



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Programme for Children and Young People



Comprehensive version – Core Aims 1 to 7

Forging the way for the rights of children and young people in Wales
by implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into
everything we do

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Empowering Children and Young People Branch
Fairer Futures Division
Welsh Government

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PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

“My priorities remain absolutely clear: growth and jobs; educational attainment; supporting children, families and deprived communities; and improving health and well-being for all of our citizens.”

Carwyn Jones, First Minister

Programme for Government Summary Progress Report 2014

Introduction

The [Programme for Government](#) is our roadmap for this Assembly term. It represents our commitment to producing a fair, prosperous, healthier and better educated country, measured by the impact government is actually having on all people's lives in Wales.

This *Programme for Children and Young People* pulls together the many pieces of legislation and policies we have across the Programme for Government to support our children and young people.

Our ambition is for every child and young person in Wales to realise their rights as set out in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC). We have set out our commitment to the UNCRC by enshrining the Convention in legislation with the [Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#) so all decisions are made with the best interests of children in mind. Ministers are required to have due regard to children's rights in all their decisions and we have arrangements and systems in place, set out in our [Children's Rights Scheme](#), to make sure this happens. This includes a Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

In 2008, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child made [Concluding Observations](#) which are steps they recommend for the UK State Party to further implement the UNCRC. The Committee acknowledges the positive steps taken by the UK State party, but also identifies areas of concern, where more needs to be done. The Committee in particular calls on all State Parties to have plans of action for the implementation of the UNCRC. The Programme for Children and Young People fulfils this requirement by:

- clearly outlining Ministers' strategic approach to the current policies and programmes which deliver our commitments to children and young people and support the coordination and implementation of the UNCRC in Wales;
- profiling children's rights across the Welsh Government, making it clear all portfolios and departments have obligations and responsibilities in realising children's rights;
- providing an opportunity to track the cross-cutting work for children and young people against the priority areas outlined in the Welsh Government's Programme for Government;
- raising awareness of the issues that are being addressed to secure positive outcomes for children and young people;



- providing access to reliable and up-to-date information on the progress and achievements in implementing the UNCRC in Wales; and
- providing information on the forward actions to further implement the UNCRC in Wales.

The Programme for Children and Young People is based around the Seven Core Aims (see page 4) for children and young people which are a summary of the UNCRC. Links are also made to the seven well-being goals of the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The goals provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards.



There are many sources of information and data used throughout the Programme for Children and Young People to populate each section. Care has been taken to ensure that all information and sources are up to date, robust and legitimate.

With the Assembly elections in May 2016, this Programme for Children and Young People provides a template that we hope to use in future Government terms of office. However, as we approach the end of a Government term, we are also using this Programme to demonstrate what we have achieved for children and young people in the last five years.

This is one of seven documents which make up the *Programme for Children and Young People*. For a full picture of how the current Welsh Government is implementing and furthering children's rights, we recommend you read them all.

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve on the Programme for Children and Young People, please send them to cria@wales.gsi.gov.uk.



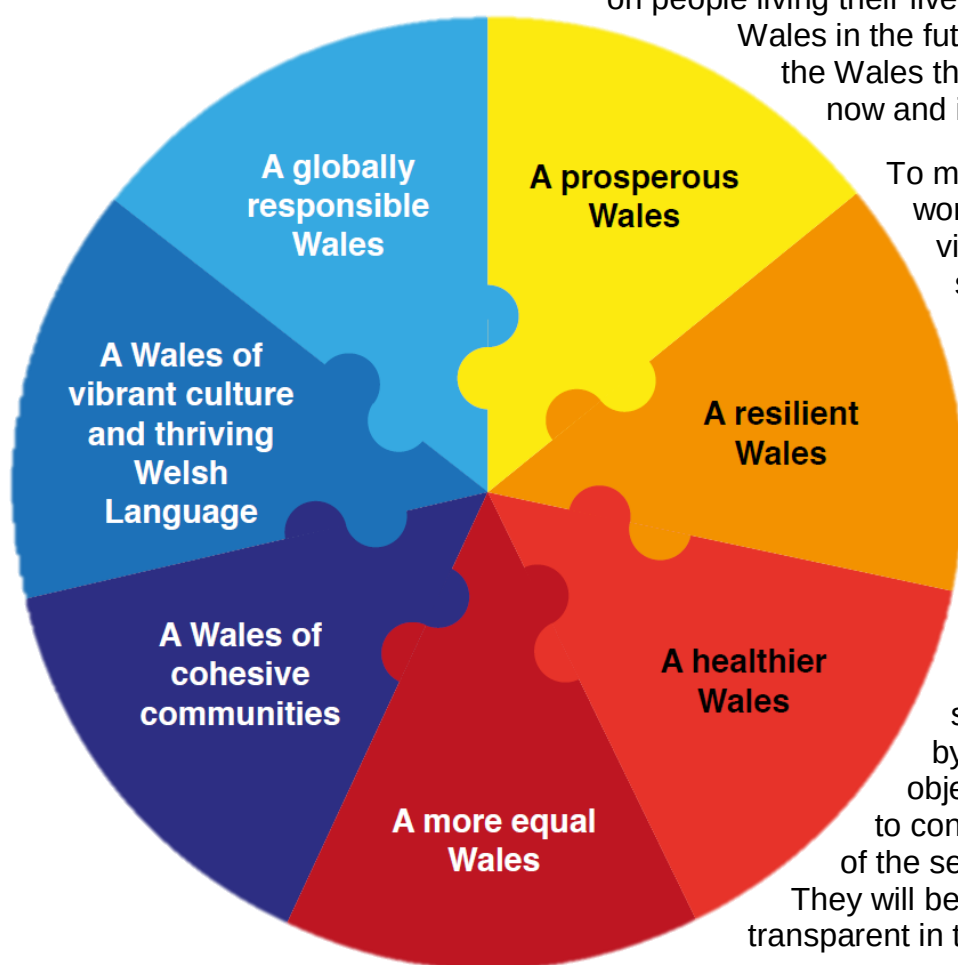


Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In April 2015 the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act became law. The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, now and in the future. The Act places new requirements on the Welsh Government along with 43 other specified public bodies across Wales to think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

These public bodies need to ensure that, when making their decisions, they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in

Wales in the future. This will help create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.



To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. The seven well-being goals show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards.

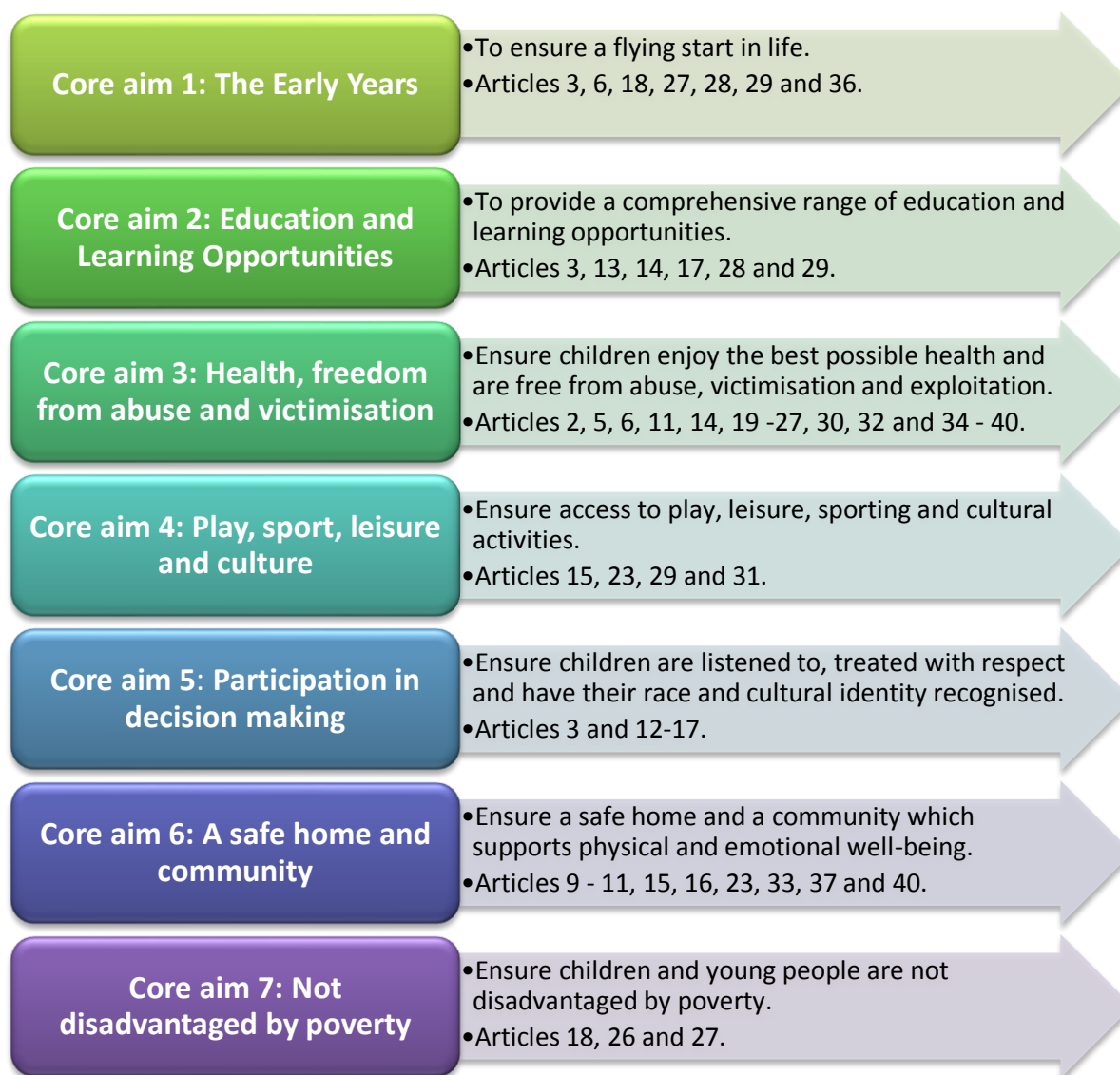
Public bodies are required to carry out sustainable development by setting and achieving objectives that are designed to contribute to the achievement of the seven well-being goals. They will be expected to be more transparent in their decision making.

The Act will ensure the common long term challenges faced by children (and the necessary solutions) are considered by public bodies when setting their well-being objectives by making consideration of the long term a legal requirement. For example, child poverty is one of the long term challenges we face in Wales. By contributing to the achievement of all of the well-being goals they will have to incorporate the needs of children and young people into how they set and then meet their well-being objectives.



The Seven Core Aims

We have adopted the UNCRC as the basis of all our work for children and young people in Wales and the articles of the UNCRC have been summarised in the Seven Core Aims for children and young people. Each core aim is listed below, with a short description and a list of the key UNCRC articles it relates to. The articles selected under each of the core aims are key, but not exclusive, to the particular aim.



The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child gives special emphasis to four articles, which are also known as 'general principles' and apply to all the Core Aims:



- Article 2 - all the rights guaranteed by the UNCRC must be available to all children without discrimination of any kind;
- Article 3 - the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children;
- Article 6 - every child has the right to life, survival and development; and
- Article 12 - the child's view must be considered and taken into account in all matters affecting him or her.

To conclude this introduction we identify five further articles which underline every child's equal right to a place in society and which are, therefore, requisite to all Seven Core Aims. Specifically, these seek to define who children are (Article 1), their right to an identity and for that identity to be registered (articles 7 and 8), the protection and propagation of their rights (articles 4 and 42) and, finally, the respect for superior rights (article 41). Considering these five articles in this way ensures that our Programme for Children and Young People reflects every one of the 42 articles in the UNCRC.



Core aim 1: The Early Years



"We aim to ensure that all children and young people in Wales have a flying start in life"

The early years of a child's life are arguably the most important. It is vital we provide the safest and most appropriate environments for them to thrive.

This core aim is based on the following key articles taken from the UNCRC.

Core aim 1: The Early Years

- To ensure a flying start in life.

Article. 3: Best interests of the child

The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them.

Article. 6: Survival and development

Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Article. 18: Parental responsibilities / state assistance

Governments must respect and support the responsibility of parents for bringing up their children.

Article. 27: Adequate standard of living

Children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs.

Articles. 28 and 29: Right to, and goals of education

Children have a right to primary education. Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest.

Article. 36: Other forms of exploitation

Children should be protected from any activity that takes advantage of them or could harm their welfare and development.

Programme for Government

Our Programme for Government sets the strong foundations for a stronger, fairer, healthier and more prosperous Wales and captures the progress and achievements to date. The aim of providing children and young people in Wales with *a flying start in life* is reflected in all twelve areas of the Programme for Government, however, the following three areas are particularly relevant in the early years of a child's life.

Area 3 – Education



Our work in the field of education connects particularly well with articles 6 (survival and development), 17 (access to information), 28 (right to education) and 29 (role of education). The [independent evaluation](#) published in May 2015 shows that our Foundation Phase curriculum for 3 to 7 year olds, is making a real difference for our young children and ensures that they have equal access to learning experiences.

- ✚ We are building on existing achievements such as the expansion of Welsh medium early years provision and we continue to deliver the Welsh Medium Education Strategy over the course of this administration.

Area 4 – 21st Century Healthcare

Our work towards developing 21st century healthcare champions the rights under articles 6 (survival and development), 23 (children with disabilities), 24 (health and social services) and 25 (review of treatment in care). Our actions below are particularly related to giving children and young people a flying start in life:



- ✚ We have adopted an early-years programme which focuses on the importance of health in early years – drawing in expertise from health visitors, GPs, family support services, education, social care and the third sector. The Healthy Child Wales Programme, due in 2015-16, will provide a structured national programme to achieve improved health outcomes for all for children aged 0-7 years, with enhanced services for those in most need.
- ✚ We have improved patient care to ensure the help and support for children with hearing difficulties is consistent across Wales. All-Wales audit reports show improved consistency in paediatric audiology services.
- ✚ We have successfully increased, and will continue to increase, the uptake of immunisation among children to eradicate the health problems caused by measles, mumps and rubella.





Area 5 – Supporting People

The Welsh Government is strongly committed to supporting children and young people. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 3 (best interests of the child), 5 (parental guidance), 12 (respect for the views of the child), 18 (parental responsibilities; state assistance), 20 to 22 (family environment, adoption and refugees), 26 (social security) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). Our actions below are particularly related to giving children and young people a flying start in life:

- ✚ We continue to use the Seven Core Aims as the national framework for developing policy for children and young people – our Programme for Children and Young People is testament to this statement.
- ✚ Through developing our [Children's Rights Scheme](#), we are ensuring that the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 is given full effect in government policies and programmes throughout the course of this administration.
- ✚ We have, and continue to work with the Children's Commissioner for Wales, children's organisations and the Third Sector on a regular basis, in order to promote wider understanding and appreciation of rights based policy making and service delivery.
- ✚ We are reviewing the law relating to child protection and setting national standards to be achieved by every local authority. We have reviewed the current structure of Local Children's Safeguarding Boards and we have substantially reducing the number of such Boards, from 22 to 6, operating in Wales.
- ✚ We continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, we are supporting improved access to play for children with disabilities. Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 was fully commenced in July 2014. This placed a duty on local authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas.
- ✚ We have commenced existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals, ensuring that for children identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral has been made to children's social services. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced an approach to assessment that is proportionate to the needs of the child and empowers a local authority to carry out a needs assessment.



Key Programmes and Policies

Our approach to services for the youngest children is built upon the evidence that interventions at this stage can be highly effective in preventing later problems. The following key programmes and policies demonstrate our commitment to giving young children in Wales a flying start in life.



Foundation Phase

The [Foundation Phase](#) is the statutory curriculum for all 3 to 7 year olds in Wales, in both maintained and non-maintained settings. We established a Foundation Phase Expert Group to lead the development of an action plan and strengthen the delivery of the Foundation Phase, responding to the recommendations of the independent stocktake and [evaluation](#).

- ✚ We revised our Foundation Phase framework in 2015 to ensure that it tied-in with the robust approach set out in our Literacy and Numeracy Framework to ensure our youngest children have the best learning opportunities.
- ✚ [The Foundation Phase Profile](#) was introduced in September 2015 to support teachers to undertake baseline assessments of their children's stage of development as they enter school in Reception Year. Use of the profile is statutory and it will provide a nationally consistent method for scoring children's progress at the start of the Foundation Phase which can then be tracked until the end. The FPP will be one element of the Early Years Development and Assessment Framework which will bring together assessments undertaken on children from age 0-7 in all sectors.
- ✚ The Pupil Deprivation Grant, the Welsh Government's funding for schools to support initiatives to tackle the impact of poverty on educational attainment was extended to 3 and 4 year olds receiving Foundation Phase education.



Building a Brighter Future: Early Years and Childcare Plan

In July 2013 [Building a Brighter Future: Early Years and Childcare Plan](#) was launched. The Welsh Government remains committed to the actions in the plan – tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and supporting economic growth.

Building a Brighter Future is still very much the key driver of our work. Setting out the case for investing in the early years, it focuses our activity around 5 key themes: children's health and well-being; supporting families and parents; high quality early education and childcare; effective primary education; and raising standards. A report setting out our progress against the plan is published annually ([Progress Report 2014-15](#)).





Flying Start

Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children less than 4 years of age in some of the most deprived areas of Wales. The core elements of

Flying Start are drawn from a range of options that have been shown to influence positive outcomes for children and their families. These include:

- ✚ free quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds (article 18)
- ✚ an enhanced health visiting service (article 29)
- ✚ access to parenting programmes (article 5)
- ✚ speech, language and communication (article 29).

“The Committee would like to highlight that an adequate standard of living is essential for a child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development and that child poverty also affects infant mortality rates, access to health and education as well as everyday quality of life of children.”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 65

Flying Start is one of our top priorities. We are committed to doubling the number of children and their families benefiting from the Flying Start programme from 18,000 to 36,000 by 2016. An additional £67m funding has been made available across the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-2016 which has enabled us to reach this target a year early with 37,260 children having benefited from the Flying Start programme in 2014-15.



Free breakfast in primary schools (article 27)

This scheme provides primary school learners at maintained primary schools with the opportunity of receiving a [free, healthy breakfast at school](#) each day. The scheme helps by improving

the health and concentration of children to assist in raising the standards of learning and attainment. Providing children with a healthy start to the school day reduces health inequalities arising from poor diet. The School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 states that local authorities must provide free breakfast to all pupils in maintained primary schools that have requested them. Free breakfast in primary schools is a Programme for Government commitment and is an integral part of our wider work to improve food and nutrition in schools maintained by local authorities.



A strategic vision for maternity services in Wales (article 24

This vision sets out Welsh Government expectations of NHS Wales in delivering safe, sustainable

and [high quality maternity services](#). We aim for a service that promotes pregnancy and childbirth as an event of social and emotional significance, where women and families are treated with dignity and respect. For every mother wherever they live and whatever their circumstances, pregnancy and childbirth will be a safe and positive experience. This will enable the new mother, her partner and family to begin parenting feeling confident, capable and well supported in giving their child a secure start in life.

“The State party should also further promote baby-friendly hospitals and encourage breastfeeding to be included in nursery training.”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 59, 2008

The following is also of relevance:

- ✚ [Together for Mental Health – A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales](#) (2012) - Improving the lives of people using mental health services.
- ✚ [Tackling Poverty Action Plan](#) - reducing poverty in Wales.
- ✚ [Child Poverty Strategy for Wales](#) - We want to eradicate child poverty by 2020.
- ✚ [Delivering Quality Information for Families Together](#) (2014) - advice and information on local services for families and carers.
- ✚ Parenting in Wales: [Guidance on engagement and support](#), and our universal promotion of [Positive Parenting](#)
- ✚ Flying Start [parenting guidance and transitions guidance](#)
- ✚ [Independent review of childcare and early education registration, regulation and inspection](#) (2014)
- ✚ [Successful Futures](#): Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales (2015)
- ✚ [The national outcomes framework](#) - for people who need care and support and carers who need support, 2014–15; working document (2014)
- ✚ [Vibrant and Viable Places](#): Our Regeneration Framework (2013)
- ✚ [Foundation Phase Profile](#) (2015) - Support for the assessment of children’s learning and development during the Foundation Phase.
- ✚ [Family Information Services](#) – For advice from childcare to holiday activities.



Monitoring outcomes

We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation, policies and programmes on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.



Impact of Flying Start

In 2012, well over 20,000 children benefitted from our Flying Start programme

Percentage of children aged two immunised against MMR.

On the rise since 2003

Percentage of new-borns with weight under 2.5kg

Rate was lowest in 2011 since 2003.

Percentage of children achieving early learning milestones

83% of children met foundation level expectations in 2012

Programme for Government

Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People

86% of children were up to date with all routine immunisations by age four at the end of the 2015 reporting period

In 2012 the number of all live births in Wales born below 2.5kg rose to 7.1% from the 6.7% recorded in 2011 but decreased again to 6.9% in 2013.

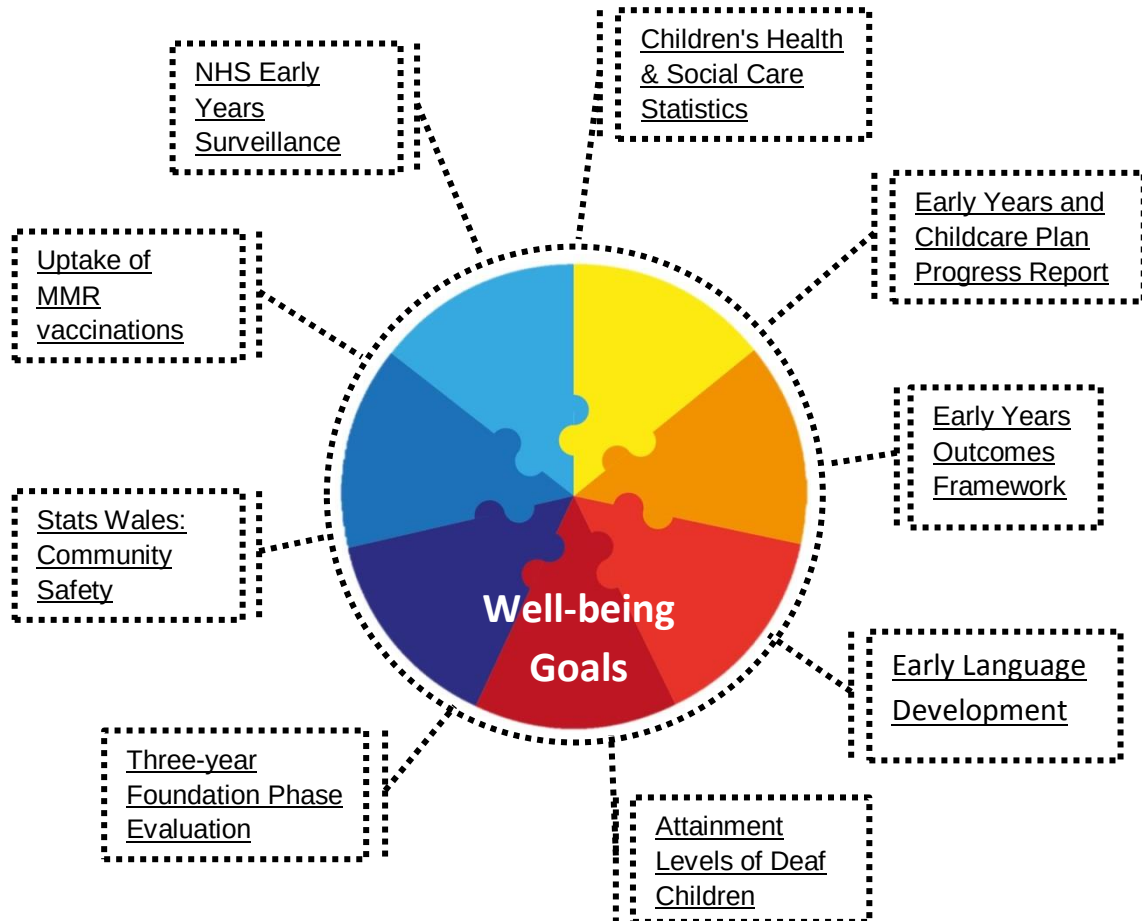
In 2014, the proportion of pupils achieving at least outcome 5 (the expected outcome) in teacher assessments for the foundation phase indicator was 85.2%. This is 2.2 percentage points higher than the 2013 recorded figure of 83%

73 per cent of children in reception year who both live in Wales and attend school in Wales are of a healthy weight.

In 2013/14, 26.5% of children aged between 4 and 5 years were overweight or obese in Wales.



Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 1: The Early Years

- An additional £7.6m to be invested every year in **mental health services** for children and young people.
- Implementation of a peer reviewed audit to support delivery of consistent **paediatric audiology services**.
- **Improved health outcomes for all for children aged 0-7 years**, with enhanced services for those in most need, due to our **integrated early-years programme**.
- During the period April 2013 to March 2014, **87.9 per cent of children had completed all recommended immunisations** by their fourth birthday, a 5.5 percentage point increase from 82.4 per cent in 2012-13.
- **Implementation of our Children's Rights Scheme**, under the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- 60 per cent of hospitals in Wales **are 'fully accredited' UNICEF UK 'Baby Friendly' hospitals**. All services are on track to achieve accreditation by the end of 2015.
- **Obesity** in reception-year age group has statistically stopped increasing.
- Legislation for a **ban on people smoking in cars carrying children** agreed.
- **Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** became law.
- Promotion of family engagement and **parenting engagement** and support, including bilingualism within families.
- New statutory guidance to support **safeguarding children**.
- **Foundation Phase Expert Group established** to strengthen the curriculum for three to seven year olds.
- We revised our **Foundation Phase framework** in 2015 to ensure our youngest children have the best learning opportunities.
- Developed bespoke **business advice to the childcare sector**.
- Exceeded the target **to double the number of children benefiting from the Flying Start Programme** by the end of this National Assembly for Wales term.
- **Publication of Professor Donaldson's report** Successful Futures: An Independent Review of the Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales, which is fundamental and profound in its nature.
- **Primary categorisation system introduced**.
- **Pupil Deprivation Grant** extended to the under fives.
- Development of and consultation on a draft ten-year **Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Plan**.



- Development of **the Early Years Outcomes Framework**.
- Development and trialling of the **new assessment tool for the Foundation Phase**.
- The target of **500 settings to be actively involved in the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme (HSPSS)** by 2015 has already been achieved.



Looking Ahead

Future priorities for Core Aim 1: The Early Years

- **Childhood obesity** - We will develop new approaches to childhood obesity prevention.
- **Child health** – We are looking to reduce variability in the provision of a best practice universal health offer to all children in the first years of life.
- **Disease prevention** – We are looking to implement further new immunisation programmes to protect children from avoidable diseases. In April 2015, we announced that **all babies will be vaccinated against meningitis B** from autumn 2015.
- **Child services** – We will implement the service improvement programme Together for Children and Young People. Implement and promote a universal approach to parenting
- Continue to deliver the **Flying Start** Programme for Government commitment to deliver to 36,000 children. Help parents secure sustainable work, where childcare is their main barrier through the Parents, Childcare and **Employment** operation.
- Put in place an appropriate and proportionate **childcare** registration framework. We will be putting a framework in place to support the tracking of all children's **developmental progress** between birth and age seven.
- We are finalising the ten-year **Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Plan** and launching the supporting ESF programme Progress for Success.
- Roll-out the new tool for the **Foundation Phase** to track all children's progress from entry to end of phase.
- **Parenting. Give it time** - positive parenting campaign to encourage parents to take a thoughtful, positive approach to parenting, beginning in Autumn 2015.
- Consult on the draft Bill on **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**.
- Implement the specific learning difficulties (**SpLD**) framework.
- Following the acceptance of the recommendations in Professor Donaldson's report **Successful Futures: An Independent Review of the Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales**, publish our plan to implement these changes in the autumn and identify Pioneer Schools to be part of an all Wales partnership.



Core aim 2: Education and Learning Opportunities



"We aim to ensure and provide comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities"

Our approach to education and learning is one in which all children and young people are helped to reach their potential. A solid start to learning and education, underwritten by children's rights, means a reduction in inequality, economic improvement and greater social well-being for everyone, both now and in the future.

This core aim is based on the following key articles taken from the UNCRC.

Core aim 2: Education and Learning Opportunities

- To provide a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.

Article 3: Best interests of the child

The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them.

Article 13: Freedom of expression

Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.

Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion, as long as they don't stop others from enjoying their rights.

Article 17: Access to information; mass media

Children have the right to get information that is important to their health and well-being.

Article 28: Right to education

All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free.

Article 29: Goals of education

Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to their best.

Programme for Government

Education is of such key importance that it warrants a place as one of the twelve areas of our Programme for Government. However, it also touches on a number of the other areas as follows:

Area 1 – Growth and Sustainable Jobs

Growth and sustainable jobs clearly depends on the success of good educational and learning opportunities for children and young people. Our work in this area connects well with articles 28 and 29 (right and goals of education). However, it also relates to protecting the futures of our children – ensuring there is an economically secure future for them to step into, and therefore reflects the rights outlines in articles 26 and 27 too (social security and adequate standard of living).



“The Committee recommends that the State party...provide training and education programmes to prepare children for adult life.”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 45

Our actions below are particularly related to Education and Learning Opportunities:

- ✚ We have tackled youth unemployment via our young people's jobs and training fund. We have also extended apprenticeship opportunities for young people. Furthermore, we have established a Welsh Jobs Fund offering employment or training for our young people.
- ✚ We have refocused resources on the most effective interventions, following a review of activities designed to help people not in education, training or employment (NEET). The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) Implementation Plan, which was published in October 2013, brings together the key elements of NEET reduction policy. Through this plan, and in conjunction with our Strategic Equality Plan, we refocused our resources on the most effective interventions for young people who are NEET.
- ✚ We have introduced traineeships, a successor to the Skill Build programme, which offers enhanced support, including entry-level 'engagement' training for young people facing the worst barriers to employment.
- ✚ We have encouraged more young people to gain the skills that have developed Wales' potential for economic growth. Subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are especially important in this regard.





Area 3 – Education

Part three of the Programme for Government demonstrates commitments to developing better education. Our work in the field of education connects particularly well with articles 17 (access to information), 28 (right to education) and 29 (role of education). The following selection of key priorities, taken from this area, is specific to children and young people:

- ✚ We have built the foundations for an all-Wales virtual learning environment enabling every school in the country to access on line learning resources from across the World.
- ✚ Through the 21st Century Schools Capital Programme we are ensuring state of the art ICT provision.
- ✚ We have produced statutory guidance for school improvement which sets out the best practice currently available in Wales and elsewhere. The guidance focuses on literacy, numeracy and tackling disadvantage.
- ✚ As part of our commitment to improving standards of literacy and numeracy for children and young people we have introduced national reading and numeracy tests for learners in years 2–9. Schools are able to use the information provided by the tests to arrange targeted support for learners, intervening if a learner is falling behind, and also stretching more able learners.
- ✚ We have progressed on all the actions in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy's Implementation Programme, including the early years. This has led to the introduction of new policies, planning mechanisms and the development and funding of projects to improve specific elements of the Welsh medium education and training system. Additionally, the Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales includes Welsh Medium education.
- ✚ We support Keep Wales Tidy to deliver the international Eco-Schools programme in Wales. Of over 70 countries worldwide, Wales has one of the highest participation rates with some 95% of schools taking part in the programme with over 800 schools achieving the prestigious Green Flag award. Children take the lead on designing projects to learn about energy; water; transport; waste minimisation; biodiversity; healthy living, global citizenship and litter.
- ✚ Natural Resources Wales has facilitated a national outdoor learning network, Outdoor Learning Wales that aims to increase the understanding,

“The Committee recommends that the State party...Continue and strengthen its efforts to reduce the effects of the social background of children on their achievement in school”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 67a, 2008



appreciation and sustainable use of Wales' natural environment. Through the network schools are supported to take up opportunities for outdoor learning in woodlands and other outdoor settings, with advice and support to utilise green space in and around school grounds for learning.

- ✚ We have introduced a national system for the grading of schools that is operated by local authorities across Wales. All schools are graded annually. Schools are expected to reach minimum targets.
- ✚ 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plans' are now statutory.
- ✚ We are continuing to encourage English medium schools to offer the choice of taking some subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- ✚ We have encouraged further mergers of FE colleges where these provide increased learning opportunities for learners.
- ✚ We have maintained Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) for learners aged 16-19 throughout the period of this administration.
- ✚ We have ensured that learner voice is central to strategic decision making in colleges of Further Education (FE), with all post-16 providers required to have formal learner involvement strategies..
- ✚ We are reforming the Additional Learning Needs process for the most vulnerable children and young people in either a school or Further Education (FE) setting.

Area 5 – Supporting People

We continue to be strongly committed to supporting our children and young people – indeed there are many different key priorities related to this area in our Programme for Government. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 3 (best interests of the child), 5 (parental guidance), 12 (respect for the views of the child), 18 (parental responsibilities; state assistance), 20 to 22 (family environment, adoption and refugees), 26 (social security) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups).



“The Committee recommends that the State party...Invest considerable additional resources in order to ensure the right of all children to a truly inclusive education which ensures the full enjoyment to children from all disadvantaged, marginalized and school-distant groups.”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 67a, 2008

The following selection of key priorities, taken from this area, is specific to children and young people's education and learning:

- ✚ We have worked, and continue to work, with the Children's Commissioner for Wales, children's organisations and the third sector to promote wider



understanding and appreciation of rights based policy making and service delivery.

- ✚ We continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and in particular we support improved access to play for disabled children.
- ✚ We continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people in Wales to participate in decision making on issues which affect them. 'Young Wales' was launched in March 2015 to enable the participation of children and young people in the workings of this Government.
- ✚ We have commenced existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals to ensure that where any child is identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral will be made to children's social services.
- ✚ We have continued our free breakfast programme and free school milk programme for young people up to the age of seven.



Area 10 – Rural Communities

We ensure that children and young people in rural communities are given the same learning and education opportunities as all others in Wales. The following selection of key priorities, taken from this area, is specific to children and young people' education and learning:

- ✚ We have ensured that fast broadband access is made available to rural areas.
- ✚ We are encouraging and supporting the development of community transport schemes that meet the needs of those living in rural areas.
- ✚ We have delivered an improved approach to “rural proofing” all Welsh Government strategies and policies.

“The Committee recommends that the State party...ensure that all children out of school get alternative quality education”

*UN Committee Concluding Observation,
Para. 67c*

Key Programmes and Policies

Our vision for education is for the learner to be a key focus of everything we do and to ensure they benefit from excellent teaching and learning opportunities. We recently commissioned a fundamental and wide-ranging review of the school curriculum and of our assessment arrangements here in Wales. The [review](#), carried out by Professor Donaldson, consulted with very significant numbers of children and young people, involved substantial research, and looked at a range of international curriculum models. The evidence was very positive about key aspects of our education system and Professor Donaldson's recommendations have built on those. They include, the Foundation Phase, Routes for Learning, our focus on literacy and numeracy and our emphasis on the Welsh language and culture.

One of Professor Donaldson's principles of curriculum design is that schools need to have much greater scope to provide a creative, engaging and challenging curriculum – within the context of an overarching national curriculum framework. We have accepted the review's recommendations in full and will continue to work with our stakeholders to implement them alongside the following key programmes and policies:



Building a Brighter Future

[Building a Brighter Future](#), a core Welsh Government Programme, brings coherence across other policies and programmes impacting on and influencing the early years. The key themes put particular focus on the importance of education

and learning opportunities for children, particularly on the [foundation phase](#), and include:

- ✚ children's health and well-being
- ✚ supporting families and parents
- ✚ high-quality early education and childcare
- ✚ effective primary education
- ✚ raising standards

"The Committee would like to highlight that an adequate standard of living is essential for a child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development and that child poverty also affects infant mortality rates, access to health and education as well as everyday quality of life of children."

*UN Committee Concluding Observation,
Para. 65, 2008*



Flying Start

[Flying Start](#) is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children less than 4 years of age in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Wales.

The programme is not only helping to provide parents with the skills they need to support their child's development, but it is also giving them the opportunity to access

training and support to improve their employment prospects, and the programme has a key role to play in tackling and preventing poverty.

The core elements of the programme are drawn from a range of options that have been shown to influence positive outcomes for children and their families. These include:

- free quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds
- an enhanced health visiting service
- access to parenting programmes
- speech, language and communication.

During 2014-15 our programme supported 37,260 children and their families, exceeding, one year early, our original Programme for Government commitment to double the number of children benefiting from the Flying Start programme from 18,000 to 36,000.

Since the start of the Flying Start Expansion which began in 2012-13 we have invested £254m of Revenue funding in the programme.

In addition to our significant revenue investment, the four year expansion of the Flying Start programme has seen more than £35 million of capital funding being invested across Wales to develop the infrastructure needed to deliver the programme in some of Wales' most disadvantaged communities. The funding has been used to create new childcare settings, as well as developing office accommodation for the multi agency Flying Start teams, and venues for group work such as parenting courses and early language and play sessions

Flying Start remains one of our top priorities, and the programme is continuing to provide families with good integrated parenting support, health, childcare and support with speech, language and communication which are key factors in promoting better outcomes for children and their parents.



Families First

We provide funding to Local Authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Each Local Authority had developed a [**Families First**](#) Action Plan which sets out how they will implement Families First locally. We want Families First to help:

- ✚ working age people in low income families gain, and progress within employment,
- ✚ children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential,
- ✚ children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being,
- ✚ families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe.



Each Local Authority has considered the ways in which they can deliver Families First and provide evidence of a contribution to achieving the programme outcomes. At delivery level, providers have established a process for identifying the ways in which they contribute to the national programme outcomes. We have established performance measures to tell us how well the programme is performing.



Positive Parenting Campaign

Our manifesto is clear we are looking to promote positive parenting. In July, the Welsh Government announced a new public awareness campaign about positive parenting which will launch in November 2015. The campaign ['Parenting. Give it time'](#) will promote positive approaches to raising children through a number of different media channels. Using the theme of 'time', the messages given to parents will be positive and supportive.

Alongside the campaign, we are commissioning research with parents and children. This will provide insights to inform further activity and help us identify changes in attitudes towards managing children's behavior.



21st Century Schools

The [21st Century Schools](#) and Education Capital Programme is about creating learning environments designed to improve the delivery of education in the 21st Century. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme which is delivering:

- ✚ learning environments in Wales that enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes
- ✚ greater economy and efficiency for learning environments through better use of resources
- ✚ a sustainable education system in Wales that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.



Re-writing the Future

[Rewriting the Future](#) sets out what schools, working with parents/carers, can do to break down the barriers faced by children from deprived backgrounds by acting as the central point for interventions and support. While we recognise that the attainment of all learners in Wales needs to improve, Rewriting the Future focuses on improving educational outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals at a faster rate to ensure a reduction in the gap in attainment.





National Youth Work Strategy

Youth work has an important role to play in supporting the Welsh Government's commitment to help everyone reach their potential. Also to tackle poverty, reduce inequality, increase levels of educational attainment and employment, improve economic and social well-being, address health and other inequalities and increase young people's participation in society. The [National Youth Work Strategy](#) gives direction to those planning and delivering youth work provision. It supports the vision to raise the bar on our expectations and aspirations for all young people, and to close the gap between the most and least advantaged.



Welsh Medium Education

Our [Welsh Medium Education](#) strategy sets out the ambition of the Welsh Government for a country where Welsh-medium education and training are integral parts of the education infrastructure. We want to ensure that our education system makes it possible for more learners of all ages to acquire a wider range of language skills in Welsh.

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ [Learning Wales](#) – Raising learning standards in Wales.
- ✚ [Hwb+](#) - Digital learning tools for Wales
- ✚ [National Literacy and Numeracy Programmes](#) - outlining the actions we will take to raise standards of literacy and numeracy.
- ✚ [Tackling deprivation in education](#) through Pupil Deprivation and Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grants.
- ✚ [Inclusion and Pupil Support](#) - bringing together useful guidance and information from the Welsh Government on inclusion issues.
- ✚ [Learner Voice Wales](#) – Surveying students in post-16 education.
- ✚ [Qualified for Life](#) - Our long-term vision for education for 3-19 year olds.
- ✚ [Learning Pathways 14 – 19](#) - the distinct approach being taken in Wales to transform the way in which young people are educated.
- ✚ [Oxbridge Ambassador Project](#) – Giving Welsh students the confidence and aspiration to apply and study at world class universities.
- ✚ [Youth engagement and progression](#) - aiming to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.
- ✚ [Review of Qualifications 14-19](#) - ensuring that we have qualifications that are understood and valued and meet the needs of our young people.
- ✚ [Post-16 Planning and Funding Framework](#) ensures quality educational experiences and outcomes for post-16 learners.
- ✚ [Jobs Growth Wales](#) – Helping young people find work across the country.



- ✚ [Young Persons Discounted Travel Scheme](#) - offering 16-18 year olds the opportunity to save a third off the price of an adult bus fare.
- ✚ [Twf](#) - encouraging parents/carers to speak Welsh with their children.
- ✚ [The Seren Network](#) – Supporting Wales' brightest sixth formers achieve their academic potential and gain access to leading universities.
- ✚ [National school categorisation system](#) - shows the schools that need the most help and guidance to improve, those that are doing well but could be doing better and those that are highly effective and can help others.
- ✚ [The National Science Academy](#) - promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) enrichment activities, sometimes called "informal science learning", at all levels across Wales.

Monitoring outcomes

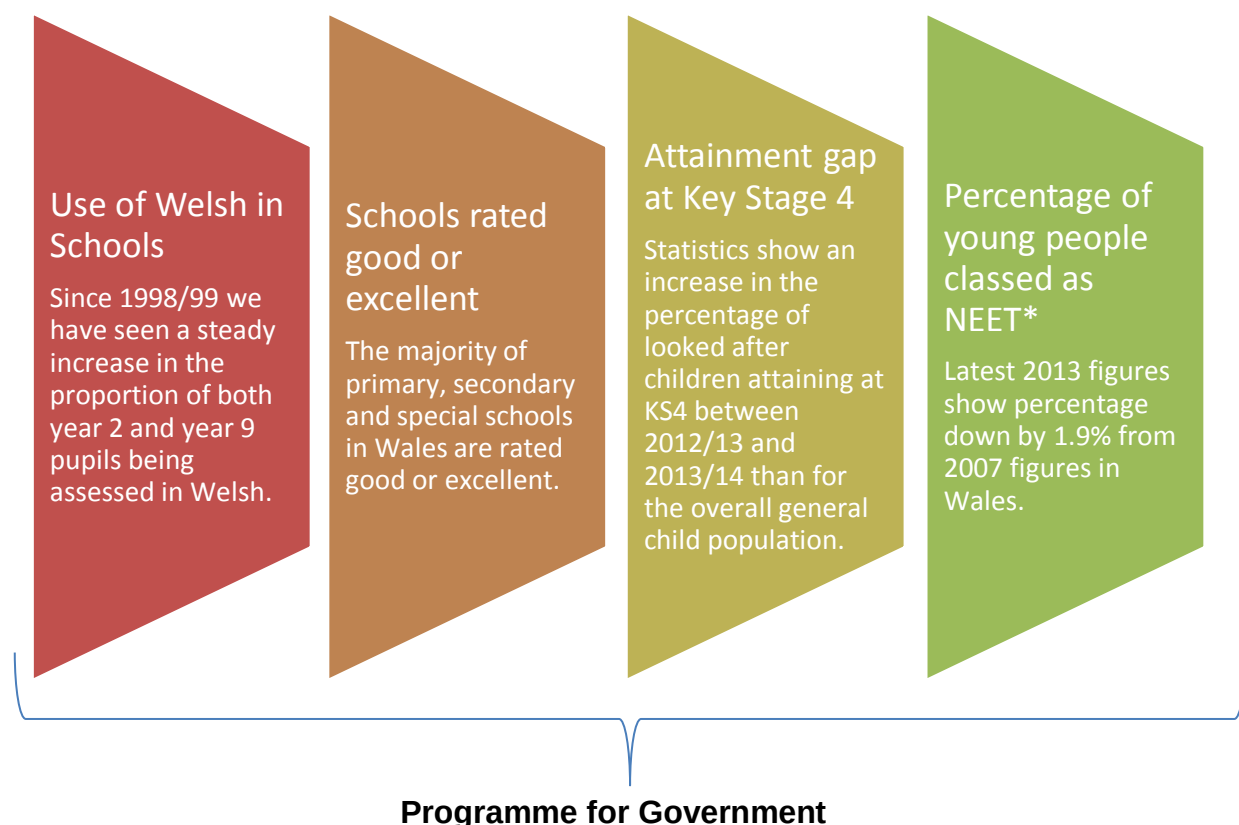
We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

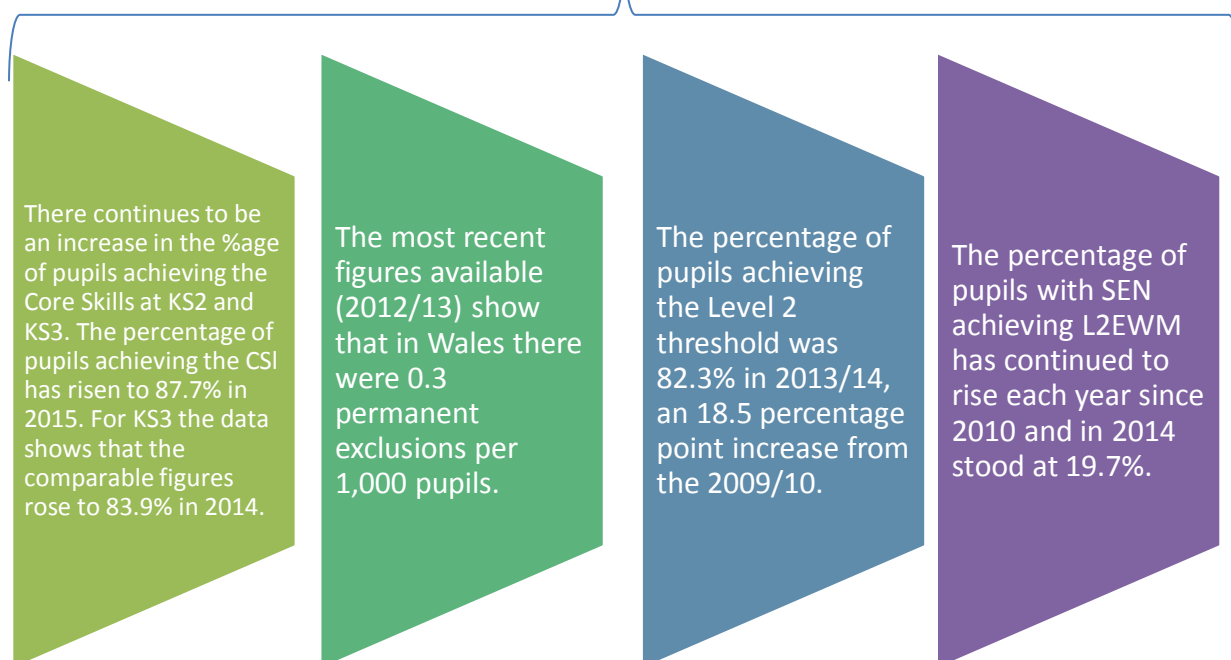
We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.

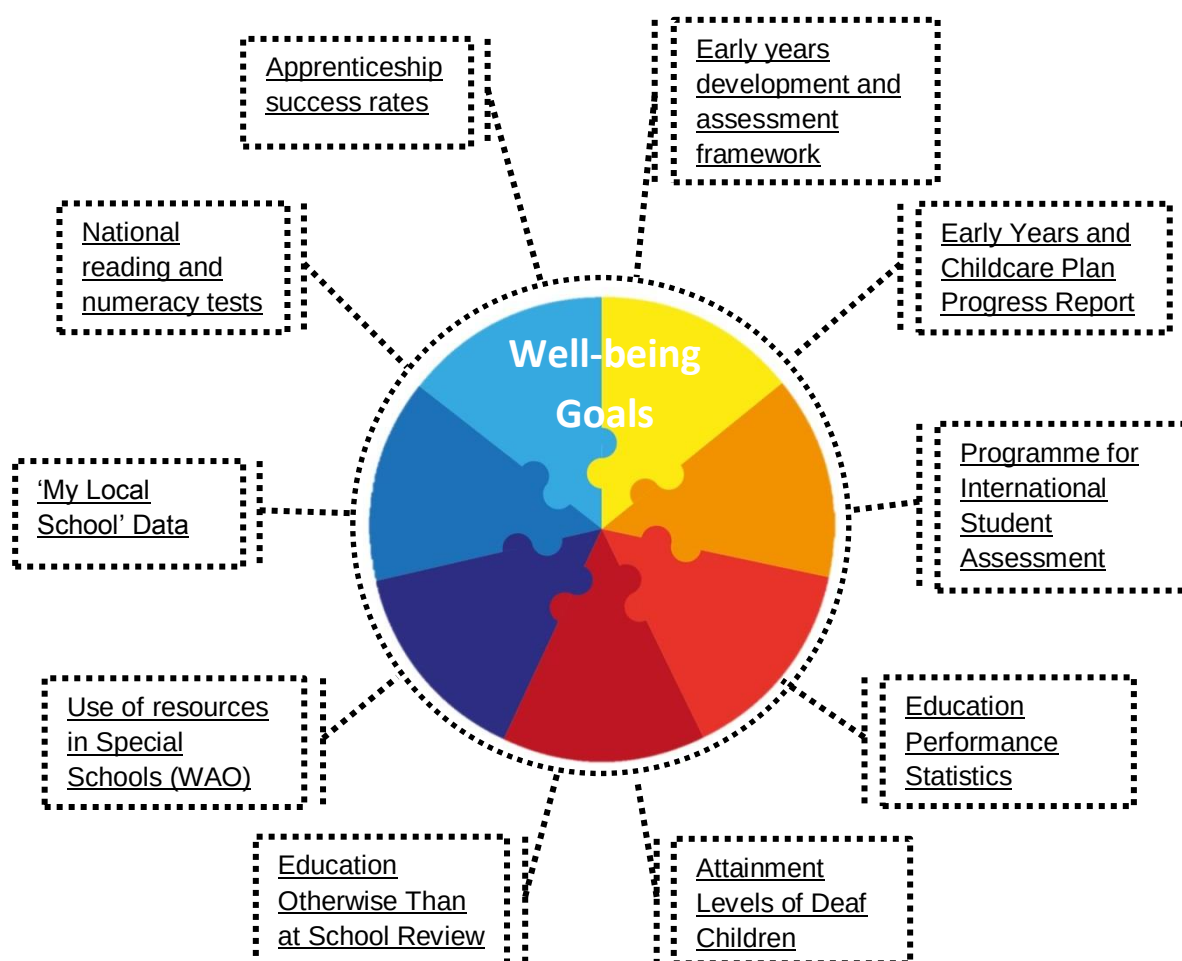




Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People



Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 2: Education and Learning Opportunities

- Following **Professor Donaldson's review into the school curriculum for Wales**, we have identified £1m to support initial scoping work into implementing the recommendations. We have also earmarked a further £2m in 2015-16 to begin to develop the new curriculum and the New Deal.
- **Jobs Growth Wales** was launched in April 2012 to provide unemployed young people with valuable work experience to enhance their skills and future chances of gaining sustained employment. Since its launch over 17,000 job opportunities have been created, and almost 15,000 of these jobs filled.
- Since Autumn 2013, the new **National Science Academy** funding has attracted over 67,000 students between the ages of 3 – 19 years.
- Support to train young people in STEM (**science, technology, engineering and mathematics**) subjects has been provided utilising various projects e.g. the 'I am an Engineer' project in conjunction with Engineering Education Scheme Wales (<http://www.stemcymru.org.uk/>) and the Enhanced Engineering Learning Programme which commenced in September 2014 as part of wider work based learning provision.
- **Hwb+**, the all-Wales learning platform, has now been rolled out to all eligible schools accounting for over 99 per cent of schools, with over 520,000 user log-ins created.
- **School development plan regulations** came into force in October 2014 and were accompanied by statutory guidance. Learning Wales continues to be updated with quality assured teaching strategy material and resources, which enable practitioners to draw on the latest knowledge.
- **National reading tests** are now administered annually in April/May across Wales. Schools receive test data on a pupil basis to enable them to target support in an effective way, focussing on catch-up and challenging the most able pupils. Performance can be mapped to the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework.
- Following the review of banding the **new National School Categorisation System**, which includes primary and secondary schools data, was published in January 2015. Categorisation has been introduced to help identify those schools in need of the most support.
- **Welsh in Education Strategic Plans** (WESPs) were incorporated into the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Measuring Demand for Welsh Medium Education Regulations (Wales) came into force in December 2013.
- **5 Further Education (FE) mergers** have taken place since 2011; in addition, 2 FE Corporations have merged with a Higher Education institution, resulting in closer collaboration and increased efficiency.



- Over the last three years the **Learner Voice Wales** survey has achieved **responses from over 180,000 post-16 learners, over 80 per cent of whom rated their overall experience ‘good’ or ‘very good’**.
- Our **Broadband Support Scheme** has benefited almost 6,000 enterprises, residents, third sector organisations and communities, including 33 rural and urban communities supported with a total funding commitment of almost £5.2m – bringing high-speed internet to schools.
- We have protected local authorities in Wales from the **impact of cuts** to our Budget from the UK Government. As a result they have received better funding settlements than their counterparts in England. This includes funding for schools which has been protected at 1 per cent above the change to the Welsh Budget each year.
- We have made good progress in **closing the attainment gap** between those pupils eligible for free school meals and those not.
- The provisional results for 2014/15 for the performance of the education system at the end of compulsory education has shows notable progress for Wales:
 - 57.6% achieved the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics, higher (by 2.1 percentage points) than in 2013/14. Performance is now 13.2 percentage points higher than when records began in 2006/07.
 - The average capped wider points score was 342.3, 1.5 points higher than in 2013/14.
 - 64.2% of pupils achieved A*-C in maths, 2.5 percentage points higher than in 2013/14. 69.4% of pupils achieved A*-C in either English or Welsh first language, 2.3 percentage points higher than in 2013/14
 - 31.3% of pupils eligible for FSM achieved the L2 inclusive threshold, 3.5 percentage points higher than 2013/14
 - 63.7% of those not eligible for FSM achieved the L2 inclusive threshold, a gap of 32.4 percentage points compared to pupils eligible for FSM. The gap has narrowed slightly since 2013/14, when it was 33.8 percentage points.



Looking Ahead

Educational and Learning Priorities

- Undertaking the '**Great Debate on Welsh Education**' and responding to Professor Donaldson's recommendations from the Successful Futures review.
- Looking to attain royal assent and implementation of the **Qualifications (Wales) Bill 2015**, and the subsequent establishment of Qualifications Wales.
- Continue our work towards achieving the commitments in **Building a Brighter Future: Early Years and Childcare Plan**.
- We will establish a network of schools to help take the lead on the design and development of the new curriculum and elements of the '**New Deal**'.
- Consider our full response to the recommendations outlined in Professor John Furlong's report on the future of Initial **Teacher Education and Training in Wales** – 'Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers'
- Follow through the key policy actions that will take place up until 2016 as outlined in our '**Skills Implementation Plan**'.
- Support Professor Diamond's **Independent review of higher education** funding and student finance arrangements.
- Progress the **Additional Learning Needs Bill** to improve outcomes for vulnerable learners by ensuring that all children and young people with ALN up to the age of 25 will have equitable rights to receive the provision they require, and equal rights of appeal.



Core aim 3: Health, Freedom from Abuse and Victimisation.



"We aim to ensure that children enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation"

Within our society, children are one of the most vulnerable groups. This Core Aim brings together articles from the UNCRC that ensure they are protected. It is vital that we remove the risks where possible that otherwise impede a child's right to develop healthily and free from abuse and victimisation. Our approach to this aim is to invest in all our children, ensuring a brighter future and based on the following key articles of the UNCRC.

Core aim 3: Health, freedom from abuse and victimisation

•Ensure children enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

The Convention applies to all children, whatever their race, religion or abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 5: Parental Guidance

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children, so that they learn to use their rights properly.

Article 6: Survival and development

Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Articles 11 and 19 : Kidnapping, and protection from all forms of violence

Governments should take steps to stop children from being taken from their own country illegally and from being hurt and mistreated.

Articles 14 and 30: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion / Children of minorities and indigenous groups

Children, including minority and indigenous children, have the right to think and believe what they want and to practice any religion, language or culture - as long as they are not stopping others from enjoying their rights.



- ✚ **Articles 20, 21 and 22: Children deprived of family environment, adoption and refugee children.**
Children who can't be looked after by their families have a right to special care, particularly refugees and when in fostered or adopted care.
- ✚ **Articles 23, 24 and 25: Disabilities, health services and treatment in care**
Children have a right to good healthcare, especially those disabled children. Those in care have a right to have their care arrangements reviewed.
- ✚ **Articles 26 and 27: Social security and standard of living**
Children have the right to a standard of living good enough to meet their needs, and to help from governments if poor or in need.
- ✚ **Articles 32 to 38: Child labour, drug abuse, sexual and other forms of exploitation, abduction, punishment and war**
The government should protect children from all forms of exploitation, including child labour, sexual, drug and other forms of abuse. Children should be protected from cruel and harmful punishment and the effects of war.
- ✚ **Article 39: Rehabilitation**
Children have the special right to help from governments to recover from neglect, abuse and exploitation.
- ✚ **Article 40: Juvenile justice**
Children who are accused of breaking the law have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects their rights.

Programme for Government

We work hard to improve health, reduce inequalities and address victimisation and exploitation for all Welsh citizens and hence, this Core Aim is reflected throughout our Programme for Government. However, the following areas are relevant to children and young people in particular:

“The Committee recommends that inequalities in access to health services be addressed through a coordinated approach across all government departments and greater coordination between health policies and those aimed at reducing income inequality and

2008, UN Committee
Concluding Observation, Para. 55

Area 4 – 21st Century Healthcare

Our work towards developing 21st century healthcare champions the rights under articles 6 (survival and development), 23 (children with disabilities), 24 (health and social services) and 25 (review of treatment in care) of the UNCRC.



The following selection of key priorities, taken from the Programme for Government, is particularly related to ensure children and young people enjoy the best health:

- ✚ We have consulted on whether legislation should be introduced which would require the involvement and consent of parents for cosmetic piercing procedures on a person below a certain age.
- ✚ We are prioritising an increase in the support available for bereaved children.
- ✚ We are improving patient care and ensuring the help and support for deaf children and those with hearing difficulties is consistent across Wales.
- ✚ We are continuing our programme of a nurse for all secondary schools in Wales to help address the health, emotional and social needs of young people and promote healthy behaviour.
- ✚ We are working with schools and colleges to develop self-esteem and self awareness, while empowering young people to explore the many aspects of sexuality and healthy personal relationships.
- ✚ We have adopted an early years programme focusing on the importance of health in early years – drawing in expertise from health visitors, GPs, family support services, education, social care and the third sector.
- ✚ We are building on our programme of measures to discourage young people from starting to smoke, support smokers who want to give up, and lobbying UK Government on non-devolved issues such as reducing tobacco imagery to young people.
- ✚ We have increased immunisation among children to eradicate the health problems caused by measles, mumps and rubella.
- ✚ We have developed and published jointly with the Youth Justice Board “Children and Young People First”, Strategy which sets out a holistic approach to youth justice in Wales, based on our belief that prevention is better than cure and that young people should be treated as children first and offenders second.

“The Committee recommends that the State party...ensure that professionals working with children (including teachers, social workers, medical professionals, members of the police and the judiciary) receive training on their obligation to report and take appropriate action in suspected cases of domestic violence affecting children.”

Area 5 – Supporting People

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 51b, 2008



Many articles from the UNCRC relate to supporting children and young people including articles 3 (best interests of the child), 5 (parental guidance), 12 (respect for the views of the child), 18 (parental responsibilities; state assistance), 20 to 22 (family environment, adoption and refugees), 26 (social security) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). Our actions below are particularly related to this area:

- ✚ The Children's Rights Measure has now been fully implemented ensuring we consider children's rights in every decision we make.
- ✚ We are reviewing the law relating to child protection and setting national standards to be achieved by every local authority. We have reviewed the current structure of Local Children's Safeguarding Boards and we have substantially reducing the number of such Boards, from 22 to 6, operating in Wales.
- ✚ We have commenced existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals, ensuring that where any child is identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral is made to children's social services.
- ✚ We have maintained our commitment to integrated social services departments with a strong family orientation. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act was introduced in 2014 and provides national standards through a new legal framework to strengthen protection arrangements for both children and adults. This Act, alongside associated policies such as Integrated Family Support Services, recognises that the needs of children cannot be seen in isolation from the families and communities they are part of.

Area 7 – Safer Communities for All

This area is about making a safer Wales for all and champions the rights under articles 6 (survival and development), 11 (kidnapping), 19 (protection from violence), 22 (refugee children) and articles 32 to 38 (protection from child labour, sexual and drug abuse, abduction, exploitation, unfair punishment and war).



"The Committee recommends that the State party...establish mechanisms for monitoring the number of cases and the extent of violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including within the family, in schools and in institutional or other care."

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 51a, 2008

Our actions below are particularly related to this area:

- ✚ We have saved over 10,000 lives by ensuring all key health, social care and education workers can detect the early warning signs of domestic abuse and by putting in place clear steps to protect women and children.



- ✚ We are working in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to improve outcomes as a result of substance misuse and preventing young people from offending.

- ✚ We have delivered the core aims of the Working Together to Reduce Harm; The Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales and its associated three-year implementation plan 2011-

14, with an enhanced focus on improved volumes of treatment outcomes; safeguarding children from parents who misuse substances and a reduction in drug related deaths (DRDs).

- ✚ We have continued our Youth Crime Prevention Funding in Wales which allows schemes aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour. These include projects relating to education, training, leisure, arts, sports, restorative justice and initiatives to combat substance misuse.

"The Committee recommends that the State party continue to address the issue of substance use by adolescents across the State party, including by studying the root causes of these problems in order to provide targeted prevented measures."

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 63a, 2008.

Area 8 – Equality



The Welsh Government is strongly committed to supporting all children and young people, regardless of their background or individual situation. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 2 (non-discrimination), 14 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 22 (refugee children), 23 (disabled children) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). The below key priorities, taken from this area of the programme, are particularly related giving children and young people equal rights to a healthy and safer Wales:

- ✚ We work with partners to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying and hate crime.
- ✚ We also use our Community Cohesion Strategy and Right to be Safe Strategy as a foundation for work with partners to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence, reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying, tackle hate crime and promote community cohesion.

Area 11 – Environment and Sustainability

Taking care of the environment is important to the health and safety of our future young generations. The sustainable management of our natural resources through nature based



solutions provides a wide range of opportunities to tackle many of the deep rooted social and economic challenges such helping reduce and prevent poverty and support resilient communities. Articles 6 (survival and development) and 27 (adequate standard of living) from the UNCRC are important here. They are reflected in the following key priorities taken from this area in the Programme for Government:

- ✚ We are maintaining our work on the Tidy Towns programme, helping communities make their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.
- ✚ We have introduced the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#) regarding 'sustainable development'. This Act will improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and ensure it is a great place to live for our future generations.

Key Programmes and Policies

Giving children and young people the best in health and protection is vital to their development. The following key programmes and policies demonstrate our commitment to do just this.



Youth Justice Board Cymru

The Welsh Government does not have responsibility for the youth justice system in Wales. However, policies such as education, housing, substance misuse, health, and social services are all devolved to Welsh Ministers, and these have a significant impact on the delivery of youth justice services.

“The Committee recommends...children in conflict with the law are always dealt with within the juvenile justice system and never tried as adults in ordinary courts, irrespective of the gravity of the crime they are charged with.”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 78c

We continue to work with Youth Justice Board Cymru on:

- ✚ a new joint youth justice strategy, Children and Young People First was published in 2014 and this is monitored through a delivery plan;
- ✚ collaborative monitoring of youth justice outcome information; and
- ✚ joint governance and oversight of youth justice delivery.





Families First

We provide funding to local authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Families First ensures:

- ✚ children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being; and
- ✚ families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe.

Each local authority considers the ways in which they can deliver Families First and provides evidence of a contribution to achieving the programme outcomes. At delivery level, providers establish a process for identifying the ways in which they contribute to the national programme outcomes.



A strategic vision for maternity services in Wales

[This vision](#) sets out Welsh Government expectations of NHS Wales in delivering safe, sustainable and high quality maternity services. We aim for a service that promotes pregnancy and childbirth as an event of social and emotional significance, where

women and families are treated with dignity and respect. For every mother, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances, pregnancy and childbirth will be a safe and positive experience. This will enable the new mother, her partner and family to begin parenting feeling confident, capable and well supported in giving their child a secure start in life.



Our Healthy Future

[Our Healthy Future](#) sets the foundation for our ambitions for public health. Many of the plans under this programme are specific to promoting and protecting the health of children and young people in Wales, and include:

- ✚ prevention and early intervention;
- ✚ giving children a healthy start;
- ✚ reducing the number of teenage pregnancies;
- ✚ reducing the level of smoking; and
- ✚ increasing physical activity.



Refugee Inclusion Strategy Action Plan

The [Refugee Inclusion Strategy](#) sets out the Welsh Government's vision of refugee inclusion in Wales. Wales has a proud history of providing refuge to people fleeing persecution. Refugees from many countries over the centuries have been



welcomed by people in Wales. This approach is of particular importance to children and young people, who are very vulnerable in such difficult times.

“The Committee recommends that the State party [takes] urgent measures to address the intolerance and inappropriate characterization of children, especially adolescents, within society.”

*UN Committee Concluding Observation,
Para. 63a, 2008*

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ [Change4Life](#) – Helping families make changes to improve their health.
- ✚ [Healthy promotion for schools](#) – Including our [Healthy Schools Scheme](#), promotes health and well-being of children.
- ✚ [C-Card Schemes](#) - Young people can access free sexual health advice.
- ✚ [Assist Programme](#) - Preventing young people from smoking, and [Fresh Start Wales](#) reducing the amount of second hand smoke affecting children’s health.
- ✚ Promoting [Childhood Immunisations](#), such as the [MenACWY vaccine](#)
- ✚ [Consent in Health Care](#) - information for children and young people in Wales.
- ✚ [National Community Cohesion Delivery Plan](#)
- ✚ [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- ✚ Guidance for those providing [Parental Support and Childcare](#).
- ✚ Framework [for tackling hate crime and incidents](#) - stamping out discrimination.
- ✚ [Safeguarding](#) children from exploitation.
- ✚ [School Based Counselling Services](#) - responding to the diversity of issues and challenges faced by young people.
- ✚ The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.
- ✚ The [Environment \(Wales\) Bill](#) will put in place the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales’ natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. The Bill delivers against our Programme for Government commitment to introduce new legislation for the environment as well a number of other commitments, including those in relation to positioning Wales as a low carbon, green economy.



Monitoring outcomes

We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.



Youth Offending Rates in Wales

In continual steep decline since 2006.

Evaluation Reports on Families First

All local authorities in Wales are now delivering Joint Assessment Families Frameworks

Children Immunised against Measles, Mumps and Rubella

Wales has the highest vaccination rate in UK as of 2013.

Babies born under 2.5kg

Held at a steady rate of around 7%

Programme for Government

Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People

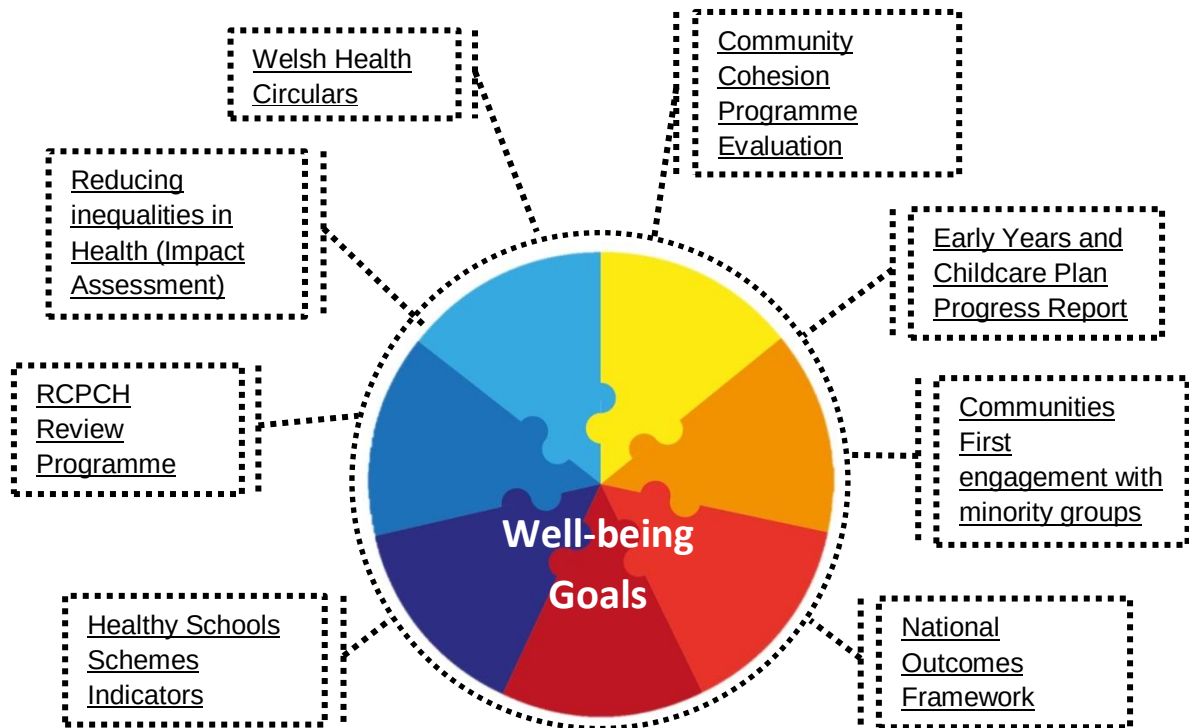
Smoking among 15 year olds has continued to decline since its peak in the late 1990s among both sexes.

The dental health of 11 and 12-year-olds has improved in recent years.

There is evidence that the suicide rate for 15 to 24-year-olds has declined in recent years, particularly among males.

17% of boys and 14% of girls aged 11-16 years are drinking every week according to the Public Health Wales Observatory.

Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 3: Health, Freedom from Abuse and Victimisation

- We published a report on our consultation around **cosmetic piercing** in November 2014.
- There has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of children and young people (those up to the age of 25) who have received **bereavement support**. Waiting times for children and young people seeking bereavement support have also been reduced.
- A total of 79 schools have now achieved the **WNHSS National Quality Award**, which requires a whole school approach to issues around sexuality and healthy personal relationships.
- In 2013-14, uptake of one dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (**MMR**) by two years of age increased by 1.9 percentage points from the previous year to 96.5 per cent, exceeding the target of 95 per cent. During the period April 2013 to March 2014, 87.9 per cent of children had completed all recommended immunisations by their fourth birthday, a 5.5 percentage point increase from 82.4 per cent in 2012-13.
- Our **Children's Rights Scheme** was approved by Assembly Members in May 2014. The scheme sets out the arrangements Ministers have in place to implement the Measure fully – protecting children and their many rights.
- Our **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act** achieved royal assent in 2014 and provides national standards through a new legal framework to strengthen protection arrangements for both children and adults.
- Over 13,200 victims (Men, women & children) of **domestic abuse** considered themselves to be safer, or to feel safer, from 11-12 to 14-15.
- Our **Youth Crime Prevention Fund** (formerly the Safer Communities Fund) has provided funding to support Community Safety schemes aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour - the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system are at historic lows.
- We published our Framework for Action on **Tackling Hate Crimes** and Incidents in May 2014. Funding to tackle hate crimes has been provided through the Equality and Inclusion Grant.
- Our **Community Cohesion** National Delivery Plan 2014-2016 was launched in June 2014. This sets out the Welsh Government's seven outcome areas to deliver the programme, which includes tackling hate crime.
- The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** was introduced in July 2014 and received Royal Assent in April 2015. It ensures future generations have a safe and sustainable environment in which to live.
- The **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** will ensure a focus across the public sector on the prevention of these issues, the protection of victims and the support for those affected by such issues.



Looking Ahead

Health, Freedom from Abuse and Victimisation Priorities

- We will continue the development of the **Public Health (Wales) Bill**, with the intention to achieve Royal Assent as soon as possible.
- We will be promoting the MenACWY (**meningitis**) vaccination programme to bring better health standards to children.
- Implementing various measures under the **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015**, including a National Training Framework and information for schools.
- We are continuing promotion of our '**Live Fear Free**' campaign against domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- A new campaign to **promote positive parenting**, starting in Autumn 2015, on the theme of encouragement and praising children for good behaviour in the place of harsh punishments when children do things wrong.
- Progressing our new **suicide and self harm prevention** strategy for Wales, 'Talk to me 2', up to 2020.
- We will be exploring possible legislation on minimum **alcohol pricing**, steering children away from the harms of alcohol.
- We will be investing a further £7.6M into **mental health services** for children and young people (CAMHS).
- Introduction of new regulations with enforce a ban on **smoking** in cars from October 2015 – protecting children from second hand smoke.
- We will be working with school nurses during 2015-16 to refresh the Framework for **School Nursing** in Wales.
- We will pilot a new outcome indicator tool to measure the effectiveness of **substance misuse** treatment in under 18s.



Core aim 4: Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture



"Aiming to ensure access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities"

We place great value on play, sport, leisure and culture and their importance on the lives of children in our society. We believe that children have a fundamental right to be able to enjoy themselves by as many means as possible. This is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their well-being.

This core aim supports the following key articles of the UNCRC:

Core aim 4: Play, sport, leisure and culture

•Ensure access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

 Article 15: Freedom of association

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as it does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

 Article 23: Children with disabilities

Children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support, as well as all the rights in the convention, so that they can live full and independent lives.

 Article 29: Goals of education

Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest.

 Article 31: Leisure, play and culture

Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.

Programme for Government

We are the first Government in the world to legislate for children's play and we are committed to taking this agenda forward. Our commitment means we are creating an environment in Wales where children have excellent opportunities to play and enjoy their recreation time. Such commitments are reflected throughout our Programme for Government, however, the following three areas are particularly relevant.

Area 2 – Public Services in Wales

Public services are essential to provide play, cultural, leisure and cultural opportunities to children and young people in Wales.

As the second area in the Programme for Government, 'Public Services in Wales' connects strongly with articles 15 (freedom of association) and 23 (children with disabilities), as well as many others. Many of the key priorities in this area are important to children and young people, and include:



- ✚ We are using digital technologies to take Wales to the world and bring the world to Wales by establishing a web gateway on what Wales can offer – in terms of tourism, investment, educational opportunities and culture – to the outside world.

Area 3 – Education



Area 3 of the Programme for Government demonstrates commitments to developing better education. Our work in the field of education connects particularly well with article 29 (role of education) in considering the role of culture. The following key priority helps Welsh children and young people access play, sport and culture in the language of their choice:

- ✚ We have put 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plans' on a statutory basis.
- ✚ We are continuing to encourage English medium schools to offer the choice of taking some subjects through the medium of Welsh. We will consider carefully the success of schools that offer the curriculum in both our national languages and see how this model could be expanded.

Area 5 – Supporting People

The Welsh Government is strongly committed to supporting children and young people – indeed there are many different key priorities related to this area in our Programme for Government. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 3 (best interests of the child), 5 (parental guidance), 12 (respect for the views of the child), 18 (parental responsibilities; state



assistance), 20 to 22 (family environment, adoption and refugees), 26 (social security) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). The below selection, taken from the programme, is particularly related to giving children and young people access to play, sport, culture and leisure:

- ✚ We have improved, and continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, we have supported improved access to play for children with disabilities.
- ✚ We continue to promote children and young people positively as much as possible to counteract negative portrayals in the media and elsewhere.



Area 12 – Culture and Heritage

Much of our work in this area of our Programme for Government is directed at giving children and young people access to cultural opportunities. Articles 14 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 15 (freedom of association), 30 (children of minorities / indigenous groups) and 31 (leisure, play and culture), all relate to this area.

“The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 69

The following key priorities from this area of the Programme for Government are of particular interest to children and young people:

- ✚ We have retained our free entry to museums policy. Implementation of our Child Poverty Strategy is attracting more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to visit museums in Wales.
- ✚ We have made it a requirement of the Arts Council Wales (ACW) to make arts for young people a central feature of its action plan in an agreed Compact with us.
- ✚ We have increased the number of people speaking and using Welsh in our education system.
- ✚ We have focused on post-16 provision to ensure that students can continue to study and learn through the medium of Welsh outside of the school environment.
- ✚ We have developed innovative ways of ensuring that the Welsh language is passed on through families and that users feel comfortable choosing Welsh.



- ✚ We have worked to ensure that community groups feel able to use the Welsh language as a part of their activities and are able to operate bilingually.
- ✚ Sporting skills: We remain committed to ensuring children and young people are provided with basic physical skills from an early age and that physical literacy is as important a developmental skill as reading and writing.
- ✚ Sporting Opportunities: We remain committed to ensuring all children and young people are able to access a range of sporting opportunities as part of the formal curriculum, after school and in the community.

Key Programmes and Policies

We want every child to have a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time. This is a task that will involve working with our partners to consider the many aspects of community life that affect play opportunities. These include use of the environment, traffic and transport; play and leisure provision; and parental and community involvement. The following key programmes and policies demonstrate our commitment to making Wales a country where every child and young person has a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and to enjoy their leisure time.



Play Sufficiency Assessments

Every child should have a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time. "Wales - a Play Friendly Country" is the updated statutory guidance for local authorities on assessing for and securing [sufficient play opportunities](#) for children in their areas.

"The State party should pay particular attention to provide children, including those with disabilities, with adequate and accessible playground spaces to exercise their play and leisure activities."

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 69, 2008



Physical Literacy Programme

The aim of the programme is to deliver a long term improvement in [physical literacy](#) and an increase in physical activity amongst children in schools in Wales, helping them get hooked on sport for life and to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Funding will be used to enable Sport Wales to:



- ✚ increase sport and physical activity in schools in Wales with a focus on those in deprived areas.
- ✚ develop a draft Physical Literacy Framework.
- ✚ involve prominent athletes in community sports days.



Creative Learning through the Arts

Our plan of action to promote [Creative Learning through the Arts](#) is designed to bring about a step change in the range and quality of opportunities that our children and young people are given to engage with and learn about the arts and culture. The plan has been designed to:

- ✚ Improve attainment through creativity;
- ✚ Increase and improve arts experiences and opportunities for learners; and
- ✚ Support our teachers and arts practitioners to develop their skills.



Free Swimming

Children and young people in Wales aged 16 and under (and adults aged 60 and over) can swim for free at their local authority swimming pools during various times of the year. The [Free Swimming](#) initiative is the 1st of its kind in Europe. It aims to increase participation of children and young people in physical activity and improve the health and well-being of the nation. It does this by improving access to local authority leisure services.



Welsh Language Strategy

The vision outlined in our Welsh Language Strategy is to see the Welsh language thriving in Wales. To achieve that, the strategy aims to see an increase in the number of people who both speak and use the language. Several of the aims are specific to children and young people and help to develop their access to our Welsh culture. We intend to:

- ✚ encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families.
- ✚ increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language.



Families First

We provide funding to local authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Families First ensures:



- ✚ children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being; and
- ✚ families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe.

Each local authority considers the ways in which they can deliver Families First and provides evidence of a contribution to achieving the programme outcomes. At delivery level, providers establish a process for identifying the ways in which they contribute to the national programme outcomes.

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ Our [Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit](#) – helping local authorities in fulfilling their duty to assess play opportunities.
- ✚ [Play Policy Implementation Plan](#).
- ✚ Sports funding through [Sports Wales](#) to increase participation in sports.
- ✚ [Climbing Higher and Next Steps](#) - our twenty-year strategy for sport and physical activity in Wales.
- ✚ [5x60 Secondary School Sport Programme](#) - aims to increase the number of secondary age pupils taking part in sport.
- ✚ [Gemau Cymru](#) - a multi sport event for the young athletes of Wales.
- ✚ Arts funding through the [Arts Council for Wales](#) – making the arts accessible to everyone.
- ✚ Our ‘[Foundation Phase in Practice](#)’ toolkit supports the Foundation Phase through a play-based curriculum - placing emphasis on learning through experience and use of the outdoors.
- ✚ [Fusion: Tackling poverty through culture](#) - Harnessing the power of the arts, culture and heritage to promote social justice in Wales.
- ✚ [National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare](#) - These standards determine whether child minding and day care settings are providing adequate care for children.
- ✚ [Integrated Children’s Centres](#) - integrated services to secure good outcomes for children.
- ✚ [Welsh Books Council: Services for Children](#) - working to encourage children to read.
- ✚ [Welsh-language technology and digital media action plan](#)
- ✚ [Rights of Way and Wider Access](#) to the outdoors and for access to recreation, including for children and young people who can benefit from opportunities for unstructured recreation, such as walking and cycling.
- ✚ [Education and recreation in woodland](#) – Opportunities for outdoor education and recreation on the Welsh Government’s woodland estate, managed by Natural Resources Wales. The Outdoor Learning Wales network is a resource for schools and other education providers to increase use of woodland in this way.



Monitoring outcomes

We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.



Use of Welsh in Schools

Has been steadily increasing since 1998.

Participation in sport or active recreation

Levels have been steady for the last 13 years.

Participation in Arts Activities

There has been a minor increase in children's participation to 82.3% since 2012.

Swimming Participation

Number of free structured aquatic activities made by children and young people has doubled since 2006.

Programme for Government

Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People

In 2013, 49% of males and 45% of females aged 5 to 16 participated in extracurricular sports at least once a week.

The National Survey for Wales (NSW) (2014/15) suggest that less than half of parents in Wales are satisfied with the available play spaces in their local area.

Nearly two thirds (59%) of Welsh 12 year olds surveyed will play computer games most days, and over a third (39%), of these will play computer games for between 1 and 3 hours a day.

The amount of free swims undertaken by children and young people under 16 at their local pool dropped from 650,000 in 2008/9 to 404,000 in 2013/14.

Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 4: Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture

- **Welsh in Education Strategic Plans** (WESPs) were incorporated into the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 – maintaining children's rights to a Welsh culture.
- As well as our media toolkit 'Tell it like it is', we have continued to work with the Office of the Children's Commissioner to promote its campaign 'See Me – Dyma Fi', encouraging use of responsible and **balanced imagery** and language when portraying children and young people.
- Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 was fully commenced in July 2014. This placed a duty on local authorities to assess for and secure **sufficient play opportunities** for children in their areas.
- We have called upon Arts Council Wales to focus on improving access and increasing the amount of people (including children and young people) throughout Wales who are producing and delivering **arts, culture and creativity**.
- The **Welsh Medium Education Strategy** annual report was published in July 2014. The percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language in Year 2 has increased from 21.9 per cent in 2010/11 to 22.2 per cent in 2013/14. The percentage assessed in Welsh first language in Year 9 increased from 16.3 per cent in 2010/11 to 17.1 per cent in 2013/14.
- The **Twf** project offers advice to parents on raising children through the medium of Welsh and bilingually. Approximately 10,000 parents have been reached in 2014-15.
- The '**Your Welsh is Wonderful**' project aims to raise confidence and increase the use of Welsh within families. Groups are meeting in nine areas of Wales.
- Mentrau Iaith holds various activities to give information to parents on using **Welsh at home** – 9,610 parents have received information this year.
- The **Physical Education and School Sport** (PESS) Project, which ended in July 2014, trained 59,742 practitioners since 2001. The new Physical Literacy Programme for schools, led by Sports Wales, commenced in September 2014.
- We have consulted on Improving opportunities to **access the outdoors** for responsible recreation.



Looking Ahead

Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture Priorities

- Implement our '**Summer Reading Challenge 2015**' – encouraging young children to improve their reading skills.
- Complete our Pioneer Area Programme Pilot Year for '**Fusion – Tackling Poverty Through Culture**'.
- Implement more grants through the Capital Investment Fund 2015 to 2016 for **Welsh language centres** and learning spaces.
- Continue awarding grants to promote *Welsh-language technology* and digital media.
- Continue our work on the **Historic Environment (Wales) Bill** to ensure continued access to Welsh heritage for future generations.
- Continue our commitment to make **every child in Wales a library member**.
- Through Sport Wales, widen **participation in sport** and programmes targeted at increasing physical activity.
- Increase the number of sport coaches and elite athletes in Wales – helping and inspiring **young athletes** of the future.
- Work with national, UK and international sports federations to ensure that more major **sporting events** are held in Wales in the future, increasing access to children and young people on the way.
- Continue to seek ways of ensuring that children and young people have the opportunities to take part in **unstructured recreational activities in the outdoors** to encourage physical activity and connection with the natural environment.
- **Green Space and Woodland Opportunities** - Supporting and building the capacity of community groups and enterprises to be involved in woodland management to realise community development objectives and address poverty.



Core aim 5: Participation in Decision Making



"We aim to ensure children are listened to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised"

We believe Wales is a place where all children and young people are treated as valued members of the community, regardless of their race, religion and abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever their family background. Their voices must be heard and their needs considered. Participation means ensuring the rights of children to be involved in making decisions or planning and reviewing any action that might affect them – regardless of their background or situation. Having a voice is having a choice.

This core aim supports the following key articles of the UNCRC:

Core aim 5: Participation in decision making

• Ensure children are listened to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

Article 3: Best interests of the child

The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them.

Article 12: Respect for the views of the child

When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.

Article 13: Freedom of expression

Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.

Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion.

Article 15: Freedom of association

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisation, as long as it does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

✚ **Article 16: Right to privacy**

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

✚ **Article 17: Access to information; mass media**

Children have the right to get information that is important to their health and well-being.

Programme for Government

The aim of providing children and young people with the means to participate in all matters that affect them is reflected throughout the twelve areas of our Programme for Government, which outlines our commitment to a better country in twelve key areas. However, the following three areas are particularly relevant:

Area 5 – Supporting People

We are strongly committed to supporting children and young people – indeed there are many different key priorities related to this area in our Programme for Government. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 3 (best interests of the child), 5 (parental guidance), 12 (respect for the views of the child), 18 (parental responsibilities; state assistance), 20 to 22 (family environment, adoption and refugees), 26 (social security) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups).



“The Committee recommends that the State party further strengthen its efforts, to ensure that all of the provisions of the Convention are widely known and understood by adults and children alike”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 21

The below selection, taken from the Programme for Government, is particularly related to ensuring children and young people are able to participate in decision making, regardless of their background:

- ✚ We have ensured, and we will continue to ensure that the Children’s Rights Measure is given full effect in government policies and programmes throughout the course of this administration.
- ✚ We have worked and will continue to work with the Children’s Commissioner for Wales, children’s organisations and the third sector to promote wider understanding and appreciation of rights based policy making and service delivery.
- ✚ We are reviewing the law relating to child protection and setting national standards to be achieved by every local authority. We have reviewed the current structure of Local Children’s Safeguarding Boards and we have



substantially reducing the number of such Boards, from 22 to 6, operating in Wales.

- ✚ We are continuing to promote positive images of young people wherever possible to counteract negative portrayals in the media and elsewhere.
- ✚ We are continuing to improve opportunities for all children and young people in Wales to participate in decision making on issues which affect them.

Area 8 – Equality



Children should be respected and treated as equal and valued members of society.

They should be listened

to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised

regardless of their background or individual situation. As well as a dedicated team to children's rights, our Fairer Futures Division is devoted to the inclusion and equality of all people - we are committed to championing the rights of those with protected characteristics. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 2 (Non-discrimination), 14 (Freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 22 (refugee children), 23 (disabled children) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). The below key priorities, taken from this area of the Programme for Government, are particularly related giving children and young people equal rights to participation in Wales:

"The Committee recommends that the State party ensure full protection against discrimination on any grounds"

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 25

- ✚ We are working with partners to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying and hate crime.
- ✚ We also use our Community Cohesion Strategy and the Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plan as a foundation for work with partners to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence, reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying, tackle hate crime and promote community cohesion.
- ✚ We are going even further to deliver a more representative pool of decision makers in Wales.
- ✚ We are ensuring that cultural differences are taken into account in the provision of social care services, including for children.



Key Programmes and Policies

The following key programmes and policies demonstrate our commitment to giving children and young people in Wales a voice, regardless of their background.



Young Wales

Since October 2014 we have provided significant funding for '[Young Wales](#)' to be the national participation platform for children and young people to have their voices heard by us as a Government and others. Young Wales and their partners have links to and work with a wide range of marginalised groups such as looked after children, young carers, disabled groups, travellers etc. In addition, regional workers are linked into mainstream areas such as youth forums, primary and secondary schools. Young Wales will focus on gathering the opinions of children and young people to inform Welsh Government legislation, policy and programmes. They have:

- Directly (face to face) engaged with over 1000 children and young people in consultation and engagement events.
- Developed the Young Wales web site - a platform for children and young people to have a voice. The web site has an average of 44,000 hits per month (rising from 16,000 in April)
- Involved children and young people in the planning for workshops and other events such as the National Eisteddfod. Many more children and young people are expected to attend workshops about anti-bullying, substance misuse, participation standards and debating skills.
- Supported Young People to attend the UK Youth Parliament to ensure the voice of children and young people from Wales is heard.



Pupil Participation / Voice

Article 12 of the UNCRC sets out the right of children and young people to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account on any matter that affects them.

"The Committee recommends that the State party... promote, facilitate and implement, in legislation as well as in practice, within the family, schools, and the community as well as in institutions and in administrative and judicial proceedings, the principle of respect for the views of the child."

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 33a



[Our Pupil Participation Project](#) supports schools in enabling children and young people to have a voice and to participate in decisions that affect them by:

- ✚ producing information, guidance and materials for children, young people and the adults who support them.
- ✚ working with colleagues both inside WG and externally.
- ✚ supporting and developing a network of professionals in local authorities across Wales.
- ✚ developing and disseminating training materials.

In post-16 learning, we have published learner involvement strategy [guidance](#), requiring all providers to ensure that they involve learners in decisions that affect them. This approach has been evaluated by Estyn over a [three-year thematic review](#), which found that providers have responded well to the guidance and have developed a range of strategies to listen and respond to learners. Alongside this, we have introduced the annual post-16 Learner Voice Wales survey, and supported the National Union of Students (Wales) to strengthen learner representation structures in further education colleges.



Independent Counselling

Local authorities have a duty to provide an independent counselling service for children and young people in their area.

This [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) sets out the duties and powers introduced under the School Standards and

Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 regarding the provision of independent counselling services to children and young people. Counselling can help to support the health, emotional and social needs of children and young people. Early and easy access to counselling prevents mental health problems developing or becoming more serious.



Learning Pathways 14 – 19

[Learning Pathways 14 to 19](#) is the distinct approach being taken in Wales to transform the way in which young people are educated. The approach focuses on the needs of individual

learners and their learning experience formal, non-formal and in-formal education and the development of skills which will help them to achieve their potential. The learning pathways framework consists of six key elements. Some are unique to Wales and fall into two distinct categories: Learner provision and learner support.

“The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen children’s participation in all matters of school, classroom and learning which affect them”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 67g

The three elements of learner provision are:

- ✚ individual learning pathway – to meet the needs of each individual, including formal, non-formal and informal strands,
- ✚ wider choice and flexibility of courses – leading to qualifications from a local curriculum, and;
- ✚ wider learning from the learning Core – including skills, knowledge, attitudes and experiences that all 14 to 19 year olds will need whatever their pathway.



Meic / Advocacy Services

We are proud to have developed, funded and supported many different advocacy services in Wales; especially those that help children find their voice in difficult situations. [Meic](#) supports our children and young people to fulfil their potential and to be aware of their rights - something that we've taken to a new level here in Wales.



Shared Purpose Shared Delivery

This package of draft guidance is for those “public bodies” listed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The draft guidance makes provision for the involvement of people and communities, and highlights children and young people as essential to involving people. It highlights the importance of effective involvement as being at the heart of improving well-being for both current and future generations in achieving the well-being goals.

The guidance supports established principles for working with communities, and public bodies are encouraged to apply the National Principles for Engagement, such as the National Participation Standards for Children and Young People.

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ Continued funding for [Young Wales](#) – promoting participation for children and young people.
- ✚ Continued funding organisations advancing equality through our [Equality and Inclusion Grant](#).
- ✚ [Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents](#): A Framework for Action.
- ✚ [Hate crime digital stories](#) - These stories aim to raise awareness, encourage victims to come forward and to promote support services and resources available to victims of hate crime.
- ✚ [Our Children's Rights Scheme](#), and our [Compliance Report](#) on the Children's Rights Measure – detailing how we comply with legislation around the rights of children and young people.
- ✚ [Learner Voice Wales](#) – an annual satisfaction survey for students in post-16 education.



- ✚ [Inclusion and Pupil Support Guidance](#) - ensuring equality of educational opportunity.
- ✚ [Personal Support Services](#) and [Learning Coaches](#) as part of our Learning Pathways scheme.
- ✚ Children and young people-friendly [consultations](#) on many new policy areas, such as [transgender equality](#) and [outdoor activity](#).
- ✚ [Youth Justice Board in Wales](#) – influencing the effects of youth justice under UK legislation.
- ✚ [Tenant Participation Strategy](#) – giving social tenants and their families a voice around how social housing areas are run.
- ✚ [National Outcomes Framework](#) - for people who need care and support.

Monitoring outcomes

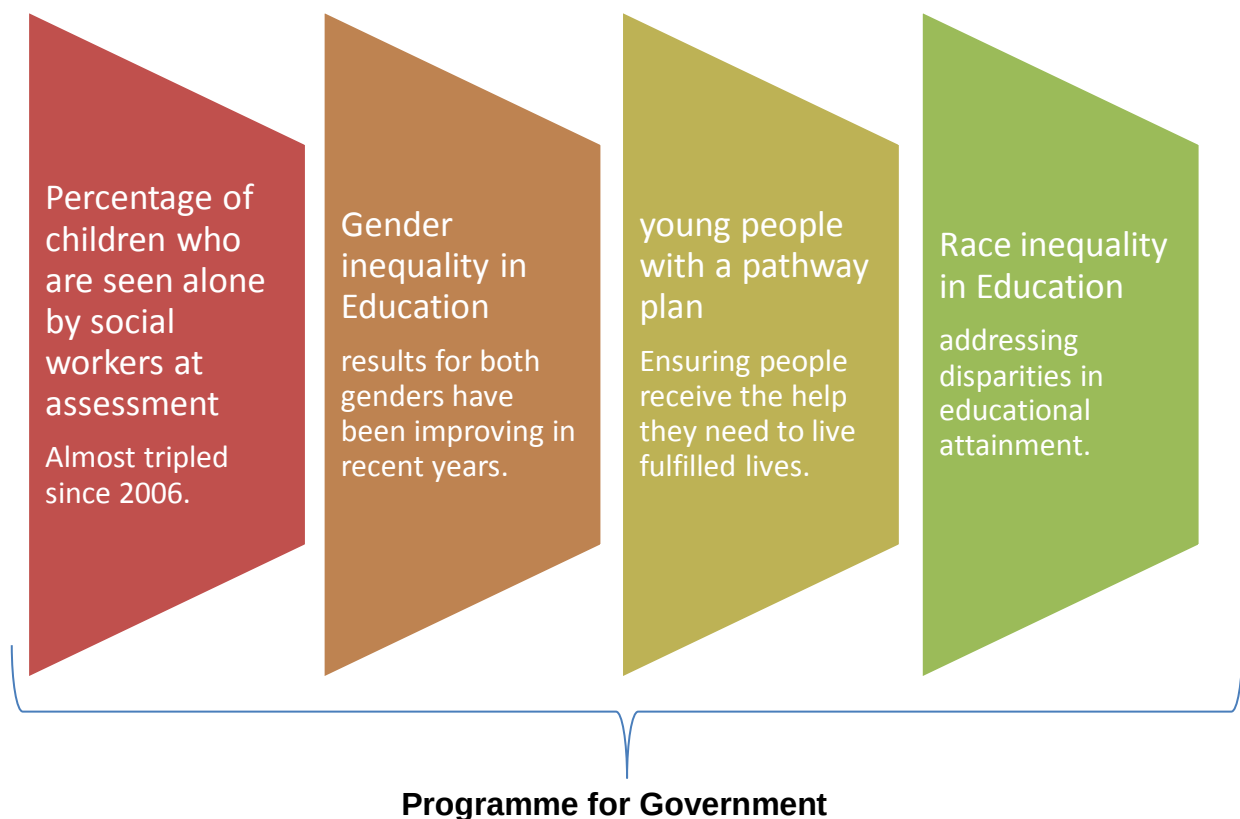
We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

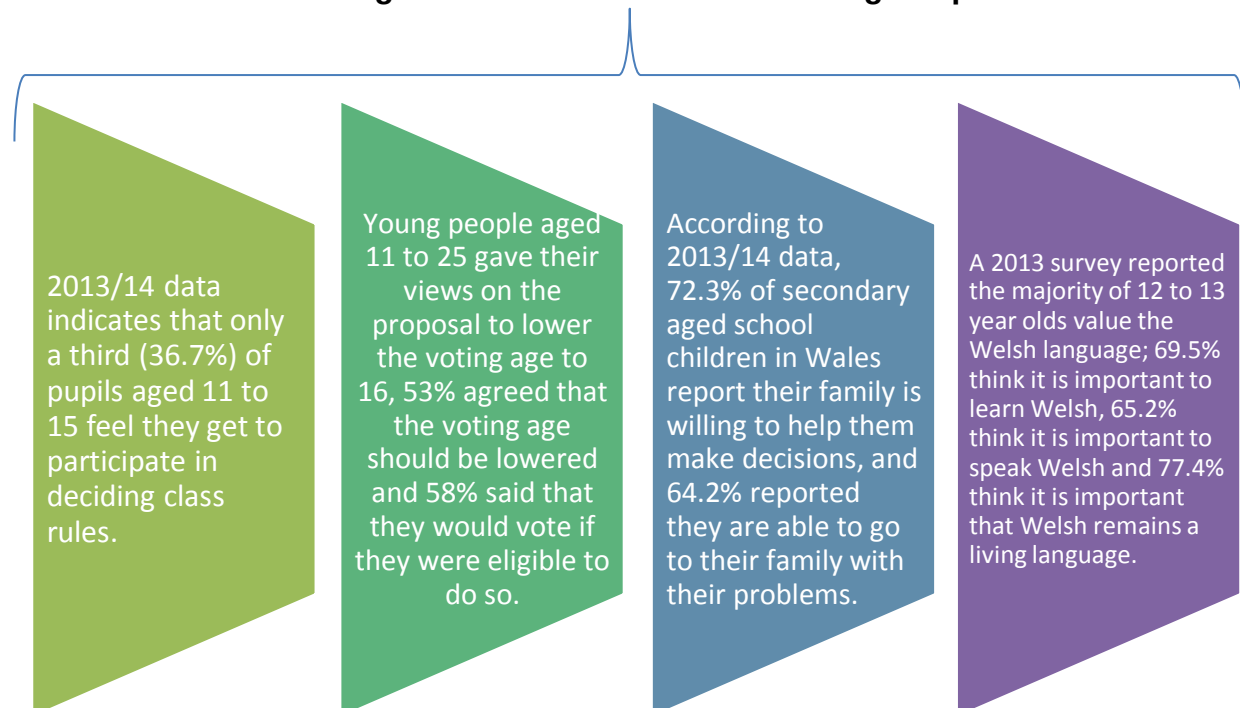
We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.

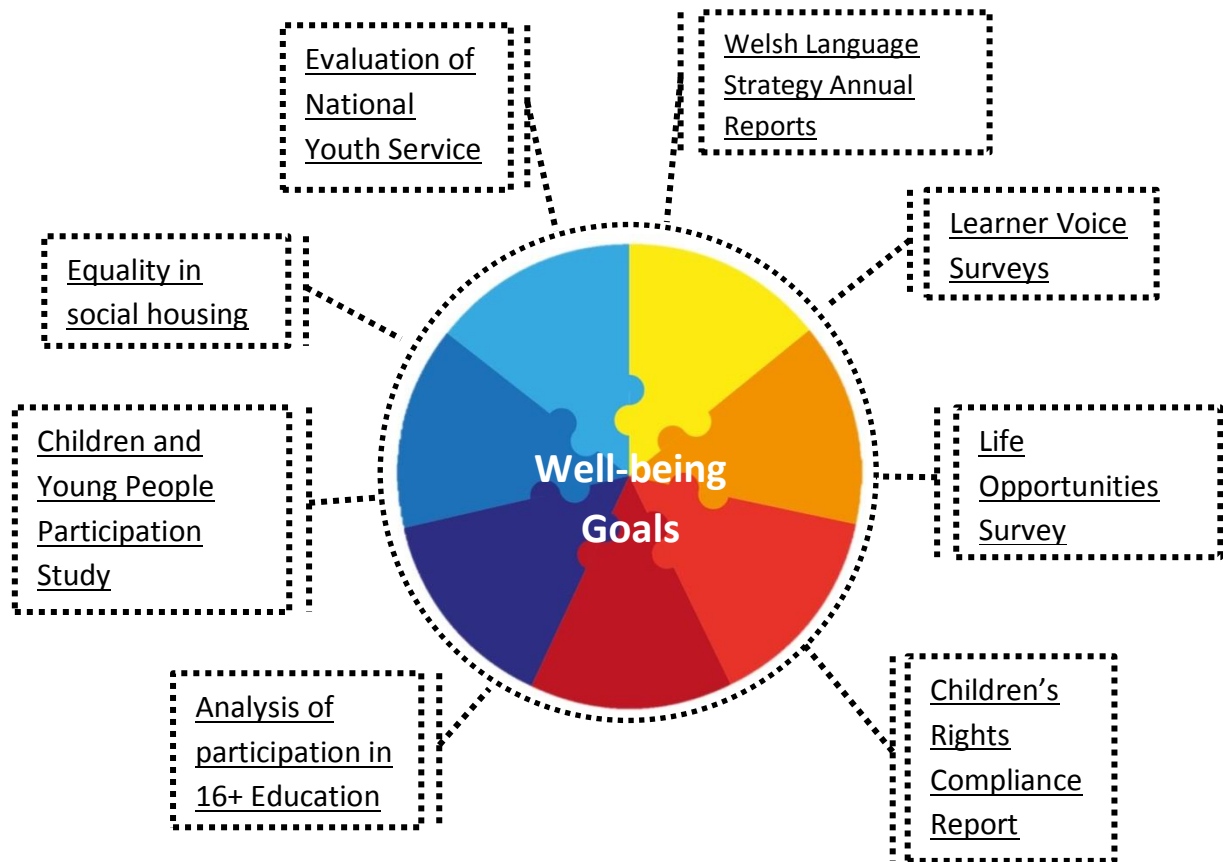




Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People



Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 5: Participation in Decision Making

- **'Young Wales'** was launched in March 2015 to enable the participation of children and young people in the workings of this Government. The National Participation Standards will also be driven forward through 'Young Wales'. The Young Wales website promotes opportunities to participate. This complements the duty on local authorities to promote the participation of children and young people in decisions that affect them.
- As well as our media toolkit 'Tell it like it is', we **continue to support the work of the Office of the Children's Commissioner** to promote its campaign 'See Me – Dyma Fi', encouraging use of responsible and balanced imagery and language when portraying children and young people.
- **We fund training sessions** for key professions, including the media, continue to support children's rights becoming a reality in Wales.
- **The All-Wales Community Safety Board's was established** in October 2012 and its revised terms of reference commit the members to work together with the overall aim of improving community safety in Wales. The board includes members with representative interest for children and young people in Wales.
- **We published our Framework for Action on Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents** in May 2014. Funding to tackle hate crimes has been provided through the Equality and Inclusion Grant.
- **Our Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan 2014-2016 was launched** in June 2014. This sets out the Welsh Government's seven outcome areas to deliver the programme, which includes tackling hate crime.
- A Written Statement on progress in **increasing diversity on public sector boards** was published in December 2014. Ministers have written to Chairs of Public Sector Boards encouraging continued action and a seminar was held in November 2014 to share good practice.
- We have published **Statutory guidance for local authorities on children and young people's participation** in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
- Our commitment to ensure cultural differences are taken into account in the **provision of social care services** has been taken forward through development of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This new legislation requires that any persons exercising functions under the Act have regard to the characteristics, culture and beliefs of an individual.



Looking Ahead

Participation in Decision Making: Priorities

- We will **continue to visit every local authority** to learn about how they are implementing the Statutory guidance on children and young people's participation in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
- Every local authority in Wales is required to have a **youth forum** or youth council and is visited by Welsh Government officials to ensure compliance. <http://www.youngwales.wales/index.php/forums>
- Continued participation in forums **promoting equality** across all protected characteristics, such as race, age and faith.
- Continued **support of the Welsh language** to ensure children and young people can participate in the language of their choice.
- **Increase diversity in public appointments** to help support under-represented groups in Wales. A pilot development programme is underway, which is supporting people from under-represented groups to shadow Health Boards and Trusts.



Core aim 6: A Safe Home and Community



"We aim to ensure a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional well-being."

Ensuring children and young people have a safe place in which to live with others, develop, play and learn goes a long way to giving them the best future. This core aim looks at giving children the best opportunities towards developing physical and emotional well-being by safeguarding the environments in which they grow up.

Core aim 6 supports the following key articles of the UNCRC:

Core aim 6: A safe home and community

• Ensure a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional well-being.

-  **Articles 9 and 10: Separation from parents and family reunification**
Children have the right to live with their parents, unless it's bad for them. Families split between different countries should be allowed to move between countries to be with their children.
-  **Article 11: Kidnapping**
Government should take steps to stop children from being taken from their own country illegally.
-  **Articles 15 and 16: Freedom of association and right to privacy**
Children have the right to meet together and join groups and organisation, so long as it does not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Children also have a right to privacy.
-  **Article 23: Refugee children**
Children have the right to special protection and help if they are refugees.
-  **Article 33: Drug abuse**
Governments should use all means possible to protect children from the use of harmful drugs and from being used in the drugs trade.
-  **Article 37: Detention and punishment**
No one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way.
-  **Article 40: Juvenile justice**
Children who are accused of breaking the law have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects their rights.

Programme for Government

The aim of providing children and young people in Wales with a *safe home and community* is reflected throughout the twelve areas of our Programme for Government, which outlines our commitment to a better country. Indeed, area 7, 'Safer Communities for All' is specific to this commitment. However, all of the below seven areas are also of particular relevance:

Area 2 – Public Services in Wales

Ensuring safe homes and communities for children and young people is dependant on the best in public services to make sure that the livelihoods of our children are protected. This area connects strongly with articles 15 (freedom of association) and 40 (juvenile justice) as well as many others. Many of the key priorities in this area are of particular importance to children and young people:



- ✚ We are continuing to support local government by delivering fair funding to enable them to protect vital services. We have protected local authorities in Wales from the impact of cuts to our Budget from the UK Government. As a result they have received better funding settlements than their counterparts in England. This includes funding for schools which has been protected at 1 per cent above the change to the Welsh Budget each year.
- ✚ We are continuing to explore other, sustainable and flexible forms of investment in public services such as the use of the Welsh Housing Partnership, Social Investment Bonds and Community Bonds, and work closely with social banks such as Charity and Unity Trust Banks, credit unions, charities, co-ops and social enterprises to develop innovative solutions to delivering our public service priorities. The Local Government Borrowing Initiative will deliver around £350m of additional investment, including in schools across Wales between 2012 and 2016.

Area 4 – 21st Century Healthcare



Our work towards developing 21st century healthcare champions the rights under articles 23 disabled children and 33 (drug abuse) in particular, although many other articles are covered. The following selection of key priorities is particularly related to giving children and young people a safe home and

community:

- ✚ We have prioritised an increase in the support available for bereaved children. As a national voluntary organisation operating in the field of mental health, Cruse Bereavement Cymru has been awarded funding through the End of Life Implementation Board to expand its counselling service and increase the number of trained volunteers to deliver support services to the bereaved.



- ✚ We are building on our programme of measures to discourage young people from starting to smoke, support smokers who want to give up, and lobby UK Government on non devolved issues such as reducing tobacco imagery to young people. The Tobacco Control Action Plan sets out the work going on to deliver this, and is also supported by the young people's smoking prevention programmes, particularly ASSIST (A Stop Smoking In Schools Trial) run by Public Health Wales.

Area 5 – Supporting People

We are strongly committed to supporting children and young people – indeed there are many different key priorities related to this area in our Programme for Government. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 9 and 10 (separation from parents and family reunification) among others. The selection of key priorities below demonstrates our commitment to support children and young people and to ensure a safe home and community:



- ✚ We are reviewing the law relating to child protection and setting national standards to be achieved by every local authority. We have reviewed the current structure of Local Children's Safeguarding Boards and we have substantially reduced the number of such Boards, from 22 to 6, operating in Wales.
- ✚ We have improved, and continue to improve, opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, we have supported improved access to play for disabled children.
- ✚ We have commenced existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals, ensuring that where any child is identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral is made to children's social services.

Area 6 - Welsh Homes



Our Programme for Government defines clear goals towards improving the living standards for all people in

Wales, including Children and Young People. By committing to improving Welsh Homes, we are contributing towards several of the articles from the UNCRC, including articles 21 (adoption) and 27 (adequate standard of living) in particular. The below commitments from this section of the Programme for Government help to support a safe home and community for children and young people:

"The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to provide material assistance and support programmes for children, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing."

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 65c

- ✚ We provide Social Housing Grant funding which increases the supply of good quality affordable housing. A quality home provides the bedrock for young people's learning.
- ✚ We are supporting tenant participation services – Participation for children and young people is essential in considering the views of all in the development of new housing schemes.
- ✚ We have built on our ten-year homelessness plan and are continuing to invest in vulnerable people, including children and young people. We are working hard to ensure they are protected from homelessness.
- ✚ We have improved services and opportunities for groups within the community who experience discrimination/require particular attention.

Area 7 – Safer Communities for All

Area 7 of the Programme for Government works on making a safer Wales for all and is perhaps the most relevant area for this Core Aim. This area champions the rights under articles 6 (survival and development), 11 (kidnapping), 19 (protection from violence), 22 (refugee children) and articles 32 to 38 (protection from child labour, sexual and drug abuse, abduction, exploitation, unfair punishment and war)



“The Committee recommends that the State party reconsider the ASBOs as well as other measures such as the mosquito devices insofar as they may violate the rights of children to freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, the enjoyment of which is essential for the children's development and may only subject to very limited restrictions as enshrined in article 15 of the Convention.”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 35

The following selection of key priorities, taken from this area, is particularly related ensuring children and young people have a safe home and community:

- ✚ We have saved over 10,000 lives by ensuring all key health, social care and education workers can detect the early warning signs of domestic abuse and by putting in place clear steps to protect women and children.
- ✚ We are working in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to improve outcomes as a result of substance misuse and youth crime prevention.
- ✚ We have delivered the core aims of the Working Together to Reduce Harm; The Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales and its associated three-year implementation plan 2011-14, with an enhanced focus on improved volumes of treatment outcomes; safeguarding children from parents who misuse substances and a reduction in drug related deaths (DRDs).



- ✚ We have continued our Safer Communities Funding to Community Safety Partnerships in Wales which allows schemes aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour. These include projects relating to education, training, leisure, arts, sports, restorative justice and initiatives to combat substance misuse.

“The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child, in accordance with article 3 of the Convention, is adequately integrated in all legislation and policies which have an impact on children, including in the area of criminal justice and immigration.”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 27



Area 10 – Rural Communities

Making sure that children and young people have a safe home and community should be a requirement regardless of where in Wales that they live. By supporting this right in rural communities we are championing article 27 (adequate standard of living) from the UNCRC. The following commitment from this area of the Programme for Government is of particular interest to children and young people:

- ✚ We are ensuring that people across Wales have access to high quality health services as close as possible to where they live. There is a range of policy and strategies designed to inform and support Health Board plans to deliver healthcare at or as close to the homes of Welsh families as possible.

Area 11 – Environment and Sustainability

A safe home means a safe environment and a safe community needs to be sustainable. Prioritising environment and sustainability is particularly important to our future generations. This area of the Programme for Government is important to this Core Aim as it champions article 27 (adequate standard of living) both for children now and in the future. Within this area:



- ✚ We are maintaining our work on the Tidy Towns programme, helping communities make their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.
- ✚ We have remained committed to improving public access to land with better access for families and young children.
- ✚ We have introduced the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act regarding ‘sustainable development’. This Act will improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and ensure it is a great place to live for our current and future generations.



Key Programmes and Policies

Giving children and young people a safe home and community requires a collaborative approach involving teams working in many contrasting areas of our organisation. We have developed a suite of programmes and policies to assure this aim is achieved for Wales. The following selection particularly support children and young people.



Youth Justice Advisory Board

We do not have responsibility for the youth justice system in Wales. However, policies such as education, housing, substance misuse, health, and social services and the needs of looked after children are all devolved to Welsh Ministers. They have a significant impact on the delivery of youth justice services.

We are working alongside the [Youth Justice Board Cymru](#) which includes:

- ✚ a joint youth justice strategy and delivery plan for Wales;
- ✚ collaborative monitoring of youth justice outcome information; and
- ✚ joint governance and oversight of youth justice delivery.



Integrated Family Support Services

[Integrated family support services](#) (IFSS) help families to stay together by encouraging them to take positive steps to improve their lives. The service is a programme unique to Wales. Its work is described in detail in the Child and Family (Wales) Measure 2010 ([external link](#)) and associated regulations. IFSS has been available across Wales since 2014. A local authority currently refers a family to an integrated family support team when there are concerns about the welfare of children and the primary presenting issue is substance misuse. From April 2016, new legislation will require that domestic violence, abuse and mental health issues also require a referral.

“The Committee recommends that the State party...intensify its efforts to render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, para. 45a



Ten-year Homelessness Plan

Our ten-year homelessness plan sets out some guiding principles for the development and delivery of homelessness services until 2019. We are currently experiencing a downturn in the global economy, the impact of which is likely to continue to be

felt over the coming years. This has posed particular challenges and made it even more important that services for those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness, are as effective as possible. The strategic aims underlying this Plan are:

- ✚ Preventing homelessness wherever possible;
- ✚ Working across organisational and policy boundaries;
- ✚ Placing the service user at the centre of service delivery;
- ✚ Ensuring social inclusion and equality of access to services; and
- ✚ Making the best use of resources.



Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

We want a culture that challenges abusive behaviour – everyone, including children and young people, has the right to live fear free. On 29 April 2015, the [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act](#) 2015 was passed. The legislation improves the Public Sector response in Wales to such abuse and violence. Several policies have been developed alongside the Act designed to help younger generations in particular including a Healthy Relationship Programme in Schools.



Community Cohesion

[Community cohesion](#) is a term to describe how everyone in a geographical area lives alongside each other with mutual understanding and respect. We live in increasingly diverse communities which face challenges due to economic migration, intergenerational differences, the impact of poverty and the growing influence of extremism. Community cohesion policies face these challenges by encouraging integration, valuing difference and focusing on the shared values that join people together. Our National Community Cohesion Delivery Plan 2014-16 was published in June 2014, to continue to strengthen, mainstream and sustain both local and regional community cohesion approaches.

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ [Community Safety](#) - We want our communities to be places where people feel safe to live and work now and in the future.
- ✚ [Help to Buy Wales](#) - ensuring everyone has access to a high quality, safe and affordable home.
- ✚ [Welsh Housing Quality Standard \(WHQS\)](#) – ensures social housing in Wales is kept to a high standard.
- ✚ Our [Supporting People Programme](#) covers young people from the age of 16, and helps anyone in need with families of any age.
- ✚ [Vibrant and Viable Places](#) – our regeneration framework.



- ✚ [National Youth Work Strategy](#) - Setting the direction for youth work organisations for the next four years.
- ✚ [Gypsy and Traveller Sites](#) - We want to ensure there are equal opportunities for all Gypsies and Travellers in Wales.
- ✚ [A framework for Tackling Hate Crime](#) - tackling hate crimes and incidents in respect of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- ✚ [Hate crime digital stories](#) - These stories aim to raise awareness, encourage victims to come forward and to promote support services and resources available to victims of hate crime.
- ✚ [Safe Routes in Communities](#) - improve accessibility and safety, and encourage walking and cycling within communities, including to schools.
- ✚ Active [Travel](#) – making it easier for people to walk and cycle in Wales.
- ✚ [Communities First](#) - our community focussed tackling poverty programme.
- ✚ [Safeguarding](#) children from exploitation.
- ✚ [Plant a Tree for Every Child Project](#) – a tree is planted in Wales for every child born or adopted here.

Monitoring outcomes

We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.



Youth Justice Indicators

The number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System continues to reduce year on year.

Evaluation of Integrated Family Support Services

Evidence shows the approach appears to improve short-term outcomes for a good number of families.

%age of homeless households with children

The percentage of homeless households which include dependent children continues to fall.

Incidence of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse constitutes a serious violation of the human rights of women and girls.

Programme for Government

Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People

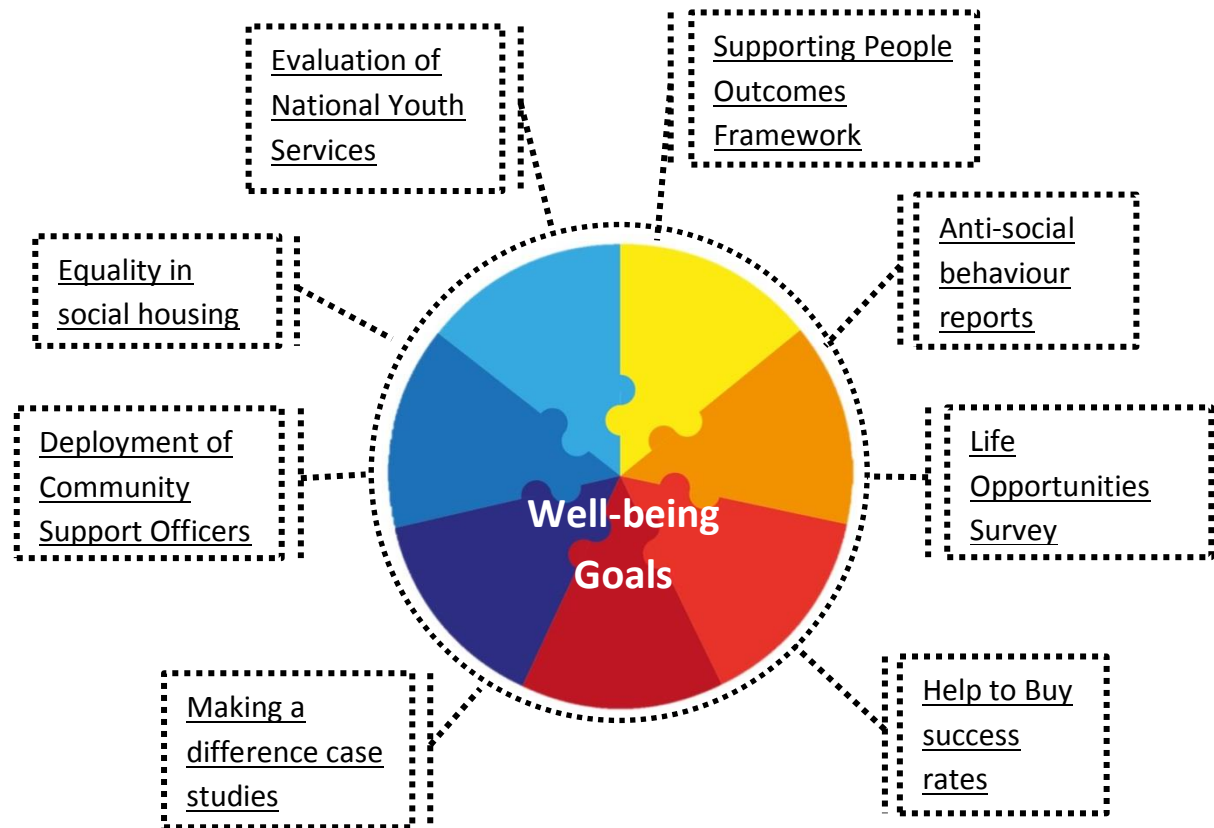
From 2010 to 2014 the number of families with children in temporary accommodation in Wales has decreased from 1,180 families to 810.

2014/15 saw increases in the percentage of children stating they were victims of theft and criminal damage.

By 2014 the number of young people killed or seriously injured on Welsh roads was 31 percent lower than the average for 2004-2008.

The prevalence of bullying is relatively low, peaking at 7% of children in Year 9.

Each of the indicators shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 6: Safe Home and Community

- There has been a 10 per cent **increase in the number of children and young people (those up to the age of 25) who have received bereavement support**. Waiting times for children and young people seeking bereavement support have also been reduced. Additionally, data for children and young people will be produced by the newly introduced Cruse Information System.
- Our **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act** achieved royal assent in 2014 and provides national standards through a new legal framework to strengthen protection arrangements for both children and adults.
- Over **13,200 victims (Men, women & children) of domestic abuse considered themselves to be safer**, or to feel safer, from 11-12 to 14-15.
- Our Youth Crime Prevention Fund (formerly the Safer Communities Fund) has provided **funding to support Community Safety schemes** aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour. The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system are at historic lows.
- We **published our Framework for Action on Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents** in May 2014. Funding to tackle hate crimes has been provided through the Equality and Inclusion Grant.
- **Our Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan 2014-2016 was launched** in June 2014. This sets out the Welsh Government's seven outcome areas to deliver the programme, which includes tackling hate crime.
- The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** was introduced in July 2014 and received Royal Assent in April 2015. It ensures future generations have a safe and sustainable environment in which to live.
- In November 2014, we **published our new national plan for a primary care service for Wales** which sets key actions to shift services out of hospital into the community, improve and modernise access, making effective use of technology and to achieve service sustainability.
- In 2014-15, we **provided funding of nearly £3.2m to the Tidy Towns programme** to help communities make their neighbourhoods better places to live. A key priority for the programme is improving the quality of life for those living in urban deprived communities.
- Children are often at higher risk of fire, especially those in single-parent families. We have worked with the three Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales to reduce these risks. As a result, **the number of fires has fallen by 56% since fire was devolved in 2005**; and the number of casualties has fallen by 58%.



- **We have improved public access to land** with better access for families and young children, with existing programmes such as the Wales Coast Path Development Programme and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Implementation Programme. Support for the Green Flag Awards continues to drive improvements in the quality of Welsh parks and green spaces.



Looking Ahead

Safe Home and Community Priorities

- **Landlords** – We will be raising standards through Rent Smart Wales to ensure that landlords are registered and to ensure that all families in rented accommodation have a good quality home.
- **Quality rented homes** – We are looking to ensure the tenants of 220,000 homes in Wales have better quality accommodation by 2020.
- **Positive parenting** - ‘Parenting. Give it Time’ – our new campaign for positive parenting, will begin in Autumn 2015.
- **Building resilient communities** - our Tackling Poverty Action Plan sets out what we are doing to build resilient communities over the coming years.
- **Housing finance grant** – we are working towards starting the second phase which will deliver around 2,000 new affordable homes.
- **Energy efficiency** - Continue to support improvements to households living in rural areas through our energy efficiency programme, including the Nest and Arbed schemes.
- **Sustainable future** – We will be developing strategies following our Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act – ensuring a sustainable Wales for our future.
- **Domestic Abuse** – The Welsh Government funding provided to extend the Spectrum Project has resulted in 16,000 children and 1,300 school staff, in 121 schools across Wales, receiving healthy relationship lessons during the 2014-15 financial year. Funding for Spectrum will continue in 2015-16, as will support for children in the community through the Welsh Women’s Aid’s Children Matter Project.
- **Regeneration** – Vibrant and Viable Places and Tackling Poverty programmes continues to deliver projects across Wales which tackle local social, economic and environmental challenges and create more Prosperous, Healthier and Learning communities. These projects are being delivered in partnership with other programmes such as Communities First, Flying Start and Families First. Regeneration provides the capital infrastructure upon which important childcare and other services can be more effectively created and delivered. Schemes such as the Jesse Hughes Centre in Anglesey, the Sprouts Nursery in Wrexham, the YMCA Hub and community parks in Barry and the Hafod Deg Centre in Bargoed are a few examples where Vibrant and Viable Places and Tackling Poverty funding continues to improve the wellbeing of the younger generation in these communities.
- **Bullying** – We are looking to enhance information and guidance for schools



to tackle bullying by continuing to publicise our anti-bullying guidance 'Respecting Others'; publishing lesson plans for schools on gender and transgender-based bullying in time for the start of the new academic year and developing guidance on appearance related based bullying which we will be consulting on in late 2015.

- We will continue to seek to improve the quality of opportunities available for **public access to green and blue spaces** near to where people live.



Core Aim 7: Not Disadvantaged by Poverty



"We aim to ensure children and young people are not disadvantaged by poverty."

Child poverty is unacceptable and levels in Wales remain stubbornly high. Our most recent data show us almost one in three children are currently living in low income households. We remain committed to the ambition of eradicating child poverty by 2020. We recognise the huge challenges we face in delivering this outcome, particularly in light of the impacts of Welfare Reform and its disproportionate impact on families with children. Such is the importance of this issue, one of the Core Aims is wholly dedicated to its eradication.

This Core Aim supports the following key articles taken from the UNCRC:

Core Aim 7: Not disadvantaged by poverty

- Ensure children and young people are not disadvantaged by poverty.

Article 18: Parental responsibilities and state assistance

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children. Governments must respect the responsibility of parents for providing appropriate guidance to their children.

Article 26: Social security

Children – either through their guardians or directly – have the right to help from the government if they are poor or are in need.

Article 27: Adequate standard of living

Children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs.

Programme for Government

We recognise that to tackle child poverty we must tackle poverty as a whole, which includes working with children, young people and adults. The following areas taken from the Programme for Government highlight our priorities to make this vision a reality.

Area 1 – Growth and Sustainable Jobs



Jobs, growth and a strong economy are all essential to delivering on our ambition of ensuring children and young people are not disadvantaged by poverty. Our work in this area connects well with articles 28 and 29 (right and goals of education). However, it also relates to protecting the futures of our children – ensuring there is an economically secure future for them to step into, which reflects the rights outlines in articles 26 and 27 (social security and adequate standard of living). The following key priorities taken from this area relate particularly to children and young people:

“The Committee recommends that the State party Provide training and education programmes to prepare children for adult life”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 45h

- ✚ We have tackled youth unemployment by creating a young people’s jobs and training fund and extended apprenticeship opportunities for young people.
- ✚ We have continued our efforts to regenerate our town centres through planning policies, breathed new life in to towns by safer and better quality design and developed family friendly environments and mixed use developments.
- ✚ We have introduced a successor to the Skill Build programme that offers enhanced support, including entry-level ‘engagement’ training for young people facing the worst barriers to employment.
- ✚ We have encouraged more young people to gain the skills that will develop Wales’ potential for economic growth. Subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are especially important in this regard. We are promoting engagement in these subjects across the curriculum and age range into Higher Education and at postgraduate level, through the new National Science Academy (NSA) which is linked to the wider science agenda and the work of the new Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales.
- ✚ We have continued to extend the Young Recruits’ programme to respond to continued demand from employers and from young people.

Area 2 – Public Services in Wales

Providing solid public services for all citizens of Wales is essential to make sure no child is disadvantaged by poverty. This is important when considering article 18 (state assistance to



parents) and 26 (social security) of the UNCRC under this core aim in particular. We are working hard to ensure all children and young people have access to good public services through the following commitment, taken from our Programme for Government:

- ✚ We have developed a replacement to Council Tax Benefit, making it part of our wider policy objectives on anti-poverty and the reform of the welfare system.



Area 5 – Supporting People

We are strongly committed to supporting children and young people – particularly those who are poor or are in need. There are many different key priorities related to this area in our Programme for Government. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance) and 26 (social security).

“The Committee recommends that the State party avoid having children taken into alternative care as a result of low parental income”

2008, UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 45b

The below key priorities, taken from the programme, are particularly related to children and young people:

- ✚ We have commenced existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals to ensure that where any child is identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral is made to children’s social services.
- ✚ We have maintained our commitment to integrated social services departments with a strong family orientation. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and our associated policies, such as Integrated Family Support Services, recognise that the needs of children cannot be seen in isolation from the families and communities they are part of.

Area 8 – Equality

We are strongly committed to supporting all children and young people, regardless of their background or individual situation. Many articles from the UNCRC are covered in this area, including articles 2 (non-discrimination), 14 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 22 (refugee children), 23 (disabled children) and 30 (children of minority / indigenous groups). The following priority, taken from this area of the programme, is particularly related to children and young people:



- ✚ We are undertaking research to look at how best women and families can be supported. Our work considers a group of single-parent mothers with children over seven who are looking for work, to discover what the barriers to gaining employment are and looking at a similar group of mothers who are in work, to see what factors made this possible. The results of this research influences policy making and funding decisions.



Area 9 – Tackling Poverty

Through this area of the Programme for Government, we aim to reduce poverty, especially persistent poverty amongst some of our poorest people and communities, and to reduce the likelihood that people will become poor. Our actions here help champion various articles from the UNCRC, including article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance), but particularly articles 26 (social security) and 27 (adequate standard of living).

The following key priorities taken from this area of the Programme for Government relate to children and young people particularly:

“The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, allocate the maximum extent of available resources for the implementation of children’s rights, with a special focus on eradicating poverty”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 19, 2008

- ✚ We have reaffirmed our commitment to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020.
- ✚ We have rolled out the financial education in schools programme through embedding financial capability in the curriculum. All 10 teaching modules for the financial education in schools programme are now available on Learning Wales.
- ✚ We are delivering on every one of the commitments that we have made in the Government’s Child Poverty Strategy – reducing the number of families living in workless households, improving the skills of parents and young people living in low income households so they can secure well-paid employment, and reducing inequalities that exist in health education and economic outcomes of children, young people and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.
- ✚ We have maintained a distinct focus on the circumstances of disabled children as part of our Child Poverty Strategy and our Families First programme.
- ✚ We have reformed the Additional Learning Needs process for the most vulnerable children and young people in either a school or Further Education (FE) setting.
- ✚ We have positioned Communities First, post March 2012, as a key part of the new Tackling Poverty Action Plan to provide support to the most disadvantaged people in our most deprived areas. This focuses on funding activity that reduces the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of Wales in relation to economic, skills, education and health outcomes.

Key Programmes and Policies

We strive to tackle poverty, material deprivation and unemployment in order to improve all outcomes, such as health and education of children, young people and families. The following key programmes and policies demonstrate this commitment.



Child Poverty Strategy

The 2010 Children and Families (Wales) Measure placed a duty on Welsh Ministers to develop a [Child Poverty Strategy](#) for Wales. Against this backdrop, we will continue to do all we can with the levers and budgets we have to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020.

“The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and adequately implement the legislation aimed at achieving the target of ending child poverty by 2020, including by establishing measurable indicators for their achievement”

UN Committee Concluding Observation, Para. 65a

Our revised strategy, published in March 2015, focuses on delivering through 5 deliberate objectives, listed below, which tie in to many of the Core Aims and Articles of the UNCRC:

- ✚ Reducing the number of families living in workless households
- ✚ Increasing skills amongst parents and young people
- ✚ Reducing the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families living in poverty
- ✚ Creating a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales
- ✚ Supporting households “here and now” to increase their household income and address the poverty premium.



Tackling Poverty Action Plan

Our [Tackling Poverty Action Plan](#) works to achieve better outcomes for everyone in Wales and supplements the delivery of our statutory Child Poverty Strategy.

In keeping with our commitment to long term well-being the key objectives of our Tackling Poverty actions are:

- ✚ to prevent poverty, especially through investment in giving children the best possible start in life. From conception through to early adulthood, our aim will be to reduce inequality at the earliest possible stage and break the link

between socio-economic disadvantage, educational under achievement and the impaired life chances that flow from these;

- ✚ recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment, we will continue to help people to improve their skills and enhance the relevance of their qualifications. We will also remove other barriers to employment – from practical barriers such as the accessibility of transport and buildings to less tangible barriers such as poverty of aspiration - helping people to move on to and up the employment ladder;
- ✚ at the same time, we will increase action to mitigate the impact of poverty here and now. We recognise that for more and more people, even being in work will not guarantee that they can escape poverty.



Families First

We provide funding to Local Authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Each Local Authority had developed a [Families First](#) Action Plan which sets out how they will implement Families First locally. We want Families First to help:

- ✚ working age people in low income families gain, and progress within employment,
- ✚ children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential,
- ✚ children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being,
- ✚ families are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe.

Each Local Authority has considered the ways in which they can deliver Families First and provide evidence of a contribution to achieving the programme outcomes. At delivery level, providers have established a process for identifying the ways in which they contribute to the national programme outcomes. We have established performance measures to tell us how well the programme is performing.



Youth Engagement and Progression

Our [Youth Engagement and Progression](#) framework works to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) over a 2 year period. The framework, based around 6 component elements, is proven to be effective at increasing youth engagement and progression. We aim to:

- ✚ identify young people most at risk of disengagement
- ✚ provide better brokerage and co-ordination of support
- ✚ provide stronger tracking and transition of young people through the system
- ✚ ensure provision meets the needs of young people
- ✚ strengthen employability skills and opportunities for employment
- ✚ provide greater accountability for better outcomes for young people.



Pupil Deprivation Grants (PDG)

Our [Pupil Deprivation and Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grants \(PDG\)](#) provide financial support to help tackle the effects of poverty on attainment. The purpose of the PDG is to improve outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals and Looked After Children. It is intended to overcome the additional barriers that prevent learners from disadvantaged backgrounds achieving their full potential. All schools in receipt must publish online their PDG allocation and an outline of their plans to use the funding to improve outcomes for deprived children.



Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act

The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act](#) provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support (including carers who need support) and for transforming social services in Wales. The Act aims to address increased expectations from those who access care and support during times of continuing hard economic realities, and in doing so will give people greater freedom to decide which services they need while offering consistent, high-quality services across the country.

The following programmes and policies are also of interest:

- ✚ Our [Early Years and Childcare Plan](#) - setting out how we will give young children a better start in life and improve childcare over the next 10 years.
- ✚ [Rewriting the Future](#): raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools – aims to help pupils with learning.
- ✚ [Building resilient communities](#) – taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan for all citizens of Wales.
- ✚ [The new Strategic Equality Plan for 2016](#) – will help tackle problems some groups of people face from poverty and inequality.
- ✚ [The Community Benefits Policy](#) – helps to make sure the projects we fund bring jobs and benefit the people of Wales.
- ✚ [Schools Challenge Cymru](#) – supports some schools to improve results.
- ✚ [FaCE \(Families and Community Engagement\)](#) guidance – helps schools to engage with parents.
- ✚ [Culture and Poverty Report](#) – works with families so they can learn and benefit from culture and heritage.
- ✚ [Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales](#) – helps looked after children get the support they need to do well and get good qualifications.
- ✚ [Jobs Growth Wales](#) – has given 14,989 job opportunities for 16-24 year olds.
- ✚ [Apprenticeships](#) – offering over 50,000 apprenticeships in the next 4 years.

- ✚ [Traineeships](#) – will support young people to gain sustained employment, by helping them with their confidence and motivation and looks to address barriers to learning, all of which may prevent a young person moving into employment or learning at a higher level.
- ✚ [The Lift Programme](#) – gives training and employment opportunities and is being delivered in nine areas across Wales. By May 2015, this gave 1,821 training and employment opportunities with 314 people supported into employment.
- ✚ [Communities for Work](#) – aims to tackle poverty through creating jobs that last and supporting people who have been out of work for a long time.
- ✚ [National school categorisation system](#) - shows the schools that need the most help and guidance to improve, those that are doing well but could be doing better and those that are highly effective and can help others.
- ✚ [Free breakfasts in primary schools](#) - providing primary school learners at maintained primary schools with the opportunity of receiving a free, healthy breakfast at school each day.

Monitoring outcomes

We understand that to achieve our Seven Core Aims, the key priorities outlined in our Programme for Government, and importantly to realise children's rights, we need to monitor the impacts of our legislation on children and young people.

Indicators to Measure Progress

We refer to several suites of indicators in order to measure the impact of our efforts on Welsh children and young people. The [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) and the [Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People](#)¹ are our two key suites of particular interest to our younger generations. The PfG measures progress against 12 policy areas, whereas the Well-being Monitor measures the well-being of children and young people in Wales against the Seven Core Aims. A selection of important indicators taken from these suites is given below. However, access to more information can be found by visiting the relevant websites.

¹ The next Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People is in the process of being developed and should be published by the end of 2015.

%age of children living in poverty

The levels of poverty in Wales demonstrate the challenge we face in breaking the poverty cycle

Success of Young Recruits Programme

The Young Recruits Programme continues to be hugely successful

Evaluation report on Families First

Those who had received support in the past felt there was a tangible difference in the type of support offered through Families First

Differences in Key Stage 4 attainment compared to levels of deprivation

Programme for Government

Well-being Monitor for Children and Young People

Nearly one in three (31%) of children in Wales - around 200,000 - now live in poverty, according to a relative income measure (below 60% of the median household income, after housing costs).

Data for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14 shows that 17per cent of children were living in households that have an income below 70% of contemporary median household income.

The proportion of 16-18 year olds who were 'NEET' (not in employment, education or training) was 10.4% in 2013, its lowest level since 2006.

Children who had been poor recurrently, score lower when asked how happy they were with their life overall.

Each of the outcomes shown below links into the Well-being goals (see page 4) – you can find out more by clicking on the relevant links.



Progress and Achievements

Key accomplishments against Core Aim 7: Not Disadvantaged by Poverty

- In March 2015 we launched a **Revised Child Poverty Strategy**, which has reaffirmed our commitment to the ambition of eradicating child poverty by 2020. The Welsh Government is committed to using all available levers to tackle child poverty. The number of workless households has fallen; we have achieved our target to break the link between educational attainment and poverty in Foundation Phase; we are on track to achieve our targets to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training; and we are improving skills across a number of programmes, including Communities First, Lift and Families First.
- We have continued to ring fence funding within the **Families First** programme to specifically target funding at disabled children and their families. £3m per annum has been set aside and this will continue into 2015-16.
- **Jobs Growth Wales** was launched in April 2012 to provide unemployed young people with valuable work experience to enhance their skills and future chances of gaining sustained employment. Since its launch over 17,000 job opportunities have been created, and almost 15,000 of these jobs filled.
- Eleven successful '**Vibrant and Viable Places**' (VVP) areas were announced in January 2014 with over £100m being made available to them over the three years from April 2014. Seven further areas have allocations from the £7m VVP Tackling Poverty Fund, and further action includes Town Centre Loans and Business Improvement District Support.
- Data for 2013/14 shows that 68 per cent of **traineeship** leavers had a positive progression. We continue to work with providers to improve progression rates and to strengthen the development of entrepreneurial skills.
- Since Autumn 2013, the **National Science Academy** funding has attracted over 67,000 students between the ages of 3 – 19 years.
- During 2014-15 we supported a total of 1,692 new learners on the **Young Recruits Programme** (YRP). This means we have supported an overall total of 7,119 places over the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2015, exceeding our overall target for this two year period of 2,000 learners.
- Following the abolition of council tax benefit, **Council Tax Reduction Schemes** were introduced from 1 April 2013. An additional £22m funding was provided to Local Authorities to ensure all eligible applicants continued to receive their full entitlement to support despite the shortfall in funding provided by the UK Government.
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced an approach **to assessment that is proportionate to the needs of the child** and empowers a Local Authority to carry out a needs assessment at the same time as another body carries out another assessment under separate legislation.

- Authorities have worked with service providers **to improve our understanding of the needs and outcomes for people who receive homelessness support**. Between April and October 2014 they collected need and outcome data for 49,280 people who receive services.
- We have prioritised the provision of accessible, affordable, quality **childcare** to ensure a positive influence on a child's development and future educational attainment. It is crucial to supporting parents into employment and training opportunities and thereby helping families to move out of poverty.
- We have **ensured access to advice services** and reduced health inequalities through sharing priorities across the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, Child Poverty Strategy and our Strategic Equality Plan in areas such as supporting young people.
- In June 2014 we published the report on findings from a **Rapid Evidence Assessment of research into childcare issues** and barriers encountered by children and carers. Based on the findings of this research we are taking forward an ESF proposal: 'Parents, Childcare and Employment' which will help economically inactive parents overcome childcare and other barriers; enabling them to access education, employment and training opportunities.
- We have delivered our **Youth Discount Bus Travel** scheme, giving 16 to 18 year olds cheaper travel on local buses and TrawsCymru long-distance buses



Looking Ahead

Not Disadvantaged by Poverty – future priorities

- **Strong economy** - families need to have well-paid jobs to help them get out of poverty. We want to make sure businesses can come to Wales, stay and grow so there are better paid jobs. We will help over 180,000 working people gain qualifications and speak to the businesses about how we can work together.
- **Welfare Reform** - we want to reduce the impact of changes to the support available from the UK Government for families in Wales, especially those in low-income households. We need to make sure people are prepared for this and get the support they need. We will support organisations that give people advice on benefits and debt, and help Local Authorities train their staff to support people.
- **Equality** - the Child Poverty Strategy commits to develop an integrated approach to assessing impact, where poverty and equality are considered together. This is currently being taken forward by officials in the Fairer Futures and Tackling Poverty Divisions.
- **Food Poverty** - more and more people are affected by food poverty. This can be because of how much food costs, not being able to get to larger, cheaper shops, not having cooking skills or other reasons. We met with different groups in April 2015 to decide the next steps to tackle food poverty across Wales and are now taking action to do this.
- **In-Work Poverty** - more households are now living in poverty even though someone has a job and is working. To tackle this we want to make sure there are better paid, full time jobs available. We will work to make sure people are paid enough money to live on, which is called the Living Wage, and help 4,000 adult with health issues remain in work.
- **Childcare** - families need good quality childcare they can afford to use so they can work and have training opportunities. We want to look at all the ways of increasing the childcare we have in Wales. We will make sure people working in childcare are properly trained and work to provide more childcare for those that need it most.
- **Housing and Regeneration** - was already a priority in the Action Plan but is now a priority in the Child Poverty Strategy as well. We will work towards starting the second phase of the Housing Finance Grant. We want this to deliver around 2,000 new affordable homes and create 5,000 new jobs.
- **Rural Poverty** - we want to do more to help people in rural areas who also face poverty. This can be because they may face higher living costs, struggle to get to services such as the internet, and often have to pay more for fuel and transport. We want to support them. We will look at what sort of activities help reduce rural poverty and use European funding to target people on low incomes in rural areas.



find out more:

Website:

www.childrensrights.wales

Twitter:

[@uncrc_wales](https://twitter.com/uncrc_wales)

Email:

childrenandyoungpeoplesrights@wales.gsi.gov.uk



Aim 1: The Early Years

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party use all available resources to protect children's rights to life."

UNCRC Articles

- Article 3 – Best interests of the child.
- Article 6 – Survival and development
- Article 18 – Assistance to parents
- Article 27 – Adequate standard of living
- Article 28 & 29 – Right to and goals of education.
- Article 36 – (protect from) other forms of exploitation.

Key Programmes & Policies

Key Progress Indicators

Programme for Government Areas

- No. 3 – Education
- No. 4 – 21st Century Healthcare
- No. 5 – Supporting People

- Foundation Phase
- Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan
 - Flying Start
- Free primary school breakfasts
 - Maternity Services Vision

- No. of children achieving learning standards
- MMR Vaccinations
- Evaluation of Flying Start
- Percent of new-borns under 2.5kg

Well-being Goals



Aim 2: Education and Learning Opportunities

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party invests considerable additional resources in order to ensure the right of all children to a truly inclusive education"

- Building a Brighter Future
 - Flying Start
 - Families First
 - Positive Parenting
 - 21st Century Schools
- National Youth Work Strategy
 - Welsh Medium Education

Key Programmes
& Policies

Key Progress
Indicators

- Evaluation of Flying Start
- % Schools graded good or excellent
- Attainment gap at KS4*
- % of young people classed as NEET**
- Progress of Superfast Cymru
- Welsh in Schools

Core UNCRC Articles

- Article 3 – Best interests of the child.
- Articles 13 & 14 – Freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion.
- Article 17 – Access to information.
- Articles 28 & 29 Right to and goal of education.

Programme for Government

- No. 1 – Growth and Sustainable Jobs
- No. 3 - Education
- No. 5 – Supporting People
- No. 10-Rural Communities



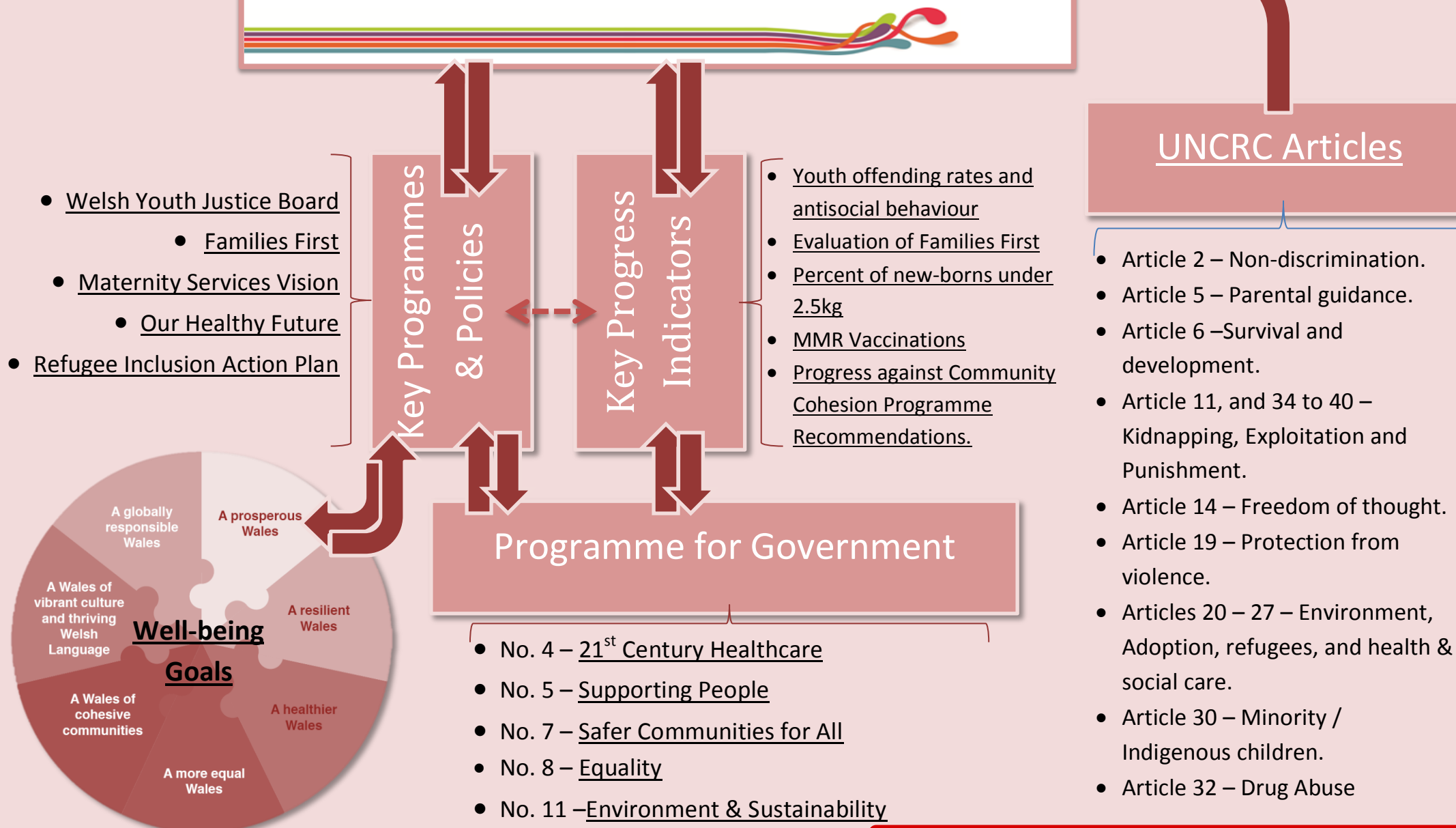
*Key Stage 4.

**Not in Employment, Education or Training.

Aim 3: Health, Abuse and Victimisation

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that additional [health] resources and improved capacities be employed to meet the needs of children"



Aim 4: Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of the child to rest and leisure"

- Welsh Language Strategy
- Play Sufficiency Assessments
- Physical Literacy Programme
- Creative Learning through the Arts
- Free Swimming
- Families First

Key Programmes
& Policies

Key Progress
Indicators

- Use of Welsh in Schools
- Participation in Sport and active recreation
- Evaluations of Arts Council and Sports Wales
- Arts Participation
- Swimming Participation

UNCRC Articles

- Article 15 (Freedom of association)
- Article 23 (Children with disabilities)
- Article 29 (Goals of Education)
- Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture)

Programme for Government

- No. 2 – Public Services in Wales
- No.3 - Education
- No. 5 – Supporting People
- No. 12 – Culture and Heritage

Well-being

Goals



Aim 5: Participation in Decision Making

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party promote and facilitate the principle of respect for the views of the child."

- Independent Counselling
- Pupil Participation / Voice
- Learning Pathways 14 – 19
- National Youth Work Strategy
- Meic – Advocacy Services
- Shared Purpose Shared Delivery

Key Programmes
& Policies

Key Progress
Indicators

- %age of CYP* being seen alone by social workers.
- Gender, Disability and Ethnicity inequality in education.
- National Outcomes Framework

Programme for Government

- No. 5 – Supporting People
- No. 8 – Equality

UNCRC Articles

- Article 3 (Best interests of the child)
- Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child)
- Articles 13 (Freedom of Expression), 14 (Freedom of Thought) and 15 (Freedom of Association)
- Articles 16 & 17 (Rights to privacy and information)



*Children and Young People

Aim 6: A Safe Home and Community

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party intensifies efforts to provide material assistance and support programmes for children"

- Youth Justice Advisory Board
 - Integrated family support services (IFSS)
- 10 year homelessness plan
 - Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act
- Community cohesion

Key Programmes & Policies

Key Progress Indicators

- Youth Justice Indicators
- Evaluation of IFSS
- %age of homeless households with children
- Incidence of domestic abuse
- Deployment of CSOs*

UNCRC Articles

- Article 9 (separation from parents)
- Article 10 (Family reunification)
- Article 11 (kidnapping)
- Article 15 (freedom of association)
- Article 16 (right to privacy)
- Article 23 (children with disabilities)
- Article 33 (drug abuse)
- Article 37 (detention and punishment) and;
- Article 40 (juvenile justice)

Programme for Government

- No. 2 – Public Services in Wales
- No. 4 – 21st Century Healthcare
- No. 5 – Supporting People
- No. 6 – Welsh Homes
- No. 7 – Safer Communities for All
- No. 10 – Rural Communities
- No. 11 – Environment and Sustainability

Well-being Goals



*Community Support Officers

Aim 7: Not Disadvantaged by Poverty

Including UN Committee Concluding Observation:

"The Committee recommends that the State party...implement the legislation aimed at achieving the target of ending child poverty by 2020"

- Child Poverty Strategy
- Tackling Poverty Action Plan
- Youth Engagement and Progression
 - Families First
 - Rewriting the Future
- Social Services and Well-being

Act

Key Programmes
& Policies

Key Progress
Indicators

- %age of children living in poverty
- Success of Young Recruits Programme
- Evaluation of Families First
- Attainment gap at KS4
- %age of children born with a low birth weight

UNCRC Articles

- Article 18 (Parental responsibilities)
- Article 26 (Social security)
- Article 27 (Adequate standard of living)

Programme for Government

- No. 1 – Growth and Sustainable Jobs
- No. 2 – Public Services in Wales
- No. 5 – Supporting People
- No. 8 – Equality
- No. 9 – Tackling Poverty

Well-being Goals

