



# Children in Wales Plant yng Nghymru

## Annual report and accounts 2018-19



- Representing the sector
- Consulting with our members
- Expert training
- Engaging children and young people
- Influencing policy and practice
- Developing strong networks
- Raising public and professional awareness
- Better informed families and workforce

## Welcome



*Dr Dave Williams, Chair of Children in Wales, and Catriona Williams OBE, Chief Executive*

Children in Wales is the national umbrella organisation for people who work with children and young people in Wales. Our core aim is to contribute towards making the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) a reality in Wales.

Children in Wales is a membership organisation and provides high-quality services designed to keep members informed of new developments and to facilitate joint responses, including information materials, training and events. We are a registered charity and an independent, non-governmental organisation.



We are also funded under the Children and Families Development Grant from the Welsh Government to reduce inequalities in health, education and economic outcomes for children living in poverty, working to inform and enable children and young people to have their voices heard by decision makers, by facilitating meaningful participation.

We also work to inform the families and the workforce, and to influence and contribute to policy and practice development.

During 2018-19, Children in Wales has been working hard to ensure that children's voices are heard on issues that matter to them. This has included consulting on issues around Brexit and a setting up a Youth Mental Health Board, looking at a holistic approach to well-being and mental health. We have also once again facilitated Members of the Youth Parliament taking part in national debates.

We have continued to develop our research and policy areas, with ongoing work on poverty, disability, parenting, children's rights, health and social care being important topics.

The document sets out in more detail the work we have undertaken during the past year. We'd like to thank all our members and those we have worked with for your input and support.

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## Engaging children and young people

Young Wales is Children in Wales' participation initiative, funded under the Welsh Government's Children and Families Delivery Grant. The work is shaped by the Young Wales Project Board, and by the priorities identified as areas of importance through local authority Youth Forums.

During 2018-19, we continued work giving young people a voice through engagement and consultation events. Some of the highlights of our work included:

### Children and young people's views on Brexit

Welsh Government asked Young Wales to find out what children and young people think about Brexit, and their hopes and fears about the future. We consulted with young people through:

- 39 workshops with over 650 children and young people
- Twitter
- Instagram
- On-line survey
- A Question Time event

Young people raised concerns that their voices were not being heard in the Brexit debates, as they had not had a vote, and were not being included in the discussions. They raised issues for their own futures about work and travel, studying abroad, the environment, financial issues, community cohesion, and the Welsh language.

Following this work, we produced a report for Welsh Government, a short animated film co-produced with young people, and a video from the Question Time event. These are available from the Children in Wales website at <https://bit.ly/2r1wD4u>.

### UK Youth Parliament

Young Wales facilitated the Welsh Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) to take part in the UK Youth parliament annual debate in the House of Commons this year. The UK's Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

At the event in November each year, Members of the Youth Parliament debate issues of importance, decided by a ballot called Make Your Mark. This year, topics included votes at 16, mental health, tackling homelessness, equal pay equal work and put an end to knife crime. Young Wales organised the Make Your Mark ballot in Wales, and also ran mock debates to prepare those attending for the



event. 1.1 million young people took part in the Make your Mark campaign this year with over 54,000 votes in Wales - our highest turnout yet!

This year celebrated 100 years of the Representation of the People Act 1918 where women were given the vote. Young people spoke about how this Act has changed lives and how equality will look in the future.

We were very proud that one of the Welsh MYPs, Samuel Taylor, the Member for Blaenau Gwent, was awarded the Paul Boskett Award for outstanding speeches, along with several other MYPs. Samuel was given the award for his speech on lowering the voting age to 16.

### Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Youth Board

Emotional well-being and mental health has been Identified by young people as a priority for Young Wales. We also feed in to the Together for Children and Young People programme on this topic.

This year, Young Wales has set up a new Youth Board to work with the Welsh Government Whole School Approach team and the Together for Children & Young People (T4CYP) programme to help shape mental health and emotional wellbeing services in Wales. Over 70 young people from across Wales applied for a place on the Board and the successful applicants met for the first time in January. The young people are aged from 13 up to 24 years and cover 11 Local Authority areas.

At the first meeting in January 2019, participants had an opportunity to explore mental health, mental illness and wellbeing with Dr David Williams, Chair of the Children in Wales Trustee Board and Divisional Director for Family & Therapies in Gwent and CAMHS Advisor to the Welsh Government.





*Representative of Young Wales being interviewed following the launch of our report on Brexit.*

Discussions were also held on a whole school approach to wellbeing and what it should look like. The work of the Board will continue to develop in the next year, with including further meetings of the Board.

### National Participation Charter

The National Participation Charter was developed by Young Wales on behalf of Welsh Government during 2017. The Charter is a statement of intent that the partnership organisations are working in line with the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards. It is underpinned by the three pillars of the UNCRC – Protection, Provision and Participation. The Charter will also highlight local participation practices and capture intelligence that supports the future reporting of respective Wellbeing Plans.

Every year a sample audit will be undertaken to test compliance, and the Charter lasts for a maximum of two years. So far the following organisations who have signed up to the Charter include: Powys County Council; Fochriw Primary School; Neath Port Talbot Youth Service; Bryn Awel Primary School; The Hive; and the Thank Family Partnership.

### Young Wales Conference

Over 80 young people attended the Young Wales Annual Conference in Wrexham on 30 March 2019, hosted by the Young Wales Project Board. Young Wales was delighted to celebrate another year of ensuring that young people get their voices heard by decision makers in Wales.

At the event, we highlighted the work Young Wales has developed with children and young people in the last year, focusing on Brexit, the whole school approach to

mental health, and work undertaken with the UK Youth Parliament. Young people were also able to take part in workshops and get to know others from across Wales.

Young people also took part in workshops on important issues such as: homelessness; National Participation Standards; Period Poverty; the new curriculum; and votes at 16.

### Public Health Youth Summit

Young Wales, working in Partnership with Public Health Wales delivered two conferences, one in Llanwrst on 24 November for 40 young people, and a second in Cardiff on 1 December 18 for 60 young people. At these events Young Wales also shared the Welsh Government consultations on loneliness and isolation and the minimum unit price of alcohol and also promoted the newly created Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Youth Board to young people participating in the day.

Young Wales also worked in partnership with Public Health Wales to develop the Annual Quality Statement (AQS). The input from Young Wales has been recognised nationally, with Public Health Wales and the young people winning the 'Championing the Public' category at The Patient Experience Network National Awards (PENNA). The PENNA is the first and only awards programme to recognise best practice in the experience of care across all facets of health and social care in the UK.

### Consultation responses

During the year, Young Wales also consulted with children and young people to feed into consultation responses. This allows their opinions to directly affect policy making in the Welsh Government. The consultations included a Minimum Price on Alcohol; Tackling loneliness and isolation; a refresh of the Respecting Others anti-bullying guidance; and the new curriculum for Wales.

*“The best part was the discussion as I got to talk about something I’m passionate about with other passionate people.”*

*Member of the Young Wales Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Youth Board*

## Better connected families and workforce



*Policy Director, Sean O'Neill, presenting on children's rights issues relating to Wales*

Children in Wales facilitates networks which bring professionals together to discuss policy and practice issues. Through these networks we inform members of new developments, share good practice and develop appropriate perspectives on policy developments. In 2018-19, the groups and networks we ran included:

### **The Children in Wales Policy Council**

The Children in Wales Policy Council is the cross-sector multi-agency group which provides an opportunity for information sharing, and for prioritising collaborative action for Children in Wales to take forward.

### **The Third Sector Policy Officers' Group**

The Third Sector Policy Officer's Group is facilitated to identify key issues for the sector and to develop campaigns to influence activity in Wales.

### **UNCRC Monitoring Group Cymru**

The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group is a national alliance of non-governmental and academic agencies, tasked with monitoring and promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Wales.

### **All Wales Children and Young People's Advocacy Providers' Network**

This Network aims to promote partnership work and developmental strategies between organisations in relation to advocacy work.

### **Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA)**

Children in Wales Chairs the Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA). This is a group of voluntary organisations which seek to protect and promote the rights of children with additional needs in Wales.

### **Parenting Co-ordinators' Network**

The Parenting Co-ordinators' Network is for those who have a strategic co-ordinating role for parenting support in their Local Authority. It gives co-ordinators a chance to share ideas, policy and research with their colleagues.

### **End Child Poverty Network Cymru**

The End Child Poverty Network Cymru is a coalition of organisations concerned with child poverty. It lobbies for policies at all levels of government which contribute to ending child poverty in Wales.

### **All Wales Child Protection Procedures (AWCPP) Review Group**

This AWCPP Review Group has a mandate and representation from all of Wales' Local and regional Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies to review the AWCPP. The group also produces supplementary protocols and practice guides on an All-Wales basis, and provide a platform for sharing good practice across Wales.

### **Flying Start Managers' Network**

This Network meets quarterly, bringing together the Flying Start Managers from the 22 Local Authorities and Welsh Government. Additional meetings and workshops are also organised as needed.

### **Young Carers Workers' Network**

The Young Carers Workers' Network shares issues, concerns and supports the development of good practice. It also supports a Young Carers' Network who meet to identify key issues of concern and has the opportunity to present their concerns to the Deputy Minister for Social Services on an annual basis.

### **All Party Parliamentary Group for Children in Wales**

Children in Wales acts as secretariat for the APPG on Children in Wales. This group brings Welsh MPs and Peers together to discuss non-devolved issues.

### **Cross Party Group on Children and Young People**

Children in Wales acts as secretariat for the Cross Party Group for Children in Wales. This group brings together Assembly Members and interested parties to discuss important devolved issues.

## Influencing practice, policy development and research



### Children's rights

Children's rights are at the heart of Children in Wales' work as we strive to ensure that they are upheld in Wales. During 2018-19, we continued to facilitate the UNCRC Monitoring Group, a national alliance made up of NGOs and academics with the purpose of monitoring and promoting the UNCRC in Wales.

In advance of the United Nations Day of General Discussion, Children in Wales published a response to the Child Rights Connect, (CRC) consultation on Children Human Rights Defenders.

The consultation, *The Views, Perspectives and Recommendations of Children Across the World* formed the main discussion on the day. It summarises the responses of children and young people, including those from Wales.

Children in Wales published a report following the Rights of the Child (ROCK) conference, held in December 2018. The event looked at what governments should be doing to progress children's rights, alongside what actions civil

society organisations could take to embed children's rights in all of their work.

Sean O'Neill, Policy Director at Children in Wales, along with Dr Simon Hoffman from the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People, also produced a report looking at progress made on children's rights in Wales since the introduction of the UNCRC into domestic law. The report was commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

### Brexit

During 2018-19, Children in Wales undertook a programme of work considering the implications of Brexit for children, focusing on the promotion and protection of children's rights. This included publishing a joint briefing on Brexit and Children's Rights, and also holding Cross Party Group and Parliamentary meetings on Brexit as well as engagement at a UK and European level. Children in Wales published a Conference Report following our roundtable event, which sets out a series of recommendations for Wales capturing the key issues and concerns of professionals and service users.



Children in Wales joined other children's rights organisations around the UK in pressing for greater consideration of the issues which will impact on children and the services which support them.

We have also called for the incorporation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into the EU (Withdrawal) Bill. We have continued to engage with Welsh Government officials and other organisations through our membership of the Wales Civil Society Forum, UK Children's Alliance, Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group and Eurochild. We have submitted evidence to a number of inquiries in respect of preparations in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, and remain concerned around future arrangements or funding following the UK's exit from the European Union.

### **Getting More Involved in Social Care Project**

The Welsh Government has supported Children in Wales over three years to develop our project looking to support the health and well-being of looked after children, disabled children and young people and kinship carers.

We have worked with care experienced young people aged 11-25 to co-produce a series of health and wellbeing guides to help care experienced young people access information, advice and support. The guides cover a range of topics including exercise and nutrition, health assessment plans, review meetings, money and budgeting, and family contact.

The project has worked with young disabled people to develop new visual tools, such as videos and resources, which look at participation and rights. These videos were produced and filmed by young disabled people and will be part of the toolkit that assists other young disabled people across Wales. The toolkit includes a series of resources that have been developed and are currently being piloted in training and workshops.

Children in Wales is also working with kinship carers to bring them together for mutual support. The project has now set up 16 peer support groups across Wales. We have also worked with groups to develop resources such as a children's story book around kinship care, in collaboration with Caerphilly Support Group.

### **Poverty**

Children in Wales works to reduce the levels of child poverty and mitigate the impact on children, young people and their families. Over the past year we have continued to coordinate the End Child Poverty Network Cymru, and organised national and regional events along with carrying out an annual survey on child and family poverty.

Children in Wales, along with the End Child Poverty Network Cymru carried out a review of where child poverty sits within the draft Well-being Plans published by Local Health Boards across Wales.

In addition to this work, Children in Wales is now working on a project supported by the Welsh Government, called the Price of Poverty, looking at how poverty impacts upon education and the school day. Phase 1 of the project is to develop a series of guides for schools on the impact that poverty has on the day to day experiences of school, for pupils from low income or disadvantaged families.

Children in Wales led on the submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights call for written evidence ahead of his visit to the UK in November and hosted a meeting in Wales during his visit. The inquiry included a specific focus on child poverty.

### **Measuring the Mountain**

Measuring the Mountain was an all-Wales project evaluating the impact of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. It is a collaboration between the public sector, third sector and service users.

Children in Wales worked with young people who have experience of the social care system to feed into the project. We are represented on the Steering Group for the project, which shapes how the work is carried out, and the communications sub-group to help promote the work.

Measuring the Mountain shared their findings with Welsh Government, social care professionals, participants and, through their website and presentations, with people in Wales. In September 2018, the project hosted a Citizens' Jury in Swansea which looked more closely at key issues that arise from the stories.

### **Ending physical punishment**

Children in Wales has long campaigned for the abolition of physical punishment of children, along with the Children are Unbeatable! Cymru campaign and other children's charities.

In 2018, the Welsh Government announced that removing the defence of reasonable punishment in cases of child assault would be part of the Welsh Government's legislative programme.

Following this, Children in Wales has responded to the consultation on how this should be implemented; and is now supporting the legislative change by our continued campaigning on this issue, along with communications support for the messaging around positive parenting.

## Representation across the sector



*Children in Wales and members of the community meet Professor Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, as part of his visit to the UK in 2018.*

Children in Wales is represented on a number of groups across Wales and the UK and this allows us to contribute to policy development and practice.

### Welsh Government

- Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice
- Additional Learning Needs Health Expert Group
- All Wales Participation Workers Meeting
- All Wales Posture and Mobility partnership board
- CAF/CASS Cymru Stakeholder Advisory Group
- CAMHS Delivery Advisory Group
- Child Death Review steering group
- Childcare Stakeholder group
- Children's Rights Advisory Group
- Commissioning Guidance for Children with Complex Needs Reference Group
- Continuing Care Task and Finish Group
- Curriculum Reform CYP participation sub group
- Curriculum Reform Stakeholder Group
- Direct payments practice and information exchange
- Disability Equality Forum
- Equality Advisory Support Group
- Financial Inclusion Stakeholder Advisory group
- Independent living for disabled people steering group
- Ministerial Advisory Group on Outcomes for Children
- Ministerial Advisory Group Outcomes for Children Operations Board
- Ministerial Social Care Partnership Board
- National Approach to Statutory Advocacy
- National Primary Care Board
- Residential care sub group of the Outcomes for Children MAG
- Social Care Leadership Roundtable
- Special Guardianship Orders Technical Group
- T4CYP Neurodevelopmental Sub Group
- Third Sector Partnership Council

- Third Sector Partnership Council Working Group
- T4CYP Programme Board
- Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation Advisory group
- When I am Ready Sub Group

### Other (non Welsh Government) groups

- All Wales Family Group Meeting Network
- Carers Alliance
- Children are Unbeatable! Cymru
- Children's Commissioner for Wales stakeholder
- Drill Fun and Friendship Steering Group
- End Child Poverty UK
- Eurochild Management board
- Eurochild National Partner Network (NPN)
- Eurochild Participation Steering Group
- Food Poverty Alliance
- Fuel Poverty Coalition Group
- Human Rights Stakeholder Group
- International Forum for Child Welfare
- Measuring the Mountain steering group
- Money Advice Service (MAS) Wales Forum
- National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research NCPHWR
- NEA Cymru Advisory Group
- Play Wales Board
- Cymru Well Wales Steering Group
- Cymru Well Wales Adolescence task group
- First 1000 Days Collaborative Programme Board
- Health Information for Parents Stakeholder Board
- National Child Death Review Steering Group
- Regional Participation Network Meeting
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Care and Support at Home steering group
- Social Care Wales Social Care Accolades Judging Group
- South Wales Parents Network
- The APPG on Children in Wales
- Cross Party Group on Children and Young People
- The National Assembly for Wales Cross Party Group on Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency
- Cross Party Group on Disability
- Cross Party Group on Looked After Children
- UK Children's Rights Network
- UK Coalition on Children's Rights
- Voices from Care Policy Advisory Group
- Voices from Care Trustee Board
- Wales NHS Confederation Policy Forum
- WCVA Board
- WCVA Brexit Civil Society Forum
- WCVA Equality and Human Rights Coalition
- Welsh Refugee Coalition
- Welsh Refugee Coalition
- Regional Participation Network Meeting



## Responding to consultations and inquiries

Children in Wales influences policy by responding to consultations and National Assembly inquiries. Our input ensures the voices of the children's sector are heard by decision makers. During 2018-19, we responded to the following consultations and inquiries:

### **Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People**

Children in Wales supported Welsh Government proposals for fewer and larger local authorities, which would have the capacity to deliver services more efficiently. We agreed that the Welsh Government should provide clarity on the future footprint for local government.

### **Inquiry on the equality and human rights implications of Brexit**

This inquiry was held by the Local Government and Communities Committee and the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee. Children in Wales explained concerns we have identified including the erosion of fundamental rights, and the importance of ensuring children's voices are heard.

### **Fostering Services: Implementing a new regulatory framework**

Children in Wales issued a response to the Welsh Government consultation looking at proposals to replace The Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003. Our response highlighted the need to ensure the availability of independent advocacy services for children and young people, and also that the new National Protection Procedures should be included.

### **Revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit**

This consultation looked at eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales. Children in Wales and ECPN Raised concerns about the eligibility criteria, as it requires low income households to be in receipt of benefits. This may mean that children go without the free school meal despite evident need.

### **RISCA 2016: Phase 3 implementation – Regulated Advocacy Services**

Children in Wales supported the regulation of independent professional advocacy services and the incorporation of the revised National Standards for independent Advocacy Providers into the framework. We also issued a response on behalf of the All Wales Advocacy Providers Group.

### **Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers**

Children in Wales agreed with Welsh Government plans to provide extra support for care leavers by exempting them from Council Tax, including those who were looked after in other parts of the UK; this would make support consistent across Wales. We also agreed that this should begin at the age of 18 and end at age 25.

### **Minimum Price of Alcohol**

In our response to this consultation, Children in Wales restated our support for minimum alcohol pricing as a positive health intervention which supports a children's rights approach. We agreed that the proposal for a Minimum Unit Price of 50p was appropriate, given the evidence set out.

### **Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation**

This consultation looked at proposed Indicators for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. Children in Wales suggested that key priorities should be low household income; unhealthy weight in children; education and skills in the early years; access to natural green spaces and access to superfast broadband. We also highlighted indicators that particularly affect children such as services and physical environment.

### **Changes to student finance from academic year 2019 to 2020**

Children in Wales issued a response to the Welsh Government consultation on student funding arrangements. Our response welcomed the proposed new category of eligibility for those with Section 67 leave to remain in the UK, which would allow so called "Dubs children" to access student support.

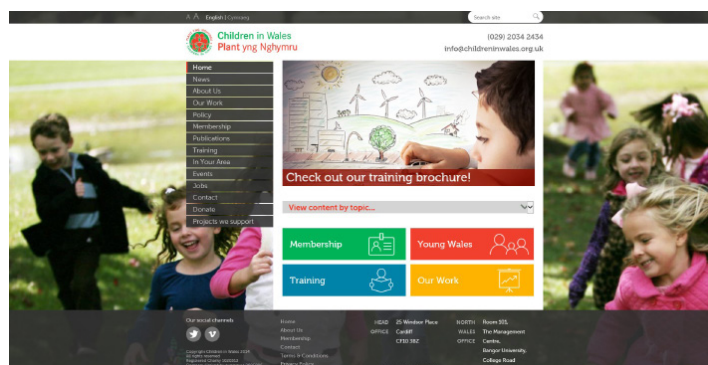
### **A new regulatory framework for adoption services**

Children in Wales' response to this consultation focused on the work of IRM Cymru. The current number of applications to IRM Cymru do not justify the process, and it is difficult to recruit and retain people with the skills to be panel members. We suggested that another regional adoption panel or ADM could replace the work IRM Cymru does and feed back to the agency for the final decision.

### **Draft statutory guidance to school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies.**

Children in Wales and ECPN Cymru supported proposals for statutory guidance on affordability being considered when setting school uniform policies in schools. The cost of school uniform is often reported as a problem for low income families and parents with more than one child of school age.

## Better informed children, young people, families and workforce



Children in Wales provides an information service to its members, with up-to-date news and resources on developments in the children's sector:

### Children in Wales website

The Children in Wales website, which can be found at [www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk), contains news and information about developments in the children's sector. The Policy section of the website contains updates on legislation and other developments affecting children and young people in Wales and the UK.

The website is a major tool for sharing information and is updated daily with policy information, resources and news. During 2018-19, the website received 289,783 page views in total.

### Young Wales website

The Young Wales website, which can be found at [www.youngwales.wales](http://www.youngwales.wales), supports our participation work. It is a hub of information on the work being undertaken by youth forums, schools, partner organisations and individuals across Wales. The website also allows us to share information on Young Wales' work and opportunities for young people to get involved and have their voices heard.

### Children in Wales magazine

Children in Wales magazine is published on a quarterly basis and includes articles on important topics, as well as the latest news from Children in Wales and our members. It contains in-depth features and interviews on important topics and regular columns from the Children's Commissioner for Wales and MEIC Cymru.

This year, the magazine covered a wide range of topics including research from the National Centre Population Health and Well-being Research; understanding LGBTI child development; child and family poverty; Measuring the Mountain project; and Brexit and children's rights.

The magazines can be downloaded from [www.childreninwales.org.uk/publications/magazine](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/publications/magazine)

### Briefing services

Children in Wales produces a number of briefings and newsletters for members and networks.

Our members' e-briefing is circulated weekly and keeps our members up-to-date with the latest policy developments and news. The Young Wales newsletter is sent out monthly with the latest news and information for young people and participation workers.

We also send out a monthly e-briefing for the End Child Poverty Network.

### Social media

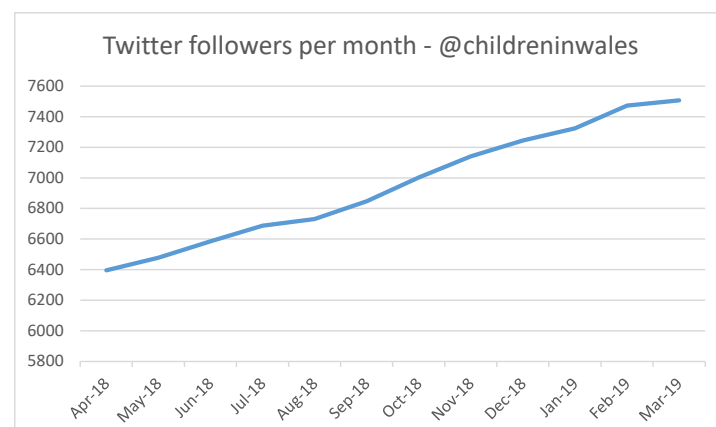
Children in Wales uses Twitter to promote its activities and resources, as well as new policy and documents using our accounts, @childreninwales and @plantynghymru.

The @childreninwales account had 7507 followers at the end of March 2018, and the @plantynghymru account had 1036 followers. Young Wales also has a separate Twitter account, @YoungWalesCIW which had 3431 followers at the end of the year.

Information is also promoted on our Facebook pages for Children in Wales and Young Wales, and on Instagram @YoungWalesCIW

### Help desk and signposting services

Children in Wales has an information and signposting service for members of the public and professionals in the children's sector. During 2018-19 we gave advice on a broad range of issues including advocacy services, safeguarding, childcare provision, kinship care, and education issues.



## Conferences and events



*Catriona Williams OBE, Chief Executive, with Amy-Claire Davies, at the Children in Wales Annual Conference*

### **From Poverty to Prosperity: Tackling Child Poverty in Wales**

Children in Wales worked with Groundwork North Wales and Gwynedd Council to create two events in north Wales in April 2018 in Bangor and Wrexham. The events gave delegates a chance to come together to talk about the challenges of tackling poverty in north Wales, to share good practice and to explore what more can be done. The events were a mixture of short presentations and round table discussions on themes such as partnership working, engagement and participation and sustainability.

### **Children in Wales' Annual Forum at the National Eisteddfod 2018**

Children in Wales held an Annual Forum at the National Eisteddfod on 8 August 2018, in Cardiff. At this event, Mark Drakeford, then the Cabinet Secretary for Finance gave an update on Brexit and its potential effect for Wales' children, young people and families. The Cabinet Secretary warned that any version of Brexit will make Wales and the UK poorer, and that the economic effects were already being felt; he described it as an act of self-harm, making us also less secure. He said the important thing is to limit the damage and that the Welsh Government was focused on the form, rather than the fact, of Brexit.

### **Annual conference 'The Whole Child'**

Children in Wales held our Annual Conference on 3 October 2018. 116 delegates attended the event, which focused on a 'whole child' approach to building resilience and helping children and young people to deal with the problems in their lives.

*"Speakers were extremely well informed and very interesting!"*

*Delegate at the Parenting Conference, 24th November 2018*

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, the then Minister for Children, Social Care and Older People, gave the keynote speech outlining the Welsh Government's approach to service provision. This was followed by presentations on current research and practice; education and health; the importance of getting it right in the current context; and the rise of racism and the importance of social cohesion. The final presentation from Barnardo's Cymru gave examples of how services can be integrated. The event also included a market place and a panel session.

### **Young People's Brexit Question Time**

On 24 October 2018, Young Wales brought young people from across Wales together at the Senedd to ask questions of a panel of experts including the then Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care about Brexit. The event was chaired by James Williams from BBC Cymru Wales.



*The panel consider questions from young people at the Brexit Question Time event*



Young people asked questions about issues such as opportunities to work and study abroad; and looked at the challenges to jobs, the economy and social cohesion, and as well as opportunities for Wales in the future.

The Panel included Huw Irranca-Davies AM, the then Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care; Ruth Combs, Head of the Wales Equality and Human Rights Commission; Meri Huws, the Welsh Language Commissioner; Mari Arthur, Director of Sustain Wales and Dr Dave Williams, CAMHS advisor to Welsh Government and Chair of Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

### **Parenting & Family Support Conference 2018: Supporting Teenage Parents & Parents of Teenagers**

Children in Wales' Parenting and Family Support Conferences 2018 focused on teenage parents and parents of teenagers. One conference was convened in Cardiff on 18 October 2018 and a similar event was held in Bangor on 22 November 2018.

Delegates considered policy, research and practice in supporting teenagers through pregnancy and parenthood and explored issues for parents of teenagers. A key theme was how to ensure the needs of marginalised or vulnerable parents are met.

Key Speakers included Professor John Coleman OBE, University of Bedfordshire, Alison Hadley OBE, Director of the Teenage Pregnancy Knowledge Exchange at Bedford University, and Louise Marshall, Leader of the Public Health Programme for Children and Young People in Manchester.



*Young people sharing their ideas about well-being at the Health Youth Conference*



*Delegates during a workshop session at our parenting conference*

### **Public Health Youth Summit**

110 young people attended a public health youth summit held by Public Health Wales and the Children in Wales participation initiative, Young Wales, in Cardiff at the start of December 2018.

The event gathered together young people from across south Wales to discuss public health. It covered the purpose of public health, the Welsh Government's social isolation and loneliness consultation and Public Health Wales' Young Health Ambassador scheme. Young people were asked how they thought the scheme should be run, and their suggestions were collected by Public Health Wales.

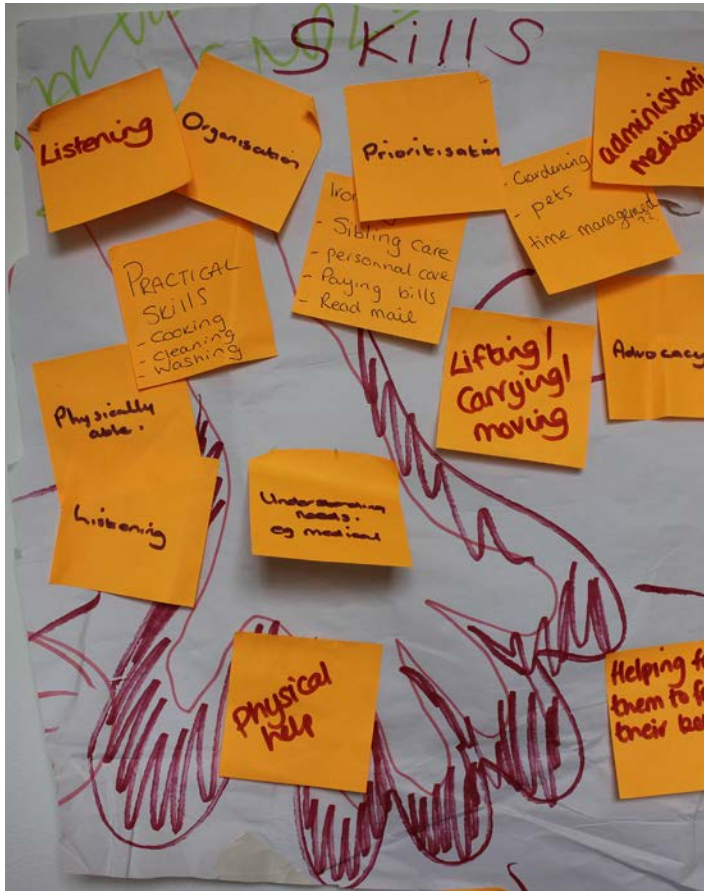
They also took part in ACEs workshops where they discussed which adults they could trust for support, talked about how resilient they were, and created superheroes to help them be more resilient. The event in Cardiff was preceded by a similar event in Llanwrst, Conwy.

### **ROCK Conference**

Children in Wales facilitated the Rights of the Child (ROCK) Annual Conference 2018 which took place in Cardiff on 12 December 2018. ROCK is a coalition of voluntary organisations and individuals from across the UK pushing for the full incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into UK law.

The conference brought together almost 100 delegates and speakers from the UK and Europe to explore developments taking place in each country to embed the UNCRC into law and policy. The event was organised by Children in Wales in partnership with members of the ROCK Steering Group. The programme provided an opportunity for child rights experts and commentators to highlight progress and future opportunities for further legal protections for children.

## Training



*Notes from a practical session on one of our training days*

2018-19 has been another busy and productive year for the Training Department in Children in Wales. As ever we have attempted to keep up with the current trends and the difficulties facing children, young people and families.

To this end, we have responded to our member's requests, by developing and running new and adapting existing training. These courses have covered Adverse Childhood Experiences, County Lines: Gangs, Drugs and Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Development and in particular the development of the brain and hormonal responses to Adverse Childhood Experiences, Understanding Transgender and Child Development, Gender and Sexuality. Mindfulness has been delivered as organisations look for solutions for both the children and young people they support and their staff.

Our core work remains that of Safeguarding the Welfare of Children and Young People and responding to particular requests around this such as mental health and self-harm and suicide. We have developed a day solely looking at the impact of neglect.

Our training on including Parental Substance Misuse, and our Motivational Interviewing courses have been consistently requested.

We have continued to develop our children's rights and participation courses offering free training across all four quarters of Wales. We have developed a 'train the trainer' course to enable participants to cascade training within their local authority.

Our What Matters Conversations training paving the way for staff to exercise this part of the Social services and Wellbeing Act have remained popular. We were delighted to support the new Youth Parliament of the National Assembly for Wales by training their staff on the engagement and participation of children and young people.

Our contracted work remains strong, including training on Measuring Soft Outcomes, Teenage Behaviour, Internet Safety, Life Story Work, How to Give Children Difficult Information, Autism in Maturity, LGBT, Working with Uncooperative Parents and Advocacy.

We look forward to the coming year when we will be working with Public Service Boards, developing training around the National Participation Standards, Mental Health in adolescents, Adult Safeguarding and Knife Crime.

You can find out more about training and see our full list of training courses at [www.childreninwales.org.uk/training](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/training).

*"Really good training – very interactive and good use of activities!"*

*Delegate from Cartrefi Cymru,  
Child Sexual Exploitation course  
April 2018*



## Governance



*Dr Dave Williams, Chair of the Children in Wales Trustee Board and Policy Council*

Children in Wales is managed by a Trustee Board which deals with the finance and governance of the organisation. The Trustee Board consists of 12 members, of which nine are elected from the membership of the organisation and a further three are appointees. Additional Trustees can be co-opted to the Board for a period of one year. Trustees serve for up to two terms of office of three years each.

The members of the Trustee Board during 2018-19 were:

- Dr David Williams, Aneurin Bevan Health Board (Chair)
- Kara Williams (until October 2018) (Treasurer)
- Suman Bhogal (from December 2018) (Treasurer)
- Ann Shabbaz, Hafan Saff Cyf
- Hannah Williams, Ty Hafan Family Hospice
- Jane Newby, University of South Wales
- Professor David Egan, Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Professor Jonathan Scourfield, Cardiff School of Social Sciences
- Dr Sarah Jones (until October 2018)
- Sarah Crawley, Barnardo's Cymru
- Bethan Webber, Home Start UK (from October 2018)
- Dr Mike Shooter
- Diane Daniel, TGP Cymru

- Dr Nia John, Cardiff and Vale UHB
- Cherrie Bija, Faith in Families (from December 2018)
- Emeritus Professor Patrick Thomas

### Policy Council

Children in Wales' Policy Council makes recommendations about children and young people's policy issues to the Trustee Board, and helps to shape the priorities and work of the organisation.

Trustees of Children in Wales are automatically made members of the Policy Council.

### Representative Body (appointed, up to 10 members)

- ACPO
- ADEW (represented by Pierre Bernhard Grout, WLGA)
- ADSS
- NHS Confederation
- Public Health Wales (represented by Sarah Jones)
- Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health in Wales (represented by Dr Nia John)
- WLGA (represented by Stewart Blythe, Catherine Davies, WLGA)

### Elected Members

- Brigitte Gater, Action for Children Gweithredu dros Blant
- Deborah Jones, Voices from Care (Cymru)
- Des Mannion, NSPCC Cymru
- Dr Susan Evans, Bangor University & Powys Teaching Health Board
- Gwilym Roberts, Relate Cymru
- John Gallanders, AVOW
- Mary Powell-Chandler, Save the Children
- Sharon Lovell, NYAS
- Mike Greenaway, Play Wales
- Rocio Cifuentes, EYST
- Lindsay Watkins, Millbrook Primary School
- Rachel Shaw
- Uzo Iwobi, Race Council Cymru

### Observers

- CAFCASS Cymru
- Welsh Government
- Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Big Lottery
- Youth Justice Board



# Membership

Children in Wales offers a membership scheme to individuals and organisations who are interested in improving the lives of children, young people and families in Wales.

Members come from the third, statutory and private sectors and include local authorities, health boards, third sector organisations, university departments, schools, nurseries, family centres and individuals.

During 2018-19, Children in Wales had 196 members, which included 149 organisations and 47 individual members. An additional 11 individuals, who work for organisational members, signed up for supplementary membership so they could receive information directly.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for your ongoing support.

BRAND NEW  
SPECIAL OFFER  
FOR 2019.

CHILDREN IN WALES' MEMBERSHIP  
SCHEME WILL OFFER NURSERIES,  
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

Access to a Wales-wide network of both professionals and children and young people

Briefings on current matters of relevance to education such as:

- The Whole School Approach to Emotional Well-being and Mental Health
- Additional Learning Needs
- Children's Rights and the UNCRC
- Children's participation
- The New Curriculum - especially child well-being
- Family Support & Parenting

Implications of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Implications of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs)

A quarterly magazine

Weekly policy briefing

Annual Education Network meeting

Joint training sessions for cluster schools

Discounts to events & training courses

The opportunity for staff, young people and children to get involved in our Young Wales participation initiative

HALF PRICE  
OFFER OF £50  
FOR THE NEXT  
YEAR, INSTEAD  
OF £100



## Financial summary

Expenditure		
Better connected Children, Young People, Families & Workforce	£348,363	25.8%
Influencing Practice, Policy Development & Research through Representation & Consultation	£380,165	28.2%
Better Informed Children, Young People, Families & Workforce	£488,244	36.3%
Membership Support Services	£62,049	4.6%
Governance	£69,065	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,344,559</b>	<b>100%</b>
Income		
Better connected Children, Young People, Families & Workforce	£346,814	26.3%
Influencing Practice, Policy Development & Research through Representation & Consultation	£355,872	27.0%
Better Informed Children, Young People, Families & Workforce	£476,233	36.1%
Membership Support Services	£58,580	4.4%
Governance	£80,548	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,318,046</b>	<b>100%</b>

