



Child Poverty Progress Report 2019

Welsh Government Programmes
that are making a difference

December 2019



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Our approach to tackling poverty is one where every Minister across every portfolio has responsibility for improving outcomes. The Welsh Government supports the delivery of a more generous 'social wage' – cash equivalent services which have the effect of leaving money in the pockets of Welsh citizens. This can leave some families in Wales more than £2,000 a year better off than would otherwise be the case, depending on the particular set of circumstances they face. This factsheet details the cross Government contributions to tackling poverty and outcomes in terms of beneficiaries¹.

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¹ Unless it states otherwise all budgets relate to 2019/20 and outcomes to 2018/19 data

Keeping money in people's pockets

Supporting children and young people

- £5.1m, **Pupil Development Grant Access** – funding for families to help buy school uniform and sports kit, equipment for out of school hours trips, and equipment for curriculum activities such as design and technology.
Outcomes: Data will be available in January.
- **Free School Meals** – funded by local authorities, including from funding delivered through the Local Government Settlement. The Welsh Government has made an additional £7 million available through the Local Government Settlement in 2019-20 for additional free school meal costs associated with the new eligibility criteria and transitional protection. This is in addition to £5 million made available by Welsh Government to local authorities in 2018-19 to fund the additional costs arising from the rollout of Universal Credit.
Outcomes: 78,902 pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals in Wales in January 2019². Due to our new eligibility criteria (introduced in April 2019), we estimate more children will benefit from free school meals by the time Universal Credit is fully rolled out, compared to the previous benefits system.
- **Free Breakfast in Primary Schools Scheme** – free healthy breakfasts at school every day for children who have not had breakfast at home. Funding is part of local authorities Revenue Support Grant.
Outcomes: 61,487 children of primary school age benefited in January 2019².
- £3.2m, **School Milk Scheme** – free school milk for Foundation Phase children and subsidised milk to learners in Key Stage 2.
Outcomes: 112,354 pupils received free school milk in January 2019².
- £800k, **School Holiday Enrichment Programme** – opportunities for children aged 7-11 years to be more active, eat healthily and develop friendships whilst also making the most of local school facilities in disadvantaged areas during the summer holidays.
Outcomes: This summer over 3,700 places were offered to pupils in 77 schemes across 21 LAs in Wales.
- £100k, **Holiday Hunger – Playworks Pilot** – run over the 2019 summer holiday and October half term, to enable existing community and play settings to extend or improve the provision of food or places for children and young people in areas where there are high levels of deprivation and risk of holiday hunger.
Outcomes: Monitoring information is currently being analysed and will be available December 2019.
- £3.1m **Period Dignity** – free period products for young people in schools and Further Education (FE) institutions.
Outcomes: Funding for schools will support more than 140,000 pupils and funding for FE institutions will support nearly 53,000 students in 2019/20.

² <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Provision-of-Meals-and-Milk>

Supporting training and employment

- £40m, **Childcare Offer Wales** – 30 hours of government funded early education and childcare for children of working parents, helping parents return to work or increase their hours.
Outcomes: At the end of July almost 16,000 three and four year old children were accessing government funded childcare. A typical parent whose child is benefitting from 20 hours of childcare per week is getting the equivalent of an extra £90 per week in their pockets.
- £7.5m, **Rates Relief Scheme** – supporting all childcare providers with 100% relief from their non-domestic rates bills for a three-year period from 2018-19 to 2020-21.
Outcomes: Helps to keep the costs of childcare down for parents of young children.
- £17m, **Education Maintenance Allowance** – £30 per week for 16 to 18 year olds living in low income households, who want to continue their education.
Outcomes: In 2018/19 20,855 young people benefited from this incentive to continue in education after school leaving age.
- £5m, **Welsh Government Learning Grant FE** – grants of up to £1,500 for a full-time course or up to £750 for a part-time course for students aged 19 or over from a low income household.
Outcomes: In 2018/19 4,785 further education students, who might otherwise experience financial difficulty when undertaking post-compulsory education courses, benefited.
- **Support for Undergraduate Study** – non-means tested maintenance grant of £1,000 per annum for every student. Students from low income households get a grant up to £8,100 and a loan towards their costs of living away from home.
Outcomes: Provisional statistics on student numbers for the 2018/19 academic year will be available in December.
- **NHS Bursary** – cost of tuition fees, a bursary for living costs which includes a £1,000 non-means tested grant and if eligible access to a reduced student loan for people studying an eligible health care related programme in Wales.
Outcomes: Up until 2023, healthcare students, who might otherwise experience financial difficulty when undertaking a health related course in Wales will benefit.
- **Postgraduate Masters support** – non-means tested grant of £1,000 and a means-tested contribution of up to £5,885 for students from low income households.
Outcomes: Provisional statistics on student numbers for the 2018/19 academic year will be available in December.
- £1m, **St David's Day Fund** – practical financial support for care leavers to help them establish and sustain independent living with a strong focus on preventing homelessness. An additional £1m has been invested in the St David's Day Fund, in 2018-19 only, to double the current fund and strengthen the availability of direct financial support to care leavers to support them to transition and sustain independent living.
Outcomes: In 2017/18 over 1,900 care experienced children across Wales received funds via the St David's Day Fund to support their transition to adulthood and independence.

Supporting day to day living costs

- £244m, **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** – one in five households benefit from a reduction in council tax.

Outcomes: In 2018-19, almost 280,000 vulnerable and low-income households in Wales continued to be protected from any increase in their Council Tax liability, of which 220,000 continued to pay no council tax at all. The average support provided to households under the CTRS in 2018-19 was approximately £940 per year. Alongside the reduction scheme, over half a million households receive discounts and exemptions on their council tax bills each year. Many of these discounts support households which are at greater risk of poverty.
- £60m, **Free Concessionary Bus Travel** – free local bus travel for people aged 60 or over or disabled people with over 730,000 passes in use.

Outcomes: Pass holders undertook some 45.4m free bus journeys during 2018-19.
- £2m, **Discounted Bus Travel for Younger People** – one third reduction for 16 to 21 year olds travel on local bus services anywhere within Wales for any purpose.

Outcomes: During 2018-19 there were approximately 1.7m discounted journeys undertaken using My Travel Pass.
- £1m, **Free Travel on TrawsCymru Services** – free travel for all passengers on weekend TrawsCymru bus services.

Outcomes: Between July and December 2018 the TrawsCymru network carried an additional 81,000 passengers, an increase of 32% on the equivalent period in 2017.
- £26m, **Warm Homes Programme** – improving home energy efficiency and tackling domestic fuel poverty through programmes such as Nest and Arbed, leveraging in UK Government funding.

Outcomes: This investment has improved the energy efficiency of more than 55,000 homes in Wales since 2009, saving bill payers an estimated average of £400 a year on their domestic fuel bills.
- £10.2m, **Discretionary Assistance Fund** – urgent financial support in an emergency situation buy food, gas and electricity and providing essential household items.

Outcomes: The Discretionary Assistance Fund has supported 259,700 awards to the most vulnerable people in Wales, with £52.4 million in grants since April 2013.

Supporting health and well-being

- £578m, **Free prescriptions** – providing people with the medication they need to keep them well.

Outcomes: In 2018-19 there were 80,145,953 items prescribed by GPs in Wales and dispensed in the community.
- Help with Health Costs (NHS Low Income Scheme)** – people who are entitled to certain means-tested benefits or tax credits are eligible for a range of health related services including free dental treatment, sight tests, help toward the costs of glasses, and reimbursement of travel costs to hospital while under the care of a consultant.

Outcomes: Between April and September 2019 there were approximately 4,320 claims made to the LIS, of which 2,140 were awarded full exemption and 1,235 partial exemption from paying for the costs of dental and optical treatment and travel to hospital under the care of a consultant.

- £6.9m, **Healthy Start Vouchers and Nursery Milk Scheme** – vouchers for pregnant women, new mothers and children under four from low income households to purchase fruit and vegetables, milk and infant formula plus free multi-vitamin supplement. Nursery Milk Scheme provides a free drink of milk/infant formula for children under five in two or more hours of childcare.
Outcomes: from the 10th week of pregnancy until the age of four, Healthy Start recipients can get nearly £900 off the cost of fruit and veg, milk and infant formulae in addition to receiving free vitamins. 17,000 women and children in Wales currently receive Healthy Start vouchers, around 70% of those eligible.
 - £280k **Fusion Programme** – encourages culture and heritage organisations to work closer with bodies such as local authorities to increase opportunities and encouraging involvement in culture and heritage for people in areas of economic disadvantage, supporting them to benefit from the opportunities provided.
Outcomes: Over 15,000 individuals are reported to have received interventions with the programme during 2018-2019.
 - £1.5m, **Free Swimming** – access to free swimming sessions split 60% targeted towards young people under 16, and 40% to people 16 and over from some of the more disadvantaged areas.
Outcomes: The new scheme has just started so numbers not yet available.
 - **Free entry to National Museums** – removes a financial barrier for visitors to the seven museums run by National Museums Wales.
Outcomes: Free access to cultural activity has seen visit figures at the National Museums reach 1.887 million in 2018-19, together with over 208,000 young people provided with opportunities to learn outside the classroom.
 - £59.1m **Non-Domestic Rates Relief** – provided to charitable and community organisations in 2017-18.
Outcomes: Supporting the provision of a wide range of health, wellbeing and educational activities.
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Services supporting disadvantaged individuals and families

Giving children the best start in life

- £73.7m revenue £529k capital, **Flying Start** – providing families with children under 4 living in the most disadvantaged areas with an enhanced health visiting service, access to parenting programmes, support for speech language and communication and quality, part-time childcare.
Outcomes: For the fifth year running Flying Start has met its target of supporting over 36,000 families in Wales year on year.
- £37.6m, **Families First** – improving outcomes for children, young people and families with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention for families, particularly those living in poverty.
Outcomes: The last full year of Families First data, currently available, for 2017/18 shows that over 12,900 families were referred for a Joint Assessment Family Framework in order to gauge

the families' level of need, in 2017/18. It also shows that, of those families referred, over 4,400 went on to sign a Team Around the Family action plan to ensure the provision of effective multi-agency support.

- £36m, **Reducing Infant Class Sizes Grant** – £16 m revenue and £20 m capital is available during this assembly term, targeting largest class sizes in schools which have highest level of free school meals / additional needs or where standards need to improve.
Outcomes: 95 additional teachers and 40 additional teaching assistants are in place providing effective teacher pupil contact time to raise standards. Currently 59 new and additional classrooms are being created in 33 schools including improvements to existing facilities.
- £3.7m, **Designed to Smile** – preventing tooth decay in children from birth to 5 years with preventative care being delivered to nurseries and schools in disadvantaged areas.
Outcomes: Over 90,000 children receiving care in more than 1,200 settings.
- £93.7m, **Pupil Development Grant** – improving outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals, looked after children, learners who are Educated Other Than At School and disadvantaged three and four year olds in funded Foundation Phase education.
Outcomes: Since its introduction in 2012 we have made available more than £475m through the PDG, which has supported the equivalent of over 530,000 children and young people to reach their potential.

Supporting people into employment

- £15.9m **Communities for Work** – ESF and Welsh Government match funded programme helping people furthest from the labour market into work.
Outcomes: In 2018-19 a total of 6,325 participants were engaged with 2,739 of these obtaining a job outcome. For 2019-20 to end of September 2019, 3,263 individuals were engaged in the programme with 1,615 of those obtaining a job outcome.
- £12m, **Communities for Work Plus** – employability support for people in or at risk of poverty.
Outcomes: In 2018-19 a total of 7,943 individuals were engaged with 2,227 of those obtaining a job outcome. For 2019-20 to end of September 2019, 4,048 individuals were engaged in the programme with 1,700 of those obtaining a job outcome.
- £3.4m (2019/20 budget) **Parents, Childcare & Employment (PaCE)** – ESF and Welsh Government match funded programme helping economically inactive parents to overcome childcare and other barriers to training and job opportunities.
Outcomes: During 2018-19 PaCE supported 1,018 participants with one to one tailored support, with 278 of those obtaining a job outcome.
- £17.3m, ESF funded programme, **Out of Work Peer Mentoring Service** – supporting Long Term Unemployed, Economically Inactive and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and in recovery from substance misuse or mental ill health into work.
Outcomes: 3,615 enrolled in the service in 2018/19. Of those participants who exited the service in 2018/19, 855 reported they had achieved a qualification helping them towards future employment and 378 reported they had started work.

Providing homes and preventing homelessness

- £126m, **Supporting People / Housing Support Grant** – providing services to homeless, vulnerably housed and people who need support to stay out of institutional settings.
Outcomes: The programme supports roughly 60,000 people annually to prevent homelessness and the need to move into institutional setting.
- £116m, **20,000 Affordable Homes Target** – providing affordable good housing for people who need them through the Social Housing Grant programme.
Outcomes: During 2018-19, 2,592 additional affordable housing units had been delivered across for the people who need it across Wales, including families with children.
- £4.8m, **Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund** – funding suitable housing options and support for young people, including those leaving care.
Outcomes: This is a new set of projects started in 2019-20 therefore no data has been collected as yet.
- £3.7m, **Youth Support Grant** – for broadening the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework delivery to prevent young people becoming homeless.
Outcomes: This is new funding and therefore no data has been collected as yet.
- £250k, **Youth Homelessness Communication and Engagement** – raising awareness of hidden homelessness and services available to young people.
Outcomes: This is a new project therefore data has not yet been collected, preliminary data from first phase of the campaign is due in January 2020.
- £250k, **Youth Homelessness Tenancy Support** – preventing eviction and providing tenancy support.
Outcomes: No data collected as the campaign is not yet live, therefore data will be available in January 2020.

Maximising incomes

- £8.04m, **Single Advice Fund** – providing access to information and advice amongst the most vulnerable households within local communities.
Outcomes: The advice services being delivered through the Single Advice Fund will commence on the 01/01/2020. It is predicted that, by the 31/12/2020 over 60,000 people will have received the information and advice they need to resolve their social welfare problems, reducing their stress and anxiety and improving their health and well-being.
- £922k, **Credit Unions** – supporting a range of services, including saving and loans, rent and budgeting products and equipping people to make good financial choices, and avoid irresponsible lenders.
Outcomes: There are approximately 70,000 adults benefiting from being a member of a Credit Union in Wales.

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.