



# A NEW CHAPTER FOR WALES

*Fairness you Feel*

Welsh Labour  
Manifesto 2026

Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru

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# Foreword

## Eluned Morgan

**Wales is ready to start a new chapter. In this manifesto, you'll see how we can shape it together.**

In recent years, families across Wales have weathered too many storms. We faced a pandemic that upended our daily lives, grappled with a cost-of-living crisis that emptied pockets, and endured over a decade of hard Tory cuts that left Wales on the ropes. Far beyond our budgets, these years left deep scars. Faith, hope, and trust in politics were battered almost beyond repair.

This manifesto is not just our plan for how we will govern over the next few years, it is my personal commitment to you. Your priorities will always be my priorities.

Rebuilding that trust will take a lot of work, but I am still hopeful and ambitious for our country's future. Why? Because during those hard years, Welsh Labour did what we set out to do. We protected what matters most. Free prescriptions, free school meals for every primary school child, support for families during tough times, and keeping the NHS safe from private profit.

Yet for many, every day still feels like a tough climb. Progress often arrives too late. Waiting lists test patience and spirits. Securing a GP appointment can feel like a continual fight. Too many communities still wait, uncertain whether opportunity will ever knock at their doors.

People are right to hope for more, and I share your impatience. Your longing for change is my own. And so, this manifesto is not just our plan for how we will govern over the next few years, it is my personal commitment to you. Your priorities will always be my priorities.

That means tackling the cost of living with practical help. Lowering bus fares, lowering energy bills, and expanding childcare so more families can work and get on with their lives.

We will build the jobs of the future and equip people with the skills for those jobs through a new Lifelong Retraining Guarantee. Wales helped power the first industrial revolution. Now, we have the chance to power the next. We will do this through clean energy, advanced manufacturing, digital innovation, and new skills for a changing world.

An Energy Independent Wales will create thousands of good jobs, including major projects like new nuclear at Wylfa and the

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rapid expansion of renewable energy. We will keep more of the benefits of natural resources here in Wales.

It also means backing our National Health Service with the investment and reform it needs.

We will invest £4 billion in new hospitals and modern facilities across Wales. We know that the front door of the NHS is where many people feel the most frustration.

We will guarantee that anyone with a pressing health need will be seen by a member of the primary care team within 48 hours. This means more pharmacies prescribing, more care in the community, and a health service that works around people's lives.

We will keep cutting long waits for treatment. We will expand mental health support so people can get help the same day they need it. We will continue our landmark Women's Health Plan so women's healthcare is no longer overlooked.

Fairness also means building stronger communities.

We want to see 100,000 new homes delivered over the next decade. At least 40,000 will be for rent in the social sector. We will end homelessness. We will raise standards in our schools. We will focus relentlessly on literacy and numeracy, so every child has the best start in life.

We will protect Wales's natural beauty by cleaning rivers and seas, restoring nature, and expanding our National Forest.

But fairness also means responsibility.

People deserve a government that manages the country's finances responsibly.

That's why we will not raise Welsh rates of income tax over the next Senedd term.

We can fulfil these commitments by managing our budget well, growing the economy, creating better jobs, and making smarter choices with our powers.

This manifesto sets out a serious plan. It builds on everything Wales has achieved through devolution and looks ahead to the next chapter.

The country I know and love has always been at its best when we combine ambition with fairness. When we invest in people and communities. When we work together to build something better.

That is the Wales I believe in.

A Wales that offers opportunity to every community and every generation.

Where there is fairness you feel.

And with your support, that is the Wales we will build together.



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# Key pledges

**Tackle the cost of living** through cheaper bus fares, lower energy bills and expanding childcare.



**Jobs for the future** with an Energy Independent Wales, and a new Lifelong Retraining Guarantee.



**A new deal for our NHS** with £4 billion to build new hospitals, same-day mental health support, and a focus on women's health.



**Protecting the planet** by cleaning up our rivers and seas, growing our National Forest, and cracking down on fly-tipping.



**A fairer future** ending homelessness, a pay-rise for the lowest paid workers and raising school standards.



# 01. Economy & Skills





**We believe secure and well-paid employment is the best way to tackle poverty and deep-seated health inequalities while also making a positive difference to our economy and to everyone's lives. Our Economic Mission is to create well-paid jobs in every part of Wales.**

**We will equip people with the skills they need for the jobs of the future and increase productivity. Social partnership will always be at the heart of our approach to growing the economy.**

## We have:

- Hosted the first ever Wales Investment Summit, attracting more jobs, businesses and investment to Wales.
- Generated £118 million of new export sales as a direct result of Welsh Government export support in 2025-26.
- Provided more than £600 million in loans, equity and grants to businesses, supporting almost 40,000 jobs.
- Secured the £1 billion Celtic and Anglesey freeports, which could create up to 16,500 new jobs.
- Helped nearly 64,000 young people into education, training or work through the Young Person's Guarantee.
- Delivered more than 100,000 apprenticeships across 23 sectors for all ages, in the toughest financial circumstances.
- Supported more than 12,000 training opportunities in 200 companies through the Flexible Skills Programme.
- Returned decision-making powers to Wales over the £500 million-plus Local Growth Fund, which will boost productivity and reduce inequality.
- Supported Welsh-language jobs and businesses through the Arfor programme.

- Stood side-by-side with steel workers, steel unions, and steel communities to fight for a future for Welsh steel.
- Enshrined the Welsh social partnership approach in law, promoting fair work and creating a duty for socially responsible public procurement.
- Doubled the number of employee-owned businesses in Wales.

## We will:

- Publish a new Industrial Strategy for Wales in our first year, focused on the huge opportunities in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, the creative industries, the digital economy and life sciences.
- Create a National Jobs Council, chaired by the First Minister, to drive job creation under the Industrial Strategy for Wales.
- Attract global investment in Welsh jobs and host another Wales Investment Summit.
- Boost productivity and reduce inequality through the Local Growth Fund, investing more than £500 million.
- Introduce a new Lifelong Retraining Guarantee to make sure workers can access the training they need in their career, responding to major economic transitions. We will retain the successful Wales Union Learning Fund and build on the Flexible Skills Programme.
- Deliver 100,000 all-age apprenticeships over the next Senedd term, targeted at sectors such as construction and renewable energy.
- Publish a new Vocational Education and Training Strategy, aligned with the findings of the recent skills audit.
- Secure the devolution of non Job Centre Plus employment support to help more people into work, focusing on disabled people and people with health conditions.
- Cut down on business bureaucracy by streamlining business support and carry out a root and branch review of business rates to make them fairer for all.
- Help new business grow with grants for young entrepreneurs and match-funding for university spinouts.
- Make Wales the fastest nation in the UK to get planning permission. We will also introduce degree apprenticeships in planning.
- Ensure businesses receiving Welsh Government support pay the Real Living Wage, end exploitative zero-hours contracts, and open the door to trade unions.

- ▶ Shine a spotlight on rural Wales with a new Rural Economic Development Plan and strengthened processes for considering decisions through a rural lens.
- ▶ Maximise the potential of investment in the South Wales Valleys with a new, dedicated economic strategy overseen by a Valleys Economic Board.
- ▶ Work with Ambition North Wales and the North Wales Tertiary Alliance to unlock the economic benefits from major projects like new nuclear at Wylfa and the North Wales AI Growth Zone.
- ▶ Support plans to redevelop Swansea Civic Centre and waterfront as a visitor destination.
- ▶ Always back Welsh steel by prioritising the use of domestic steel in public procurement and supporting steel workers to re-skill to transition to green steel.
- ▶ Double the number of cooperatives and community-owned businesses, keeping wealth within communities.

# 02. Health





**The NHS in Wales is the most trusted and valued of our public services – providing life-saving and life-changing care when we need it the most. From the very first days of devolution, Welsh Labour has championed the NHS and its dedicated workforce. We've invested in new medicines, in cutting-edge equipment, in new health centres and hospitals, in new staff and in new digital technology and we're making it easier to get care closer to home when you need it.**

**We will always support the NHS.**

## We have:

- Kept prescriptions free for everyone.
- Delivered record-breaking reductions in long waiting times and the overall waiting list.
- Opened the North Wales Medical School – the third in Wales.
- Strengthened the NHS workforce, with more people working in the NHS in Wales today than at any time in its history.
- Protected the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme, supporting the next generation of healthcare workers to train and work in the Welsh NHS.
- Increased access to free advice and treatment for 28 common illnesses at pharmacies without the need for a GP appointment.
- Become the first nation in the UK to roll out the '111 press 2' service for urgent mental health support.
- Ensured one in three pharmacists can prescribe medicines for a wider range of common infections.
- Given people in Wales access to new, NICE-approved treatments faster than in England, thanks to the Welsh Labour Government's flagship New Treatment Fund.
- Reformed and improved the NHS complaints and redress system.

- Moved eyecare and services which used to only be available in hospitals into local communities.
- Ensured record numbers of people get the good news they do not have cancer every year.
- Introduced the first major reform of NHS dentistry in 20 years, starting in April 2026 – improving access and focusing on the urgency of people’s health needs.
- Launched our Women’s Health Plan – with women’s health hubs in every part of Wales and cutting-edge research into women’s health.
- Developed dedicated regional surgical hubs in Llandudno and Neath Port Talbot.
- Funded a regional diagnostic and surgical centre at the Llantrisant Health Park.
- Approved the £33 million redevelopment of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Rhyl.
- Started construction of the new Velindre Cancer Centre, due to open in 2027.
- Made Wales the first ‘Marmot Nation’ in the world as part of our ambition to tackle health inequalities, with five local authority areas receiving funding to become trailblazers for this ambition.

## We will:

- Invest £4 billion in a Hospitals of the Future Fund to build state-of-the-art new hospitals, including replacing Wrexham Maelor Hospital and University Hospital Wales, and a major hospital development in West Wales.
- Guarantee you will be seen by a member of the primary care team within 48 hours if you have a pressing primary care-related health need. We will move more care closer to home with new community diagnostic services and extend pharmacy-based care.
- Recruit, train and retain the staff our NHS needs through a long-term workforce plan. We will widen access to medical education based on The Open University’s proposal for a flexible and blended model.
- Improve access to NHS dentistry by making more appointments available through the new contract. We will train the dental workforce Wales needs and back plans for a new dental school.
- Ensure the NHS listens to women and prioritises women’s healthcare through our landmark Women’s Health Plan. This includes targeted action to improve services and support for endometriosis and incontinence.

- Continue cutting long waits and meet the 26-week waiting time target over the course of the next Senedd by supporting the NHS to provide more appointments, tests and operations. This includes opening the dedicated North Wales Surgical Centre and Llantrisant Health Park.
- End long waits for neurodevelopmental assessments for both children and adults.
- Ensure a hospital is not a home for someone with learning disabilities. We will also reduce the use of out-of-area placements.
- Transform mental healthcare to provide easy-to-access, same-day services so everyone can get the right support when they need it. We will invest in community-based mental health support for mums-to-be and new mums.
- Improve cancer diagnosis and treatment and launch a national, targeted lung cancer screening programme in 2027. We will establish a young cancer travel fund to support families with the cost of travelling to treatment for children and young people with cancer.
- Develop a new Rural Health Plan, to make sure people living in rural Wales have access to high-quality healthcare.
- Expand the special procedures licensing regime to include Botox and cosmetic fillers, giving people greater confidence that procedures are safe.
- Develop a long-term plan to drive improvements to end-of-life care and ensure high-quality services are available to all. We are committed to fair funding for hospices.
- Protect young people's health by restricting sales of energy drinks to under-16s and explore action to create healthier food environments, including using local planning rules to limit hot takeaways around schools and playgrounds.
- Work with the UK Government to regulate NHS managers, increasing accountability and raising standards.
- Work with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to restore timely access to high-quality NHS services across North Wales and support the organisation out of special measures.

# 03. Social Care





**Care and support services should enable people to live their best possible and most independent lives, with resources focused on early intervention. We will continue to integrate health and social care services as we work towards our goal of creating a National Care and Support Service.**

**Welsh Labour's approach is to listen to people who use social care services and work in partnership with our skilled and valued workforce. As well as properly rewarding our workforce, we will recognise the vital role of unpaid carers.**

## We have:

- Paid social care workers the Real Living Wage.
- Established the Social Care Workforce Partnership to improve terms and conditions across the sector.
- Kept the capital limit at £50,000 so people keep more of their own money before they pay for care.
- Maintained the cap on domiciliary care charges, so no one pays more than £100 a week for care in their own home.
- Appointed a Chief Social Care Officer for Wales, ensuring social care needs are recognised at the highest level of government.
- Continued working towards a National Care and Support Service for Wales, aiming to create a system free at the point of need.
- Developed an Integrated Community Care Service to ensure closer integration between health and care services.
- Funded 50,000 short-breaks for unpaid carers over the Senedd term.
- Extended direct payments for people receiving continuing healthcare.
- Funded dedicated posts in every council to make Wales an age-friendly nation.

- ▶ Piloted a version of the Step Up, Step Down programme to improve support for families on the edge of care.

## We will:

- ▶ Take the next steps as part of our phased plan to create a National Care and Support Service for Wales, building on work already completed.
- ▶ Guarantee all social care workers are fairly rewarded by introducing legally enforceable fair pay agreements for people working in both adult and children's social care.
- ▶ Create a Social Care Academy to help train the care workforce. We will properly recognise the workforce's skills and boost perceptions of a career in care.
- ▶ Strengthen registration for social care workers to include all roles, boosting professional development and career progression.
- ▶ Ensure all care workers have the same basic rights at work by adopting the Migrant Care Workers Charter.
- ▶ Prioritise and fund digital transformation in social care, easing transfer of information between organisations.
- ▶ Make technology-enabled care nationally available for the over-80s, including wearable fall-detection devices and sensors to keep people safe at home.
- ▶ Fund warm hubs and develop cool hubs in community spaces to tackle isolation and help people cope with extreme weather.
- ▶ Deliver 45,000 home adaptations a year, helping people to continue living independently and improving their quality of life.
- ▶ Deliver improvements in support for people with dementia through the new Dementia Strategy for Wales.
- ▶ Increase support for unpaid carers and provide 16,000 short breaks for unpaid carers each year.



# 04. Education





**We believe education should support every child and young person to achieve their full potential. We can only achieve this by working in partnership with our committed and talented workforce.**

**We have radically reformed education in Wales, but it remains under pressure – just as it does in other parts of the UK and internationally. Our focus is on improving standards and outcomes based on an inclusive approach at all levels so everyone can access their right to an education. We must also recognise and support the vital role of colleges and universities in the Welsh economy.**

## We have:

- Rolled out universal free school meals at every primary school in Wales, serving more than 50 million meals.
- Served more than 100 million free breakfasts in primary schools in the last decade alone. We introduced the pioneering policy in 2004.
- Invested £4 billion in the biggest programme of school and college building anywhere in the UK since the 1960s, benefitting every part of Wales.
- Rolled out the Curriculum for Wales to all schools and supported schools with its implementation.
- Published a new Strategic Education Workforce Plan focused on recruiting and retaining school staff.
- Provided families with financial help towards the costs of sending children to school through the School Essentials Grant.
- Overhauled the additional learning needs system to put learners at its centre, backed by hundreds of millions in extra investment.
- Increased Education Maintenance Allowance to £40 a week and made more young people eligible.
- Continued the most generous non-repayable student

maintenance grants anywhere in the UK, so background does not limit ambition, and continued to support flexible and part-time routes.

- ▶ Passed landmark new legislation to increase parity between colleges and universities, moving towards a tertiary system.
- ▶ Launched a major call for evidence on tertiary education participation and sustainability.

## We will:

- ▶ Boost standards in our schools through a relentless focus on excellence in literacy and numeracy as the building blocks of all learning.
- ▶ Introduce targeted literacy and numeracy support for learners in Year 6 and 7 as they progress from primary to secondary school.
- ▶ Ensure all school staff are trained to support children and young people with Additional Learning Needs.
- ▶ Set up a new ALN advocacy service to help learners and their families.
- ▶ Deliver a fairer deal for school support staff by setting up a new statutory School Support Staff Negotiating Body, with year-round pay and access to professional learning as its first priorities.
- ▶ Attract more people to a career in teaching by exploring new routes to train, reviewing the content of Initial Teacher Education and increasing financial incentives to teach in key subjects.
- ▶ Improve teacher retention by exploring targets for reducing workload so teachers can focus on excellence in teaching and learning.
- ▶ Establish an annual fund for the most urgent school repairs while continuing our transformational school and college building programme.
- ▶ Modernise school governance arrangements, including strengthening oversight of safeguarding and finance. We will work with schools and local authorities to ensure school budgets are fairer, clearer and more consistent throughout Wales.
- ▶ Work to close the attainment gap between children from poorer communities and their peers by acting on the findings of our review of the Pupil Development Grant.
- ▶ Further improve access to school counselling services and further embed a Whole School Approach to mental health and well-being.

- Extend free school meals in secondary schools at least to all households receiving Universal Credit and make school meals healthier and more nutritious.
- Make schools safer by implementing new national guidance on pupil behaviour and making new resources available nationally on tackling weapons in schools.
- Expand our Young Person's Guarantee to ensure all 14 to 16-year-olds have access to vocational and academic options, as well as universal high-quality careers advice and work experience.
- Boost participation in post-16 education or training and support the financial sustainability of the tertiary education sector by taking forward the findings of our major call for evidence on tertiary education participation and sustainability.
- Protect the long-term futures of colleges and universities by working closely with trade unions and sector leaders.
- Launch a recruitment campaign to promote studying at Welsh universities and extend the Reaching Wider programme. We will also support the Seren Academy to encourage the highest achieving learners to pursue their full potential.
- Ensure Wales gains the greatest possible benefits from rejoining Erasmus+ and continue to promote Wales as a destination for study and research. We will support Welsh universities by not introducing a levy on tuition fees paid by international students.
- Remain committed to Welsh Labour's progressive system of non-repayable student maintenance grants as the most generous in the UK. We will also set up a Wales-only repayment plan for student loans to make the terms fairer for graduates.
- Remain committed to Educational Maintenance Allowance, so that more young people can continue into post-16 education and training.

# 05. Children and young people





**Every child deserves the best start in life so they can fulfil their potential. That's why the best interests of children and young people will always be a priority for Welsh Labour.**

**The action we take is focused on the first 1,000 days of life, to break down barriers and inequalities, and to create opportunities so every child grows up feeling valued and supported.**

## We have:

- Funded childcare for 48 weeks for three and four-year-olds whose parents are in employment, education and training.
- Rolled out Flying Start childcare for two-year-olds across all parts of Wales.
- Given all childcare premises a permanent tax break – 100% rates relief worth around £3.7 million a year.
- Funded Mudiad Meithrin to support 79 Welsh-medium childcare providers to open or expand.
- Supported local authorities to improve play spaces and playgrounds.
- Provided new parents with Baby Bundles in Flying Start areas to give children the best start in life.
- Protected children by banning smacking
- Passed a trailblazing new law to remove private profit from children's services.
- Successfully campaigned for the UK Labour Government to remove the two-child cap, which will lift 70,000 Welsh children out of poverty.
- Championed children's rights by becoming the first part of the UK to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in domestic law.

- Strengthened youth work through a new statutory framework.

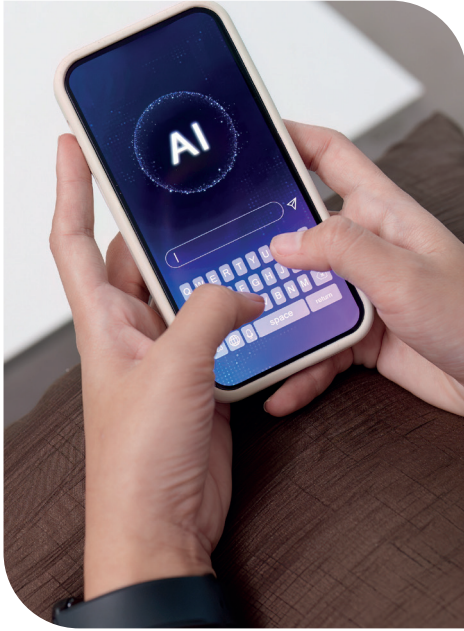
## We will:

- Use all our devolved powers to tackle child poverty under the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales.
- Phase-in funded childcare to babies aged nine-months-old and make childcare easier to access over the course of the next Senedd. We'll create 20,000 new funded childcare spaces as part of our phased plan.
- Support the growth of co-operative childcare settings in Wales.
- Expand Baby Bundles to more people, including all families on Universal Credit.
- Support the development of a national plan for infant feeding, including greater support for breastfeeding.
- Introduce a new Right to Read and Play for every child in Wales, with automatic library membership at birth, a network of 100 toy libraries and a new Children's Reading and Play Fund to get more toys into libraries and more children's books into libraries and schools.
- Improve playgrounds and play spaces, making them safe, accessible and inclusive.
- Reform the care of looked-after children, keeping children closer to home and with families wherever possible.
- Build on the Step Up, Step Down fostering model pilot and strengthen support for kinship and special guardianship carers.
- Make dentistry and optometry services free for care leavers up to the age of 25.
- Act on the new National strategy for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and the recommendations of the Safeguarding Governance Review.
- Establish a National Body for Youth Work to strengthen the status of youth work and enable us to work towards the provision of universal, open access, bilingual youth work.
- Pilot a new mentorship scheme to help build young people's skills and confidence.
- Ensure all young people have the opportunity to learn about their rights at work, including their right to reasonable adjustments, as part of the expanded Young Person's Guarantee.



# 06. Digital





**New digital technologies will help us deliver faster, smarter, and fairer services. We will transform public services using the best technology to upskill our workforce and deliver better outcomes for people, embracing the opportunities Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers.**

**We will ensure Wales is at the forefront of the high-tech economy of the future, with no one left behind. Our approach to the digital revolution will have fairness and social partnership at its heart.**

## We have:

- Secured two UK Government AI Growth Zones – one in North Wales and one in South Wales. A huge vote of confidence in Wales’s tech potential and capacity.
- Supported the growth of the world-leading Compound Semiconductor Cluster in South-East Wales bringing billions in investment.
- Set up an office for AI in the Welsh Government.
- Launched our Digital Strategy for Wales.
- Created the Centre for Digital in Public Services to simplify and strengthen support.
- Delivered gigabit-capable broadband to more than 44,000 homes and businesses.
- Helped people engage with technology through our Digital Inclusion Grants.
- Issued guidance about the use of mobile phones in schools to help protect children and young people’s online safety and wellbeing.
- Led the UK in developing a Welsh Minimum Digital Standard.

## We will:

- Make Wales a world leader in ethical AI. Our Responsible AI Charter will commit Welsh public services to safe, ethical, transparent AI, always in social partnership.
- Capitalise on the new AI Growth Zones, building the digital infrastructure Wales needs to support more tech-based businesses and high-skilled jobs.
- Launch a new national AI curriculum so everyone can access basic AI skills for the workplace through bitesize courses.
- Create a new AI Innovation Fund offering grants for community and SME-led projects in areas like health, transport, and responding to the climate emergency.
- Harness the power of AI to reduce bureaucracy in our schools, so that teachers can focus on teaching.
- Ensure children and young people, and their parents, are included in decisions about social media and online safety.
- Explore the use of excess heat and waste water from data centres so local communities benefit from energy-intensive developments.
- Appoint a Minister for Digital to strengthen leadership in digital transformation and co-ordinate a fair digital transition.
- Prioritise and fund digital transformation in the NHS and social care.
- Connect at least 10,000 more households to high-speed broadband, especially in rural Wales.



# 07. Energy





**Welsh coal powered the world during the industrial revolution. Our vast natural resources have the potential to once again enable us to become an energy powerhouse.**

**We must harness wind, solar and tidal power to become a nation of clean energy to lower energy bills and keep them low, creating well-paid jobs, and respond to the climate emergency. We will ensure Welsh power works for Welsh pockets. We've already made good progress, and we won't let Wales be left behind in the global switch towards clean energy.**

## We have:

- Launched Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru, the first state-owned renewable developer in the UK, and Ynni Cymru, to support the development of community-owned renewable energy.
- Set a legally binding target for 100% of electricity demand to be met from renewable sources by 2035, with an interim ambition of at least 70% by 2030.
- Reached our 2030 target for 1GW of locally owned renewable generation in Wales well ahead of time, keeping wealth within communities.
- Invested £8 million to boost grid capacity and support tidal energy in the Morlais project on Anglesey.
- Streamlined planning and consenting for renewable energy projects, shaving at least 12 weeks off the process for renewable energy projects of up to 50MW.
- Launched a new Renewable Energy Sector Deal setting out how we'll work with industry to build Wales' clean energy future.
- Set up a green business loans fund via the Development Bank of Wales to help SMEs reduce energy costs.

- Helped more than 82,000 households benefit from energy efficiency measures and advised 210,000 households, helping them save an average of £595 a year on their bills.

## We will:

- Work towards our vision for an Energy Independent Wales built on clean and homegrown energy, helping to protect Wales from unstable global energy markets.
- Stick to clear underpinning principles to keep people's energy bills as low as possible, create new, well-paid jobs in the energy sector and make sure local communities feel the benefits from renewable energy projects.
- Deliver on our new sector deal with the renewable energy industry, publish a new renewable energy strategy, and set up a new standalone energy department within government.
- Maximise new opportunities to build solar farms on disused coal tips where appropriate and use mine water to heat more homes.
- Make the case for the devolution of powers over the Crown Estate.
- Create a new Welsh Wealth Fund for Future Generations, using income from renewable energy on public land to invest in infrastructure.
- Support the groundbreaking nuclear development at Wylfa which will create more than 3,000 jobs. We support the further opportunities for Wales in nuclear energy generation, where appropriate.
- Deliver the tidal energy recommendations of the Western Gateway Commission.
- Generate more energy from community-owned projects than ever before, using Ynni Cymru to achieve our target for 1.5 GW of renewable energy to be locally owned by 2035 as a minimum and working with partners to go even further.
- Widen opportunities for communities to have a share of ownership of projects in their areas.
- Mandate that renewable energy projects benefit their local community. We will set up an expert group to listen to communities as to how to best deliver for them.
- Aim to reduce fuel poverty by encouraging all utility companies to introduce a social tariff.

- Make heat pumps a viable option for more homes by rolling out our new regulations abolishing the 3m rule and training the skilled workforce we need to install them.
- Increase the number of electric vehicle charging points and the energy infrastructure to power them. This will include exploring publicly owned charging points and new charging points attached to community-owned energy projects.

# 08. Transport





**We are radically reforming our transport network, driving prosperity for all and economic growth for the nation. From transforming a Victorian railway system designed to carry coal into a modern Metro to over-turning Thatcher's bus franchise model, which put profit ahead of passengers, we are building a transport network fit for the future.**

**We believe people should be at the heart of public transport – it should be easy to navigate, inter-connected, with one ticket, one timetable and one network. Transport needs to be accessible and affordable for everyone, so people are connected to jobs, experiences and their community.**

## We have:

- Capped bus fares for young people at just £1.
- Brought bus services back into public control after the failure of Thatcher's privatisation.
- Invested £800 million in new trains across Wales.
- Created the £1.1 billion South Wales Metro, including electrifying 170km of Victorian railway.
- Launched Network North Wales, a long-term programme of rail improvements in North Wales.
- Secured a generational £14 billion commitment of rail investment in Wales from the UK Labour Government, ending more than a decade of Tory neglect.
- Made walking, cycling and wheeling safer across Wales with investment in better active travel routes.
- In the last year alone, improved 430 miles of roads and filled and prevented more than 200,000 potholes.
- Completed the £2 billion A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, driving growth in the South Wales Valleys, relieving pressure on the M4 and better connecting communities with jobs.

- Reduced casualties from road traffic accidents and empowered councils to set the right speeds for the right roads.
- Completed the dualling of the A40 between Llanddewi Velfry and Redstone Cross.
- Planted more than a million plants and trees along our road network.

## We will:

- Introduce a £2 cap on adult bus fares.
- Roll out more than 100 new bus routes and an unprecedented increase in bus services.
- Guarantee continuation of our £1 bus fare for under 25s and free bus travel for over 60s.
- Renew and replace our ageing buses, bus stops, stations and shelters, improving services and safety for passengers.
- Use bus refranchising to introduce new minimum standards for bus drivers' terms and conditions, preventing a race to the bottom on pay and rights. We will work to attract a more diverse transport workforce.
- Deliver a pipeline of new stations, upgraded rail lines and improved train services as part of the £14 billion plan for Wales and the Borders rail, in partnership with the UK Labour Government. We will maximise the opportunities this brings for jobs and skills.
- Work with the Global Centre for Rail Excellence to develop its site as a top destination for rail innovation and maximise the benefits for local communities.
- Take the next steps to deliver the South Wales Metro, including more frequent services on the Coryton line.
- Continue to develop Network North Wales and a metro for the Swansea Bay Region.
- Deliver new rail stations and lines in South East Wales to ease congestion on the M4 and progress the other recommendations of the Burns Commission.
- Target interventions to ease congestion at pinch points in the trunk road network including on the M4, A55, A483 and A494. These will be based on recommendations from expert studies and consultation with local communities.
- Encourage greater use of active travel infrastructure by creating active travel maps and refocusing activity to include walking, wheeling and improved accessibility.
- Review all aspects of learner travel and explore setting up a publicly owned, not-for-profit learner travel provider.

- Make our transport network accessible to everybody by implementing the Travel for All policy and the Disabled People's Rights Plan.
- Introduce a new lifelong blue badge for people with lifelong conditions, reducing the administrative burden on disabled people.
- Legislate to regulate the taxi and private hire vehicle sector, including addressing cross-bordering.
- Review non-emergency hospital transport and require all health boards to produce a transport plan to improve transport routes to and from hospital sites.
- Take action to electrify the public transport fleet.

# 09. Homes & Communities





**Everyone deserves a place to call home - a warm, secure, and affordable home is fundamental to a good life.**

**Welsh Labour has invested billions in good quality housing to buy and rent and in our high streets, doing everything we can to protect our villages, towns and cities from the impact of Tory austerity. Now, having set and met our most ambitious social housing target since the dawn of devolution and passed landmark new homelessness legislation, we're ready to go even further with more homes and renewing our high streets.**

## We have:

- Invested £2 billion to deliver more than 20,000 homes for rent in the social sector this Senedd term – the most ambitious housing target ever met.
- Extended Help to Buy Wales, helping more people reach their dream of home ownership. The Tories closed England's scheme in 2023.
- Passed our landmark Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation Act and Building Safety Act.
- Taken bold action to tackle second home ownership, supporting local people to buy or rent.
- Helped bring empty homes back into use.
- Brought more than 460 buildings into the Welsh Building Safety programme – ensuring all defects are repaired, not just cladding.
- Ensured tenants now have more rights and protections.
- Invested almost £260 million to make homes warmer and more energy efficient.
- Cut households' energy bills by an average of £595 through Warm Homes advice.

- Boosted regeneration in towns and city centres across Wales with more than £300 million since 2020 through the Transforming Towns programme.
- Allocated more than £1 billion for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief since 2020–21
- Launched the Tidy Towns fund to restore pride in the places where we live.
- Invested £41 million in 360 local facilities across Wales through the Community Facilities Programme.
- Ensure all new-build homes include renewable energy generation as standard, with solar panels as default.
- Support energy efficiency upgrades to more than 100,000 homes over the next Senedd term to reduce bills.
- Significantly increase the retrofit workforce, creating new jobs and opportunities.
- Strike a fairer deal for private renters, including a guarantor scheme to enable more to people secure a rental property.
- Explore a scores-on-the-doors scheme for lettings agencies.
- Introduce new rights for tenants and people living in hostels and refuges who want to keep pets.
- Strengthen legal rights of leaseholders and new-build residents, tackle charges for unadopted roads and introduce a framework to address building defects.
- Expand Help to Buy beyond new-build homes and continue Help to Stay to help people with their mortgage payments.
- Introduce a vacant land tax to prevent land-banking and encourage development.
- Invest in our high streets and transform empty units into businesses, leisure facilities and homes.

## We will:

- End homelessness by 2034, with a milestone to have no children placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by 2030.
- Unlock a new decade of housebuilding to deliver 100,000 homes over the next 10 years, including a minimum of 40,000 warm, low carbon homes for rent in the social sector.
- Establish a new National Housing Taskforce to reform the planning system and contracting and drive faster adoption of modern methods of construction.
- Support local jobs and supply chains and provide more government support for co-operative and community-led housing.

- Create a Community Right to Buy in law to empower people to keep their special local places for community use.
- Give greater powers to local authorities to prevent the over-saturation of certain businesses like vape shops, barbers, betting shops and fast-food outlets on our high streets.
- Clean up our streets and neighbourhoods by cracking down on fly tipping, increasing fines and creating new offences.
- Bring more than 2,000 empty homes back into use and explore every option to give councils more powers to tackle empty and run-down buildings.
- Encourage more pop-up shops and interim uses of empty shop units.
- Make more school facilities available for communities to use through the Community Focused Schools programme.
- Continue our reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, able to modernise services and will drive necessary cultural changes.

# 10. A greener Wales





**Building a greener, safer Wales for the future generations is our greatest duty, and our biggest opportunity. The climate and nature emergencies are already here. We are already feeling the impacts, from flooding to summer droughts. We will protect communities, unlock a clean energy future, and make sure nature is thriving on people's doorsteps.**

**While other parties in Wales and governments around the world walk away from their climate and nature responsibilities, we have an ambitious and credible plan to restore nature and reach net zero.**

## We have:

- Made Wales second in the world for household recycling.
- Helped clean up our streets and neighbourhoods by banning a range of single-used plastics, including single-use vapes.
- Introduced pioneering, made-in-Wales laws to tackle air pollution and improve air quality.
- Invested more than £150 million to restore and improve access to nature.
- Protected 52,000 properties from flooding.
- Invested £220 million to improve coal tip safety and developed the first law in the UK to protect people living in the shadows of disused tips all over Wales.
- Passed a new Environment Act to address the pressing climate and nature emergencies.
- Launched the landmark Sustainable Farming Scheme to support farmers to produce food and protect the environment.
- Banned the use of snares and glue traps, becoming the first nation in the UK to do so.
- Created more than 4,000 new green spaces, including 790 community food-growing sites, 670 community orchards and 80 therapeutic sensory gardens.

- Created a National Forest for Wales.

## We will:

- Cut carbon emissions to meet the current carbon budget and the next. We will keep our ban on fracking, oppose fossil fuel extraction, and work towards our ambition for a net zero public sector by 2030.
- Protect 30% of our lands and seas for nature by 2030 and set new, robust and legally binding targets for restoring nature.
- Set up a new environmental governance body for Wales and drive action on the nature and climate emergencies through Nature Estate Cymru.
- Work to ban the sale of horticultural peat.
- Re-introduce key species like beavers and make all new homes nature-friendly by design with measures like swift bricks and more.
- Clean up our rivers and seas by introducing a Clean Water Bill for Wales, creating a new water regulator and funding a dedicated war chest to crack down on the people polluting our rivers.
- Reduce agricultural pollution, especially in areas where it harms water quality.
- Take the final steps to establish the new National Park in North-East Wales.
- Create more green spaces in communities and create an urban rewilding taskforce to help nature thrive in towns and cities.
- Grow the National Forest for Wales and create the first ever National Forest Trail from North Wales to South Wales. We will plant more trees than ever before and increase their protections. We will support a sustainable timber industry.
- Introduce new Marine Conservation Zones. We will promote sustainable fisheries, support seaweed and seagrass habitats, and collect more disused fishing gear from the sea.
- Host a dedicated Nature Investment Summit to leverage private sector funding for nature in Wales.
- Maintain record funding for flood defences to protect homes and businesses. We will work with communities and nature to improve flood protection, including through planting trees and restoring peatland.
- Make more than 400 disused coal tips safer. We will set up the Disused Tips Authority in Merthyr Tydfil, and harness new technologies in coal tip safety.

- Fund the development of new jobs and skills in flood defence, marine and nature restoration, mines remediation and coal tip safety.
- Address the legacy of contaminated land sites, including historic landfill sites and sites affected by forever chemicals.
- Work to ban more single-use plastics to tackle the scourge of littering. We will deliver a UK-leading bottle return scheme and introduce new statutory reuse targets for local authorities.
- Improve air quality with a new statutory target and rolling out our new regulations to tackle engine idling outside schools, hospitals and care homes.
- Continue to develop the Sustainable Farming Scheme to boost sustainable food production and increase support for farmers to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
- Encourage more people to grow, shop and eat local. We will aim to increase the amount of Welsh public sector spend on food of Welsh origin by at least 50% by 2030.
- Ban greyhound racing and make cat microchipping mandatory. We will regulate animal welfare establishments and the keeping of exotic pets. We also will explore strengthening the RSPCA's statutory enforcement powers and introducing a Pet Abduction Bill.
- Increase restrictions on the shooting of gamebirds, support a UK-wide ban on trail hunting, and maintain our ban on the mass culling of badgers.

# 11. Culture





**Our culture and heritage are at the heart of our identity and what makes us so proud to be Welsh – they touch on every aspect of our national life and what the Welsh Labour Government has done. They are known the world over, attracting visitors and fans from all parts of the globe. We must continue to support our arts and culture sector to thrive and ensure everyone can access cultural experiences.**

**Our creative industries are a major driver for growth in the Welsh economy, creating jobs and opportunities for communities, including through hosting major events and supporting the visitor economy.**

## We have:

- Launched the new National Music Service so every child can learn to play a musical instrument.
- Secured more major sporting and cultural events coming to Wales, including the Tour de France and hosting the Women's Open golf tournament for the first time.
- Provided £33.9 million to support TV and film production and £13.8 million to support to the music sector through Creative Wales.
- Supported the Games Scale Up Fund.
- Celebrated Dydd Miwsig Cymru's 10th anniversary.
- Increased investment in sports facilities across Wales.
- Invested in the redevelopment of Theatr Clwyd.
- Supported the development of Wrexham Museum, including a Football Museum for Wales.
- Backed the successful bid to make the slate landscape of North West Wales a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Supported Aberystwyth's status as Wales' first UNESCO City of Literature.

## We will:

- Continue to boost support for arts, culture and creative organisations by investing in the Priorities for Culture.
- Fund continued free access to Amgueddfa Cymru sites and explore new ways to widen access to cultural resources and experiences for everyone.
- Safeguard the future of nationally and regionally significant cultural venues like Venue Cymru and the National Museum of Wales, with capital investment.
- Boost the National Music Service's reach and impact. We will work with the musicians who deliver it to strengthen social partnership working.
- Launch a Welsh Year of Music to celebrate grassroots music, including launching a Blue Plaque programme to mark iconic music venues.
- Support a programme of events across Wales in 2027 to celebrate the National Museum of Wales' centenary.
- Support a thriving tourism sector with a new Tourism Strategy for Wales.
- Continue to support film and TV production, the gaming sector and the wider creative industries through Creative Wales.
- Support major events coming to Wales as a showcase for our nation, including hosting the Tour de France in 2027 and the Euros in 2028. We will ensure venues in Wales are included in a bid to host the 2040 Olympics.
- Support plans for a new state-of-the-art National Sport Centre and invest in grassroots sports facilities across Wales.
- Promote a national daily active campaign to help everyone move more.
- Establish heritage skills apprenticeships to sustain the specialist skills needed to protect our cultural assets.
- Continue to champion St David's Day as a day of national celebration in communities across Wales and around the world with a programme of events and dedicated funding every year.
- Support Wrexham's bid for UK City of Culture 2029 and promote Aberystwyth's status as a UNESCO City of Literature.



# 12. Cymraeg





**The Welsh language has shaped who we are as a nation. Our language belongs to each and every one of us. Welsh Labour has taken bold action to protect, expand and promote the Welsh language, from funding the National Eisteddfod and providing free Welsh lessons for young people, to developing new Welsh-language technologies.**

**We will drive progress towards reaching our target of a million Welsh speakers and doubling the use of Welsh in daily life by 2050.**

## We have:

- Set a long-term vision for expanding Welsh-medium education in law, through the Welsh Language and Education Act.
- Recruited more than 350 cultural ambassadors through our Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan.
- Supported the development of social enterprises in Welsh-speaking communities.
- Established the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities.
- Invested in Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- Offered free sessions to support families to use Welsh at home.
- Enabled more than 60,000 people to benefit from interactive Welsh language reading support.
- Continued support for our Welsh translation and advice service Helo Blod.
- Improved how AI technologies work in Welsh in partnership with Open AI.
- Funded the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd to offer free entry tickets.

## We will:

- Expand provision of free Welsh lessons both in person and online, including for parents whose children are in Welsh-medium education.
- Strengthen consideration of the Welsh language across policy areas and work to extend Welsh language standards to UK Government bodies.
- Take the positive lessons from the Arfor 2 scheme and extend them to more areas where Welsh is the predominant language.
- Recognise geographical areas where Welsh is an integral part of daily life for many people. This will include recognising linguistic significance in every community and reinforcing that the Welsh language belongs to everyone.
- Support more people to use Welsh at work, strengthen Welsh language use and rights in work and boost the number of apprenticeships delivered in Welsh.
- Open more opportunities for children and young people to learn through the medium of Welsh by implementing the Welsh Language and Education Act.
- Increase incentives and opportunities for people to train as Welsh-medium teachers and teachers of Welsh as a second language.
- Support innovation in Welsh language technology with ringfenced funding in the new AI Innovation Fund.
- Create a virtual network of young people studying or training outside Wales to use Welsh together, maintaining or improving their language skills.
- Protect and promote historic Welsh place names and create a new gold standard of best practice, underpinned by statutory guidance.
- Always use Welsh language place names in government-funded housing developments.
- Revamp key facilities across the Urdd Gobaith Cymru campus and extend support for the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod festivals.
- Ensure the eisteddfodau leave a lasting legacy of opportunities to use Welsh after each event.



# 13. A more equal Wales





**Welsh Labour is the party of equality. Now more than ever, our diversity and our differences make us stronger and bring us together. We are proud of our record of standing in solidarity with marginalised communities and those who experience prejudice or discrimination.**

**There is always more work to do to create a more equal Wales where everyone's rights are respected and all can participate and contribute. We are committed to taking that work forward in partnership with people from under-represented groups. A fairer future for Wales means a society where people can live free and equal lives.**

## We have:

- Invested £7 billion since 2022 in policies which put money back in people's pockets, helping with the cost of living.
- Launched the Welsh Benefits Charter with Wales' 22 councils to maximise the take up of Welsh benefits.
- Provided cash support to people in need through the Discretionary Assistance Fund and helped people with more than 1m social welfare issues.
- Strengthened our work to combat violence against women and girls.
- Implemented a four-year strategy on working with partners to tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV).
- Made specialist counselling and emotional support available more quickly for sexual violence survivors.
- Launched our plan to make Wales an anti-racist nation by 2030.
- Made PrEP available on the NHS.
- Published our 10-year Disabled People's Rights Plan co-produced with disabled people.
- Welcomed around 8,000 Ukrainians since Putin's brutal and illegal full-scale invasion in 2022.

- Donated £250,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.
- Increased our funding for Credit Unions to support ethical lending.

## We will:

- Tackle poverty by putting our Welsh Benefits Charter into law, making sure everyone in Wales can access their full entitlement to financial support.
- Maintain the Discretionary Assistance Fund to support people in financial crisis.
- Enhance the Single Advice Fund in providing guidance about benefits and debt relief. We will also continue to support credit unions' work on financial inclusion.
- Work to eliminate the gender, ethnicity, and disability pay gaps by 2050, and set a target to achieve this earlier in the devolved public sector.
- Act to ensure all women in Wales feel respected, valued and safe by making the next four-year VAWDASV Strategy the most ambitious ever, to include creating a Fund to Leave to support people fleeing domestic violence and guaranteed paid leave for domestic abuse survivors employed in the public sector.
- Expand Purple Plaques to celebrate the achievements of more remarkable Welsh women.
- Expand our period dignity programme to make more period products available for free in public spaces.
- Roll out workplace menopause support across all public sector employers, alongside a toolkit for the private sector.
- Make Wales an anti-racist nation by 2030 through the refreshed Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.
- Refresh the LGBTQ+ Action Plan to make Wales the best place in Europe to be an LGBTQ+ person, including considering the evidence on the LGBTQ+ pay gap.
- Continue a decade of action under Welsh Labour so disabled people can live, work, and flourish as equal citizens by implementing the Disabled People's Rights Plan.
- Work with all devolved public bodies to achieve Disability Confident Leader status, working with the Disabled People's Employment Champions.
- Develop a new Learning Disability and Autism Employment Strategy, focused on supporting people into employment

through tailored job coaching and support for employers.

- Use every tool to tackle hate crimes, including continuing support for our Hate Hurts Wales campaign. We will also promote cohesive communities by safeguarding funding for community cohesion workers and continuing to support the Faith Communities Forum.
- Work in close partnership with policing and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and support victims and survivors of crime, including shopworkers.
- Ensure all devolved public sector employers adopt a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans and fund Armed Forces Liaison Officers.
- Support and promote voluntary organisations through the new code of practice for funding the third sector. We will expand the system of volunteering credits so more people are recognised for their contributions.
- Protect Wales' status as a Nation of Sanctuary to support those who arrive here to rebuild their lives after fleeing persecution and war, assisting them to integrate into Welsh life and bring positive contributions to our nation.

# 14. The next chapter of devolution





**Welsh Labour is the party of devolution. Devolution is about giving more people more of a say in the decisions that affect their lives. That's what drove us to campaign to create the Senedd in 1997.**

**And that's what drives us today as we look ahead to the next chapter: more funding and powers for Wales in a fairer United Kingdom. We will always stand up for Wales and defend devolution.**

## We have:

- Always pushed for more powers for the Senedd so decisions about Wales are made in Wales.
- Overhauled the electoral system in Wales so more people have a voice in the decisions made about their lives.
- Extended votes for 16 and 17-year-olds and introduced new rules so anyone standing for election must live in Wales.
- Set up the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales and supported all its recommendations.
- Created the Expert Group on Future of the Crown Estate in Wales to consider the future of energy devolution and build the evidence base.
- Supported people from all backgrounds to stand for election through the Democratic Engagement Grant and guidance for political parties.
- Appointed the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group to explore how we can encourage more people to take part in democracy in Wales.
- Kept our promise not to increase Welsh Rates of Income Tax.

- Secured greater flexibility to spend Welsh Government reserves, enabling more investment to bring down NHS waiting lists.
- Collected more than £2 billion from our fully devolved taxes since 2018, to protect and fund Welsh public services.

## We will:

- Make the case for a Constitutional Reform Act to protect devolution and strengthen Wales' status within the UK.
- Continue to call for the repeal of the UK Internal Market Act introduced by the Tory Government.
- Continue to pursue more powers for Wales, including devolution of the Crown Estate, and youth justice and probation as a first step towards devolution of justice and policing.
- We will appoint a Minister for Justice and improve access to Welsh law, including through introducing a Welsh Tribunals Bill.
- Advocate for a new independent adjudicator to ensure financial fairness across the four UK nations.
- Work with the UK Government to make Wales' access to its financial reserves permanent. The next chapter of devolution must be underpinned by fair funding.
- Make the case for a new 'fair share formula' so Wales automatically receives its rightful share of UK resources in critical areas.
- Work to secure reform of the Barnett formula to create a system based on need which works for all parts of the UK.
- Commit not to raise Welsh rates of income tax over the next Senedd term. We will carefully explore the case for expanding Wales' income tax powers.
- Make council tax fairer and explore expansion of the council tax debt rescue scheme piloted in Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent and Newport.
- Work in close partnership with local government to deliver the effective and essential services we all rely on, in line with the Strategic Partnership Agreement. We will support local government's resilience and responsiveness to ensure councils that deliver for people are at the heart of the next chapter of devolution.
- Give more people more of a say in some of the most challenging questions we face as a nation. We will hold citizens assemblies

to debate how to fund the future cost of social care and how to create truly cohesive communities.

- Break down barriers to taking part in democracy, putting more power in people's hands. We will always champion a more representative politics where people from all communities are represented at every level.
- Make elected representatives more accountable to the public and uphold the highest standards in public life. We will work to introduce a register of lobbyists as part of this.
- Strengthen the Senedd's internal standards process and bring in a new system of recall for Members of the Senedd guilty of serious misconduct.
- Ensure Wales is a bold and active player on the global stage, demonstrating the best of our nation and our values to the world. We will continue to show support for people in crisis globally, including as a result of conflict and natural disasters. We will support the Academi Heddwch.



# What Welsh Labour will protect

We will always be committed to protecting the policies and programmes which most impact the lives of people in Wales and most reflect our core Welsh Labour values. These include:

- The NHS free at the point of need and in line with Bevan's founding principles
- Free prescriptions
- Free hospital parking
- The NHS Wales Bursary
- Sustainable Communities for Learning programme
- Free school meals
- Free school breakfasts
- School Essentials Grant
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- School Holiday Enrichment Programme
- The most progressive student grants in the UK
- Free bus passes for over-60s
- Carers Support Fund
- A cap on the cost of domiciliary care
- Social Work Bursary
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Council Tax Debt Rescue Scheme
- Discretionary Assistance Fund
- Single Advice Fund
- Community Facilities Programme
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act