

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
WALES UNCRC MONITORING GROUP

PRIORITIES FOR WALES

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

TAKING FORWARD THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN WALES



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

PRIORITIES FOR WALES

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC) EXAMINED THE UK GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2008 TO SEE HOW WELL IT IS PROTECTING CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FOUR TO FIVE YEARS TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE.

INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE WAS PROVIDED BY THE FOUR UK GOVERNMENTS (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND WALES), AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT KEY PRIORITIES AND THE FOLLOWING WERE AGREED FOR WALES AND SUBMITTED TO THE UN COMMITTEE.

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**THE KEY
PRIORITIES
FOR WALES**»»»



1. TACKLING POVERTY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES

MAKING SURE LAWS ARE PASSED TO HELP THIS WORK START, AN EXPERT GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP TO SEE THAT TARGETS ARE MET. THEY ARE GOING TO LOOK AT HOW AND WHAT CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR YOU IN WALES.

2. DELIVERING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

BRING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – CREATING A PLAN FOR WHAT CHANGES NEED TO HAPPEN AND MAKING THEM HAPPEN, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BILLS AND WALES-ONLY LAWS.

3. RAISING AWARENESS

YOUR RIGHTS AS A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON – WORK WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENTITLEMENTS THROUGH PLANS AND PROJECTS THAT ALL HAVE THE SAME NAME AND LOOK SO THEY ARE EASILY RECOGNISED.

4. GAP BETWEEN POLICY & OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

GAP BETWEEN WHAT WAS SAID WOULD BE DONE AND WHAT REALLY IS DONE FOR YOU – PLANS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO MAKE SURE CHANGE HAPPENS. WAG WILL SUPPORT LOCAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS TO HELP DELIVER THESE PLANS.

5. BETTER LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE – HELPING YOU ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES LIKE 14-19 CURRICULUM, WORK TO GAIN SKILLS WHERE THERE ARE GAPS, AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SAY IN YOUR OPPORTUNITIES E.G. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OR YOUR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

6. EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

BUILDING ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – AGENCIES WILL WORK WITH YOU TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE, MAKING IT EASIER TO GET HELP OR ADVICE FROM COUNSELLORS, ADVOCACY OR PROFESSIONALS.

7. PLAY

YOU HAVE SAID THAT YOU WANT MORE PLACES WHERE YOU CAN PLAY SAFELY. THIS WILL HAPPEN BY FOLLOWING SET PLANS, CONSULTING ON NEW LAWS TO MAKE SURE THERE IS ENOUGH ACCESS AND SETTING STANDARDS FOR PROVISIONS FOR YOU.

8. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

BUILDING ON WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED BY THOSE OF YOU ALREADY INVOLVED IN DECISION-MAKING. BRINGING TOGETHER AND PROTECTING WHAT HAS BEEN CREATED FOR THE FUTURE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SAY ON DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.

9. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; ACCESS TO SERVICES & SUPPORT

MAKING SURE THAT PLAY AND LEISURE SERVICES ARE OFFERED ON THE SAME TERMS TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WITH OR WITHOUT A DISABILITY. REDUCING THE BARRIERS IN EVERYDAY LIFE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY BY PROMOTING THE SUPPORT THAT IS AVAILABLE.

10. PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT

YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME LEVEL OF PROTECTION IN LAW AS ADULTS. THIS NEEDS TO HAPPEN BY INFORMING AND CHANGING PUBLIC ATTITUDES, AND PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING.

11. BULLYING INCLUDING HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING

A SERIOUS ISSUE IN SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY – IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT WILL LOOK AT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT.

12. REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PLANS TO LOOK AT THE NEED FOR SPECIALIST ADVOCACY, PEOPLE TO WORK WITH YOU AND SPEAK UP ON YOUR BEHALF, PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND IMPROVING ACCESS FOR YOU. WAG WILL WORK WITH THE REFUGEE COUNCIL AND THE UK BORDER AND IMMIGRATION AGENCY TO PROVIDE THIS ADDITIONAL SPECIALIST SUPPORT.

13. DISCRIMINATION / INEQUALITY AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

QUESTION AND ACT UPON ISSUES THAT AFFECT OR GO AGAINST YOUR RIGHTS AS YOUNG PEOPLE E.G. THE MOSQUITO DEVICE.



14. COMMUNITIES FIRST

WITH A PARTNERSHIP IN EACH OF THE MOST DEPRIVED AREAS OF WALES, THEY FOCUS ON HELPING TO REDUCE POVERTY BY WORKING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY. THE PARTNERSHIPS WILL WORK WITH YOU TO LOOK AT AND DEVELOP WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU.

15. THE WELSH ASSEMBLY WILL MAKE CLEAR THE FUNDS IT HAS AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES AND WHERE IT WILL BE USED

16. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

THROUGH PLANS AND FUNDING FROM THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT LOCAL AGENCIES HELP TO PREVENT YOUTH CRIME AND OFFER SCHEMES FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN. FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THAT DO COMMIT CRIME, MORE JUVENILE SECURE FACILITIES WILL DEVELOPED IN WALES, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING SENT TO ENGLAND.

**LET'S
GET IT
RIGHT!**