

# FOR WALES

2026 Manifesto

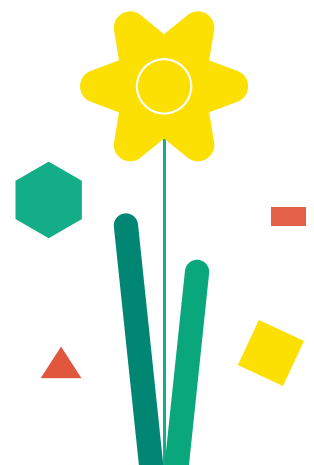


NEW  
LEADERSHIP  
FOR WALES

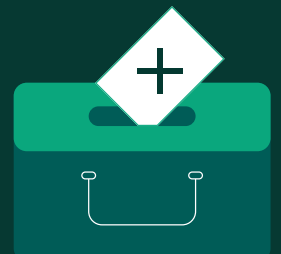




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The **election on  
7 May** will be the  
most important  
since the dawn  
of devolution.



**It is an election which offers real hope for the future of Wales. That hope is represented by Plaid Cymru, with our prospectus for renewal, tangible action from day one, and a promise to always stand up for Wales.**

That opportunity for change stands in stark contrast to Labour's record of managed decline, and their refusal to make a stand for the interests of our nation against Westminster's indifference.

And it is the key to stopping the threat of Reform, who offer no real solutions to the challenges we face, dealing instead in empty soundbites and fanning the flames of division.

I am proud to present this Plaid Cymru manifesto, our plan for a modern, confident Wales – a Wales where all our people and communities can contribute to and share in our nation's success.

Plaid Cymru stands ready to form a new Welsh Government with energy and a real determination to get to grips with the issues that matter to you. And we are clear on the most immediate priorities.

We will cut NHS waiting times, freeing up time, space and resources to build a sustainable and integrated health and care service for Wales – one that does more to keep people well, rather than just treating illness.

We'll support families, and give every child the best possible start through a transformational new childcare offer. And with our direct child payment pilot, Cynnal, we will prove our belief that child poverty is not inevitable.

Through a new National Development Agency, we will unlock our untapped economic potential – building on our strengths to create well-paid and secure jobs and spread prosperity to every part of Wales.

And with a new, bold and determined drive on numeracy and literacy skills, we will raise the bar on standards in our schools, so every child in Wales is set on the path to success.

My promise is to lead a government that works hard every day to make your life better, a government more determined, more ambitious and more united in its purpose and vision than any which has gone before it.

I will never shy away from standing up for Wales – the country that I love, and whose values of community, justice, hard work and fair play are my values too.

I will never accept anything less than fair treatment for my nation – on funding, the full benefits of our natural resources, and the powers we need to improve people's lives.

I am asking you to put your trust in us as we prepare to take this next step in our journey as a nation.

Together we can seize this historic opportunity – and bring new leadership, new energy and new ideas to Wales.



# Our Priorities



## Cutting waiting lists, and building a health and care service fit for the future



**Around 1 in 5 people in Wales is currently on an NHS waiting list, with more than 5,000 people waiting more than 2 years for treatment.**

Behind these numbers are real people – living in pain, discomfort and anxiety. Everyone in Wales knows someone who is waiting for the treatment they need.

Plaid Cymru has a costed and targeted plan to cut waiting lists, as a first and necessary step to transforming our health and care services.

So that more people are able to see a GP when they need one, and to help reduce the burden on frontline health services, we will hire up to 100 new GPs to provide more out-of-hours care, and invest more in digitisation and telemedicine.

By ring-fencing time and resources for planned care, we will ensure that more people are treated, more quickly.

Acting on recommendations from the Royal College of Surgeons, we will create 10 new surgical hubs to speed up treatment times for procedures like hip and knee replacements, hernia operations and cataract removals – developing these into new centres of excellence for specialisms like orthopaedics and ophthalmology.

By bringing waiting lists down, we will take the most immediate pressures off the NHS – creating the space we need to invest in an integrated health and care service that guarantees better access to your dentist or GP, delivers more sustainable social care, and keeps people healthier for longer.

Including by creating a new Minister for Public Health, we will ensure that there is a greater emphasis on promoting people's physical and mental well-being across everything the Welsh Government does.

And under Plaid Cymru, our NHS will always be free to access at the point of need.

## Helping families with the cost of living through affordable, quality childcare



**Access to affordable, high-quality childcare unlocks opportunities. It gives parents – especially mothers – the freedom to return to work or training, or to pick up more hours. And it can deliver life-changing benefits for every child – the opportunity to socialise and get the head-start they need to thrive in primary education.**

But childcare costs in Wales are currently some of the highest in the UK. Families with young children are spending more on childcare than on housing, and many are simply unable to afford childcare at all.

A Plaid Cymru government will deliver a transformational and universal new childcare offer for children from the age of 9 months to 4 years – putting money back into families' pockets, supporting parents back into work, and providing the best start for every child, regardless of their background.

By the time our new offer is fully rolled out, every child aged 9 months to 4 years will be entitled to 20 hours of free childcare every week, for 48 weeks a year. And for those children aged 3 and 4 whose parents are in work, education or training, we will honour the existing offer of 30 hours of funded childcare per week.

At full roll-out, this universal offer will be worth more than £30,000 in childcare costs in the first four years of a child's life, making it the most generous government-funded childcare programme anywhere in the UK.

## Unleashing the potential of the Welsh economy, and creating good, well-paid jobs



**Many businesses in Wales already punch above their weight globally. But the Welsh economy is also bursting with untapped potential.**

Our economic plan will unlock that potential – growing and sustaining Welsh-owned businesses, delivering good jobs, reviving our town centres and boosting living standards.

Through a new, business-led National Development Agency for Wales, we will help Welsh businesses to secure investment, trade and innovate. We will ensure that more of our successful businesses stay Welsh owned – providing sustainable and well-paid jobs in our communities and reinvesting in local supply chains over the longer term.

We will use public procurement to better support businesses in Wales, aiming to increase the level spent on procuring goods and services from Wales-based suppliers from the current 55% to at least 70% of total Welsh public procurement expenditure.

We will reform business rates to level the playing field for businesses on our high streets, and redress the existing imbalance that advantages out-of-town shopping over hospitality, leisure and retail in our town centres.

And by developing a Welsh skills system that is fit for the future, we will ensure that everyone has the skills they need to get ahead. We will make sure that education and training opportunities are aligned with the real needs of Welsh employers and industries, and reflect future opportunities in the Welsh economy.

## Raising standards in our schools and ensuring the best conditions for learning



**Ensuring that all young people are supported to learn and leave school with the highest possible levels of literacy and numeracy is fundamental to providing them with the best foundation for their futures.**

But our education system is currently failing to deliver for too many of our pupils when it comes to supporting their learning, promoting their well-being, and developing critical skills and knowledge in reading, mathematics and science. In 2022, Wales recorded its lowest ever scores in the international PISA assessments.

Plaid Cymru will deliver a bold, practical, and inclusive strategy to raise the bar on core educational standards in our schools.

We will implement a new Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Plan to establish national benchmarks, provide targeted support, ensure high-quality and evidence-led teaching, and with transparent progress tracking for every student. And we will ensure that the Curriculum for Wales is effective in delivering real depth of subject-specific knowledge.

By 2030, every primary school in Wales will have a dedicated library space, and reading will be embedded across every subject area – not just Welsh and English.

A Plaid Cymru government will also invest in the future of Welsh education through supporting the recruitment and retention of the best teachers – providing better incentives for trainee teachers, improving working conditions in our schools and ensuring better opportunities for career development for our education workforce.

## Tackling child poverty



**Plaid Cymru wants to give every child the best start in life, and we refuse to accept that 1 in 3 of our children should be condemned to living in poverty.**

Growing up in poverty affects everything from a child's health to their educational attainment and future work prospects. And through increased pressures on our NHS and higher lifetime demands on the welfare state, this has a material impact on all of us.

Breaking the cycle of poverty is therefore not only the right thing to do, it is also the sensible thing to do.

That is why we will deliver a new, targeted and radical plan to address child poverty.

Our new childcare offer will boost household incomes and help lift families out of poverty, and we will build on our role in delivering free school meals for all primary school pupils by expanding access in secondary schools.

Learning from the evidence on what really works when it comes to tackling child poverty, we will introduce Cynnal – the Welsh Child Payment. We will pilot a £10 weekly payment to up to 15,000 children aged 0-6 in low-income households, and build the case for devolving the powers we need to roll the payment out in full, Wales-wide.

# New Leadership for Wales

Plaid Cymru is ready to lead, and to seize the nation-building opportunity before us.

We will stand up for Wales, and offer our people and communities a fresh start – focussing on delivering real change against a clear set of priorities.



**We promise a new government – with new energy, new ideas and a renewed belief in what Wales can be.**

**Guided by an ambitious vision of a Wales that is confident in itself and its place in the world, ours will be a government that is both radical and responsible.**

**We will be unafraid and unapologetic in making our nation's voice heard in Westminster, as we look towards a future beyond it.**

#### **Focussing on our priorities**

We will change the way that Welsh Government works to ensure that it really delivers for the people of Wales.

Rather than spreading resources too thinly across too many government initiatives, we will concentrate them on our key priorities – bringing down waiting lists, supporting families with the cost of living, creating good, well-paid jobs, raising educational standards and tackling child poverty.

We will work with the Welsh civil service to review and reform ways of working to deliver on our priorities, building a coherent and effective Welsh public service that is open, cooperative and focused on improving people's lives. We will set challenging targets, drive cultural change and base our work on high quality evidence and data. And we will progress plans for a Welsh National School of Government.

As part of a wider Digital Strategy for Wales, a Plaid Cymru government will prioritise innovation, including in how digital technologies are used across government – improving access to services and strengthening the use of data to drive evidence-led policy-making.

We will determine whether existing strategies and structures are serving their purpose and delivering meaningful outcomes. If not, we will replace them or bring them to an end.

We are rightly proud of Wales's world-leading Well-being of Future Generations Act. However, too often its implementation has resulted in repetitive and overlapping plans and strategies, rather than tangible outcomes that improve people's lives.

Plaid Cymru will review the Act and work with the Future Generations Commissioner to ensure it delivers meaningful, measurable change and makes a real difference to the lives of people in Wales.



### Smarter spending and fairer funding

Guided by our priorities, we will work to make every pound of the Welsh budget count and deliver the best possible returns from public spending. This means ensuring that public money is spent efficiently, and used effectively to improve public services, rather than repeatedly diagnosing problems that then are never fixed.

Within the first 100 days of a Plaid Cymru government, we will begin to realign Welsh Government spending with our priorities as part of the process for preparing our first budget.

We know that Wales is being held back by underfunding from Westminster, and we will fight to secure real economic fairness to invest in our communities and public services.

We are committed to:

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- **Wales receiving what it is owed from HS2 and other England-only rail projects, so that we can invest in an integrated transport system that works for Wales.**

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  - **Replacing the outdated and unfair Barnett formula, ensuring that Wales receives its fair share of public investment.**

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  - **Greater tax powers, so that we can build a tax system that works for Wales, including the ability to set income tax bands, so that we can make income tax fairer and more progressive. A Vacant Land Tax would encourage more vacant land to be brought back into residential and business use.**

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- **Further reforms to the fiscal framework, including raising annual draw-down limits on the Welsh Reserve on a par with Scotland, and increasing the Senedd's total capital debt limit from £1bn to £3bn – as immediate first steps toward securing full prudential borrowing powers for Wales.**
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We will also explore new and innovative forms of financing, including:

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- **Working with the Wales Pension Partnership – which pools local authority pension funds and, as of 2025, controls £25bn in assets – to develop a new approach to investing both ethically and locally, including in social housing and Welsh businesses.**

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  - **A Wales Wealth Fund, capturing a fair share of profits from Welsh renewables to invest in community-led projects in areas like housing and energy.**
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### Devolved taxes

Knowing that the current system is long overdue for reform, we will work to make Council Tax fairer. We will also examine how Land Transaction Tax can be reformed to better support first-time buyers.

We will reform and rebalance business rates so that high street businesses in hospitality, leisure and retail, on which thriving town centres depend, are better supported.

We will ensure that best use is made of existing tax powers, while pressing the UK Government to devolve powers to introduce a Vacant Land Tax and to set made-in-Wales income tax bands.



### Standing up for Wales in Westminster

A Plaid Cymru government in Wales will reset the relationship between the Welsh and UK Governments.

We will always put the needs and interests of the people of Wales first. We will look to build a collaborative and productive relationship with the UK Government, while remaining firm on our priorities. Devolution must be respected, and we will use our mandate to deliver the change people in Wales need and expect.

We will work closely with partners in the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to defend devolution and on other areas of shared interest like fairer funding, economic and energy policy, and tackling child poverty.

### The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate comprises marine and land assets belonging to the monarch – including the seabed out to 12 nautical miles – which generate significant income from activities such as offshore renewable energy.

In Scotland, control of the Crown Estate has been devolved, enabling the Scottish Government to retain the full profits from leasing Crown Estate assets and reinvest them in national priorities.

In Wales, however, the Crown Estate is not devolved. Revenues generated from Welsh land and waters are returned to the Treasury in London, with a share allocated to the Royal Household.

There is no reason why people in Wales should not benefit from their nation's natural wealth in the same way as people in Scotland.

Devolution of the Crown Estate is supported by every Welsh local authority. In government, Plaid Cymru will use its mandate to make securing the devolution of the Crown Estate a key priority, opening negotiations with the UK Government from day one.

### Devolving Justice and Policing

The case for devolving justice and policing to Wales – as in Scotland and Northern Ireland – is open and shut. It has been made conclusively by the Silk Commission, the Thomas Commission and, most recently, the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.

The Welsh Government has responsibility for areas that directly interact with policing and the justice system – health, education, housing and social services – including providing these services in prisons and to young offenders. But policing, the courts and prisons themselves are all reserved to Westminster. This makes it impossible to meaningfully reform the justice system in Wales, and much more difficult to deliver services in a way that is joined up, efficient and delivers the outcomes or value for money we need and want.

Any further work on *whether* justice and policing should be devolved is a distraction, and the UK Government's decision to scrap Police and Crime Commissioners provides new impetus for these powers to be devolved.

We will pursue the devolution of justice and policing as an immediate priority.

## Future Welsh democracy

Closed lists were not our preferred option for reforming the Senedd's electoral system. Wales needs a fair voting system that is proportional, representative and gives voters real choice.

As we work to strengthen our democracy, we will:

- Use the review mechanism in the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act to conduct a full review of Senedd electoral arrangements, examining the health of Welsh democracy. At the same time, we will identify legal pathways to deliver equal gender representation.
- Consider advice from the Innovating Democracy Advisory Group on how to give people in Wales a more active voice in decision-making at all levels of government.
- Work to build a cross-party majority for adopting the Single Transferable Vote (STV) for future Senedd elections, and examine options for innovations such as job-sharing for Senedd candidates, to further improve diversity of representation.
- Renew the process of electoral reform in local authorities, with the aim that STV is adopted for local government elections.
- Strengthen the teaching of political and media literacy in schools, so that every learner understands how democracy in Wales works, and has the critical skills to navigate mis- and disinformation.

We will strengthen integrity in politics and public life, and ensure that deliberate deception has consequences – including legislating to extend Hillsborough Law principles and the duty of candour where UK legislation does not fully cover devolved functions and Welsh public bodies.

We will defend devolution and resist attempts to undermine or weaken it, while securing more of the levers we need to build a fairer, more prosperous Wales.

We know that the way the UK is currently structured and governed is unsustainable. Change is both necessary and likely, and a responsible government must prepare for it. Our nation is on a journey to independence, and we will work in partnership with the people of Wales to set out what the next steps on that journey can look like.

We will establish a new National Commission for Wales, responsible for:

- Bringing forward and overseeing processes for devolving the Crown Estate, rail services and infrastructure, and justice and policing – all as recommended by the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.
- Engaging citizens in an ongoing national conversation about the options for Wales's constitutional future – building on the best practice established by the Constitutional Commission in connecting constitutional change to the issues that people care about and affect them in their daily lives.
- Researching key political and economic questions relevant to Wales's constitutional future, to inform debate and decision-making.
- Laying the foundations for a future White Paper on Welsh independence – addressing the challenges and setting out the opportunities and positive changes independence would bring for Wales.

We fundamentally believe that the decision on Wales's political and constitutional future belongs to the people of Wales.

We will therefore formally request that the right to decide on the timeline, question and process for an independence referendum be devolved.

## Wales in the world

A Plaid Cymru government will be proudly internationalist in outlook, and take its global responsibilities seriously. We will build international relationships based on our values – promoting democracy and social justice, collaborating to tackle climate change, protecting the rights of small nations and minority languages, and advancing peace and cooperation through international institutions.

A Plaid Cymru government will take a stand for peace, justice and respect for international law – just as Plaid Cymru took a firm and principled stand on Gaza.

Wales's best interests are best served by returning to full membership of the European Union. In the immediate term, we will:

- Continue to make the case that the UK should urgently seek to rejoin both the single market and customs union – to boost trade, and begin to undo the £4bn-worth of damage that Brexit has caused to the Welsh economy.
- Insist that the Welsh Government has a seat at the table whenever European issues are discussed that directly impact Wales.
- Bring forward a new European Strategy, underpinned by a European Alignment Act – to enable us to keep pace with Europe's world-leading standards in areas including environmental protection, public health and food standards.
- Work to ensure that young people in Wales can live, study and work in Europe – including by maximising the opportunities for Welsh students that stem from the UK rejoining the Erasmus scheme, and examining options for the future of the Wales-specific Taith programme.

As Wales's closest European neighbour – and one with which Wales has long shared cultural and trading relationships – we will seek to build on our ties with Ireland by developing a new and comprehensive bilateral cooperation framework.

## Engaging the global Welsh

There are an estimated 3–4 million Welsh people living outside Wales.

This diaspora is an asset – a source of creativity, skills, and investment. With strong leadership from a Plaid Cymru government, the worldwide Welsh community's expertise, experience, and willingness to invest can be harnessed to drive innovation and growth in Wales.

We will develop and implement a comprehensive Diaspora Strategy, promoting Wales as a place for diaspora entrepreneurs to invest and ensuring that recent emigrants are encouraged and incentivised to return.

### The strategy will include:

- Establishing a cross-sector Diaspora Task Force – bringing together business, academia, cultural institutions, and government to coordinate engagement, share best practice, and set priorities for diaspora collaboration.
- Structured investment frameworks – creating clear, accessible pathways for the global Welsh to invest in Welsh businesses, research, and regional development projects.
- Expanding Welsh language and cultural resources – providing more digital and in-person opportunities to learn Welsh and engage with Welsh culture.
- Promoting return and knowledge exchange programmes – supporting skilled emigrants to return to Wales, and facilitating short-term placements for diaspora professionals in Welsh institutions, startups, and research initiatives.
- Developing on- and offline networks to connect Welsh people around the world with each other and with opportunities in Wales, including working with established diaspora organisations to deliver best outcomes.

# Health, Care and Well-being

The NHS was born in Wales.

Nearly 80 years since its founding, the challenges facing our most treasured public service have drastically changed.

That's why Plaid Cymru has a radical plan that will see our NHS renewed and rebuilt after years of mismanagement.



## **Thousands of people access NHS services in Wales every day, and our dedicated doctors, nurses and other health professionals deliver an exemplary standard of care.**

We owe it to patients and our healthcare workforce alike to make sure our NHS is in the best possible position to deliver timely and quality care to all those that need it.

We will invest in keeping people healthier for longer – reducing the need to treat illness by giving people more of the support they need to improve their health and well-being.

Offering new, determined and transformative leadership for our NHS, a Plaid Cymru government will get to grips with the most immediate pressures on our health and care services, whilst also creating the space we need to deliver a better balance between preventing and treating ill-health.

We will tackle long waiting lists and begin to shift both focus and resources towards promoting better public health, ensuring better access to the day-to-day health services provided by dentists and GPs, and realising our ambition for the full integration of health and social care services.

### **Tackling waiting lists**

There are currently around 600,000 people on NHS waiting lists in Wales. More than 5,000 patients in Wales are waiting more than two years for treatment, compared with fewer than 200 in England.

We have a costed, targeted and expert-led plan to cut waiting lists, and bring these numbers down.

We will:

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- Hire up to 100 additional salaried GPs, with a focus on improving access to out-of-hours care – alleviating pressure on services in our hospitals and particularly A&E departments.
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- Invest in digitisation and telehealth services, to further increase access to GP and related health services through remote and online appointments.
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- Implement recommendations from the Royal College of Surgeons to deliver 10 new surgical hubs. These will be dedicated to providing high volume treatment in specialisms where patients are experiencing some of the longest waits, including ophthalmology, orthopaedics and general surgery.
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- Tackle corridor care by increasing the number of beds on Welsh hospital wards, after successive years of reductions.
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- End the postcode lottery in healthcare by improving how care is planned and delivered across the NHS in Wales – including by legislating to embed collaboration between health boards, so that patients' timely access to particular treatments is guaranteed, and the availability, reliability and quality of the care they receive is the same wherever they live.
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- Deliver against and work to strengthen the NHS Wales Women's Health Plan – reducing delayed diagnosis and late treatment for women and girls in areas like cancer, diabetes and mental health, as well as conditions which mainly affect women such as endometriosis and menopause.
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### Future-proofing our NHS

Under Plaid Cymru, our NHS will always be free at the point of need, and we will protect free prescriptions.

We can only properly tackle today's pressures by building an NHS which addresses the challenges of tomorrow.

As we look to its 80th anniversary and beyond, we will put our health and care services on a new and sustainable footing to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

### Workforce

The NHS is nothing without its staff. We will ensure that they are valued and supported, and that this is reflected in the best possible conditions in NHS contracts. We will work to implement more flexible working and protected time for continuing professional development for nurses.

We will maintain the NHS Wales Bursary, and implement a long-term, comprehensive plan to support and grow our NHS workforce.

Our plan will focus on creating the right number and balance of education and training places for nurses, doctors and other health professionals – including widening access to professional qualifications through new routes, such as apprenticeships.

### Governance

All seven major health boards in Wales are currently in some form of targeted intervention. Some, like the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, have been in special measures for years.

We need to move beyond the cycle of perpetual crisis management in our NHS – a cycle that reflects a system that is too complicated, with a lack of joined-up thinking, too many conflicting priorities and unclear lines of accountability.

To ensure that governance of NHS Wales is fit for purpose, we will:

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- Simplify healthcare planning and reporting processes – with clearer priorities and fewer, more focussed and realistic targets.
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- Redefine the responsibilities of the Welsh Government and a revamped NHS Executive – with the former responsible for setting the overarching policy direction, and the latter overseeing day-to-day operational matters.
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- Develop professional standards for NHS managers and consult on the introduction of a regulatory body, to ensure leadership has the specialist skills and expertise the NHS needs.
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- Improve how data about the performance of the NHS is both collected and shared.
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- Make it clearer when and why health boards should be taken in or out of special measures, and depoliticise this process by placing it in the hands of the NHS Executive.
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- Embed a new, more performance-oriented culture throughout NHS Wales that welcomes both challenge and complaint, and where the patients' voice is really valued.
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- Ensure that examples of best practice are identified, shared and implemented Wales-wide.
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Together, these reforms will enable faster and more effective decision-making, against a more rational set of goals and targets, and with a clearer delineation of who is responsible for what. This will provide a new foundation from which to deliver the improved, more robust and sustainable healthcare services that people in Wales both need and deserve.

Demanding more from existing governance structures, we will continue to review whether these structures are fit for purpose, and bring forward plans to change them where needed.

In particular, we will develop a tailored plan to deal with ongoing mismanagement at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, examining all options for reform to deliver better health and care services in North Wales as a matter of urgency.

### **Data and Digital Technologies**

Too often, the NHS in Wales is an analogue service operating in a digital age – it remains over-reliant on paper records that are easily lost or damaged, hard for patients to access, and make sharing data difficult. It is also more difficult than it should be to access appointments digitally or through telehealth services.

To unlock greater effectiveness and productivity in our health services, we will promote greater digitisation and better management of data.

We will:

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- **Enhance access to telehealth and telemedicine, as part of our plan to tackle waiting lists.**
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- **Improve the NHS Wales App, and make it a real tool to help people manage their health and participate actively in decisions about their healthcare.**
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- **Legislate to improve health data standards, make it easier for data to be shared across health boards, and link records across the health and social care systems.**
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- **Implement a new 10-year digital strategy for Digital Health and Care Wales – promoting innovation and the strategic use of AI and other emerging technologies in the NHS to reduce the administrative burden on healthcare professionals, speed up screening processes, improve diagnostics and assist in the development of personalised treatment plans.**
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### **The NHS Estate**

To protect and promote the safety of both staff and patients, we will work to address the current maintenance backlog in the NHS estate through a new Sustainable Health and Care Facilities investment programme. In particular, we will prioritise reducing the high-risk maintenance backlog and undertaking the most urgent repairs and upgrades.

### **Restoring GP services**

GP practices are the frontline of our NHS – the point of entry when it comes to accessing health services. Over 90% of total patient contacts with the NHS in Wales are first made via primary health services.

But over the past decade, while money has been put into our hospitals, it has been taken out of our GP surgeries. And this has contributed to a decline in the number of GPs working in Wales.

We will take immediate steps to reverse these trends, with the aim of restoring Wales to the OECD average of 1.08 GPs per 1,000 people, and making it easier and quicker for everyone to see a GP when they need one.

We will:

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- **Recruit up to 100 new salaried GPs, and improve access via digital and telehealth services, as part of our plan to tackle waiting lists.**
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- **Mandate every health board to set out a plan for restoring funding for GP services.**
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- **Review and reform the funding model for GP services, to ensure fair and consistent funding across all practices, and establish a capital grant fund to support GP surgeries with increasing overheads and running costs.**
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- **Make GP services more sustainable through promoting federalisation of GP practices and reducing bureaucracy, and further relieve pressures by supporting access to primary health services through community pharmacies.**
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### **Towards a National Care Service**

Plaid Cymru believes that social care, like healthcare, should be provided free at the point of use to all those who need it. A Plaid Cymru government will make progress on realising this vision.

The existing division between healthcare – which is provided by NHS Wales – and social care – which is principally the responsibility of local authorities – is artificial, inefficient and unsustainable. It is delaying transfers of care – preventing people from leaving hospital, blocking beds and making waiting lists longer.

To take the next steps towards creating a fully integrated Health and Care Service for Wales, we will:

- **Require stronger collaboration between health and social care services, with more joined-up planning, better coordination of resources, and clearer shared responsibility for delivery.**
- **Instruct the new National Office for Care and Support to develop and implement standardised national guidelines on social care – on the commissioning of services, data collection, and needs assessments.**
- **Work with local authorities and care providers to ensure that the Real Living Wage is the minimum wage rate for social care in Wales.**
- **Support and expand social enterprise and co-operative social care models.**

Palliative and end of life care are a critical part of our health and care system, and we will work to address the key challenges facing these services, including through:

- **Working with health boards, care providers and other relevant stakeholders to develop a new, sustainable funding model.**

- **Requiring health boards to assess palliative and end of life care needs within their catchments and use this to inform planning and delivery of services – publishing local delivery plans for palliative care.**
- **Ensuring that every Regional Partnership Board (RPB) includes a palliative and end of life care lead.**

### **Supporting unpaid carers**

There are at least 300,000 unpaid carers in Wales. Replacing the care they provide would cost over £10 billion a year, a figure comparable to the entire Welsh NHS budget.

We will protect existing support for unpaid carers in Wales. Recognising the scale of their contribution to Wales's health and well-being, and acknowledging that they need and deserve better support from their government, we will also:

- **Take all reasonable steps, in partnership with local authorities, to ensure that Carer's Needs Assessments are completed within 28 days and that carers can access their entitlement to respite.**
- **Develop tailored training for unpaid carers looking after someone at the end of their life, and ensure they have access to key healthcare contacts including 24/7 palliative and end of life care and support.**
- **Press the UK Government to make Carer's Allowance fairer, and provide targeted support for unpaid carers to claim all the benefits they are currently entitled to, including Pension Credit, social tariffs and other discounts on utility bills.**
- **Recognise unpaid carers as a priority group, including in the production of anti-poverty and cost-of-living interventions, and fair work policies.**

### Treating the root causes of ill health, not just the symptoms

Recent years have seen an increasingly false economy in the management and funding of our health services in Wales.

We have been investing less than we should be in measures that keep people healthy, and then picking up the bill when they then become unwell, need treatment or are forced to stop work.

A Plaid Cymru government will work to correct this imbalance. We will ensure that policymaking across government works to address the social determinants of health – including in housing, education and poverty reduction – and reprioritise public and preventative health to keep people healthier for longer.

We will:

- 
- Create a new Minister for Public Health within the Welsh Government, with responsibility for promoting people's physical and mental health and well-being across everything the Welsh Government does – ensuring that all Government policy is aligned towards the goal of creating a healthier population, and with a targeted focus on chronic conditions like obesity and Type 2 diabetes.
- 
- Develop a new, comprehensive Public Health Strategy and Framework for Wales, based on a root-and-branch review of current and future public health needs, including targeted Children's and Older People's Health Plans.
- 
- Progressively shift resources to measures that promote better health and well-being – including promoting healthy lifestyles, support for community arts, culture and sports, and tackling poor housing and health inequalities.
- 
- Promote social prescribing and nature-based interventions to improve people's health and well-being.
- 

### Better mental health

Mental health pressures in Wales have intensified in recent years, including as an ongoing consequence of the Covid pandemic. Today, approximately 30% of GP consultations in Wales have a mental health component, and 55% of young people aged 16-25 have approached their GP with a mental health concern.

Plaid Cymru has led the way in strengthening mental health services in Wales, including through securing new mental health crisis hubs for young people. A Plaid Cymru government will build on this record.

To support an effective mental health and well-being strategy, a we will protect the mental health ringfence in the Welsh Budget.

Further, we will:

- 
- Embed integrated and collaborative partnership between the statutory and third sectors to deliver mental health provision.
- 
- Promote the 'no wrong door' model, making mental health referrals easier, and allowing more people to self-refer.
- 
- Work towards the closer integration of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and adult mental health services (AMHS), to remove the 'cliff-edge' that young people undergoing treatment for mental health face when they turn 18.
- 
- Ensure equity of access to perinatal mental health (PMH) and parent-infant relationship (PIR) services across health board areas.
- 
- Develop and strengthen Wales's National Bereavement Care Pathway, and promote best practice on supporting parents and families affected by baby loss.
- 
- Expand education on suicide prevention, and establish a dedicated task force to tackle increasing suicides in Wales, especially among men.
-

## Combating cancer

Better and more timely support for the 1 in 2 people in Wales who will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetimes is a key priority for Plaid Cymru.

Through our new Cancer Plan for Wales, we will:

- **Prioritise prevention. Up to 40% of cancers are preventable – we will support people to better understand and reduce their risk of cancer.**
- **Implement new measures to ensure more cancers are caught earlier, including enhanced and self-screening, and expanding innovative 'ThinkCancer!' training for GPs and practice nurses.**
- **Work to ensure equitable access to cancer services in all parts of Wales, including by bringing forward plans for a new Rapid Diagnosis Centre (RDC) in Powys – where patients currently must travel outside the region for specialist assessment because local diagnostic services are not available.**
- **Establish a fund to support patients who need to travel for specialist treatment for rare cancers with their transport and accommodation costs.**
- **Give patients greater ownership of and control over cancer treatment, through a new Optimal Cancer Pathway (OCP) framework for Wales – spelling out exactly what cancer patients can and should expect from each stage of their treatment.**
- **Ensure that cancer survivors are not permanently defined by their condition – including by legislating for a 'Right to be forgotten' to protect them from discrimination in the form of higher insurance premiums or difficulties accessing a mortgage.**
- **Strengthen legal rules around patient consent for brain tumour surgery and the storage of brain tumour tissue.**

The nature of firefighters' work means that they are more susceptible to particular kinds of cancer. We will work with fire and rescue services to ensure they are better protected from these occupational cancers – with improved health monitoring and enhanced decontamination procedures.

## Dementia

Dementia is already one of the leading causes of death in Wales, with Alzheimer's Cymru estimating a 37% increase in the number of people living with dementia by 2040. Its impact extends far beyond those diagnosed, placing a heavy emotional and practical burden on friends and loved ones.

A Plaid Cymru government will prioritise earlier diagnosis and better support for people living with dementia and those who care for them.

We will:

- **Introduce a national target for initial dementia diagnosis within 12 weeks – with monthly publication of waiting-time data and annual progress reporting.**
- **Expand diagnostic capacity, and ensure timely access to treatments such as AChE inhibitors where appropriate.**
- **Work to ensure timely needs assessments and delivery of tailored training for unpaid carers supporting people with dementia.**
- **Improve access to memory assessments through GP practices for over-70s, supporting earlier detection and timely referral.**
- **Deliver national awareness campaigns to improve understanding of dementia symptoms and tackle stigma.**
- **Protect access for identified family carers to health and social care settings, on the same basis as paid health and social care staff.**

### Improving care for complex and long-term conditions

Promoting better prevention, earlier diagnosis and faster, patient-centred care and treatment, we will:

- Expand screening and awareness of major conditions including, stroke, cardiovascular disease and HIV, and ensure prevention measures like PrEP reach more of those who need them.
- Ensure fair, safe and high-quality care in every part of Wales, by strengthening national clinical pathways – including for stroke, ophthalmology and cardiovascular health – embedding patients’ rights and reducing regional variation.
- Require that all care and treatment plans in the Welsh NHS begin with a ‘What matters to you’ conversation, and that all test results are actively communicated to patients within two weeks.
- Enhance systems and data – improving electronic records, strengthening condition-specific monitoring, and making communication with patients clear and accessible.
- Develop and strengthen the NHS workforce, by supporting Allied Health Professionals, expanding apprenticeships and placements, and improving access to specialist staff across women’s, children’s and older people’s services.
- Support people to live well with long-term conditions, by improving access to rehabilitation, expanding multidisciplinary primary care hubs, and promoting tailored support for people with sensory, mobility or complex needs.

We will renew the HIV Action Plan for Wales, with a view to ending new cases of HIV by 2030.

### Dental Health

Only 44% of people in Wales are currently able to access dentistry through the NHS, with recruitment and retention of dentists a key issue.

To promote the renewal of dental services, and as a critical step to ensuring that affordability is not a barrier to accessing oral health care, we will re-examine the contract for NHS dentistry, and introduce a new duty for health boards to assess local dentistry needs and take all reasonable steps to secure and maintain sufficient dental staffing levels to meet those needs.

Healthcare professionals who train in Wales are more likely to stay in Wales. That’s why Plaid Cymru has long championed Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities’ proposal to open a new Dental School, and we will support it in government.

### Covid – learning the lessons for Wales

Covid-bereaved families need answers and deserve closure, and learning the critical lessons from the Covid pandemic is vital for preparing for any future public health emergencies.

We have been consistently clear that the UK-level inquiry does not go far enough in providing either accountability for decisions taken by Welsh Government over the course of the pandemic, nor in readying Wales for any future pandemic.

As such, we will establish a review of Wales’s Covid response, its legacies and lessons for the future within the first year of the next Senedd term, with a targeted focus on Wales-specific matters and questions not covered by the UK-wide inquiry.

# Enterprise, Innovation and Connectivity

There is no shortage of potential  
in the Welsh economy.

We need a government with  
a plan to unleash it.



**Our vision is of a Wales in which no child grows up poor, where decent jobs pay a real living wage, every young person has access to fulfilling work, education or training, and prosperity is shared within and across our communities.**

We have a plan to make this vision a reality – a plan that will build a sustainable economy that works for everyone, and put more money in people’s pockets in every part of Wales.

We will support Welsh businesses to grow, innovate and create jobs.

We will give people the skills they need to thrive.

And we will connect our communities and give them greater control over their own economic future.

**Setting targets, measuring progress**

The clarity of our economic vision will be matched and underpinned by clear targets, including on:

- **Ownership of businesses in Wales – making sure more of our economy is Welsh-owned and run, and that profits stay in Wales.**
- **Jobs and the workforce – tracking the quality and number of jobs.**
- **Research and innovation – supporting new ideas and technologies that improve productivity.**
- **Closing the gap between regions – making sure all parts of Wales share in economic progress.**

We will set up a new Fiscal and Economic Commission to help us set targets, collect and process relevant data, and measure progress.

This will make a Plaid Cymru government more accountable for its economic decision-making, and help to ensure that economic policy really does what it promises, including on increasing the number of Welsh-owned businesses and the share of profits kept in Wales, delivering decent work and good jobs, improving well-being and living standards, and spreading prosperity to every part of Wales.

**Backing Welsh business and building prosperity in every part of Wales**

Experts and business leaders agree on the need for a new arms-length development agency to promote brand Wales, help Welsh businesses to grow, innovate and trade internationally, secure inward investment, and increase numbers of good quality, well-paid and sustainable jobs.

We will create a new, business-led National Development Agency for Wales, at arms-length from the Welsh Government.

The Agency will:

- **Provide a one-stop-shop for business support – giving expert advice and guidance, serving as the main interface between Welsh businesses and international markets, and signposting businesses to the finance they need to grow and plan for the future, including from the Development Bank of Wales.**
- **Prioritise supporting and growing the Welsh-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are the backbone of our economy, and keeping those that succeed under Welsh ownership.**
- **Coordinate regional business growth – working to map and build on the strengths of our different regional economies and promote prosperity in every part of Wales.**

- Develop and maintain a clear understanding of the evolving needs of the Welsh economy, supporting Welsh businesses to respond to new challenges and opportunities – including in growth sectors like **renewables and green technology, digital and artificial intelligence, medical technologies, food systems and agri-tech, and the creative industries.**

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- Secure inward investment that develops local supply chains, increases productivity and supports the growth of domestic businesses.

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- Build on the work of Arfor in promoting the kind of business growth and regional development that underpins the vitality of the Welsh language within areas of higher density linguistic significance in the north and west of Wales.

We know that medium-sized businesses (i.e., those employing between 50 and 249 people) tend to be more resilient, are more likely to reinvest in their communities, build more robust local supply chains, and offer better jobs over the longer term – so we will seek to sustainably grow the number of these businesses in Wales.

We will reform the Development Bank and the financial products it offers so that it is better placed to support this growth. We will ensure that financing from the Development Bank of Wales promotes and embeds fair work and a Real Living Wage.



### The skills Wales needs

Schools, colleges, training providers and employers all agree that we currently lack a clear understanding of Wales's skills requirements and of what kinds of courses or training should be prioritised, by which providers, and where, in order to give people the skills they need to access emerging opportunities in the Welsh labour market.

As the basis for a new skills, training and workforce development strategy for Wales, we will undertake a comprehensive national skills audit.

This will give us a clearer understanding of future skills needs, guiding the development of vocational qualifications, and the design and funding of training programmes – including apprenticeships – so that these are all better aligned with both learner aspirations and the demands of the future Welsh economy.

We will ensure that every young person in Wales has meaningful access to high-quality opportunities for education, training and employment that both match their aspirations and the needs of Welsh employers.

To address fragmentation in the present skills system and make it easier and more streamlined for people to access the education and training opportunities that are right for them, we will:

- **Improve access to careers advice and guidance, and increase awareness of the full range of post-16 options available to learners through both sixth forms and colleges.**

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- **Require local authorities, schools and colleges to better collaborate to ensure that all learners are able to choose the skills pathway that best suits them.**

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- **Embed collaboration between schools, colleges and employers to improve the availability and take-up of vocational qualifications and training opportunities.**

We will better leverage existing funding streams, including for City and Regional Growth Deals – which are currently underperforming in terms of delivery against their skills, training and jobs targets – to better support apprenticeships, and provide more and better opportunities for vocational and work-based training. We will also ensure that the Local Growth Fund for Wales effectively supports skills and training.

### **Supporting small businesses and regenerating our high streets**

At the heart of our town centres are successful businesses in retail and hospitality – the shops, bars, restaurants and cafés that, even in an era of online retail, make our high streets vibrant places to both work and socialise.

But as a result of high business rates, many of our high street businesses are struggling to keep their doors open.

A Plaid Cymru government will cut business taxes for businesses in our town centres – reducing high street rates while ensuring out-of-town retailers pay their fair share.

We will work to protect and restore face-to-face banking services on our high streets, including through exploring options to deliver a new community bank.

And we will make it easier to convert empty buildings on the high street and spaces above shops into residences.

### **Keeping more public spending in Wales**

Pioneered in places like Preston in Lancashire, progressive procurement – awarding public contracts in a way that deliberately targets local businesses and recirculates the public pound through them – can transform regional economies, increase both the competitiveness and profitability of SMEs, and support the creation of tens of thousands of well-paid jobs.

Welsh public bodies spend more than £8bn every year procuring goods and services – almost a third of total Welsh public expenditure. Currently, around 55% of this goes to Wales-based suppliers, as compared to the 79% of total procurement spend from key anchor institutions in Preston that has been retained locally through the Preston Model.

With a renewed and determined approach to progressive public procurement, we will:

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- **Aim to increase the level spent on procuring goods and services from Wales-based suppliers from the current 55% to at least 70% of total Welsh public procurement expenditure – creating upwards of 35,000 jobs.**
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- **Ensure that contract bids are scored effectively not just on the bottom line, but on community impact, social value and how they build capacity in Welsh businesses and develop local supply chains.**
- 
- **Review the way that ‘local’ is measured in public procurement policy, and make sure it more accurately reflects when and where public money is meaningfully being spent in Wales.**
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- **Make it easier for Welsh SMEs to bid for public contracts, and work collectively to deliver on larger ones.**
- 
- **Work with partners in local government to train a new generation of procurement officers in best practice in innovative procurement.**
-

## Digital

As part of a new Digital Strategy for Wales, a Plaid Cymru government will support digitisation and innovation in the Welsh economy, and promote digital technology as a key growth sector, including by:

- **Ensuring that our new National Development Agency has the relevant expertise needed to provide tailored support to businesses in the sector – including helping start-ups scale sustainably and fostering innovative connections between universities, tech developers and Welsh businesses.**
- **Procuring more digital services – including to support digital education – in Wales.**
- **Equipping Welsh workers with the skills needed to take advantage of digital growth and innovation, as part of a wider national skills strategy.**
- **Supporting the continued development of the South Wales semiconductor cluster, and securing the full benefits of data campuses for local supply chains, skills development, and high-quality job opportunities.**
- **Encouraging the ethical, innovative and worker-led adoption of AI and emerging technologies in both the public and private sectors, to improve productivity, competitiveness and service delivery, while protecting workers' rights.**

To support digital development in Wales and promote long-term planning for improved digital connectivity, we will commission the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) to undertake a study of digital infrastructure, and to make independent recommendations on how it should be developed over the medium to long term.

### **Completing the rollout of superfast broadband**

There are up to 30,000 premises in Wales which are currently unable to access internet speeds of 30Mbps or over, but which fall beyond the reach of investment from either the private sector or the UK Government.

We will invest where there are gaps in both commercial and UK-level public sector schemes – including Project Gigabit – to ensure that every home and business in Wales has access to at least superfast broadband (at speeds between 30 and 100 Mbps).

We will also increase awareness of social tariffs for those in receipt of particular benefits, and promote the automatic enrolment of those eligible for them as a way of addressing digital poverty.

## Farming, food and the rural economy

We recognise the vital role of farming and the wider food and drink sector in the Welsh economy. Welsh farmers produce sustainable, nutritious and high-quality food, and our food and drink businesses turn that world-class produce into a wide variety of products enjoyed across Wales and exported abroad, creating jobs and adding value.

To support farming, our food and drink sector, and the wider rural economy, we will:

- **Support the agriculture sector in a way that underpins the long-term sustainability of farm businesses.**
- **Provide tailored business support for agriculture, food and drink through the new National Development Agency, promoting innovation and business growth in the sector and supporting succession processes that keep businesses Welsh-owned.**
- **Develop a new national Food Strategy for Wales to strengthen food supply chains, improve food security and make greater use of public procurement to support Welsh food and drink producers.**
- **Implement a Rural Development Strategy, including targeted measures to tackle the particular challenges facing rural Wales and overcome the structural barriers to growth in the rural economy.**

### Promoting sustainable tourism

Plaid Cymru recognises the importance of the tourism industry to Wales. A Plaid Cymru government will promote Wales as a top quality tourism destination, with a focus on ensuring that tourism works sustainably for Welsh communities. We will review the role of Visit Wales and consider whether it is the best model for supporting tourism and promoting careers in the industry.

We will promote tourism which provides maximum benefit to our people, environment, language and culture – building on best practice like the *Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035 Strategic Plan*, and working to increase local ownership within the sector.

Reduced business taxes will provide support for high street businesses in leisure and hospitality, including pubs, restaurants and cafés. We will keep the 182-day threshold for holiday accommodation under review, and create clear and reasonable new exemptions where that accommodation would not qualify as a private home.

We will also work with local authorities to ensure that any visitor levies are effectively used to improve public services to benefit local communities and improve the tourism offer.

### Building community wealth

Right across Wales – from Blaenau Gwent to Blaenau Ffestiniog – there are examples of communities taking their economic futures into their own hands, by establishing social enterprises, community-owned businesses and co-operatives.

Because they are embedded in their communities, these businesses can be more sustainable, and tend to be more resilient to economic shocks. They combine profit-making with social responsibility and tackling local problems, and keep wealth recycling in our villages, towns and cities.

To better support communities to take ownership of their local economies, we will legislate for a community right to buy. This will make it easier for valued local

assets – including businesses like pubs, shops and cafés, as well as buildings and land – to be brought into community ownership when they come up for sale.

We will provide more specialist support to create, grow and sustain new co-operative, employee-owned, and social businesses, and improve their access to finance through the Development Bank of Wales.

### Connecting Wales

A Plaid Cymru government will make Wales a better-connected nation.

Better connections between people, businesses and communities in Wales are key to unlocking more of Wales's economic potential. And boosting connectivity is ultimately about boosting living standards – making it easier for people to access family and friends, education and training, work and appointments, shops and services.

Our emphasis will be on creating an integrated transport network for Wales that is run for passengers, not shareholders, and is affordable and sustainable – with joined up timetabling, fairer pricing, smart ticketing and full integration of rail, bus and active travel.

With a clear focus on accessibility and safety, we will ensure public transport delivers passengers safely and reliably to their destinations.

We will work with Transport for Wales (TfW) to ensure that more of its funding goes to frontline delivery of improved transport services and infrastructure.

And as part and parcel of our new approach to strategic and spatial planning, we will introduce more transport oriented planning, aligning new development with public transport, walking, and cycling networks. To support this we will implement a new framework for making decisions on transport



infrastructure – one that focuses resources on a more manageable, phased portfolio of projects. The framework will assess the relative costs and economic benefits of proposed schemes, while ensuring fair treatment for all parts of Wales, improved environmental and health outcomes, and better performance and reliability across the transport network.

This framework will apply to all transport infrastructure, including roads, and it will inform a review of the existing criteria by which decisions on future road developments are made.

We will promote road safety and ensure that our roads are safely maintained. And we are clear about the pressing need to renew the process of developing solutions to improve the resilience of transport links across the Menai Strait and address congestion on the M4 around Newport.

We will embed inclusive street design principles into relevant standards and guidance for the design and delivery of new transport infrastructure.

## **Rail**

Rail infrastructure is not devolved, and despite representing around 5% of total UK population, Wales has received less than 2% of UK rail enhancement funding in recent years.

Big rail projects like HS2, Northern Powerhouse and East-West Rail have all been classified as 'England and Wales' projects, despite not a single centimetre of track being laid in Wales. We receive no consequential funding from these projects, while Scotland and Northern Ireland do.

This Great Welsh Train Robbery has made investing in Wales's railways and wider transport network extremely challenging.

We will fight for the rail funding we are owed and that we need to invest in Welsh rail – including £4bn in consequential funding from HS2 – and for rail to be devolved.

At the same time, we will bring forward a renewed pipeline of short, medium and long-term rail projects in Wales. We will ensure that new rail infrastructure is designed and delivered to maximise accessibility, and full integration with bus services and active travel options.

While we know the kind of transformation we really need in Welsh rail can only come with Wales's fair share of funding, we are clear on our most immediate rail priorities.

The work on delivering these priorities can and will begin now, and we will make sure that everything is in place to accelerate it once we have secured the better, fairer deal on rail infrastructure that Wales deserves.

Over the next Senedd term, this pipeline of rail projects will include:

- **Better and more frequent everyday services in South East Wales, including increasing service frequencies to 4 trains per hour to and from Cardiff to the Heads of the Valleys via Pontypridd and Caerphilly, and 2 trains per hour on the Maesteg branch and the Vale of Glamorgan Line beyond Barry.**
- **Cardiff Crossrail Phase 2 – including enabling 4 trains per hour on the Cardiff City and Coryton Lines, electrification and tram-trains for Penarth, Station Link and additional stations.**
- **Ongoing development on the South Wales Main Line, including phased electrification and new services with reduced journey times between Carmarthen and London.**
- **Increasing capacity in North Wales – building on new direct services between Llandudno and Liverpool with improvements to the North Wales Main Line from Chester to Holyhead and increasing service frequencies between Wrexham and Chester.**
- **Upgrading signals and new passing loops to increase capacity on the Welsh Marches Line.**

Ensuring fair treatment for all parts of Wales, and to strengthen connectivity within Wales as well as cross-border links, we will also:

- **Advance plans to complete Cardiff Crossrail and for further expansion of the Metro in South East Wales.**
- **Bring forward plans for Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Phase 1 – making the Metro tangible with named rail interventions (on service frequency, line-speed and stations) that will improve everyday commuting and access to services in South West Wales.**
- **Progress options for a new rail corridor in North West Wales, and for North-South rail connectivity.**
- **Explore the feasibility of new rail connections in West Wales, including re-opening the Amman Valley Line.**

We will work with TfW on developing a new, simpler and fairer fare structure and fare capping for train journeys in Wales.

### **Buses**

A Plaid Cymru government will continue to provide £1 single bus fares and £3 day tickets for children and young people aged 5-21. We will also retain bus passes for over 60s and disabled people.

As part of delivering a fully integrated transport system, we will expand tap-on, tap-off, pay-as-you-go ticketing with daily fare caps across bus and rail, making travel simpler and more affordable.

We will work with local authorities and operators to maximise the benefits of reform to bus services – to ensure that franchising really delivers better, more accessible and affordable services.

We will ensure that:

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- **Bus timetables correspond both with each other and with rail services across the network, as part of building a fully integrated transport system for Wales.**
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- **Small and medium sized companies are well positioned to bid for new bus contracts.**
- 
- **The design of new bus routes reflects the need to deliver sustainable transport connections to schools, colleges, workplaces, and health and care services.**
- 
- **The voices of our people and communities are really reflected in the design and delivery of bus services.**
- 
- **Bus priority is extended and congestion is reduced on existing roads, and new housing and workplaces are better planned around access to buses, walking and cycling.**
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We are also committed to improving accessibility and safety around bus stops. This includes better lighting, well-placed zebra crossings, and infrastructure upgrades. We will work with local authorities to ensure these improvements are delivered effectively.

We will deliver an express North-South bus service between Bangor and Carmarthen – reducing journey times by 90 minutes, and connecting to existing rail services for onward travel.

### **Active travel**

A Plaid Cymru government will put active travel at the heart of Wales's transport system, promoting good health and ensuring safe, accessible routes for people to walk, wheel, and cycle.

We will:

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- **Ensure public investment in active travel is strategic and effective, measuring success by behavioural change and the quality of networks, not simply levels of expenditure.**
- 
- **Provide clear statutory guidance to local authorities, setting out priorities, expectations, and outcomes for active travel.**
- 
- **Embed active travel across bus, road, and rail planning and delivery.**
- 
- **Support increased investment in bike-hire schemes in towns and cities across Wales.**
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### **Cars and EVs**

Recognising that many people in parts of rural Wales, in particular, will continue to rely on cars, and that fuel costs in these areas are often disproportionately high, we will continue to call on the UK Government to extend its Rural Fuel Duty Relief Scheme to Wales.

Falling prices for both new and second-hand electric vehicles (EVs) mean that there is a chance for increasing their take-up, if the right infrastructure is in place.

We will deliver a renewed EV charging strategy for Wales and an updated infrastructure plan for vehicle electrification. We will facilitate targeted investment to expand charging infrastructure in communities that are poorly served by existing plans for the charging network, predominantly in rural areas.

## Ports and Air travel

Our ports play a key role in trade, travel and economic growth. Pursuing the full devolution of port regulation to the Welsh Government, we will work with port authorities, ferry operators, hauliers, and other stakeholders to strengthen the resilience of Welsh ports and maximise their role in European supply chains.

We will ensure Wales's ports are well-positioned to benefit from emerging industries, including floating offshore wind (FLOW), and the growing cruise market.

We will work to maximise the benefits of the Anglesey and Celtic Freeports while safeguarding high-quality jobs and decent work standards.

A viable international airport is essential for Wales's global connectivity. We will take a strategic approach to secure Cardiff Airport's long-term sustainability and seek the devolution of Air Passenger Duty.



# Early Years and Education

A good education is the best start we can give our children and young people, and is the foundation on which we will build the future of our nation.

From cradle to career and beyond, we will focus on getting the basics right, and giving everyone the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.



## **Education is at the very heart of our ambition for Wales – the key to unlocking new and better opportunities, and building the more confident, innovative and productive nation we know Wales can be.**

We know how important the early years are in laying the groundwork for lifelong development and well-being. A Plaid Cymru government will expand access to quality childcare, to give every child the best possible start, support families with their household bills, and create new opportunities for parents to return to work.

We will raise the bar on educational standards in our schools, and empower our dedicated education workforce to do what they do best – teach.

We will ensure that all our learners are able to access the pathway that is right for them, with the same status for vocational and technical education as for academic routes.

And we will put our universities on a new and sustainable footing for the future.



### **A new childcare offer for Wales**

The evidence is clear – investing in good quality childcare and early years education more than pays for itself in the long run. It gives our children a head start, and parents greater freedom to return to work, increase their hours or undertake education or training. The benefits are felt in both the short and the long term.

With care bills in Wales currently higher than anywhere else in the UK, thousands of parents are working just to cover the growing cost of their childcare, and many are simply unable to afford it altogether.

On top of this, the process of applying for existing childcare schemes is often confusing and overly complex for families to navigate.

A Plaid Cymru government will deliver a transformative and universal new childcare offer for children from the age of 9 months to 4 years.

Our new offer will:

- **Build progressively to 20 hours a week for all children aged 9 months to 4 years, for 48 weeks a year, while honouring the existing 30-hour offer for those children aged 3 and 4 whose parents are in work, education or training.**
- **Introduce a single, streamlined application system so families can easily access it.**
- **Look at ways to improve access to childcare for parents who work irregular hours and live in rural areas, including through expanding delivery via childminders.**
- **Support and expand childcare through the medium of Welsh, strengthening the early years pathway into Welsh-medium education.**

Across the carefully phased rollout of this new offer, we will work closely with childcare providers to build capacity across the sector and grow the workforce in order to absorb the expansion.

To ensure both decent pay for workers and financial sustainability for businesses in the sector, we will set fair hourly entitlement funding rates and review them regularly. We will also draw on international best practice as we look to make sure that childcare is a valued career – with good opportunities for career progression and professional advancement.

We will work with the sector to ensure childcare provision beyond the early years – including after-school and holiday provision – continues to develop to meet the needs of families across Wales.

### Setting new standards in education

Reading, writing, and maths are among the most important life skills our schools can teach. But Wales's most recent PISA results show that too many young people are leaving school without these essential competencies.

In 2022, our scores in reading, maths, and science fell to their lowest levels ever – well below the OECD average.

Raising literacy and numeracy standards is one of the most urgent challenges our education system faces. A Plaid Cymru government will ensure every learner is supported to develop the strong foundational skills they need.

Drawing on international best practice, our new Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Plan will:

- **Establish new national and school-level literacy and numeracy targets, alongside tailored individual targets for every pupil.**
- **Provide clarity on what children need to learn and when, track students' progress, and direct support to those who are falling behind.**
- **Set out core, evidence-based criteria for teaching literacy and numeracy, with all children taught to read using systematic synthetic phonics – learning to match letters and sounds effectively.**

The Plan will be supported by:

- **A library space in every primary school, giving every child access to a dedicated setting that fosters a lifelong love of reading in both Welsh and English.**
- **Reading across the curriculum – embedding literacy into every secondary school subject, with subject-specific reading strategies and strengthened support for pupils during the critical transition from primary to secondary education.**

To support teachers in implementing the Curriculum for Wales consistently, and to secure smoother transitions between primary and secondary school, we will provide additional guidance and resources that set out clearer expectations for progression across the curriculum. This will eliminate the ambiguity and uncertainty teachers have faced about what the Curriculum for Wales requires of them.

We will undertake a wider review of the Curriculum for Wales to ensure it is effectively delivering both the breadth and depth of subject-specific knowledge that students in Wales need.

We will work in full partnership with local authorities to secure the highest possible returns on education spending, including a joint audit to tackle disparities in per-pupil funding and ensure investment in agreed priorities delivers real improvements for learners.

Plaid Cymru supports the presumption against closing rural schools in the School Organisation Code. In government, we will review how this policy is being implemented, ensuring that decisions on school reorganisation are guided first and foremost by the best interests of pupils.



### Expanding Free School Meals

It is because of Plaid Cymru that all primary school children in Wales are now entitled to a free school meal – making sure no child goes hungry during the school day, supporting students’ learning and giving families one less cost to worry about.

Since the Universal Primary Free School Meals programme started in September 2022, more than 50 million free school lunches have been delivered to Welsh primary learners.

We will build on this by expanding access to free school meals in secondary schools, starting by ensuring that all students in Years 7-11 from households claiming Universal Credit are able to claim a free school meal, with no income limit.

As part of a wider new national Food Strategy for Wales, we will ensure that school meals are healthier and incorporate more Welsh produce.

### Supporting and growing our education workforce

Every day in classrooms across Wales, dedicated teachers and teaching assistants go the extra mile to share knowledge, build life skills and inspire their students. We are committed to supporting and working in partnership with our education workforce – ensuring that teaching is a respected, attractive and rewarding career.

To achieve this, a Plaid Cymru government will work with the profession to:

- Reduce workload by cutting unnecessary paperwork and bureaucracy.
- Provide clearer guidance and resources on curriculum design, giving teachers greater confidence in what they are expected to teach, and what learners are expected to achieve.
- Increase flexibility in teaching contracts, including for ongoing professional development.

We will ensure high-quality opportunities for professional development are available to all educators, including expanded opportunities for Welsh language learning.

We will improve terms and conditions for supply teachers and work with schools, local authorities and other social partners to develop sustainable alternatives to the current agency-led model.

We know there is a critical shortage of qualified teachers in key subjects – including science, maths and modern foreign languages – as well as a need for more teachers able to deliver education through the medium of Welsh.

In addition to improved conditions for teachers and new opportunities for professional development, a Plaid Cymru government will offer more competitive incentives to attract and retain the next generation of teachers. We will progressively close the gap with England so trainee teachers in Wales are not financially disadvantaged for choosing to study and work here.

By 2030, Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Priority Subject Incentives in Wales will match those in England, with up to £30,000 available for the highest-priority subjects – double the current £15,000.

To ensure this public investment delivers long-term benefits for Welsh schools, we will require those receiving bursaries to remain teaching in Wales for up to five years, building on successful models used within the Welsh NHS.

### **A wrap-around approach on behaviour, attendance and well-being**

Since the Covid pandemic, persistent absences in Welsh schools have risen, incidents of poor behaviour have increased, and students' mental health has worsened. The volume of harmful online content has increased, as has children and young people's access to it. Teachers report spending less time teaching and more time managing these challenges, and they are all impacting on students' well-being and learning.

We will:

- 
- **Develop a framework that brings together schools, health and social care and youth services to tackle these overlapping issues more effectively.**
- 
- **Ensure that best practice in addressing poor behaviour and absenteeism is shared more consistently between schools, both locally and nationally, and that incidents are dealt with, recorded and reported in a consistent way.**
- 
- **Expand professional learning opportunities focused on behaviour management, and develop new guidelines on online safety.**
- 
- **Make sure that when a pupil moves to a new school after an exclusion or managed move, the receiving school gets the important information they need about that pupil's behaviour, while respecting privacy and data protection rules.**
- 

We will pilot a new wrap-around 'Community Schools Plus' programme, exploring how different funding streams can be consolidated to integrate youth services and embed specialist and trauma-informed support within schools to better address the root causes of absenteeism, behavioural challenges and educational inequality.

We will empower local authorities to promote students' safety, learning and well-being through restricting the use of smartphones in schools for under-16s, working with councils and school leaders to implement this in a practical and proportionate way, with appropriate exemptions where necessary.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

A Plaid Cymru government will address key challenges in the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system in Wales. We will take immediate action to begin restoring the system's long-term sustainability after years of severe and sustained pressure.

We will:

- 
- **Simplify and clarify the ALN system for schools and colleges, learners and families – ensuring it better reflects what schools can achieve, and that implementation of the ALN Act and Code is consistent across all local authorities.**

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  - **Equip every educator to support learners with ALN by making ALN training mandatory for all teachers and teaching assistants, both within initial teacher education and as part of ongoing professional development.**

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  - **Complete the transition of Additional Learning Needs Coordinators (ALNCos) to the leadership pay scale and align their working conditions with other school leaders, recognising the strategic importance of their role.**

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  - **Work to expand Welsh-medium ALN provision, ensuring that children and families can access support in their first or target language.**

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### **Welsh-medium education**

Making full use of the powers in the Welsh Language and Education Act, a Plaid Cymru government will act to ensure every child has the right to become a confident Welsh speaker.

We will grow the number and proportion of children and young people receiving Welsh-medium education, with a target of at least 50% of pupils in Welsh-medium education by 2050, and ensuring that this provision is well-resourced, accessible and inclusive.

We will strengthen Welsh-medium provision in further and higher education.

### **Keeping our children and young people safe**

The recent Extended Child Practice Review by the North Wales Safeguarding Board highlighted serious failures in safeguarding practice and multi-agency coordination. We will address these failures, and ensure that everyone working with and caring for children understands their responsibilities and acts quickly when safeguarding concerns arise.

Accepting and committing to act on all of the Review's recommendations, we will:

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- **Ensure children's voices are central to safeguarding decisions, including when they have not made a formal disclosure but show signs they may need help.**

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  - **Develop legislation which introduces new duties to report child sexual abuse, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.**

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  - **Introduce new national safeguarding standards so all services working with children follow the same clear expectations.**

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  - **Ensure that both learners and educators are fully informed on how to recognise and report on the signs of grooming through professional training and RSE.**

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  - **Set consistent national procedures for responding to concerns, ensuring timely information-sharing and coordinated decision-making across relevant agencies.**

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- **Strengthen leadership and governance, with explicit safeguarding duties for governing bodies and senior school leaders, and independent scrutiny of how they meet them.**
- **Create a consistent national approach to learning from safeguarding concerns, so lessons lead to improvements across Wales, not just within individual services.**

We will ensure safeguarding and educational standards are consistently upheld in home schooling, and review school governance to ensure our schools are effectively and transparently managed.

All learners in Wales will receive comprehensive education in digital and online safety, media literacy, and how to identify mis- and disinformation.

### **A schools estate that's fit for purpose**

We currently lack a clear picture of the full extent of the schools maintenance backlog in Wales, because data on this is not systematically collected. Some local authorities are not able to provide data on school repairs.

We will commission a national school building conditions survey to get a clearer picture of the state of the school estate in Wales. We will identify the most urgent repairs and upgrades, and ensure that there is a programme in place to undertake the work needed.

### **Learner Travel**

In implementing reform of bus services in Wales, we will ensure that the design and delivery of bus routes adequately accounts for learners' need to access schools, colleges and universities.

We will also maintain £1 single bus fares and £3 day tickets for children and young people aged 5-21.

Further, we will review the Learner Travel Measure, and work with local authorities to maximise the number of families that are able to access school transport, addressing particular barriers to accessing Welsh-medium education.

### **A skills pathway that works for every student**

Championing further education, strengthening vocational training and pathways, and giving learners real choice and clear signposting to their full range of options will be a priority for a Plaid Cymru government.

We will build a skills system that works for every learner and provides meaningful opportunities for education, work and training for every young person – with a clear national strategy for vocational education and qualifications that meet Wales's current and future needs, aligned with real job opportunities.

We will strengthen links with employers, expand work experience and apprenticeships, and support high-quality Welsh-medium pathways. Promoting closer working between schools and colleges, we will support the rollout of VCSEs and ensure Junior Apprenticeships are available through every college.

We will also continue to expand opportunities for lifelong learning and adult retraining, so learners of all ages can move smoothly from education to work to further study.

We will protect Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) at £40 a week for eligible learners aged 16 to 18.

**A sustainable Higher Education sector that delivers for our students and drives innovation**

Wales has a long and proud history of excellence when it comes to higher education. Our universities are deeply embedded in their communities, and drive growth in local and regional economies. They also act as Wales's gateway to the wider world.

But the sector is under severe financial pressure, and the percentage of Welsh 18-year-olds choosing to go to university is declining.

As an immediate priority for an incoming Plaid Cymru government, we will commission an independent, comprehensive and sector-wide review of higher education and how it is funded in Wales. The review will build cross-party consensus on a sustainable way forward for our universities.

A key issue for the review will be ensuring that more of the money that the Welsh Government spends on higher education is kept in Wales. We want to encourage more of our young talent to stay in or return to Wales, as well as attracting more people to come to Wales to study and work.

A Plaid Cymru government will review and reform the Seren programme, so that it better supports students to apply to Welsh universities, and targets support at closing the participation gap between students from Wales's most and least disadvantaged communities.

We will continue to call for Wales's share of UK research funding to be devolved.

We will also support the joint proposal by Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities to open a new Dental School, and an independent Veterinary School in Aberystwyth.

# Sustainability, Resources and Rural Resilience

We'll act on climate change and biodiversity loss while building greater energy independence, food security, and community resilience.

With strong support for our farmers and rural communities, we can shape a future that works for people and the planet.



**Our super-abundance of natural resources – wind, water and waves – means that Wales is well-positioned to be a leader in the just green transition. With this comes exciting opportunities for economic and community development.**

Our ability to produce sustainable food of exceptional quality is also a key asset – one which we must protect and build on.

A Plaid Cymru government will take bold new steps to address the overlapping climate and nature emergencies.

We will ensure that people, families and businesses in Wales really benefit from our renewable energy potential.

And we will strengthen our rural communities, support our farmers, and work to build a sustainable food system for Wales.

**Governing the green transition**

Plaid Cymru will embed climate action at the heart of government.

We will deliver an updated Climate and Nature Action Plan for Wales, focused on charting a practical pathway to net zero by 2040 and prioritising community energy, green skills and jobs, cleaner transport, energy-efficient homes, and the protection and restoration of nature-rich landscapes.

To ensure that action on climate and nature is prioritised and effectively co-ordinated across government, we will:

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- **Embed decarbonisation, sustainability and environmental protection as cabinet-level, cross-cutting responsibilities across all portfolio areas.**
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- Strengthen accountability by providing clear public reporting on Wales's progress towards net zero through an accessible online dashboard.
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- Improve Wales's preparedness for climate impacts by publishing a regularly updated climate risk assessment.
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- Establish a Just Transition Board to guide net zero strategy – bringing together relevant experts and ensuring key stakeholders have a meaningful role in shaping policy.
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We will use new powers on environmental governance to set ambitious targets on nature recovery – halting biodiversity loss and achieving substantive recovery by 2050. Under the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) Act, we will establish a strong and independent Office for Environmental Governance Wales (OEGW) that is able to hold public authorities to account for delivering on environmental targets.

We will support the National Nature Service for Wales as a vehicle for increasing eco-literacy, growing green skills and creating new jobs and livelihood opportunities in nature recovery.

We will work with other UK nations to ban the sale of horticultural peat and continue work on peatland restoration.

In reviewing and reforming spatial planning, we will seek the right balance between food security, nature recovery and access to nature, local development needs, and renewable energy when it comes to land use. And we will improve marine planning and promote the sustainability of our coastal and marine environments.

We will ensure that planning regulations better facilitate the green transition, including through firmer consenting timelines for renewable energy projects and permitted development rights for heat pumps, household solar and other small-scale renewables.

## Towards energy independence

If Wales is to achieve both greater energy security and net zero by 2040, then we know we must generate significantly more renewable energy. Done right, this transition presents major opportunities for our people, businesses, and communities – creating jobs, building skills, and attracting investment – and a Plaid Cymru government will ensure Wales secures the full benefits.

As an immediate priority in government, we will develop a National Energy Strategy, mapping Wales's current and future energy needs and setting out a clear, long-term plan for the infrastructure required to meet them. This will provide greater certainty for developers and communities alike, identify where new infrastructure is needed, and ensure Wales makes the most of emerging green technologies, including green hydrogen.

A new Renewable Energy Sector Deal will coordinate action between government, the renewables industry, further and higher education, communities and trade unions, while providing clearer planning requirements and firm, predictable consenting timelines for renewable energy projects.

A just transition means ensuring that people and communities have greater ownership over and see more of the benefits from renewables in Wales – and that they receive their fair share of the profits too.

Central to this ambition is devolving the Crown Estate and retaining the full value of leasing Welsh land and our seabed for renewable energy.

We will pursue the devolution of the Crown Estate with urgency, so that its profits are kept in Wales and invested for the long term through a new Wales Wealth Fund, supporting community energy, affordable and energy-efficient housing, and essential national infrastructure.

We will work to secure the full benefits for Welsh communities from energy projects that currently fall outside the devolution settlement, and support key strategic energy infrastructure – including the new infrastructure required to enable the electric arc furnace at Port Talbot. We will continue to press for the devolution of further powers, including over regulation and pricing.

A Plaid Cymru government will maximise meaningful Welsh ownership of renewable energy, ensuring that profits are reinvested in our communities and public services. We will expand Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru by integrating Ynni Cymru and the Welsh Government Energy Service – creating a single, strengthened national energy company with more clout, greater capacity to grow community ownership of renewable energy, and a clear remit to help reduce energy bills over the medium to long term.

To further ensure that our communities really benefit from renewable energy in Wales, we will:

- **Prioritise meaningful community ownership and back the development of energy communities – supporting communities to come together to generate, use and conserve as much electricity and heat as they can locally and collectively, building energy self-sufficiency and helping to reduce bills.**
- **Extend permitted-development to give households, farms and businesses much greater flexibility to install their own small wind turbines, rooftop and small ground-mounted solar, batteries and heat pumps.**
- **Require a minimum community-ownership stake of between 15 and 25%, equivalent local-benefit model, Wealth Fund payment, or corresponding means of capturing community benefits for all energy projects over 10 MW, as a key condition of consent. We will also make sure that business rates on wind and solar farms are retained by those local authorities in which they are located.**

- Ensure the scale, siting and cumulative impact of energy developments – including transmission and distribution infrastructure – are properly considered through the planning system, favouring well-designed, appropriately dispersed projects that balance local impact with efficient delivery, while protecting productive agricultural land.
- Immediately prohibit the use of large steel lattice pylons for new 11-132 kV lines in Wales, with a clear presumption in favour of undergrounding and overhead alternatives permitted only where installation is via low wooden poles or equivalent, less intrusive infrastructure.
- Examine innovative options for financing energy communities, household renewables and shared ownership of larger-scale developments, including via the Wales Wealth Fund and the Development Bank of Wales.

### Taking back control of our water

Water is one of Wales's most valuable natural assets – and one with a long and complex history. A Plaid Cymru government will take immediate steps to secure the full devolution of powers over water, using these powers to improve water quality, tackle pollution, and support greater long-term affordability for households.

We will:

- Formally request the full devolution of powers over water in Wales, as provided for by the Wales Act 2017.
- Establish a new Welsh water regulator, with powers to set made-in-Wales price controls, limit excessive water-company bonuses, and direct capital investment in reducing sewage spills, wastewater and drainage upgrades, and wider environmental improvements.
- Increase take-up of water metering and examine rising-block tariffs as a way to reduce water bills.

- Set out pathways to nationalisation of Welsh water, and examine options for a levy on cross-border water transfers.

We will set new and enforceable targets to reduce pollution in our rivers and seas, based on the 'polluter pays' principle and prosecuting serious and serial offenders as necessary.

We will collect more and better data on pollution incidents and work to ensure every water body in Wales achieves a minimum 'good' status – including by moving from the outdated 'farming by calendar' approach on tackling run-offs from agriculture, to a science-led, outcome-based and risk-appropriate system that prevents pollution while supporting sustainable farming.

### Building flood resilient communities

Plaid Cymru has led the agenda on improving Wales's flood responsiveness, securing millions of pounds from the Welsh Government for new investment in flood defences and support for affected businesses and households.

With many communities facing more frequent and severe flood events, further action is needed urgently to prepare for and prevent flooding, and to respond swiftly when it occurs.

A Plaid Cymru government will:

- Create a Flood Resilience and Preparedness Forum for Wales, bringing together local authorities, Natural Resources Wales, emergency services, and community organisations to coordinate national strategy on flooding.
- Establish Flood Resilience Hubs in at-risk communities – providing local centres for emergency planning, equipment, information, and training.
- Develop region-specific flood resilience strategies for each catchment area, supported by improved data, real-time flood monitoring and early warning systems to keep people informed and prepared.

- Call for the UK-level Flood Re scheme to be extended beyond 2036, and examine options for creating a Flood Insurance Guarantee Fund, to underwrite insurance liabilities for small businesses, helping them access affordable flood coverage in high-risk areas where premiums are unaffordable.

- Review the governance arrangements for Internal Drainage Districts to best support landowners and communities to manage flooding effectively.

- Take a whole catchment approach on investment in flood defences – including upstream, nature-based solutions – ensuring that this investment delivers long-term and durable protection from flooding, as well as value for money.

- Expand mental health support and counselling services for communities impacted by flooding events.

### Addressing Wales's industrial legacy and supporting coalfield communities

Communities across Wales continue to live with the legacy of past extractive and heavy industries – unsafe coal tips, opencast mining sites, contaminated land, and the threat posed by dangerous 'forever chemicals' such as PFAS.

Urgent action is needed to make former industrial land safe, protect public health, and deliver long-overdue environmental justice for the communities most affected. Plaid Cymru is clear that Westminster should foot the bill for clearing up these hazards, which long predate devolution in Wales.

We will:

- **Deliver a national programme to secure and restore disused coal tips, ensuring every tip is properly monitored, maintained, and remediated. We will continue to insist that the UK Government funds this work properly and in full.**

- Establish a Wales-wide strategy on remediating contaminated land – mapping, prioritising and progressively restoring post-industrial land so communities are no longer exposed to derelict sites, toxic soils, and polluted waterways.

- Explore ways of strengthening the 'polluter pays' principle, in conjunction with the UK government, so that those who have profited from the impacts of heavy industry are held legally responsible for fully restoring the land.

- Strengthen monitoring and regulation of harmful substances, including PFAS, with mandatory testing in high-risk areas and clear action plans to protect public health.

- Work with the UK Government to ban so-called 'forever chemicals' that continue to contaminate our land, rivers and seas.

- Review planning policies relating to aggregate quarrying to protect local air quality.

- Promote nature-based and sustainable remediation techniques, such as wetland creation, soil restoration and planting schemes that help absorb pollutants, stabilise slopes, and enhance biodiversity.

Plaid Cymru is committed to ensuring real fairness for those communities most affected by the legacy of heavy industry in Wales.

Environmental remediation will go hand-in-hand with our plans to grow businesses, provide good jobs, build community wealth, and renew town centres in coalfield communities still living with the environmental, economic, and health impacts of Wales's industrial past.

We will work to turn this industrial past to our advantage – supporting projects that repurpose warm water from flooded mines as a source of clean, affordable heat for coalfield communities. We will develop new partnerships and explore innovative financing options to connect more places to mine-water heat networks, and support the creation of skilled local jobs in this sector.

## A cleaner, healthier Wales

Plaid Cymru will take bold action to clean up our air, reduce waste and cut pollution – protecting public health and improving the places we live.

We will:

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- **Work with local authorities on adopting WHO clean air standards and reducing air pollution – particularly around schools, care homes, and other areas where vulnerable people are most exposed – supported by strong monitoring, enforcement, and transparent public reporting.**

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  - **Phase out unnecessary single-use plastics, starting with packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables where this offers negligible benefit for shelf life, reducing the amount of plastic that ends up as litter or microplastics in our food and ecosystems.**

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  - **Introduce a Welsh Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for plastic and metal drinks containers – including glass when this becomes practically feasible, and with relevant exemptions to prevent added costs for small businesses.**

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  - **Ensure a fair ‘polluter pays’ approach, so that those who create pollution bear the cost of cleaning it up – not local communities or responsible businesses.**
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## A resilient rural economy, with food and farming at its heart

Strengthening the rural economy is a key priority for Plaid Cymru. We will maintain and develop support for the agricultural sector as the key engine of rural development and empower our rural communities.

### Supporting our farmers

Wales’s farmers produce food of exceptional quality. Farming is also the backbone of our rural economy, and the beating heart of our rural communities – supporting Welsh language and culture, and stewarding Wales’s natural environment. For these reasons and more, Plaid Cymru is proud to support our farmers.

A Plaid Cymru government will protect the future of the Welsh family farm in a changing climate.

We will maintain strong collaboration with the farming community as we implement the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS), and continue to evolve and refine it – supporting thriving and sustainable farm businesses to produce food, while also progressively delivering key environmental outcomes.

We will:

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- **Establish a multi-year funding cycle for the SFS, giving farmers long-term stability and certainty, taking the first one-year budget as the baseline.**

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  - **Commission an independent review of the bureaucratic burden on family farms in Wales, with a view to streamlining on-farm requirements and reducing duplication and unnecessary paperwork.**

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  - **Implement a new science-led, outcomes-based and risk-proportionate approach to managing nitrate vulnerability across catchments – moving beyond the outdated ‘farming by calendar’ approach and supporting farmers to adopt new technologies and practices to reduce agricultural water pollution.**

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  - **Maintain robust biosecurity standards, and draw on the advice of the TB Technical Advisory Group in implementing a new approach to managing bTB – one which recognises wildlife as a source of infection and enables scientifically validated control methods.**

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  - **Protect high-quality agricultural land from being lost to large-scale corporate carbon-offsetting plantations or excessive solar developments, while making it easier for farmers and rural communities to invest in their own renewable energy projects.**
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Plaid Cymru will promote succession and new entrants into food and farming – working through the Development Bank of Wales to support young farmers into the industry. We will maintain pressure on the UK Government to ensure that any changes to inheritance tax do not undermine the future of family farms in Wales.

Insisting that the Welsh Government has a seat at the table whenever and wherever decisions are made about and for Wales, we will seek to ensure that Welsh farming is protected in any future trade deals, and to continue to improve access to European and other markets for Welsh producers.

### **A national food strategy**

Wales produces high-quality food that is truly world-class. But despite this, we are not doing enough to feed ourselves securely. Too many people in Wales lack access to food that is both nutritious and affordable, we are overly reliant on imports, and are we not capturing the full value of food produced here.

A Plaid Cymru government will do more to build food security and literacy, shorten and strengthen food supply chains, and use the public plate to support and develop the Welsh food and drink industry.

As part of a comprehensive new Food Strategy for Wales, we will:

- **Develop new, official 'Made in Wales' branding that provides consumers with clear information on product sourcing and the carbon-cost savings of buying local.**
- **Work with major retailers to ensure that every supermarket has a dedicated Welsh produce section.**
- **Promote and support community food hubs and initiatives that expand food literacy, and increase the availability and affordability of healthy, locally-produced food.**

- **Work strategically, including through our new National Development Agency, to drive innovation and business development in food and farming, fisheries and aquaculture, and increase value-added food processing in Wales.**
- **Target and incentivise a progressive increase in horticultural production, with the ambition that 25% of vegetables served in Welsh Schools will be of Welsh origin by 2030.**
- **Use public procurement to better support our food and drink sector, increasing the proportion of publicly procured food that is of Welsh origin from 23% to at least 50%.**
- **Introduce a whole-school approach to food, with food literacy and cooking a core part of the curriculum, an audit system for school lunches, and the promotion of excellence in school catering.**

### **A new deal for rural Wales**

Over 80% of Wales is rural. People living in these areas often face higher costs, while their incomes are lower. Public services can be patchy, and current funding models often fail to account for the added costs of delivering them in rural communities.

By putting robust rural proofing of all spending plans and policy programmes on a statutory footing, Plaid Cymru will ensure that responding to the specific needs of rural communities is hardwired into everything the Welsh Government does. And we will review and reform the local government funding formula so that it fairly reflects the realities of serving largely rural populations.

We will also develop a tailored Rural Development Strategy for Wales, drawing on international best practice to tackle poverty and create new economic and social opportunities.

We will work with local authorities to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities, supporting Welsh as a living language in rural areas.

### The right tree in the right place

Tree planting plays a vital role in restoring nature, improving air and water quality, reducing flood risk, and tackling climate change – and Wales has yet to fully realise the potential of its timber as a sustainable resource.

To grow Wales's tree cover and help build a thriving timber industry, we will:

- Promote tree and hedge planting, and support farmers to integrate trees into their businesses through agroforestry, small-scale commercial forestry and biochar.
- Prioritise native woodland creation, restoration, and mixed woodlands – protecting high-quality agricultural land and avoiding large-scale corporate plantations created solely for carbon offsetting.
- Extend tree and hedgerow cover targets to land owned or managed by public bodies.
- Boost urban tree cover, giving priority to applications and funding for communities with the lowest existing coverage.
- Use public procurement to develop the supply chain for Welsh timber, promote innovation and business growth in the sector via the new National Development Agency, and work with the sector to deliver on the Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy.



### Animal welfare

Plaid Cymru believes that Wales should set high standards for the treatment of all animals. Building on the high level of animal welfare standards already in place in Wales, we will:

- Develop a renewed and science-led Animal Health and Welfare Plan, addressing the welfare of both companion animals and farm animals.
- Introduce a new regulatory framework for animal welfare establishments – ensuring consistent, enforceable standards across Wales to safeguard animal welfare and promote responsible practice.
- Promote responsible pet ownership and breeding, examining stronger penalties for irresponsible ownership, dog control notices, evidence-based enforcement powers, and a dog registration or licensing scheme.
- Introduce a new legal right for renters to request a pet, with landlords unable to refuse unreasonably.

A Plaid Cymru government will also support the development of an independent Veterinary School in Aberystwyth – to support the training, recruitment and retention of vets in Wales, promoting delivery through the medium of Welsh.

## Supporting Welsh fisheries and protecting our seas

Wales's seas support rich marine life, and our coastline is world-renowned for its beauty and biodiversity. If managed well, our marine environment can continue to support sustainable fishing, aquaculture, tourism and coastal communities, while playing a vital role in tackling climate change.

We will:

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- **Champion Welsh fisheries, supporting the fishing industry as a vital part of Wales's food system and coastal economy, and work to improve access to European and wider global markets for Welsh fish and seafood.**
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- **Provide tailored, long-term funding through the Welsh Marine and Fisheries Scheme to support sustainable fishing businesses, improve resilience, and help the Welsh fishing fleet adapt to future challenges.**
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- **Develop a new Marine Planning Framework to replace fragmented and overlapping approaches to marine management. This framework will be built on genuine co-management, with commercial and small-scale fishers fully involved in shaping decisions, alongside environmental, community and industry stakeholders.**
- 
- **Promote sustainable fishing practices and aquaculture, and strengthen protection within the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network by phasing out damaging activities such as bottom trawling and dredging where the evidence shows that these threaten sensitive habitats, alongside fair transition support, robust science, and effective monitoring and enforcement, working with the UK Government and other partners to ensure Welsh conservation measures are applied consistently and fairly.**
- 
- **Support a National Seagrass Plan, and the growth of Wales's seaweed industry – streamlining marine licensing, encouraging responsible cultivation, and helping to build a strong, resilient Welsh seaweed supply chain.**
- 
- **Implement a seabird conservation strategy and maintain strong biosecurity measures to protect important breeding and feeding areas.**
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# Housing, Local Government and Planning

Everybody in Wales should have the right to a safe home at a cost they can afford. And they should be able to access effective public services in vibrant, prosperous and well-connected communities.

We will get these fundamentals right.



**A warm, secure and affordable home is a basic prerequisite for a healthy, happy life. But for too many people in Wales, this remains out of reach. A Plaid Cymru government will work to change that.**

We will protect renters, build more social homes, and improve the quality and energy efficiency of Welsh housing.

We will ensure our local authorities are in the strongest position possible to provide the services on which we all depend.

And we will reform the planning system so it better serves our people, communities and businesses, and helps build a more connected and prosperous Wales.

**A right to adequate housing**

The overlapping issues of inadequate housing supply, rising house prices, and increasing rents have all contributed to Wales's current housing crisis.

To provide a strong foundation for a Plaid Cymru government's response to this crisis, and to drive further action, we will legislate for a right to adequate housing in Wales.

Housing policy will focus on progressively realising this right, addressing homelessness, ensuring housing costs better reflect local incomes, supporting community ownership, promoting the Welsh language and culture, and helping young people remain in their communities.

We will:

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- Embed a Housing First, trauma-informed and person-centred approach to tackling homelessness – ensuring new homelessness legislation is implemented effectively and kept under review.
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- Prioritise early intervention and the responsibility for specified public authorities to identify individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and respond effectively.
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- Work with local authorities to review the effectiveness of existing measures on second homes and holiday lets – including Council Tax premiums, the Article 4 direction, and the Dwyfor Second Homes and Affordability Pilot – sharing learning and best practice, and assessing what further action is needed.
- 
- Work to address the issue of 'fleeceholds' – where homeowners are burdened with unreasonable private charges for the upkeep of shared and communal areas – ensuring transparency in estate management and that roads, green spaces, and other essential infrastructure are publicly owned and maintained in the public interest.
- 
- Support and build on services to deliver housing adaptations and home improvements so that older people are able to live independently and safely in accessible homes.
- 
- Act to speed up remediation work on properties with unsafe cladding and other fire safety defects, including by strengthening oversight and enforcement where developers and freeholders fail to meet agreed deadlines.
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### More social homes

A Plaid Cymru government will accelerate delivery of social homes over the next Senedd term, tackling homelessness, keeping people out of unfit temporary accommodation, reducing waiting lists, and making housing more affordable for everyone.

We will work with local authorities and social landlords to deliver new, high-quality homes, and to bring empty properties back into use as social housing – delivering at least 20,000 new social homes by 2030.

We will:

- **Develop our understanding of housing need through a regular Welsh Housing Survey and improved data standards.**
- **Reduce regulatory barriers to building and buying-in more social homes, including through more balanced energy efficiency requirements.**
- **Encourage investment in housebuilding by Welsh pension funds, and examine options for developing new financial products through the Development Bank of Wales and by better leveraging of Welsh Government borrowing powers.**

We will also establish a community right to buy, including for land for housing, and support community-led housing as a way to deliver affordable homes that meet local needs.

To further improve access to affordable housing in rural areas in particular, we will examine options for extending permitted development rights for single dwellings and converting farm buildings for residential use.

### Unnos

To accelerate the delivery of social housing, we will establish Unnos – a new national development body and social housing enabler. Unnos will work closely with local authorities and housing associations and will be responsible for:

- **Land assembly and site identification – acting as a broker to find, acquire and de-risk sites for social housing, and guiding the use of compulsory purchase powers.**
- **Assisting with planning applications and project management, and helping projects comply with rules and standards.**
- **Facilitating access to funding and helping projects secure investment.**
- **Connecting projects with local suppliers, contractors and service providers, and supporting procurement processes.**
- **Encouraging innovation in social housing, including in construction methods and procurement of home-sourced building materials.**

### Fair rents

The number of renters in Wales has grown rapidly in recent years, with 1 in 6 households now privately renting. Renters in Wales are more vulnerable than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK and lack comparable protections.

We will introduce new measures to better protect renters, including:

- **Ending no-fault evictions and giving renters greater security of tenure, restricting rental bidding by requiring properties to be let at the advertised price, and limiting rent payable in advance.**
- **Fair rent-setting – through limiting annual rent increases to the lower of wage growth or consumer price index inflation, or a clearly defined equivalent benchmark.**
- **Giving renters a legal right to request a pet, with landlords unable to refuse unreasonably.**

- Improving the overall quality of rental properties, with timely remediation of hazards such as damp and mould.
- Strengthening enforcement, enhancing tenant protections, and expanding the regulatory role of Rent Smart Wales – working to ensure that monies collected through fines are retained in Wales, rather than returned to the UK Treasury.

To ensure the safe and proper operation of domestic abuse refuges, we will exempt them from the Renting Homes Act. We will also ensure that the further reforms we outline here are designed to accommodate the unique needs of these essential services.

We will continue to call on the UK Government to unfreeze Local Housing Allowance (LHA) to narrow the gap between rent and housing benefit, reduce the risk of homelessness for thousands of families, and ensure it keeps pace with rising rents.

### **Warmer, more energy efficient homes**

Homes in Wales tend to be older and in poorer condition than elsewhere in the UK, making them harder and more expensive to heat. An effective retrofitting and home upgrade scheme could help households save more than 10% on their annual fuel bills.

In government, Plaid Cymru will make the renewal of Welsh housing stock a national mission – going further and faster to improve living standards, tackle fuel poverty, and reduce household carbon emissions.

While protecting crisis support for those experiencing acute fuel poverty, we will expand access to retrofitting schemes by adopting a tenure-neutral, area-based approach. This means working towards approaches that upgrade homes across a defined area – owner-occupied, rented and social – so households benefit together rather than relying solely on individual applications.

Our new retrofit programme will:

- Adopt practical and achievable energy-efficiency standards that will enable more homes to be upgraded faster and more cost-effectively using the same resources.
- Take a whole-home approach, prioritising the most cost-effective insulation measures – such as draft proofing, loft insulation, and cavity wall insulation – while adding clean heating solutions like heat pumps where they are already cost-effective, or preparing homes for future installation when they become so.
- Empower communities to collaborate in planning and requesting area-wide retrofitting initiatives, centred on one-stop-shop hubs where householders can access expert advice, guidance, and support on home improvements, as well as on optimising collective and community-owned energy solutions.
- Connect householders to the best financing options for their home upgrades, with tailored support for those on the lowest incomes.
- Establish a new quality control process to monitor the standards of work undertaken by installers operating with funding directed by government home energy efficiency schemes, including the requirement that an independent assessment is undertaken and deemed satisfactory before payment.
- Accelerate relevant skills pathways – including through apprenticeships – to grow the workforce, and ensure that more services are delivered by Welsh businesses.
- Review and update planning regulations, including to grant clearer permitted development rights for heat pumps and household renewables.

This programme will not only make homes warmer and cheaper to run, but also grow the green economy, reduce carbon emissions, improve health outcomes and put Wales at the forefront of inclusive, ambitious, and practical climate action.

### **A new partnership with local government**

Plaid Cymru will renew the relationship between the Welsh Government and local authorities – ensuring that they are full partners in the design and delivery of public services.

We will:

- 
- **Review the funding formula for local government so that it better reflects the real cost of delivering services in different parts of Wales, and introduce a funding floor to ensure that no local authority is disadvantaged.**
- 
- **Provide more core funding for local authorities to allocate to services and locally-determined priorities and reduce the amount of funding allocated to councils through fragmented and competitive grant funding – reducing bureaucracy and time wasted on grant applications that are not always successful.**
- 
- **Work collaboratively with councils on financial reforms – including to Council Tax and business rates, as well as implementation of the Tourism levy – including to ensure that more money reaches frontline services.**
- 
- **Support councils to provide and expand access to digitally-driven services and achieve Digital Service Standards.**
- 

### **Community-led planning, and a made-in-Wales approach to regional development**

We will deliver a new approach to strategic planning that brings housing, regeneration, connectivity and economic development together within a single, coherent vision for Wales.

We will reform planning processes so they reflect local needs rather than just the interests of developers, and untangle the complicated and inefficient web of overlapping geographic footprints and inconsistent priorities that national and regional frameworks have become.

### **Planning**

In reforming planning policy in Wales, we will:

- 
- **Take a community-centred approach that protects and strengthens local leadership in setting planning priorities.**
- 
- **Reform consultation processes so communities have real power to influence local development plans, and ensure these plans can be amended in response to real-time changes in local housing needs.**
- 
- **Reduce the complexity and bureaucracy of planning processes, providing greater clarity and firmer guarantees on consenting timelines, and extending permitted development rights, including for community-led housing and energy projects, and small-scale renewables.**
- 
- **Draw on best practice and promote more effective use of Section 106 agreements to strengthen the planning process itself – improving clarity, speeding up decision-making, and ensuring development delivers tangible local benefits.**
- 
- **Embed consideration of the Welsh language in the planning system, working with local authorities to implement the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities' recommendations on town and country planning.**
-

## Regional Development and Spatial Strategy

Between Investment Zones, Enterprise and AI Growth Zones, Freeports, City and Regional Growth Deals, Trailblazer Neighbourhoods, and Local Growth and Pride in Place programmes, Wales has become a patchwork of overlapping regional initiatives with conflicting short-, medium- and long-term priorities – some designed in Wales, others imposed from Westminster.

This fragmentation means that public money is not being spent as effectively as it should be. This is compounded by the lack of a clear spatial strategy. There is too much duplication and overlap between Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs), Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs), and Public Services Boards (PSBs), and the geographic footprints of these and other bodies lack coherence.

The current National Development Framework has failed to integrate these initiatives and structures into a logical, Wales-wide framework.

To overhaul spatial planning and regional development in Wales, we will produce a new National Development Framework, giving real strategic vision and oversight.

Central to this will be working with partners in local government to:

- **Agree a more effective and council-led approach to regional collaboration.**
- **Create a new regional map and a plan for implementing it.**

The aim will be to empower local government, reduce costs, bureaucracy and duplication, and create greater coherence between the footprints of regional structures.

The structures of government in Wales – including town and community councils, unitary authorities and regional structures – will be kept under continuous review to ensure they remain fit for purpose. And where it can effectively promote regional and local development and improve the delivery of public services, we will give local authorities greater freedom to collaborate with each other outside of existing regional structures on joint projects.

Working with the UK Government where relevant – including to secure full devolution of regional development funding – we will review all regional initiatives against both their own aims and our new National Development Framework, ensuring the best use of public money and ending or replacing programmes that are not delivering.



# Social Justice and Equality

Respect. Solidarity. Fair play.  
These values have always  
mattered to people in Wales.

We will make them guiding principles of  
government – shaping how we reduce  
poverty, tackle inequality and build  
fairer, safer and united communities.



## **Practical action to tackle the injustice of child poverty and give every child a fair start in life will be a top priority for a Plaid Cymru government.**

We will ensure that everyone feels welcome and is able to play their part in our community of communities – that no one faces discrimination or is treated unfairly.

And we will fight for the powers we need to build a justice system that works for Wales.

### **Breaking the cycle of poverty**

Raising children out of poverty will be a central and defining mission for a Plaid Cymru government.

Removing the burden that poverty places on children helps them perform better at school, improves their long-term health, well-being and life chances, and reduces bills for both the welfare and health systems.

Reducing child poverty is therefore a smart investment in Wales's future. And in making this investment, we will be led by the international evidence on what really works to tackle child poverty.

Unlike previous Welsh Governments, we will use every lever available to reduce child poverty and be unapologetic in pushing for the devolution of the additional powers we need to go further in delivering on this mission.

We will press the UK Government to ensure that scrapping the two-child limit on benefits delivers real change for children living in poverty, including by lifting the overall benefit cap.

### **A child poverty strategy that's fit-for-purpose**

As an immediate priority for an incoming Plaid Cymru government, we will work with partners to develop a new plan to tackle child poverty, setting clear targets, benchmarks and milestones to drive ambitious but deliverable change.

In replacing the current approach – which lacks focus and direction – we will learn from international best practice and deliver targeted interventions whose impact can be clearly measured.

### **Tackling poverty through childcare**

Good-quality, affordable childcare can transform a child's life chances – especially for children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. It also helps parents return to work and boosts family incomes.

At full rollout, our new childcare offer will be the most generous in the UK, delivering 20 hours of free childcare a week for 48 weeks a year for children aged 9 months to 4 years – care worth over £30,000 to a family in the first four years of a child's life.

This universal offer will be available to all parents, regardless of their work status.

### **Extending Free School Meals**

We will build on our record of delivering universal free school meals in primary schools by ensuring that every secondary school student living in a household claiming Universal Credit is eligible for free school meals – scrapping the current £7,400 earnings limit.

We will also ensure that free school meals are extended to secondary school students with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) who are living in households with incomes at or below equivalent Universal Credit thresholds.

### **Cynnal – the Welsh Child Payment**

International evidence shows that targeted cash payments to low-income families are among the most effective tools to sustainably reduce child poverty.

This approach is already being taken in Scotland through the Scottish Child Payment, which is helping to lift tens of thousands of children out of poverty.

We will pilot Cynnal, a Welsh Child Payment, providing £10 a week for children aged 0–6 in households claiming Universal Credit. The pilot will be delivered initially in a limited number of local authority areas, selected using objective criteria as part of the pilot design.

The pilot will be used to build a robust evidence base and to inform the design of a Wales-wide rollout of the payment.

### **Fully implementing a Welsh Benefits System**

Social security should be devolved, so that we can design and deliver made-in-Wales social protections that better reflect both the needs and values of our people and communities. A Plaid Cymru government will press the UK Government to deliver on this.

As we fight for the devolution of full powers over welfare, we will work to improve the existing Welsh Benefits System – which currently includes the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Baby Bundles, Free School Meals, the Schools Essentials Grant, Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), the Welsh Government Learning Grant and Healthy Start Vouchers.

We will:

- Retain a Welsh Benefits Steering Group, to ensure that work continues on implementing a Welsh Benefits System, including incorporating Cynnal as a new Welsh benefit.
- Review the effectiveness of existing individual Welsh benefits, as well as associated schemes like the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF), to maximise impact and guarantee value for money.

- Ensure that both the eligibility criteria and cash value of Welsh benefits are fit for purpose.
- Streamline access to Welsh benefits, including making their automatic delivery to eligible households a statutory duty.
- Examine options for future Welsh benefits, such as a Baby Grant to help new parents in low-income households to afford essential equipment.

### **Fair Work First**

Plaid Cymru believes in decent work that pays fairly. We will adopt a Fair Work First approach to awarding public sector grants, loans and contracts. This will ensure that organisations benefiting from public money pay a living wage, give workers a genuine voice, invest in skills and workforce development, and do not make inappropriate use of zero-hours contracts.

### **A Human Rights Act for Wales**

Too often, people in Wales experience their rights as aspirations rather than as real legal protections. Welsh Government commitments to uphold key sets of rights have not been translated into the legal frameworks and the accountability mechanisms needed to make these rights meaningful in people's everyday lives.



In line with recommendations from the UN, Senedd committees and independent legal experts, a new Human Rights Act will fully incorporate key international treaties into Welsh law, including:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRDP)
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (ICECSR)
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

We will ensure that public services in Wales are delivered through a robust rights-based approach, and that disabled people, women, racialised communities, children and young people, and people with lived experience of poverty and asylum play a central role in designing, implementing and monitoring public policy.

### **Gender equality, and the protection and promotion of women's rights**

We are committed to achieving a gender-equal Wales. Women and girls should be able to live free from discrimination, violence and economic disadvantage, with equal power, pay and opportunity.

Taking a rights-based and intersectional approach to tackling gender inequality, we will:

- **Enshrine and embed the rights of women and girls in law, through a new Human Rights Act for Wales.**

- **Work to end gender inequality in the Welsh economy, including through targeted support for women to access high-skill and high-paid jobs, gender budgeting and the routine collection, analysis and publication of robust gender-disaggregated economic data, including pay gap data.**
- **Improve access to affordable childcare through our new childcare offer, support unpaid carers, and ensure care workers are paid fairly.**
- **Strengthen the Women and Girls' Health Plan and guarantee free period products to promote period dignity.**
- **Work to increase the representation of women and girls in politics, and ensure their voices are meaningfully embedded in the design and delivery of public services.**

We will work across all areas of government to end violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV), through a whole-system, prevention-led and society-wide approach.

This will include actively engaging people of all ages in schools, workplaces and public services to address the root causes of violence and abuse. We will embed education on healthy relationships, and provide guidance to parents, educators and community leaders to support early intervention.

We will support employers to create safer workplaces, free from violence and abuse.

And we will support victims and survivors by protecting funding for specialist, survivor-centred services, and by immediately exempting refugees from the Renting Homes Act to ensure access to safe accommodation.

## LGBTQ+

We are committed to protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ people in Wales and ensuring everyone can live free from prejudice, intolerance, and hate. Plaid Cymru played a key role in ensuring the LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales was delivered, and in government we will make sure it is fully implemented.

We reject attempts to turn the lives, experiences and identities of LGBTQ+ people into a divisive culture war issue. We will stand up for equality and dignity, and oppose all forms of homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia.

We will:

- Review and, where necessary, strengthen, the LGBTQ+ Action Plan, holding public services accountable, and measuring and reporting on progress against it.
- Ensure that education – including on sex and healthy relationships – is LGBTQ+ inclusive, and embed anti-bullying measures in schools.
- Press the UK Government on a full, trans-inclusive ban on so-called ‘conversion therapy’, maximising Welsh Government action to tackle these harmful practices and support survivors.
- Support the development of the Welsh Gender Service in line with best international practice, ensuring that people – including young people – can access appropriate and timely care in Wales without needing to travel to England.
- Work towards a simpler and non-medicalised process for gender recognition, including by pursuing the devolution of relevant powers.
- Provide ongoing support to Pride organisations, and back Wales hosting EuroPride in 2029.

## Older People

A Plaid Cymru government will work to make sure that people are able to maintain their independence and dignity as they get older – ensuring that older people can continue to play a full and active role in their communities, and that public services are designed with their particular needs in mind.

We will:

- Promote the health and wellbeing of older people through a new Older People’s Health Plan and a new focus on preventative health measures.
- Take the next steps towards delivering a fully integrated health and care service for Wales.
- Build on existing services to deliver housing adaptations and improvements so that older people are able to live independently and safely, and roll out a new scheme to upgrade and retrofit more homes more quickly – making them warmer and cheaper to run, while also contributing to our Net Zero ambitions.
- Ensure that measures to address poverty account for the needs of older people. This will include strengthening advice and support services in a way that does not digitally exclude older people, to help more people access the full range of benefits to which they are entitled.

## An immigration system that works for Wales

Migration policy is not a devolved matter and successive UK Governments have failed communities and migrants with their policies.

We value the important contribution that people from all over the world make to our communities, economy and public services, and we condemn those turning immigration into an issue that divides people and communities.

Plaid Cymru does not support open borders or uncontrolled migration. With devolved powers over migration we could deliver a fair, rules-based system of controlled migration that works for Wales, reflects

our needs, and upholds our values. We are proud of Wales's long history of welcoming people fleeing violence or persecution with respect, safety and compassion.

While Wales does not currently have the power to decide who seeks asylum here, we can treat those who arrive with decency, provide support and opportunities to contribute to their communities, and ensure they can rebuild their lives safely and with dignity.

We will:

- 
- **Combat mis- and disinformation about asylum seekers, refugees and migrants – protecting the internationally-shared nations of sanctuary vision and ensuring the principles underpinning this vision are embedded across government policy and practice in ways that promote integration and community cohesion.**
- 
- **Champion the creation of a Wales-specific visa and shortage occupation list as the first steps towards full devolution of powers over immigration.**
- 
- **Oppose restrictions on student visas and encourage more international students to choose to study in Wales.**
- 
- **Develop a joined-up strategy to support migrants and sanctuary seekers with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), working closely with local government and third-sector partners to end destitution.**
- 

We oppose the UK Home Office's current model for 'asylum hotels', which contributes to community tensions, can increase pressures on local services and leaves asylum seekers isolated and vulnerable.

We will press the UK Government to use the 2026 break clause in its current management contracts to replace this failed system, advocating for a fair dispersal policy that promotes integration, recognises local housing need and properly supports public services.

### **An Anti-Racist Wales**

Racism remains a structural issue in our communities, economy, and politics. We are proud of our role in delivering the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, and in government we will work to embed it and build on it.

We will:

- 
- **Enshrine the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Welsh law through a Human Rights Act for Wales.**
- 
- **Keep the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan under active review and report on progress, working closely with people with lived experience of racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and anti-Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prejudice to strengthen delivery and impact.**
- 
- **Improve data collection and sharing to drive evidence-led interventions, including on hate crime and racist incidents in schools.**
- 
- **Strengthen hate crime reporting and victim support, ensuring incidents are addressed promptly and effectively.**
- 
- **Embed anti-racist education across the curriculum.**
- 
- **Ensure that strategies and programmes to tackle poverty actively address the higher prevalence of poverty among Black and minority ethnic communities.**
- 
- **Work to increase representation of Black and minority ethnic people in Welsh politics and public life, and strengthen duties to promote diversity and inclusion in recruitment across publicly funded organisations.**
-

## A Disabled People's Rights Plan

We are committed to the social model of disability – recognising that it is societal barriers and not individual impairments alone that act to disable people.

Taking a rights-based approach to removing these barriers and promoting real fairness and inclusion for disabled people, we will:

- 
- Incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCPRD) into Welsh law, via a Human Rights Act for Wales.
- 
- Deliver a robust and action-oriented Disabled People's Rights Action Plan, with clear lines of accountability, and regular and transparent reporting on progress.
- 
- Remove barriers to participation, promote equal access and champion the leadership of disabled people in public, professional and political life in Wales.
- 
- Ensure the voices of disabled people are heard in the design, delivery, and evaluation of Welsh public services – and that both physical and digital infrastructure are designed to promote accessibility and independence.
- 

## Neurodiversity

Plaid Cymru believes that neurodiversity should be recognised as an equalities issue, with public services required to make reasonable adjustments for people with autism, ADHD and other neurodivergent conditions.

We will:

- 
- Ensure that educational settings, health and social care, workplaces, transport, and other public services are all designed to be accessible to neurodivergent people without unnecessary barriers.
- 
- Work to reduce waiting times for neurodevelopmental assessments and support, exploring ways to streamline processes and ensure timely access to help, even before formal diagnosis – moving beyond over-medicalisation and rigid diagnostic thresholds.
- 
- Improve awareness of, and training on, neurodiversity, including for teachers, doctors, public-service providers and businesses.
- 
- Centre the voices of neurodivergent people in policy design and implementation, so that their lived experience informs service development, delivery, and evaluation.
- 

We will act on the recommendations of the Stolen Lives Homes Not Hospitals Task and Finish Group, to create a pathway to ensuring more people with learning disabilities and autistic people are able to live safely, closer to home.

## Devolving Justice and Policing

The evidence is unequivocal: justice and policing should be devolved to Wales, as they are in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Ongoing policing reforms and the scrapping of Police and Crime Commissioners by the UK Government provide new impetus, and we will pursue full devolution with the urgency this deserves.

As we prepare for devolution, we will lay the foundations for a Welsh justice system that is joined-up, preventative and fit for Wales.

We will:

- **Bring forward a Welsh Tribunals Bill early in the Senedd term, to create a clearer, more coherent and more independent tribunals system – with modernised procedures, stronger accountability and a sharper focus on users.**
- **Expand legal apprenticeships in Wales, working with the profession, regulators and training providers to grow higher-level pathways, including solicitor-level routes, so more people can qualify and build legal careers in Wales.**

And when powers are devolved, we will build a Welsh justice system in which:

- **Youth justice is transformed – raising the age of criminal responsibility, replacing centralised custody with locally based rehabilitation, and embedding restorative justice and trauma-informed practice.**
- **The particular needs of neurodivergent people are recognised, and mental health, addiction, and other social services are fully integrated into probation, providing more effective support for rehabilitation and reducing reoffending.**
- **Policing in Wales is rights-based and accountable to the Senedd, focused on community safety through data-led prevention and partnership with local communities.**

In the immediate term, we will do more to tackle the causes of crime. We will establish a National Crime Prevention Agency to:

- **Strengthen Wales-specific data on crime, sentencing, policing, prisons, and outcomes, to support evidence-based policy-making.**
- **Coordinate crime prevention and diversion across police forces, the NHS, local authorities, schools, and third-sector partners – sharing best practice and addressing the root causes of crime.**
- **Support early intervention, restorative justice, and diversion strategies to reduce offending and make communities safer.**
- **Expand the Cardiff Model nationwide, using anonymised hospital data on violent injuries to target prevention in violent crime hotspots, and examine how this and other innovative approaches can be applied to a wider range of crimes.**

We will maintain Welsh Government support for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

We will seek to extend Welsh Language Standards and work to strengthen integration between devolved health, education, and social services in prisons, ensuring access to services in Welsh, and improving the support available to people leaving custody.

We will work with the UK Government to reduce the disproportionate impact on women of the 'jagged edge' between devolved and non-devolved responsibilities in the criminal justice system, including by ensuring that fewer women sentenced in Wales are held in prisons in England, far from their families and support networks.

## Veterans and the Armed Forces Covenant

We are committed to upholding the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant and ensuring fair access to healthcare, housing, employment, and education, skills and training for veterans and their families.

# Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Culture is the lifeblood of Wales. Art and music, our language, heritage and sporting traditions are fundamental to who we are as a nation.

Wales needs a government that truly values culture and understands its role in unlocking more of our economic potential, sustaining vibrant and cohesive communities, and promoting the well-being of our people.



**In the arts, media and sport, Wales is a small nation that has long punched well above its weight on the global stage. With a new vision and strong leadership for Welsh culture, sport and language, we will strengthen Wales's position as a cultural powerhouse.**

The benefits of the arts, heritage and sport for health and well-being are well established. We want people of all ages and abilities to have more and better opportunities to take part in physical activity, community arts, theatre and music.

And we will protect and strengthen the Welsh language in every part of Wales – through our education system, and in our communities and workplaces.

**A new cultural strategy for a healthier, wealthier and more resilient Wales, and a new level of investment in art, culture and sport**

A Plaid Cymru government will replace the current vague and non-committal 'Priorities for Culture' with a real and targeted cultural strategy.

We will ensure this strategy is properly funded, increasing the budget for culture, heritage, arts and sport year-on-year over the next Senedd term, and tying this to a wider shift towards preventative spending that recognises the central role of culture and sport in promoting good health and keeping people well.

Our strategy will:

- Be based on a root and branch reassessment of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector, undertaken in full collaboration and consultation with artists, cultural and heritage organisations and other relevant stakeholders.
- Promote the creative industries as a key driver of growth, innovation and opportunity in the Welsh economy, and as a provider of well-paid, good quality jobs and training.
- Use public commissioning and procurement more strategically to back Welsh artists, creatives and makers.
- Centre the arts, culture and sport as fundamental to promoting individual and community well-being, active and healthy lifestyles and better outcomes for physical and mental health.
- Prioritise equality of access to the arts, culture and sport for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and embed cultural opportunities in schools and local communities.
- Ensure that our cultural tourism offer is central to how we promote Wales to the world, support the continued development of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales and progress plans for an 'anchor home' that strengthens Wales's capacity to host major exhibitions and partnerships.



We will review the role and fitness for purpose of public bodies like Creative Wales, the Arts Council of Wales, Cadw and Visit Wales to support the delivery of this new strategy.

We will support a single, annual cultural heritage events calendar for Wales to help residents and tourists engage with the full offer of museums, heritage sites and festivals.

We will examine options for making cultural provision a statutory requirement for public bodies, including local authorities, health boards and national parks, through a new Culture Act, ensuring that culture is embedded at the heart of public life in Wales.

### Widening access

Everybody in Wales should have access to the arts and our rich cultural heritage, regardless of their background or where they live. In order to ensure that culture is accessible to all, we will:

- Maintain universal free access to our National Museums, and continue to support free entry for low-income families to both Eisteddfod yr Urdd and Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.
- Maintain current concessions and reduced-price access to our heritage sites, including for disabled people, young people, older visitors, veterans and Universal Credit claimants – working to expand free access across all Cadw sites and take our heritage into communities through outreach, touring and digital access.
- Renew cultural education and ensure that the teaching of Welsh history is being effectively delivered as core parts of the Curriculum for Wales, so that children are introduced to Wales's arts, culture and heritage from an early age.
- Continue support for the National Music Service, to ensure that musical opportunities are available to children and young people in Wales between the ages of 3-16 regardless of postcode or family income.

- Promote community and co-operative ownership to safeguard and create cultural spaces, sustain community hubs, and ensure their long-term viability – including through a Community Right to Buy.

### Supporting the creative industries

Culture is a key driver of growth, innovation and dynamism in the Welsh economy. As part of our wider plans to transform business support, the creative industries will have the full backing of a Plaid Cymru government.

We will:

- Ensure that our new National Development Agency has the expertise needed to provide tailored support to businesses across media, digital, culture and the arts.
- Support workforce development in the creative industries as part of a wider national skills strategy – promoting early-career routes, apprenticeships, and stronger links between education and industry, with a focus on inclusion and diversity.
- Promote co-operative solutions and shared resource hubs for self-employed and freelance workers, providing greater stability, collaboration and mutual support for Wales's creative workforce.
- Establish a cross-sector Creative and Culture Forum, bringing together unions, cultural organisations, and public bodies to develop shared priorities and drive fair pay and improved working conditions in the sector.
- Ensure that more public spending on digital, publishing and creative services goes to Welsh companies, supports high-quality jobs paying a living wage, and guarantees timely payment of invoices.
- Include grassroots music venues in plans for reforming business rates to better support small businesses in retail, leisure and hospitality.

- Strengthen digital connectivity in every part of Wales – improving the infrastructure that creative and media businesses need, and widening access to heritage and culture online.

### Broadcasting and the media

Plaid Cymru will work towards the devolution of powers over broadcasting, including powers to regulate, supervise and ensure accountability for broadcasting and communications in Wales.

As an interim step, ahead of the devolution of these powers, we will move forward with plans to establish a Shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales, to protect and strengthen local and national public service media platforms in Wales.

We will build on existing public supports for journalism in Wales, including the Public Interest Journalism Fund and dedicated Senedd reporter post – exploring options for sustainable long-term funding mechanisms and the designation of public interest journalism as a public service, to protect high-quality news provision across Wales.

We will also support training pathways and professional protection for journalists, and promote media literacy and ethical approaches to emerging technologies affecting news production and distribution.

### Keeping Wales well through lifelong sport and physical activity

Improved access, participation and enjoyment of sport at all levels in communities across Wales will be an integral part of our approach to keeping people well, and aligns with our belief that we must progressively invest in public and preventative health, with sport and exercise as a key driver of this.

A Plaid Cymru government will:

- Increase funding for culture and sport year-on-year throughout the next Senedd term.
- Promote physical and mental health and well-being across all Welsh Government activity and as a key area of work for a Plaid Cymru Minister for Public Health.
- Invest in sport and physical activity as part of the preventative health agenda and promote new partnership working between health boards, primary care services and sports organisations, including national governing bodies.
- Conduct an audit of community and regional sporting facilities to better understand how to target capital investment over the government term, to provide the best possible support to grassroots and community sport.

### Sport and physical activity in schools

A Plaid Cymru government will promote and embed increased access and participation in sport and exercise across the curriculum for primary and secondary schools in Wales, with a particular emphasis on physical literacy from the early years onwards as a crucial part of children's healthy development.

We will:

- Work with Sport Wales to develop a Daily Active offer as part of a whole school approach to physical activity, with the aim of increasing the number of school age children who are active for 60 minutes or more every day – drawing on international best practice and evidence, including Finland's School on the Move programme and New Zealand's Healthy Active Learning.
- Expand the Daily Mile to all primary schools in Wales, where children run, jog, wheel or walk for enjoyment and at their own pace for 15 minutes outdoors at least three times a week – building healthy habits through increased physical activity throughout the school week.

Swimming is not only good exercise – it is a life-saving skill which the majority of young children in Wales do not have. In 2024, only 35% of children in school years 3-6 in Wales could swim.

We will deliver a new national School Swimming and Water Safety programme, with a dedicated budget to provide a minimum school swimming experience for every school pupil in Wales, consisting of 20 lessons of swimming and water safety for all Year 4 and 5 students.

### **Welsh sport on the world stage**

A Plaid Cymru government will fully recognise and harness the role of sport – from local clubs through to the elite and international level – in sustainable economic growth and building our confidence and profile as a nation. We will work with key partners including Sport Wales and national sports organisations to identify and support opportunities for development.

We will provide strategic and long-term support to national governing bodies to attract and host international events in Wales – engaging more people of all ages in the enjoyment of sport and offering opportunities to promote Wales as a world-class travel and cultural destination.

We will also ensure that effective legacy plans are developed when Wales hosts events such as the Tour de France and Euro 28, or when our national teams qualify for international competitions.

Plaid Cymru believes that sporting events of national importance to Wales, such as the Rugby Six Nations, should remain free-to-air on television.

### **The Welsh Language**

Welsh is a language for everyone in Wales, and we will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, use and live their lives through it.

#### **Welsh language immersion in the early years**

The early years are a crucial stage in a child's life for acquiring a language, whether as a first or additional language.

Welsh-medium provision in childcare and early years education is also an essential gateway to Welsh-medium primary and secondary education, supporting children and families across Wales to access learning through the Welsh language.

Through our new and ambitious childcare offer, Plaid Cymru will significantly expand Welsh-medium early years provision.

We will:

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- **Create new Welsh-medium childcare places and support the establishment and growth of Welsh-medium childcare settings across Wales, working in partnership with key stakeholders such as Mudiad Meithrin.**
  - **Invest in programmes to promote and develop the Welsh-language skills of early years practitioners and childcare workers, including schemes and incentives to support workers to learn Welsh and to strengthen their existing language skills.**
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We will also review and expand plans to encourage and improve language transmission within families, supporting parents to choose to use Welsh with babies and young children, and promoting initiatives that strengthen the use of Welsh in the home through pre- and postnatal health services.

### Welsh-medium education

A Plaid Cymru government will ensure every child has the right to become a confident Welsh speaker. Education through the medium of Welsh is the most effective way to achieve this.

We will grow the number and proportion of children and young people receiving Welsh-medium education, as a central part of reaching at least one million Welsh speakers by 2050 – ensuring provision is well-resourced, inclusive and accessible.

Making full use of the powers in the Welsh Language and Education Act, we will:

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- **Introduce a target of at least 50% of pupils in Welsh-medium education by 2050.**

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  - **Set local targets to ensure steady growth of Welsh-medium education in all schools, progressively moving schools along the language continuum.**

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  - **Intervene with targeted support and, if necessary, take remedial action if targets for Welsh-medium education are not being met.**

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  - **Ensure Initial Teacher Education in Wales includes mandatory Welsh-language training, with the long-term goal that all teachers are able to teach through the medium of Welsh.**

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  - **Introduce a Welsh education workforce scheme, develop new sabbatical opportunities, and provide incentives for teachers to train to teach through the medium of Welsh.**

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We will also improve accessibility to Welsh-medium education by:

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- **Reviewing the Learner Travel Measure to address barriers in accessing Welsh-medium schools.**

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  - **Strengthening Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision through Welsh, including improved training and continuing professional development for the education workforce.**

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### Welsh-medium provision in colleges and universities

A Plaid Cymru Government will strengthen Welsh-medium provision in further and higher education – fully recognising the importance of third-level education in giving people the skills and confidence they need to use Welsh proficiently, professionally and technically.

We will:

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- **Invest to support and develop the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, increasing the number of students able to access third-level pathways – including apprenticeships – through the medium of Welsh.**

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  - **Work with third-level providers to increase the proportion of funding provided for Welsh-medium education and training, with particular attention to apprenticeships.**

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  - **Protect the Welsh language as a subject at third level, working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Medr to increase opportunities to study Welsh at A level and beyond.**

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As part of our wider cross-party and comprehensive review of the structure and funding of higher education in Wales, we will examine options for increasing the provision of Welsh-medium courses at universities in Wales, taking guidance and evidence from key partners.

### **Strengthening Welsh as a community language**

Alongside developing the Welsh language through our education system, we will protect and promote it as a living, everyday language, strengthening its foundations in communities across Wales.

Acting on the recommendations of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities, we will:

- **Legislate for new protections for areas of higher linguistic density, working with local authorities to determine how and where these areas should be designated.**
- **Introduce a tailored package of economic development measures that builds on Arfor and recognises the intrinsic link between language, culture and the economy, within the framework of a new National Development Agency for Wales.**
- **Respond to the Commission's second report and its recommendations on areas with medium and lower densities of Welsh speakers by the end of 2026, setting out a clear plan that brings together actions on all of the Commission's recommendations.**

We will ensure that the planning system better safeguards Welsh language and culture, working with local authorities to implement the Commission's recommendations on town and country planning. We will also legislate to protect Welsh place-names.

For Welsh to flourish, it must be actively used across all aspects of life – at home, in the workplace and in the community.

We will continue Welsh Government support for activities that promote the Welsh language and its use, investing further to expand digital Welsh-language resources and the use of Welsh in digital spaces, create new opportunities for children and young people to access Welsh-medium activities beyond the classroom, and promote the use of Welsh in workplaces.

### **Welsh language standards**

We will strengthen the rights of Welsh speakers by working to extend Welsh Language Standards to UK Government bodies and agencies operating in Wales, and to the private sector, including communications, utilities, banks, car parks and supermarkets.

We will also strengthen Welsh Language Standards for public bodies and service providers, ensuring they go beyond compliance to promote the growth of the Welsh language, increase the number of speakers, and expand opportunities to use Welsh in everyday life across Wales.

### **Welsh in our health and care services**

A Plaid Cymru Government will improve the delivery of health and care services through the medium of Welsh.

We will ensure full implementation and work to build on the *Mwy na Geiriau* action plan – so that health and care services are available through the medium of Welsh, including through digital and telehealth services.

We are also committed to improving access to primary care, neurodiversity services, speech and language therapy and mental health support – including perinatal mental health services – through the medium of Welsh.



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