

Talking about Child Poverty in Wales

Have your say



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



A consultation for young people

Hello

Living in poverty makes life more difficult – especially for children and young people.

The Welsh Government wants all children and young people in Wales to have healthy, happy lives. We want them to have everything they need.

But many children, young people and families in Wales are living in poverty.

In 2015 we wrote a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, but a lot has changed since then:



The Covid-19 pandemic put families under a lot of pressure.



The cost of food, fuel and housing have gone up a lot.



People's wages haven't gone up enough to cover these costs.



Local authorities have less money to run services, but more people need support.



Wales has less funding because of Brexit.

We are going to write a new Child Poverty Strategy so we can fight poverty and create a stronger, better Wales for everyone.



We want to help people in Wales, but some things can only be changed by the UK Government. That includes the benefits people get, taxes and the money we get to help people.

We want to know what you think should be in the new Child Poverty Strategy:

- what would make the biggest difference?
- what matters?
- where should we focus the most time and energy?

Answer the questions and help us fight poverty in Wales!



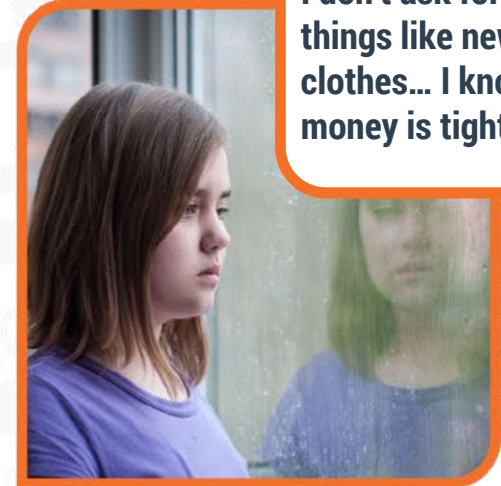
How poverty affects life!



We've been using food banks when we don't have enough money.



Our house is cold, so we wear our coats inside too.



I don't ask for things like new clothes... I know money is tight.

My parents can't afford school trips.



We stop at the leisure centre after school and shower there.



We don't have a computer, so helping him with homework is difficult.





1. Talking about families having enough money for food, heat and meeting their needs.

There are benefits and support, but some families don't know about them.

We want to make sure all families know how:

- to claim benefits so they don't miss out on money
- to get help with the costs of food, fuel and housing
- to get help with the costs of baby clothes, school uniform and winter coats
- to get free period products in their communities
- to claim emergency funds and support if something unexpected happens.

We also want services and organisations to make it easier for families to get support.



**Thinking
about money
and support.**

➔ **What 3 things would make the biggest difference?**

(Remember, only the UK Government can increase benefits or lower taxes).



2. Talking about helping children, young people and families out of poverty.

Helping families out of poverty makes a big difference to their lives.

We want to make sure families have:

- support quickly, in the early years of a child's life
- support into work
- support to claim any benefits they have a right to
- opportunities to develop their skills
- opportunities to get well-paid jobs
- support with childcare and transport costs.

We want to make sure children and young people have:

- the support they need to learn
- support to reach their goals.

We want everyone to have opportunities to get out of poverty. We don't want anyone to miss out because of disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or any other reason.



Thinking about helping children, young people and families out of poverty.

➔ **What 3 things would make the biggest difference?**



3. Talking about supporting children and young people to have their rights and reach their goals.

All children and young people have rights, no matter who they are, where they live or what they believe in. These rights are in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNCRC)

Poverty can stop children and young people from enjoying their rights.

We want all children and young people in Wales to have their rights to:

- the best start in life
- enjoy learning, and have the best education possible
- enjoy a healthy life, be safe from harm and treated fairly
- to play and have fun
- be listened to and be treated with respect
- a home and a community that is a nice place to grow up
- have what they need to survive and develop.

i We will make sure this strategy links to other plans we have to protect children's rights.



Thinking about children's rights and poverty.

➔ **What 3 things would make the biggest difference?**



4. Talking about treating children, young people and families with dignity and respect.

Sometimes people are treated unfairly or face stigma because they don't have a lot of money. **We don't want anyone being treated differently because of poverty.**

We want all services and staff to:

- treat people fairly and with respect
- not make life harder for families in poverty.

We want all children, young people and their families to:

- have good support no matter who they are, or how much money they have
- have support from systems that are easy to find and get
- be able to say what matters to them
- be listened to and involved in decisions that affect their lives.



Thinking about treating everyone with respect and dignity.

➔ **What 3 things would make the biggest difference?**

One last thing



Is there anything else we need to think about?

Thanks for getting involved

We'll listen to everything you tell us and use it to help us write our new Child Poverty Strategy.



If you want to know more about this strategy, how would you like us to keep you up to date?

