whereby the government prioritised Flying Start (which includes a family support service), funded quality childcare and support for vulnerable families. Sylva *et al.* (2004) researched the effects of quality early years provision on the outcomes of children and found a positive correlation between quality early years and better attainment of children. Results within Sylva *et al.* (2004) found that the outcomes of children were improved with an effective home learning environment, where families were able to respond to their child appropriately and stretch their child's thinking. Additionally stating that the environment during preschool years has a lasting effect on outcomes up to the end of key stage 1. This is supported by Social Mobility Commission (2023) which states that some of the frequently mentioned improvements from parents who have participated in parenting programmes, delivered within family support, include gaining a deeper understanding of their role as a parent, having more appropriate expectations, empathy with their children as well improving parental mental health and resilience. Moreover, Institute of Health Equity (2015) explains that there needs to be a focus on the early years in order to prevent lifelong health issues and advocates for further funding to enable support networks around families to improve educational outcomes of children, especially living in low socio-economic homes. Positive parenting tools and strategies are therefore strands within the parenting support guidelines (Welsh Government, 2017). Despite this, Welsh Parliament (2021) part 176, discusses a lack of funding to fully support the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* to be successful. In contrast to this, Senedd Research (2021) argues that the lack of funding should not obstruct the acts implementation.

Funding of family support is discussed within Hidalgo *et al.* (2018) who look at family support within a European context of parenting and the policies which support positive parenting and the importance of parental attachment, bonding and

reciprocity to enable children to thrive holistically. The focus of the current lens of childhood in Spain is the important role of parents to develop their children's wellbeing and the role they have in improving their children's outcomes. However, findings suggest that the family support can be varied throughout Spain, in terms of how programmes are designed and delivered and what they focus on, due to the differences in the ways that different governments resource and fund this.

Additionally, these differences can be seen within countries, not just from one country to the other, based on the different ways in which different regions fund family support or has draws on its funding for other service needs. Therefore, funding seems to be more than just a problem in Wales.

This European context also links to the findings within the EPPE report written by Sylva *et al.* (2004) and the findings of Siraj – Blatchford and Siraj – Blatchford (2010) who also discuss the importance of a quality workforce who are well qualified. The importance of quality interactions with early years children, which are mindful of the rights of the child and the family, are set out for practitioners in Wales within the National Occupational Standards, which has a specific strand for working in partnership with families (Social Care Wales, 2023). This document sets out the standard of practice expected when working with children and their families in order to create a quality workforce. However, Children in Wales (2025) states that the way in which the services are funded also creates barriers to retaining staff due to fixed term contracts and poor job security. Although discussing the health visiting strand of Flying Start, this is also supported by National Assembly for Wales (2018). Social Mobility Commission (2023) also discusses some of the disadvantages related to parenting programmes and explains that the limited time offered within parenting programmes was found to be too short to enable families to embed the learning within the family's behaviour. This could cause more strain to the funding, if longer sessions were offered to families in the future, creating more demand on an already oversubscribed workforce. However, MacAlister (2022) reviewed the practice of children's social care services and argues that family support services need to work in partnership with other agencies to form a more holistic support category, which he defines as "Family Help", in order to reduce the hand overs, be more responsive and combine targeted early intervention and child protection help to form one multidisciplinary team. Additionally, the lack of funding is discussed and states that a

further 2 billion pounds spending is proposed, over a five-year period, to improve the offer to children and their families.

Co-location of support services is seen as a way in which the local authorities and health boards can effectively deliver support to families and is highlighted in Welsh Government (2022b) as this can support multi-agency working and information sharing. Moreover, as is stated in Welsh Government (2022b) integration and partnering of services helps to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. However, again, this is not always possible due to barriers with funding which inhibit local authorities from securing building suitable for all. An additional barrier to this being implemented, as is mentioned in Welsh Government (2022b) is that not all public bodies concerned felt that this was necessary.

References:

Action for Children (2025) *Child poverty*. Available at:

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/children-and-families/child-poverty/> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Arthur, D. (2021) *Welfare dependency: the history of an idea*. Available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Don-Arthur/publication/371603102_Welfare_dependency_the_history_of_an_idea/links/648bb7b2c41fb852dd094e73/Welfare-dependency-the-history-of-an-idea.pdf

(Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Children Act 1989. Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/contents> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Children's Commissioner for Wales (2007) *Annual report and resource accounts for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*. Available at:

<https://senedd.wales/media/vkkjmo52/gen-ld6774-e-english.pdf> (Accessed: 20 November 2025).

Children's Commissioner for Wales (2026) *Child poverty*. Available at:

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/our-work/policy-positions/child-poverty/> (Accessed: 10 January 2026).

Children in Wales (2025) *State of parenting and family support sector 2025*.

Available at:

https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/application/files/7917/4850/8277/State_of_Parenting_Report_2025.pdf (Accessed: 28 November 2025).

Crafts, N. (2023) 'The welfare state and inequality: were the UK reforms of the 1940s a success?', *Oxford Open Economics*, 3(1), pp. 1191 - 1200,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ooec/odad054>

Devaney, C., Mac Donald, M. and Holzer, J. (2024) 'A social justice perspective on the delivery of family support', *Children and Youth Services Review*, 159, pp. 1-8.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107494>

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2023) *The Well-being of Future Generations Act and its impact so far...* Available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xk6UqUZb0_U (Accessed: 21 November 2025).

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2024) *Wales celebrates landmark moment as the UN adopts declaration on future generations*. Available at:

<https://futuregenerations.wales/news/wales-celebrates-landmark-moment-as-the-un-adopts-declaration-on-future-generations/> (Accessed: 21 November 2025).

Glennerster, H. (2020) *The post war welfare state: stages and disputes*. Available at:

<https://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spdo/spdorn03.pdf> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Hidalgo, V., Pérez-Padilla, J., Sánchez, J., Ayala-Nunes, L., Maya, J., Grimaldi, V., & Menéndez, S. (2018) 'An analysis of different resources and programmes supporting at-risk families in Spain', *Early Child Development and Care*, 188(11), pp. 1528–

1539. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2018.1491560>

House of Commons (2025) *An overview of child protection legislation in England*.

Available at: [https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06787/#:~:text=Children%20Act%201989,care%20\(a%20care%20order](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06787/#:~:text=Children%20Act%201989,care%20(a%20care%20order) (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Hywel Dda University Health Board (no date) *The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*. Available at: [https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-](https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014/)

[arrangements/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014/](https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014/) (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

IFS (2012) *70th anniversary of the Beveridge report: where now for welfare?*

Available at: <https://ifs.org.uk/articles/70th-anniversary-beveridge-report-where-now-welfare> (Accessed: 10 January 2026).

Institute of Health Equity (2015) *The impact of adverse experiences in the home on the health of children and young people*. Available at:

<https://senedd.wales/media/vkkjmo52/gen-ld6774-e-english.pdf> (Accessed: 20 November 2025).

Joint Committee on Human Rights (2010) *The United Nations convention on the rights of the child: How legislation underpins implementation in England*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c0ffb40f0b645ba3c6788/uncrc_how_legislation_underpins_implementation_in_england_march_2010.pdf (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Legislation.gov.uk (no date) *Children Act 1948*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/11-12/43/enacted> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Littmarck, S., Lind, J., Sandin, B. (2018) 'Negotiating parenting support: welfare politics in Sweden between the 1960s and the 2000s', *Social Policy and Society*, 17(3) pp. 491-502. doi:10.1017/S1474746417000574

MacAlister, J. (2022) *The independent review of children's social care*. Available at: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230308122535mp_/https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf (Accessed: 30 December 2025).

National Assembly for Wales (2013) *Social services and Well-being (Wales) bill. Stage 1 committee report*. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/media/r0rer5fy/cr-ld9418-e-english.pdf> (Accessed: 3 December 2025).

National Assembly for Wales (2018) *Flying start: outreach*. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/media/3ckp40la/cr-ld11425-e.pdf> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

NSPCC (2025) *History of child protection in the UK*. Available at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/history-of-child-protection-in-the-uk> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Scourfield, J., Webb, C. J. R., Elliott, M., Staniland, L., and Bywaters, P. (2021) 'Are child welfare intervention rates higher or lower in Areas targeted for enhanced early

years services?', *Child Abuse Review*, 30, pp. 306 - 317.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2696>.

Senedd Cymru (2023) *The Social Services and Well-being Act: How well is it working? - Part 1*. Available at: <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/the-social-services-and-well-being-act-how-well-is-it-working-part-1/> (Accessed: 28 November 2025).

Senedd Research (2021) *Delivering for future generations: what are the barriers to implementing the world's first Well-being of Future Generations Act?* Available at: <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/delivering-for-future-generations-what-are-the-barriers-to-implementing-the-world-s-first-well-being-of-future-generations-act/#:~:text=Whilst%20the%20Committee%20heard%20calls,challenges%20for%20delivering%20their%20work>. (Accessed: 25 November 2025).

Senedd Research (2023) *"The biggest issue affecting children in Wales" - tackling child poverty*. Available at: <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/the-biggest-issue-affecting-children-in-wales-tackling-child-poverty/> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Siraj – Blatchford, I. and Siraj – Blatchford, J. (2010) *Improving children's attainment through a better quality of family-based support for early learning*. Available at: https://basw.co.uk/sites/default/files/resources/basw_111929-1_0.pdf (Accessed: 25 November 2025).

Social Care Wales (no date) *The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*. Available at: <https://socialcare.wales/cms-assets/documents/hub-downloads/Workbook-What-does-the-Act-mean-for-me.pdf> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Social Care Wales (2023) *Children's care learning and development*. Available at: <https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/early-years-and-childcare/national-occupational-standards-nos/childrens-care-learning-and-development> (Accessed: 26 November 2025).

Social Mobility Commission (2023) *Family and parenting programmes: rapid evidence assessment*. Available at: <https://socialmobility.independent-commission.uk/reports/family-and-parenting-programmes/> (Accessed: 10 November 2025).

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents> (Accessed: 10 December 2025).

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill (2013) *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill [AS AMENDED AT STAGE 3]*. Available at: <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s24438/Social%20Services%20and%20Well-being%20Wales%20Bill,%20as%20amended%20at%20Stage%203.pdf> (Accessed: 3 December 2025).

Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. and Taggart, B. (2004) *The effective provision of pre-school education (EPPE) project: Findings from pre-school to end of key stage 1*. Available at: <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/id/eprint/18189/2/SSU-SF-2004-01.pdf> (Accessed: 10 November 2025).

Terao, H. (2023) 'Poverty and Ideologies: How the Welfare State Gained Political Support in Britain', in Urata, S., Kuroda, K. and Tonegawa, Y. (eds) *Sustainable Development Disciplines for Humanity. Sustainable Development Goals Series*. Singapore: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-4859-6_1

The Marmot review (2010) *Fair society, healthy lives*. Available at: <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-exec-summary-pdf.pdf> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

United Nations (2024) *"The Declaration on Future Generations is an absolute novelty" paving the way for a sustainable future*. Available at: <https://unric.org/en/the-declaration-on-future-generations-is-an-absolute-novelty-paving-the-way-for-a-sustainable-future/> (Accessed: 22 November 2025).

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents> (Accessed: 10 December 2025).

Welsh Assembly Government (2004) *Children and young people: rights to action*.

Available at: <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/id/eprint/7717/1/090415rightstoactionen.pdf>

(Accessed: 19 November 2025).

Welsh Assembly Government (2010) *Children and young people's participation in Wales*.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-07/100115-children-young-peoples-participation-en.pdf> (Accessed:

21 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2013) *Review of parenting support for Flying Start: Executive summary*.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-08/130529-review-parenting-support-flying-start-summary-en.pdf>

(Accessed: 10 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2017) *Flying start – annex. Parenting support guidance*.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/flying-start-parenting-support-guidance.pdf> (Accessed: 10 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2021a) *Future trends report 2021*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/future-trends-report-wales-2021-evidence-pack.pdf> (Accessed: 21 November 2021).

Welsh Government (2021b) *Welsh Government programme for government – update*.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/programme-for-government-update-december-2021.pdf> (Accessed: 21 November

2021).

Welsh Government (2022a) *Children's rights in Wales*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.wales/childrens-rights-in-wales> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2022b) *Evaluation of the early years integration transformation programme*.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2022-03/evaluation-of-the-early-years-integration-transformation-programme.pdf>

(Accessed: 10 January 2025).

Welsh Government (2024a) *Child poverty strategy for Wales 2024*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-01/child-poverty-strategy-for-wales-2024.pdf> (Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Welsh Government (2024b) *Well-being of future generations Wales (act) 2015: Essentials guide*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/well-being-future-generations-wales-act-2015-the-essentials-2024.pdf> (Accessed: 21 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2025a) *Wales to become world's first 'Marmot nation' to tackle health inequalities*. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/wales-become-worlds-first-marmot-nation-tackle-health-inequalities> (Accessed: 21 November 2025).

Welsh Government (2025b) *Well-being of future generations Wales (act) 2015: the essentials*. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/well-being-future-generations-act-essentials-html> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Welsh Parliament (2021) *Statement by the Minister for Social Justice: well-being of future generations national implementation*. Available at: <https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/12453#A67460> (Accessed: 21 November 2025).

Welsh Parliament (2025) *History of devolution*. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/how-we-work/history-of-devolution/> (Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Whiteside, N. (1996) 'Creating the Welfare State in Britain, 1945–1960', *Journal of Social Policy*, 25(1), pp. 83-103. doi:10.1017/S0047279400000076

Wincott, D. (2005) 'Devolution and the welfare state: lessons from early childhood education and care policy in Wales', *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 24, pp. 279 –295. DOI:10.1068/c48m