

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group



Grŵp Monitro CCUHP Cymru

Wales Civil Society Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to inform their List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR)



Sean O'Neill

Children in Wales

Simplified Reporting Process (2019-22)

United Nations have introduced a new way of reporting to UN Committees, including the CRC Committee, called the **Simplified Reporting Process (SRP)**

This reporting process is designed to

- Streamline and enhance the review process
- Make it more focused and effective
- Help Governments be better guided in their follow up work

PROCESS

- **Priority areas identified at the very beginning** = Reports of the key priorities are submitted to the UN, alongside questions to ask of governments.
- UN will consider all reports and develop their 'List of Issues'
- UN will invite a response from the State Party (Gov.) to their 'List of Issues'



Reporting Stages

STAGE	ACTION	TIMESCALES	PROGRESS
1	States opt in	JUL 2019	ACCEPTED
2	Report(s) of <u>priorities</u> submitted to the UN to inform their 'List of Issues'	NOV/DEC 2020	COMPLETED
3	UN will invite a response from the State Party (Gov.) to their 'List of Issues'	FEB 2021 (1 year to respond)	
4	State Party (Gov.) responds	FEB 2022	
5	(Civil Society) submit a response to State Party (Gov.) report	MAY 2022	
6	CRC Pre-Session Hearing	JUNE 2022	
7	CRC State Party Hearing & Concluding Observations	SEPT/OCT 2022	



State of Children's Rights in Wales Project

Stage 1

- **Steering Group (July – Dec)**
(12 organisations)

Stage 2

- **Capacity Building and Consultation Events (Aug)**
(8 Thematic workshops / 2 keynote speakers / 60+ attendees)

Stage 3

- **Call for Evidence (Aug – Sept)**
(wide promotion / 70+ submissions / Secondary sources)



State of Children's Rights in Wales Project

Stage 4

- **Produce a joint shadow report (Sept – Nov)**
(30 priorities / 10,000 words + preamble / 77 questions / 90+ contributions)

Stage 5

- **Launch event (Dec)**
(60+ registered)

Stage 6

- **Evaluation (Dec – Jan)**



30 Priority Issues

Legislation

Inequalities

Disaggregated data

Child Participation

Ending Physical Punishment

Family Support

Violence and Abuse

Childcare and Early Years

Care Experienced Children

Health inequalities

Young Carers

Disabled Children

Breastfeeding

Mental Health

Play & Leisure

Child Poverty

Education Attainment

Digital Learning Inequalities

Schools Exclusions

Brexit

COVID-19

CRIA

Youth Justice

Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrant Children

Resources



What Next

- Await the report from the United Nations (expected Feb-March)
- Current Campaigns and Advocacy Work
- 2021 Senedd Elections
- Next Welsh Government
- Visit of UN Rapporteur to Wales

Build & mobilise the Children's Rights community in Wales





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Diolch am wrando – Thank you for Listening

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Calls relating to Mental Health

- Invest in timely, appropriate and universally accessible early intervention support for all children,
- alongside integrated multi-agency community based support services for the 'missing middle'.
- Provide a well-resourced specialist CAMHS, accessible at the point of need, with greater accountability and performance, including through improved data collection.

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**Barnardo's
Cymru**

Casey-Jane Bishop
Welsh Youth Parliament representative for Barnardo's Cymru



Rhifau Cofrestru'r Elusen
216250 a SC037605
Barnardo's Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC037605

1. Invest in timely, appropriate and universally accessible early intervention support for all children.

Improve the quality of information materials, ensuring they are clear, accessible and engaging to young people. Ensure that young people are involved in advising on all aspects of information provision and support

Establish a recognised central 'one stop shop' for information, resources, and support



Significantly increase the amount of advertising and publicity to raise awareness of where information and support can be accessed. Messaging should express the importance of seeking help early

Ensure that emotional wellbeing and mental health gets taught consistently across Wales from an earlier age, and with greater frequency

'Let's Talk About Mental Health'.

Welsh Youth Parliament Emotional and Mental Health Support Committee

October 2020

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2. Invest in integrated multi-agency community based support services for the 'missing middle'.

Freedom from poverty

**Safe secure housing and
access to play and
transport**

**Wellbeing focused and
trauma informed schools
and policing**

Social services provision

- **Community based, accessible**
- **Delivered in partnership with social services, education the third sector, recognising where trauma-informed skills and cultures can be extended by health resource, and where they need to be supplemented by health resource.**
- **Responsive child led**
- **Relation based creative and psychologically informed therapies and practice approaches, embedded across services.**

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Specialist CAMHS

Increase provision to reduce long waiting times.

Ensure sufficient resource so that there is good response availability along pathways so children don't have to reach crisis point before accessing a service.



Ensure enough spaces are available in specialist hospitals, close to the child's home, and develop suitable community alternatives.

**CHILD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP**

State of Children's Rights in Wales

Theme 2: Child Poverty

10th December 2020



New child poverty data: Pembrokeshire has the highest child poverty rate in Wales



- Nearly one in 3 children in some constituencies are living in poverty after housing costs are factored in
- Highest rates of child poverty in Pembrokeshire and Blaenau Gwent
- Child poverty continues to grow in rural counties such as Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd
- Not a single ward in Wales with a child poverty rate below 12%

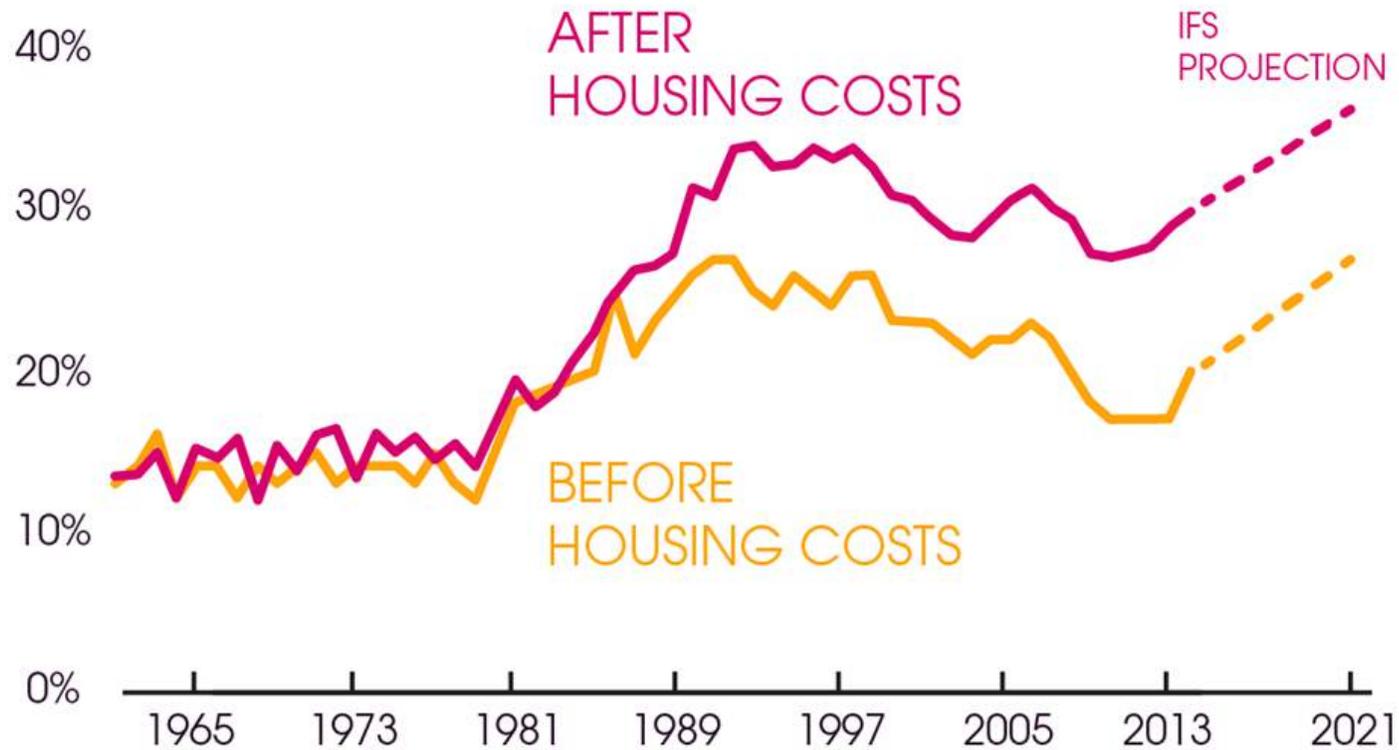
The risk of experiencing poverty in childhood is not evenly distributed, and some children are more likely to experience poverty than others.



- Households with a disabled parent or child
- Some Black, Asian and minority ethnic households, including Gypsy, Romany and Traveller children
- Larger families (many of which are minority ethnic families)
- Lone parents (90% of whom are women).
- Families with a child under one year of age

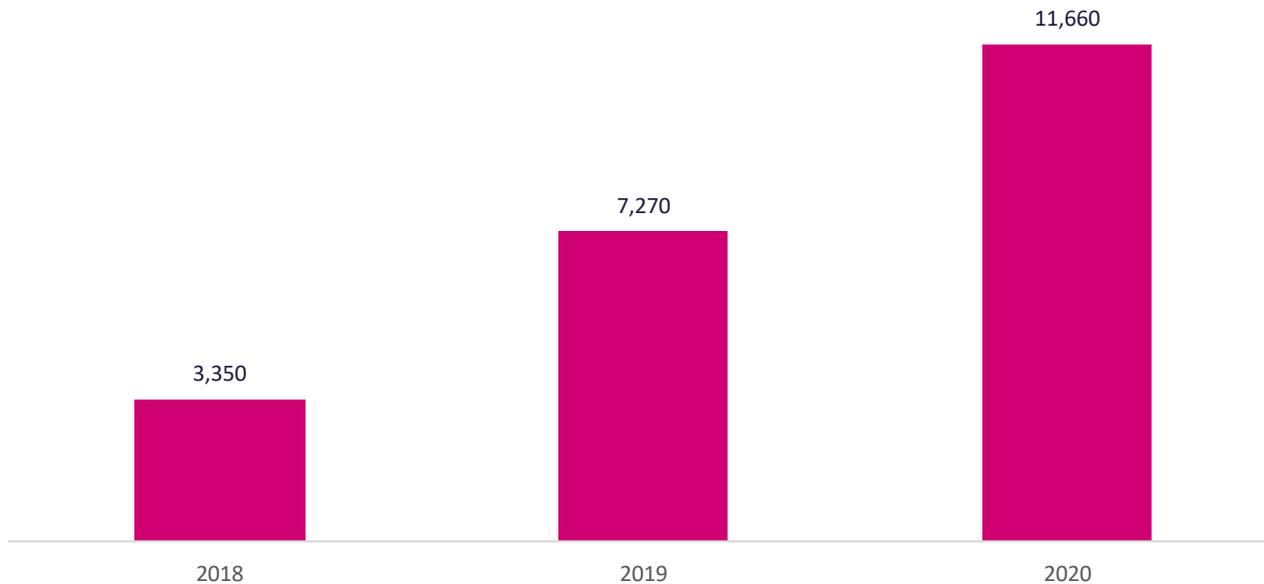
What's happening to child poverty?

% CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY



The two-child limit is driving up poverty and childhood destitution

Number of Welsh families affected by the two-child limit



The two-child limit withholds state support from a child in need because they have older siblings. The majority of families affected by the two-child limit are in work and therefore cannot get support via free school meals either. The policy has a disproportionate impact on certain faith groups and some minority ethnic communities.

Over the
past 12
months

Welsh families affected by
the two-child limit

↑ 56%

Welsh families with children
affected by the benefit cap

↑ 58%

Increase in Welsh households
with children claiming UC

↑ 77%

New CPAG analysis shows that more than half of school-aged children living below the poverty line in Wales are not eligible for free school meals. Wales has the least-generous free school meal provision in the UK.



In most cases children miss out because their parents/carers are in low paid work. They are paid too little to lift the family out of poverty, but are earning 'too much' to qualify for FSM (households on UC must be earning less than £7400 a year).

Two-thirds of Welsh children in poverty live in a working household.

[Read the briefing on the CPAG website.](#)

The Welsh Government must urgently...

- Publish a revised Child Poverty Strategy with Delivery Plan, with ambitions milestones, targets and monitoring arrangements
- Establish a Welsh Benefits System, as a single point of access for assistance
- Call upon the UK/Government to abolish the two-child limit and benefit cap, and retain the temporary uplift of Universal Credit

The Welsh Government must urgently...

- Increase eligibility for FSMs and Healthy Start Vouchers to all children whose parents are in receipt of Universal Credit; adopt auto enrolment across all local authorities, and work towards universal entitlement
- Embed a system where families are provided with cash in lieu of FSMs over the school holidays
- Expand the school holiday enrichment programme geographically and across all holidays to support children to recover from the educational loss



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