



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cymry Ifanc
Young Wales

www.cymru.gov.uk

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Getting it Right 2009



Why do we need a Plan?

In 2004, the Welsh Assembly Government agreed to put the UNCRC at the centre of all its work for children and young people (that's everyone from birth-25 years old). Every 4-5 years the United Nations asks the UK (Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland) to tell them how we are making sure that children and young people are able to have their rights and enjoy them. Then they give us advice, and suggest how we can do this better.

Further information can be found at 'Clic', the National Information and Advice Service for young people in Wales: www.cliconline.co.uk/uncrc

The Welsh Assembly Government worked with a lot of other organisations, such as charities, voluntary groups, children and young people to agree what the Key Priorities for action in Wales should be.

This Plan lets you know the 16 priorities that we are going to focus on.

What is the UNCRC?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is a worldwide agreement that protects the human rights of children and young people under the age of 18. These human rights are the same for everyone and they are all important.

Here are the 16 priorities and how we are going to handle them.

1

To tackle poverty for children and young people in Wales

What will happen:

A new law is being made in Wales that will help to tackle poverty in the lives of children and young people.

We will make sure that plans being made to tackle poverty in your local area will be stronger and given more support.

2

To deliver positive outcomes for the most vulnerable children, young people and families

What will happen:

There are lots of projects and policies being made to help vulnerable children, young people, and their families. New areas of work will cover children and young people that are in danger of being hurt or taken advantage of at home or elsewhere.

This work will help all children and young people even if they live with their parents or are looked after by someone else.



3

To raise awareness of the **UNCRC**

What will happen:

Everyone needs to know more about the UNCRC. In Wales, we will tell children, young people, parents, and people who work with them about the UNCRC.

We will do this in lots of different ways including through school. We will provide support so that everyone can understand how the UNCRC can make their lives better, and how children and young people can get their rights through the services that they receive.

4

To reduce the gap between policy and outcomes for children and young people

What will happen:

We will help to improve training and planning locally so that the services are better for all children and young people.

This will mean that all children and young people can get to and use these services which will help them to achieve more.

5

To improve learning achievement for all children and young people

What will happen:

Education is really important! In Wales we are working hard to make educational support better for children and young people, not only in schools and colleges but outside of them as well.

We want children and young people to have lots of opportunities and choices about the ways that they learn and gain new skills.

6

To support emotional well being for all children and young people

What will happen:

New work will take place to help children, young people, and their families with emotional health and wellbeing.

We will do this in a number of ways including giving more information in a number of different ways (information booklets, training courses, websites) and through new services in different places such as schools.

This will help make the quality of life better for children and young people.



7

To improve opportunities for all children and young people to play safely

What will happen:

We will work to make sure that children and young people, including those with disabilities, have the chance for rest, play and to enjoy leisure activities that are for their age group.

This will include helping them to get to and use playgrounds, leisure centres, and other places like theatres and museums.

8

To increase opportunities for all children and young people in Wales to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them

What will happen:

Giving children and young people the chance to have their say on decisions that affect them is very important.

We have made a good start in Wales, but more needs to be done to make sure that the chance to take part is available to all children and young people. This includes when local decisions and national decisions are being made.

It's your voice and we want to hear it!

9

To work to eliminate discrimination against children and young people with disabilities, improving their access to services & support

What will happen:

There are new projects that will take place to help reduce any barriers children and young people may face in getting to or using, services and support. This is especially important for those children and young people with disabilities.

We are going to continue to support and move forward with getting equality for all children and young people across Wales.

10

To work to make physical punishment of children and young people illegal in all situations

What will happen:

We are committed to making physical punishment of children and young people illegal in Wales.

We will support and move toward, positive, non-violent ways of discipline for children and young people across Wales.



11

To work to eliminate bullying including homophobic bullying

What will happen:

We are working hard in Wales to tackle bullying. We have been giving and sharing information to help people understand it and the problems that it causes.

We are giving help on various types of bullying (such as homophobic, race related and religious bullying) in a number of different ways (writing booklets, creating training and activity packs).

We want to help everyone to value the fact that we are all different and that those differences should be respected.

12

To work to make sure that refugee and asylum seeking children and young people in Wales can claim their UNCRC and human rights

What will happen:

Even though this area of work is taken care of by the UK Government, there are many projects taking place in Wales.

These projects help make the support and services better so we can meet the needs of refugee and asylum seeking children and young people, who have had to leave their own country for different reasons and have come to live in Wales.

13

To work to eliminate inequality and discrimination against children and young people

What will happen:

Many people think and speak negatively about children and young people because of the things they hear, read or see.

Children and young people also achieve many positive things and we need to support and celebrate these.

This will help change the way people think about, and act towards, children and young people in Wales.

14

To work to make sure that children and young people in the most deprived areas of Wales (e.g. Communities First areas) can enjoy all of their UNCRC and human rights

What will happen:

We're going to carry on working with Communities First in deprived areas to bring attention to the UNCRC human rights and to tackle poverty in children and young people's lives.

We want to set up new projects and provide training to make sure children, young people, and their families are not held back just because they don't have enough money.



15

To improve the transparency of budgeting for children and young people at Welsh Assembly Government level

What will happen:

We have already started work on giving a clear and honest picture of how money is planned, set aside, and spent on children and young people in Wales.

We will work towards being open, clear and honest with all these figures. We will also help children and young people understand and take part in decisions about how money is spent in the future.

16

To work to make sure that children and young people from Wales in the Criminal Justice System, can claim their UNCRC and human rights.

What will happen:

We will continue to run successful projects that support children and young people in the Criminal Justice System in Wales and help them to gain new skills.

An important part of this is to support and move forward with education and training projects, including additional support for those with special needs.

New projects will be starting soon to help with this.

There will be lots of other projects and work going on across Wales to make sure that children and young people can understand and enjoy their rights under the UNCRC. We are exploring how we can put in place a new Welsh law to help this to happen. The work will continue to grow and change over the next five years, and what you have just read, will be updated to show those changes.

We hope that this plan will help more children, young people, parents and those who work with them be more aware of the UNCRC. We also hope that it will help people understand and make use of the services, opportunities and support available to them.

We believe the actions in this plan will help make the lives of children and young people across Wales better.

We will keep checking this plan to make sure it is making the difference in the lives of children and young people that we hope it will.

More information and a copy of the full plan can be found at:
www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk

