

Welsh Labour Manifesto 2011



Standing up for Wales

Labour  Llafur

Contents

Standing up for Wales

Page 3

Our election pledges

Page 5

Standing up for our record

Page 6

Chapter 1

Standing Up for Growth and Sustainable Jobs

Page 9

Chapter 2

Standing Up for Public Services in Wales

Page 21

Chapter 3

Standing up for Education

Page 31

Chapter 4

Standing up for Wales – 21st Century Health Care

Page 41

Chapter 5

Standing up for Wales – Supporting People

Page 55

Chapter 6

Standing up for Welsh Homes

Page 63

Chapter 7

Standing up for Wales – Safer Communities for All

Page 67

Chapter 8

Standing up for Equality

Page 71

Chapter 9

Standing up to Tackle Poverty in Wales

Page 77

Chapter 10

Standing up for Rural Communities

Page 85

Chapter 11

Standing up for the Environment and Sustainability

Page 91

Chapter 12

Standing up for Culture and the Welsh Language

Page 101

Conclusion

Page 109



Standing up for Wales

Our Programme For Government

"I am honoured to serve the people of Wales as First Minister of the Welsh Government. As Welsh Labour Leader, I now seek a fresh mandate from the people of Wales for a programme of government that will allow Welsh Labour to stand up for Wales and to lead our country forward with hope"



Rt Hon Carwyn Jones, Welsh Labour Leader.

On May 5th 2011, the people of Wales will elect their National Assembly for Wales.

These are challenging times but Welsh Labour is Standing up for Wales and is leading Wales forward by providing hope for the future. It is Welsh Labour's values of equality, opportunity and social justice that will shape our actions in government.

We are standing up for the whole of Wales and providing fairness for families and children, fresh hope for our communities, new opportunities and jobs for our younger generation, and support for businesses in Wales. We will provide Wales with a beacon of hope that stands in contrast to the cuts of the Tory-led UK coalition government.

Welsh Labour will deliver fairness – not broken promises. Our values lead us to support the development of a more equal society, in which every Welsh citizen is able to make the most of their abilities and contribute to the wider community in which they live. We seek to improve the well being of all. We also recognise our responsibility to future generations and will continue to build a more sustainable Wales.

At the heart of our work, Welsh Labour will fight for jobs and we will campaign for recovery.

Welsh Labour is on the side of our communities. We represent the values of ordinary families right across Wales.

Wales is safe with Labour.

Standing up for Wales



The Welsh General Election provides a big opportunity for the people of Wales. You can use your TWO votes to support Carwyn Jones, and Welsh Labour, and give the mandate needed for us to stand up for the whole of Wales. To provide leadership and hope for Wales in these challenging times.

But it is also an opportunity to send a message to the Tory-led Government in Whitehall: that Wales is being treated unfairly and their deep and savage cuts are hurting but not working.

On 5 May vote for a Welsh Labour Government to stand up for Wales.

Welsh Labour achievements in the Assembly like free bus passes for

older people, free prescriptions and free school breakfasts for children are at risk under the Tories.

You must vote for Carwyn Jones and Welsh Labour if we are to keep these safe.

The Tories are cutting too deep, too fast but Labour is standing up for Wales. I hope you will support us on 5th May.

**Rt Hon Peter Hain MP
Shadow Secretary of State
for Wales**

Our election pledges

Five for a Fairer Future

- We will tackle youth unemployment by creating a young people's jobs and training fund and extend apprenticeship opportunities for young people.
- Improved access to GP surgeries in the evenings and Saturday mornings. We will require GPs to make surgeries more accessible to working people.
- More frontline spending in schools. (We will raise schools funding by 1% above the percentage change in the block grant we receive from the UK Government year on year).
- Fund the employment of 500 Police Community Support Officers in Wales.
- We will double the number of children benefitting from improved health visiting, free nursery places and better support to families through our 'Flying Start' programme.

Five to keep

- Free prescriptions to help hard-working families and encourage people back to work
- Free bus travel for pensioners and disabled people and their carers
- Free school breakfasts and school milk for the under sevens
- Support for Welsh students so they will not have to pay higher tuition fees
- Help for people who have been made redundant – building on the successful ReAct programme.

Standing up for our record

Welsh Labour is proud of our record in government – at a UK level from 1997 to 2010 - but continuing here in Wales by still having Welsh Labour in Government. We approach the 2011 elections knowing we have achieved so much in changing our nation for the better including:

- The National Minimum Wage
- Investment in health with record low waiting times
- New hospitals across Wales
- Extra funding for hospice services
- The Winter Fuel Allowance
- Free bus passes for over 60's and people with disabilities
- School breakfast scheme
- Free entry to museums
- Free prescriptions
- Free car parking at hospitals
- Transformed education from 'early years' to lifelong learning
- Action on equality and civil partnerships
- Tackling child poverty and reducing the number of children in poverty in Wales
- Obtained and invested European funds to support the transition of our economy
- Invested in Police numbers to provide safer communities and required closer co-operation with local communities
- Tackling problems of domestic abuse and action against violence to public service workers
- Invested in faster rail services, track infrastructure and new rolling stock
- Created the posts of Children's Commissioner and Older Persons Commissioner
- Paved the way for better care in older age through our Paying for Care Measure
- Invested in transport for Wales: air, bus, road and train services have all been boosted by Labour
- Attracted the Ryder Cup and other major events to Wales
- Invested in tourism, culture and the arts
- Action for others – our Wales for Africa programme and Wales as a Fair Trade Nation
- Delivered, and enhanced, devolution for Wales
- The Tidy Towns initiative keeping your neighbourhood clean
- Planting a tree for every new born baby

-
- New Assembly Government buildings in Aberystwyth, Llandudno Junction and Merthyr
 - Action to deliver more affordable homes in Wales
 - Investing to prevent fuel poverty in Wales
 - Protecting our natural environment, and action against climate change
 - Protecting Welsh domiciled students from rises in tuition fees.

All of these actions, and many others, provide a platform for further change in our fourth term. But Welsh Labour must also now consider how we deliver further progress in light of the savage cuts, and the damaging policies of the UK Tory government. Wales is being treated unfairly and the Tories have no plan for growth. Welsh Labour is standing up for Wales.



Chapter 1

Standing Up for Growth and Sustainable Jobs

Wales faces significant economic challenges and the next Assembly term will be a critical period for the Welsh economy. Despite the global financial crisis and the subsequent recession, the worst in many years, Wales is being helped to weather the storm through the leadership of Carwyn Jones and Welsh Labour, working closely with our social partners in business, the public and voluntary sectors.

Welsh Labour believes that a social partnership, 'Team Wales' approach to the economic and social well being of Wales is vital over the next term of the Assembly.

- Central to the recovery the First Minister will build on the new relationship the Assembly Government has with the business community and our social partners to create the flexible framework and conditions needed for companies and businesses to thrive and grow.

Elsewhere in this Manifesto we highlight our proposals to raise the skill levels of our workforce, reduce youth unemployment and other actions to lessen the impact of the savage measures being imposed on Wales by the Tory-led UK Government - and all essential if we are to assist our economic recovery.

The economic recovery - with Wales already struggling to overcome the major downturns of the '70s '80s &

'90s and the global recession- is in a fragile condition and must be supported. We do not believe a sterile debate over the relative size of the public/private sector is helpful. Welsh Labour believes we need strong private and public sectors but that in many parts of Wales the private sector is not strong or dynamic enough and Welsh Labour's goal is to create more sustainable and dynamic companies, especially those head-quartered in Wales. We look to raise confidence amongst Welsh businesses. We also believe the public sector has to take a much more innovative and interventionist role in building the private sector, particularly in those areas where business will not invest, even with significant government support. We believe in active government providing the support necessary for better economic conditions in Wales.

Economic recovery requires action to build a fairer, sustainable future, and jobs and the economy must be

the over-riding priority in the next Assembly term. We know however only too well in Wales the results of unsustainable development. We believe sustainable economic growth can only be developed through a shift to a resource-efficient, low carbon, green economy and we will take action to promote investment in greener, sustainable jobs.

Welsh Labour's economic policy also reflects our values of social justice and fairness and recent OECD reports found that job security is the attribute most valued by workers. Our commitment to helping people faced with redundancies is shown by the successful ReAct and ProAct programmes, with the new Adapt scheme for the public sector now coming on-stream. During what are likely to be difficult times ahead we will aim to maintain as high a level of people in work and training as possible. With youth unemployment forecast to increase in the near future our imperative will be to prevent yet another lost generation so we will therefore:

- Establish a Welsh Jobs Fund offering employment or training for our young people.

We believe there is a public consensus on the direction Wales should take, with broad support for the Economic Renewal Programme. Welsh Labour's goal is therefore to implement and further integrate our economic, education, skills and planning

policies across all relevant Assembly Government departments and other delivery bodies. The overarching priority over the next Assembly term will be delivery. We will review and refresh our actions based on fresh evidence to ensure the maximum effectiveness and flexibility of all those Assembly Government departments and other organisations providing support for businesses, especially in these economically uncertain times.

In building upon the support for the sectoral approach of the Economic Renewal Programme Welsh Labour also recognises that much of the existing economic base of Wales and future projections of job growth and wealth creation lie outside the six key sectors, in areas such as business services, construction and tourism. We will:

- Support high performing, quality companies in all those parts of the economy which can create employment, wealth and a sustainable Wales.

We want Wales to be an excellent place in which to locate and do business - to be open for business - and be welcoming for companies, whether they are Wales-based or an inward investor. Even in a tough global environment there are still opportunities to attract new developments seeking a UK or EU base and we will be selective in seeking those businesses which can provide quality, sustainable jobs and

generate wealth. Within the Assembly Government's long-standing policy of creating an investment and not a subsidy culture Welsh Labour still believes in appropriate use of government grants. We will:

- Expect any business seeking Assembly Government support, including public procurement contracts, to sign up to our principles of corporate social responsibility, with a commitment to sustainable development, training and good employment practice. This will include supported employment settings such as Remploy.

Much of the economic base of Wales is founded on large companies and they are vital to many parts of Wales. We will:

- Continue to build strong links with our anchor companies and develop strategic, mutually supportive/beneficial relationships with these key companies, embedding them in the Welsh economy through developing close links with our further and higher educational institutions and maximising supply chain opportunities.

We need to increase the number of small firms being created in Wales and help build a more enterprising private sector. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Review what entrepreneurial support is needed by start-up and small firms (SMEs), with real potential to thrive & grow, and how we can embed an entrepreneurial culture in Wales.

We believe there is strong case for supporting alternative forms of enterprise, as businesses or in supporting the delivery of public services. We believe that not-for-profit organisations such as mutuals, social enterprises and co-operatives have a key role to play in the economy and in complementing the provision of public services. Welsh Labour grew out of the co-operative and community-based mutual movement and is committed to this tradition and its practical implementation, such as the establishment of the Wales Co-operative Centre.

- Welsh Labour will ensure that the mutual and cooperative sector has access to appropriate and robust business advice and that the Ministerial lead will be in the Economy Department.

Energy sector - an Energy Decade for Wales

Welsh Labour believes that the scale of investment Wales will see over the next decade in energy and related infrastructure is unlikely to be matched by any other sector. This will be an energy decade for Wales, with the growth of the renewable and low carbon energy sector taking the lead.

In order to ensure that Wales gains the maximum benefit from this investment a high level strategic relationship with the major energy companies is essential and a closer alignment must be established

between these investments and the Assembly Government's policy priorities. Because energy touches on our lives in so many ways: economic development, the environment and fuel poverty and because energy policy is not fully devolved a new focus is needed. We will:

- Ensure that the First Minister takes overall Ministerial lead for energy policy. This will involve convening regular meetings of the key energy companies and co-ordinating the Assembly Government's departments on this key agenda. We will look to pursue a mixed energy economy.

Our energy needs in Wales will remain considerable and must be met increasingly from low carbon sources. The Assembly Government's Low Carbon Energy Statement sets out how we intend to maximise energy savings and energy efficiency, making the majority of the energy production we need in Wales from low carbon sources. Our aim is that by 2025 up to twice as much renewable electricity is generated annually in Wales as today. By 2050 our aim is that almost all our local energy needs are met by low carbon electricity production.

The Assembly Government will make a high level statement regarding its engagement with the energy sector, explaining the economic and low carbon benefits that fall to Wales as the result of these investments together with a clear reference to environmental issues, energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

For example, the Assembly Government has worked closely with the big energy companies to invest in energy efficiency and fuel poverty measures in homes, particularly with the ground-breaking Arbed programme, to make improvements to 6,000 homes in the poorest areas of Wales. We believe there is room to be even more ambitious on this agenda, particularly when rising fuel prices lead to greater fuel poverty.

Through the Arbed programme we will continue to lever in further funding, promoting local businesses, creating jobs and developing skills and will:

- Make improvements to a further 10,000 homes by 2015.

Tourism

Sustainable tourism is vital to the economy of Wales. The country has significant natural resources and a network of purpose built leisure facilities that attract both day and staying visitors. Tourism expenditure is a significant boost to local economies across Wales. Our aim remains to consistently improve the quality of the visitor product in Wales, extending the tourism season and improving the benefits in terms of employment and income. We recognise that European investment is vital to improve our tourism infrastructure and make the most of our heritage and natural environment. Activity and niche markets must be developed as well as securing maximum benefit from major

events in our high profile venues.

With rising fuel prices and other global issues Welsh Labour will work alongside the tourism industry in Wales to secure ongoing benefits from changes in the industry. This is an industry that is required to maintain a competitive edge and we will:

- Promote Wales as a destination making a high quality tourism offer.
- Work to extend the tourism season and associated benefits.
- Identify funding opportunities to improve the visitor infrastructure and product in Wales.
- Support investment in staff training and management to support a high quality industry

Next Generation Broadband for Wales (NGBW) Project

Availability of robust superfast broadband in the 21st century is essential for our businesses and citizens in order for them to access services and the opportunities provided by digital technologies. Welsh Labour in the next Assembly term will:

- Seek to ensure that all residential premises and all businesses in Wales will have access to Next Generation Broadband by 2015, with the ambition that 50 per cent or more have access to 100Mbps. As with the Assembly Government's previously successful Broadband Wales programme, we believe

however that the Next Generation Broadband for Wales Project must be a balance between supply side and demand stimulation actions.

Regenerating our communities

Coordination of policies and programmes in economic development, infrastructure provision and transport networks is vital to the regeneration of our communities. Many of the challenges lie beyond the boundaries of single organisations and require Welsh Labour in Government to work with our partners to deliver the step change in economic regeneration. This has been demonstrated by successful regeneration programmes led by Labour Ministers in areas such as the Heads of the Valleys improving our Valleys communities and the Mon a Menai programme improving communities in Caernarfon, Holyhead and Bangor and other areas across North West Wales.

In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour in government will:

- Continue our efforts to regenerate our town centres through planning policies breathing new life in to towns by safer and better quality design, developing family friendly environments and mixed use developments.
- Revive our seaside towns by investing in the infrastructure, renewal and regeneration of communities.

Sustainable Procurement

Great strides have been made in improving public sector procurement processes in Wales. For example, Wales-based companies have increased their share of the £4.5 billion the public sector in Wales annually spends on goods and services from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. However we need to do even better in getting value for money for the ‘Welsh Pound’ and in opening up these opportunities for small companies, supported employment and social enterprises in Wales. Acknowledging the importance of procurement in providing better and more cost effective services, working with other public service bodies we will:

- Implement the recommendations of the Assembly Government’s commissioned report, Barriers to Procurement Opportunities, across the public sector.
- Exploit the potential for increased job creation, training and community regeneration by encouraging the imaginative use of community benefit and social clauses in procurement contracts by rolling out the ‘Can-do’ Toolkit across public service providers.
- Improve significantly the supply of appropriately qualified procurement professionals working in Wales.

Transparency and accountability

We are committed to partnership working and as laid down in the Government of Wales Act 1998, we will consult business

and other social partners on all major government policy proposals, including legislation, and carry out regulatory impact assessments on Assembly Government legislation. Legislation will be published in draft Bill form and will be introduced as part of an holistic and strategic approach to policy making and implementation. In line with our on-going commitment to opening up the system and creating greater transparency we will seek to streamline, simplify and codify existing Assembly Government legislation, which include measuring the cumulative impact of Government policies on the Welsh economy.

Transport

High levels of mobility are a feature of a modern society and transport is an enabler of economic and social development. We will seek to enable greater mobility by ensuring that our transport network in Wales operates more efficiently, effectively, sustainably and inclusively.

The capacity and reliability of the main east-west strategic Trans European corridors in Wales are crucial for Wales’ sustained future development. Our cities and urban areas also the drivers of our future sustainable economic growth and tackling urban congestion will be a priority.

At a time of growing public finance constraint we will:

- Prioritise the objectives of the National Transport Plan to ensure



that the existing transport funding is used effectively, the level of resources enhanced and that future investment decisions are made against these overarching strategic priorities.

Integrated transport

Welsh Labour believes the voluntary arrangements of the regional transport consortia have achieved a good deal but in order to make the necessary step-change in the integration of transport planning and delivery of services the organisational arrangements for transport have become unnecessarily complicated. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Consider using the provisions of the Transport Wales Act 2006 to establish one or more Joint Transport Authorities.

We believe this could enable transport planning to be undertaken on a more

effective regional or city region basis. In addition, with climate change leading to more unpredictable and severe weather incidents, keeping our transport network in Wales open at these times is imperative.

- We will review the arrangements for winter road maintenance currently undertaken by local authorities and consider the potential for these being carried out by the Trunk Road Agencies in Wales.

Rail

The existing arrangements for the Wales & Border rail franchise end in 2018 and the next five-year franchise review is in 2013. We believe there is a strong case for reviewing the governance arrangements for the franchise when it is up for renewal.

- We will examine the feasibility of the Wales & Border rail franchise being run on a not-for-dividend basis, such as Glas Cymru.

The McNulty Review of the rail industry is likely to call for closer working relationship between Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies. Welsh Labour believes the Assembly Government should lead on developing these relationships in Wales.

Rail infrastructure.

Welsh Labour welcomes the recent announcement of the electrification of the Cardiff-Paddington main line but deplores the decision of the Tory-led UK Government to go back on the previous Labour Government's plans to extend electrification to Swansea.

Welsh Labour also welcomes the intention by Network Rail to create a devolved Wales and the Marches business unit dedicated to serving rail users in Wales. Welsh Labour however believes the operation of the rail infrastructure in Wales needs reviewing and that Network Rail should have a greater degree of accountability to the Assembly Government through its governance arrangements and that Wales has a fair share of capital investment in rail. Welsh Labour in government will:

- Make the case to the UK Government for greater accountability of Network Rail to the Assembly Government.
- Continue to argue strongly for the electrification of the main south Wales-London Paddington line

through to Swansea. We will also develop the business case for the electrification of other parts of the local rail network in Wales.

Transport is a significant contributor to carbon emissions. We believe it is possible to put transport onto a carbon reduction pathway without risking future economic growth. In the short-term we believe it should be possible to secure annual carbon savings of 3 per cent, and it is realistic to aim for a reduction of 80 per cent by 2050. This will largely be achieved by improved engine technology and a reduction in the carbon content of fuel, while accepting that modal transport switching can make a small additional contribution and deliver other benefits. We believe it is anomalous that under the current UK network of regional traffic commissioners the existing Commissioner is based in Birmingham, covering Wales and the Midlands. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Seek to establish a Traffic Commissioner based in Wales.



Buses

Bus services have a vital role to play in an integrated transport system. We will:

- Work with partners to enhance the quality, reliability and safety of local bus service provision.
- Continue to improve services such as the Trawscambria network and the popular on-demand Bwcabus scheme.
- Retain free bus travel for pensioners and disabled people and their carers.

Skills

Our commitment to developing skills is central to making Wales a highly attractive place to live, invest, employ and grow. Our approach is based on a genuine social partnership between Government, learning

providers, employers and the workforce. We believe skills are vital to sustain economic growth and a fairer society.

With the economic recovery still at a fragile stage, it is more important than ever that we continue to invest in developing the skills of people in Wales. That is why, in the Welsh Budget announced last November, the Labour-led Assembly Government committed to protecting funding for skills.

Welsh Labour has always given priority to skills development. That is why, when the effects of the global recession hit Wales, we acted swiftly to ensure that we continued to help people into apprenticeships by introducing the pre-apprenticeship programme, Pathways to Apprenticeships.

We are committed to investing in skills and supporting apprenticeship programmes and by July 2010, more than 22,700 people in Wales were participating in apprenticeship schemes funded through the Labour-led Assembly Government. We also introduced the ReAct initiative, which supports companies to take on people who have been made redundant and has helped 17,000 individuals who have lost their jobs to retrain, gain new skills and find new employment opportunities.

Changes to the programme, will encourage even more companies to create jobs and take on people who have been made redundant.

We established the ProAct scheme, supporting over 10,000 people to stay in work and improve their skills in preparation for the recovery. ProAct was succeeded by Skills Growth Wales, which helps Welsh companies grow by funding high-level or new technology skills training, and has supported over 2,000 individuals.

Over the next Assembly term, in continuing to prioritise skills training, we will:

- Introduce a successor to the Skill Build programme that will offer enhanced support, including entry-level ‘engagement’ training for young people facing the worst barriers to employment.
 - Help employers tackle the costs and wasted potential arising from low levels of literacy and numeracy in the workforce through the Basic Skills Employer Pledge. This will be supported by European funds through the new Basic Skills in the Workplace projects operating across Wales from October 2010 to September 2013. The projects plan to support over 1,000 employers and 30,000 employed individuals.
 - Encourage more young people to gain the skills that will develop Wales’ potential for economic growth. Subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are especially important in this regard. We will promote engagement in these subjects across the curriculum and age range into Higher Education and at postgraduate level, through the new National Science Academy (NSA) which will be linked to the wider science agenda and the work of the new Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales.
 - Use European funds to support the training of young people in STEM subjects through a STEM skills project.
 - Continue our commitment to increase apprenticeship opportunities through the Pathways to Apprenticeship programme, with a special focus on youth engagement and employment, and tackling long term unemployment.
-

- Continue to extend the Young Recruits' programme to respond to continued demand from employers and from young people, and it is hoped that 1000 young people will benefit over the next year.
- Roll out the Apprenticeship Matching Service across Wales later this year. This web-based service will enable potential apprentices to register, search for apprenticeship vacancies and apply for apprenticeships. Employers will be able to register their companies, link to local training providers and post apprenticeship vacancies.
- Continue to strengthen and build the Wales Union Learning Fund (WULF) to support the trade union movement's efforts to encourage both employers and employees to participate in training. WULF has helped more than 10,000 employees across Wales access learning and gain new skills.

The move to a low-carbon economy is an essential part of our commitment to sustainable development and we will therefore:

- Work with all partners to identify skills needs by industry and to ensure that training provision will be available to deliver the low-carbon agenda in Wales.
-

HEALTH CENTRE

ers & Partners
0 483126



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Yn eiddo Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro yn eiddo prifysgol a'r Fro Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro
Caerdydd a'r Fro Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro

Welcome to Butetown Health Centre

Croeso i Ganolfan Iechyd Tre Bute

Ku soo dhawoow Xarunta Caafimaadka Butetown

বিউটটাইন হেলথ সেন্টার এ স্বাগতম

أهلاً بكم في مركز بيوت تاون الصحي

بيوت تاون مركز صحت مبین خسر وقت

Chapter 2

Standing Up for Public Services in Wales

Welsh Labour believes in accessible, quality citizen-centred services for all, not choice for the few. Whilst the Tory-led Coalition aims to reduce the state, Welsh Labour believes in a Welsh Public Service with a strong public service ethos: in delivering quality citizen-centred services where service users are engaged with providers, including the third sector, in the design, delivery and improvement of those services; in placing public interest above private profit; in fostering collaboration not competition and in building fairer communities, not the Tories' 'Big Society'.

Welsh Labour has made unprecedented investment in our schools, hospitals and equipment and workforce, employing a record number of nurses, doctors, teachers and other front-line staff. Despite drastic cuts in budgets by the Tory-led UK Government, we will build on the investment made by successive Labour governments and continue to improve our public services. We will require service providers and users to work in partnership more effectively and efficiently and in innovative ways, within and beyond organisational boundaries, on the joint planning, commissioning and delivery of services. In particular we will insist on rapid implementation of joint procurement systems to obtain maximum value from the £4.3 billion

spent annually on purchasing goods and services in the Welsh public sector.

In the next Assembly term, building on the Assembly Government commissioned reviews of social services, education and other local government services. We will:

- Establish an Independent Commission to review the governance and delivery arrangements of public services in Wales and make recommendations on the most effective delivery of those public services.

We have already streamlined the NHS into seven Local Health Boards which are benefitting from more efficient, collaborative working. Our

priorities will be to develop greater accountability and transparency of public service providers; streamline delivery systems and secure maximum value for the ‘Welsh Pound’. We will:

- Continue our work towards establishing a pan-Welsh Public Service development and improvement function to support innovation and continuous improvement in public service delivery.

We also believe that the citizen should be closely engaged with service providers, especially front-line staff, in the design, delivery and scrutiny of public services in Wales. To further develop a citizen focus in our public services and utilities. We will:

- Seek to establish a national trading standards service and to preserve the function of Consumer Focus ensuring that the people of Wales have an independent voice in the delivery of public services and protection from consumer exploitation.

Assembly Government

Delivery will be Welsh Labour’s watchword in the fourth Assembly term. To ensure the integrated and streamlined delivery of strategic government priorities. We will:

- Establish a First Minister’s Delivery Unit at the heart of the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Assembly Government civil service has a crucial leadership role in the

Welsh Public Service in policy making and in the delivery of government priorities. We believe it is anomalous that the Assembly Government senior civil service is not accountable to Welsh Ministers and that after the first decade of devolution it is appropriate that the current civil service system be reviewed. We will:

- Therefore review and seek realignment of the governance and performance of the Assembly Government civil service, better to reflect the developing requirements of devolution whilst remaining part of the Home Civil Service.

Public policy

We need to develop the engagement of the wider Welsh civil society, including the higher education sector, with the Assembly Government’s policy-making process. In order to create greater critical mass in high quality, strategic public policy making and research. We will:

- Establish a pan-Wales public policy institute.

Fairer Funding for Wales

The Assembly Government-commissioned Holtham Review of the funding of Wales demonstrated that the Barnett Formula needed reform. As a result of the drastic reduction in the Welsh Assembly Government’s Block Grant made by the Tory-led UK Government our priorities will be protecting public services in Wales and achieving maximum value-for-money



for the ‘Welsh Pound’. To ensure fairer funding for Wales and the most adaptable and cost-effective delivery of public services in Wales we will:

- Continue to press the UK Government for reform of the Barnett Formula to ensure fairer funding for Wales.
- Not seek powers to vary income-tax.
- Explore innovative, collaborative ways in which the Assembly Government (looking particularly at the experiences in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and others, such as local authorities and the private sector, can manage assets and raise capital for investment in public service infrastructure.
- Establish a single Welsh Assembly Government Capital Infrastructure fund, working collaboratively with other public service bodies, the third and private sectors.
- Continue to explore other, sustainable and flexible forms of investment in public services such as the use of the Welsh Housing Partnership, Social Investment Bonds and Community Bonds, and work closely with social banks such as Charity and Unity Trust Banks, credit unions, charities, co-ops and social enterprises to develop innovative solutions to delivering our public service priorities.

External Scrutiny

Effective and appropriate external scrutiny, regulation and audit have a crucial role to play in ensuring the greater accountability, transparency and effectiveness of public services in Wales. Welsh Labour believes that scrutiny bodies themselves should also be accountable, we will therefore use our new powers to legislate for the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit

Office to be made accountable to the National Assembly for Wales. Building on the Assembly Government's 2009 Statement on Scrutiny, Regulation and Audit. We will:

- Review the system of external scrutiny in Wales to ensure that it is proportionate and more effective in delivering public service improvement.

The Welsh Public Service Workforce

The Welsh Public Service workforce is our most valuable asset and Welsh Labour has demonstrated its commitment by pioneering social partnership working. Public service workers have shown themselves to be committed and adaptable to change but with reduced budgets and increased future demand for public services there will be a growing requirement to adapt to the changing needs of our society. We believe our social partnership approach provides the cohesion and connectivity for our public services, the economy and wider civil society. It fits with our aspiration to be a small clever country playing to our strengths, talents and resources. We will:

- Build on the partnership approach adopted so successfully with the Economics Summits and the statutory partnership arrangements with business, trade unions, local government and the wider third sector.

We require quality and excellence in the way our public services are managed and will:

- Create a Leadership Academy, drawing on resources from the higher education sector and other service improvement bodies, aimed at providing the skilled leadership and management necessary to meet the needs of future leaders of the Welsh Public Service.

To develop a more flexible Welsh Public Service and build the skills of the workforce we will continue to work with trade unions and public service employers to enable staff to transfer more easily between public service providers in Wales, whilst preserving their terms and conditions. We will:

- Establish a pan-Wales national secondment scheme to share expertise and best practice across service provision.

Maintaining as many people as possible in work will be a priority for a fourth-term Labour Assembly Government. We have already secured agreement from all local authorities and trade unions on steps that should be taken to preserve jobs as public spending reduces - the first agreement of its kind in the UK.

The Tory-Lib Dem coalition is seeking to abolish the public service pay negotiating bodies. As a sign of our commitment to social partnership working. We will:

- Work with trade unions and employers in Wales to ensure a replacement negotiating structure
-



is in place only if the UK or England and Wales bodies are dismantled.

Digital Wales: Wales - an online nation

We have the ambition to make Wales one of the first online nations in the world. To deliver this ambition we will:

- Implement the Assembly Government's Digital Wales strategy, using digital technologies to open up opportunities and provide better and more cost effective and accessible services for all our citizens, businesses and communities.
- Use these technologies to create even greater accountability and transparency in our democratic processes to ensure that all our citizens can play a full part in society by making decision-making,

information and services more accessible on-line.

- Use digital technologies to take Wales to the world and bring the world to Wales by establishing a web gateway on what Wales can offer - in terms of tourism, investment, educational opportunities and culture - to the outside world.

Postal services

Royal Mail provides Wales with important support for the Welsh economy. The universal six day service allows all of Wales' communities to be equally served, with no financial disadvantage to the most remote areas. It also provides an important support service to other forms of communication, such as complementing broadband



network services for business and domestic users.

The Post Office network also provides an important service to the public, providing a hub for communities, whether these are rural or urban. The Labour-led Assembly Government has taken steps to support the provision of local Post Office branches, through the Post Office Diversification Fund and through our Business Rates Relief Scheme. We will seek to continue to provide support to ensure that Post Offices can provide these important services to local communities.

Local government

The people of Wales deserve high quality local services. Despite having to respond to drastic cuts imposed by the Tory-led Coalition Government Welsh Labour has taken a different approach to local government in Wales. In order to protect vital frontline services a growth budget will be delivered by the Labour-led Assembly Government over the next three years shielding councils in Wales from the savage cuts that have been imposed on local authorities in England by the Tory-led UK Government, especially in the worst-off areas.

We believe however that local councils have a duty to respond to this more positive financial settlement by improving the way they design and deliver public services to make them more accessible and efficient for their citizens. The 2009 Local Government Measure already places a clear duty on local authorities to secure continuous improvement and through Outcome Agreements the Assembly Government will reward those councils which deliver against agreed service outcomes.

The Simpson Review of local government services has highlighted areas where greater efficiencies can be made by local authorities through collaboration and the sharing of best practice. The Local Government Measure 2011 will enable the Assembly Government to ensure councils make the necessary changes to improve the way in which they deliver local services.

We recognise that some changes arising from the reviews can be implemented quickly while others will require further consideration to be given through our proposed Independent Review of the Governance of Wales.

We will:

- Set out a model of improved public service delivery in Wales, following the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Governance of Wales.

- Look to implement the recommendations of the Review of local authority service provision.
- Lead a review of Scrutiny arrangements in local government.
- Renew the remit of the Local Government Partnership Council to provide more robust governance and accountability for delivering improvement and efficiency in local government.

Local Representation and Accountability

Welsh Labour believes that local representation and accountability is vital to the health of our democratic system. We have taken steps to encourage democratic participation and will continue to support work to improve voter registration and initiatives which make voting easier, such as postal voting. We believe that the current voting system works for local government and therefore have no plans to change it.

Locally elected representatives play an important role in transforming their local communities and also have a vital scrutiny role in ensuring the more effective delivery of public services. That is why we have taken through the Local Government Measure which will support county councillors in their work and will implement the recommendations of the Aberystwyth Report in respect of Town and Community Councils.

Improvements have been made in the ability of councillors to scrutinise local decision making. Local authority scrutiny committees are now operating more effectively with the support of the Assembly Government's Scrutiny Development Fund and are beginning to work across boundaries by reviewing and assessing the contribution of other local services providers. We want to ensure that citizens and their local representatives are able to monitor and scrutinise the effectiveness of their local public services.

We will:

- Issue new instructions to the Local Government Boundary Commission, placing local representation and community interests at the heart of any future boundary reviews.
- Give new powers to local authorities to scrutinise the work of Local Service Boards and other public service organisations.

Representative local democracy

Welsh Labour has a proud tradition of increasing diversity amongst our elected representatives. Our Local Government Measure 2011 will help in recruiting and retaining a more diverse range of local representatives; assisting people to balance their work and family life and giving them the support they need to properly represent the people they serve.

We will:

- Implement parental leave arrangements for councillors to enable them to balance their family lives with being an elected representative.
- Enhance the support available to local councillors to help them carry out their role.
- Place new duties on locally elected representatives to communicate effectively with the people they represent by requiring local authorities to support better communication and by requiring councillors to produce an annual report to their electorate.

Standards of conduct of elected Representatives

In 2009, the National Assembly for Wales unanimously passed a Measure designed to promote, encourage and safeguard the highest standards of conduct in the public office of Assembly Member. Welsh Labour undertakes to do all that it can to support these principles and maintain public trust and confidence in those elected to this important office.

In local government the code of conduct has provided an outline of the standards of conduct expected of members. However there have been a number of instances where the process for making complaints has been used inappropriately for political advantage. We want to ensure that robust

standards remain in place but that the process is clear and transparent and not open to abuse. We will therefore review the process for making a complaint under the Code of Conduct to ensure that the code is used only for the purpose for which it was intended.

Fair Funding for Local Government

Since 1999 successive Labour led governments have delivered fair financial settlements to local authorities in Wales, increasing their funding by £1.6 billion or 67% over this period. This has enabled them to deliver vital frontline services whilst keeping council tax in Wales much lower than other parts of the UK. The average band D council tax in Wales is only 78% of the figure in England and is also lower than that in Scotland. This year the Labour led Assembly delivered a budget which was widely welcomed by local government despite the tough settlement we had from the UK government and this has led to councils in Wales being able to set their lowest Council Tax increase since the introduction of Council Tax. We will:

- Continue to support local government by delivering fair funding to enable them to protect vital services.
- Cancel the council Tax re-valuation exercise which was scheduled to take place in 2015.



Chapter 3

Standing up for Education

The Welsh Labour movement has a long and distinguished history of helping people achieve their potential, often against the odds, and we understand how important education is to both personal fulfilment and to our national prosperity. Education does more than shape the life chances of individuals or achieve economic success. Education is also fundamental to building a just, inclusive and fair society.

Education will be a keystone of Welsh Labour's campaign and why we are driving forward an ambitious, imaginative and radical programme for educational renewal.

In ten years of devolution we have already achieved a great deal which, while it is 'made in Wales', has attracted international attention. For example:

- **The Foundation Phase:** our ground-breaking national curriculum for all 3-7 year olds where children learn through doing is a world leader in early years education as well as being enormously popular with parents and children. Already, the Labour-led Assembly Government has committed £164m to the Foundation Phase since 2008 and created almost 5000 additional early years practitioners posts, to ensure high adult/ pupil ratios.
- **14-19 Learning Pathways:** we have used The Learning and Skills (Wales)

Measure 2009 legislation to provide the opportunity for learners aged 14-19 to follow a course of study from a local curriculum that contains a wide range of options, both academic and vocational. The Measure has improved the opportunities for young people to follow the 'learning pathway' best suited to their individual interests, learning styles, skills and abilities. Along with personal support and with the help of 'learning coaches', this progressive, flexible approach is attuned to the demands of a modern economy.

- **The Welsh Bac:** this new, distinctively Welsh qualification combines skills development, Personal and Social Education and Work Related Learning with qualifications like A levels, GCSEs and NVQs to develop well-rounded individuals prepared for employment or further learning. It is already valued by
-



employers and highly regarded by universities and colleges. From September 2011 the qualification will be available to some 70,000 learners in a total of over 240 schools, Further Education Institutions and training providers across Wales.

Over the period of the next Assembly, we are committed to build on these successes and to continue to be ambitious both for our learners and for Wales.

Early Years

We all understand that the quality of experiences during the formative years plays a significant role in shaping a child's potential for learning. In particular, early experiences help shape brain development and the acquisition of other vital skills (such as the ability to play and concentrate) which are

crucial not only to a child's subsequent ability to learn, but also to their ability to participate effectively in groups, whether in the classroom, the labour market or society.

That is why we have made the early years of childhood a national priority and one of our five top Pledges.

We have invested significantly in the internationally acclaimed Foundation Phase and we have maintained our commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

We have also led the way in delivering our Flying Start programme. Flying Start is:

- free quality part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds

- an enhanced Health Visitor service (where the Health Visitor caseload is capped at 110 children)
- access to Parenting Programmes
- access to Language and Play sessions

We have already invested almost £150 million in Flying Start. We have 280 Flying Start settings providing childcare in some of Wales most deprived areas and 164 Flying Start health visitors providing advice to parents. There is clear evidence from professionals and parents that suggests improvements in the following outcomes for some of Wales' most disadvantaged youngsters:

- Emotional and social development;
- Parental confidence and engagement;
- Language and cognitive development; and
- Health outcomes including increased rates of breastfeeding, increased immunisation rates and reduced referral to A&E.

Currently, Flying Start benefits approximately 18,000 young people at a cost of about £38M annually, and we want to extend the reach of the programme and in the next Assembly term we will:

- Double the number of those gaining from Flying Start to 36,000 so that almost a quarter of all children in Wales aged 0-3 will be able to benefit.

Schools

Welsh Labour is already focussing on ensuring that more money is spent in the classroom and less on administration. We are enabling schools and colleges to work more closely together in order to make economies through greater efficiency. Our investment will continue to reflect our and Wales' priorities: high quality education for all of our young learners. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Increase spending on Wales' schools by at least 1 per cent above the percentage change in the block grant we receive from the UK government.
- Raise the amount delegated by local authorities to schools to 85 per cent.

Since 1999, local authority education expenditure in Wales has increased by 81.3% or 6.1% a year but we know we have to invest more.

We need to be clear that it is not just how much is spent that matters, but how it is spent. That is why, over the period of the next Assembly term, we will make a step change in our programmes for driving up school standards whilst maintaining our promise to spend more on schools, including continuing our promise to provide schools with the facilities to enable 21st Century learning, especially ICT. In the next term we will:

- Simplify the qualifications system in Wales, building on the success of the Welsh Bac.

- Build the foundations for an all-Wales virtual learning environment, enabling every school in the country to access on-line learning resources from across the world.
- Through the 21st Century schools capital programme, we will ensure state of the art ICT provision.

We face more fundamental challenges in Wales; our literacy levels, especially amongst boys, are not as high as they should be; we know that we are not ambitious enough for some of our learners and that we and they sometimes set our expectations too low; there is too much variability between schools. While we have many excellent schools we need to raise the standards of all our schools and aim to achieve excellence in all.

Teachers have a crucial role to play. The best teachers can have a lifelong effect on all of us and we have some world-class teachers in Wales. We want to support teachers in their work and to raise the esteem in which they are held. We need our young people to be taught by the brightest and the best. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Enhance the professional standing and career opportunities for teachers by establishing teaching as a ‘masters’ level vocation.
- Review teacher induction, alongside our review of the General Teaching Council for Wales. Development and support for the first three

years of teaching will focus on firm foundations for the teaching of literacy and numeracy.

- Revise and expand opportunities to develop teachers’ professional skills after they have qualified, especially in those areas that we know are critical for all children, namely numeracy and literacy.
- Produce Statutory Guidance for school improvement, which sets out the best practice currently available in Wales and elsewhere. This will include kite-marked teaching strategies. We will focus on literacy, numeracy and tackling disadvantage. We will expect a strong focus on high reliability teaching practices to ensure that we have the most highly skilled teaching workforce continuously developing capacity.
- In valuing the stability and equity that comes from national pay bargaining we will do whatever we can to try to protect the link between teachers’ pay and conditions in Wales and those of their colleagues elsewhere in the UK.

To help teachers, learners and their families understand their progress, we will introduce additional measures to help assess performance. In the next term we will:

- As part of our National Literacy Plan, introduce a national reading test which will be consistent across Wales and will be designed to ensure

that far fewer pupils are falling behind their designated reading age. The Plan will also include a focus on 7-11 year-olds, and catch-up reading programmes as well as stretching those pupils of the highest abilities.

- By the 2012-13 academic year have developed similar plans for numeracy.
- Expect all local authorities to ensure that Key Stage 2 teacher assessments are robust and consistent with the nationally defined standards, especially in respect of literacy.
- Look to integrate internationally recognised assessments of transferable skills for learning into school assessment at 15.

We also want to make the performance of schools more transparent and more accountable and we will:

- Introduce a national system for the grading of schools that will be operated by local authorities across Wales. All schools will be graded annually. Schools will be expected to reach minimum targets - an absolute standard below which no school in Wales will fall - and will also be expected to operate progress targets for all pupils so that all students make one year of educational progress each calendar year.
- Require all schools to produce an annual public profile containing performance information to a common format. They will also be expected, in a school development

plan endorsed by their governors, to set out how they will reach improved standards of educational performance based on aspirational targets we, in time, will set for the education system in Wales.

This is not a return to 'league tables', based on crude measures of pupil performance in public examinations. We are proposing a straightforward way for learners, their parents and carers, educational professionals, governors and local councillors to understand how their school is doing compared to schools in similar situations and, in time, against those standards that the Assembly Government will set for them.

School Grading is about using information to drive up standards, not opening up competition between schools or introducing a 'market model' of education. There are clear differences between the Tory-led Government education policy of excellence for a few, such as 'Free Schools', and Welsh Labour's commitment to the quality comprehensive education system for all. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Legislate to ensure that there are no 'Free Schools' in Wales. We have already legislated to ensure that there will be no more Foundation Schools in Wales.
- Ensure that all our schools, colleges and universities operate fully as community institutions.

As we have demonstrated through our 14-19 Pathways, schools and other education providers work best when they work together and when school services are planned strategically. In the last Assembly term we put into effect legislation to enable local authorities to federate boards of governors of schools. In the next Assembly term. We will:

- Give effect to a statutory requirement for governors to be provided with training to enable them to do their work effectively and we will ensure the delivery of an effective system for clerking.
- Legislate to ensure that most school closure decisions are taken locally and more quickly than current arrangements allow.

Welsh Medium Education

In most of Europe, bilingual education is the norm rather the exception and a dual language education system should be regarded as a unique strength. We recognise the need to expand Welsh medium provision so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to learn through the language of their choice we will.

- Build on existing Labour achievements such as the expansion of Welsh medium early years provision and we will deliver the Welsh Medium Education Strategy over the course of the next Assembly.
- Put ‘Welsh in Education Strategic Plans’ on a statutory basis.

- Continue to encourage English medium schools to offer the choice of taking some subjects through the medium of Welsh. We will consider carefully the success of schools that offer the curriculum in both our national languages and see how this model could be expanded. This will be based on an in-depth assessment of provision of Welsh medium education across Wales, looking at parental demand and future workforce planning and training.

Higher and Further Education

Further Education: our Further Education (FE) colleges in Wales are performing at a consistently high level. We want to see that record of achievement maintained and strengthened. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Encourage further mergers of FE colleges where these provide increased learning opportunities for learners. We will also require closer collaboration between providers of FE and providers of Higher Education (HE) where this will result in increased efficiency and widening access.
- Work with providers of FE to establish three year funding arrangements that will allow for better strategic planning and a more coherent approach to course provision. These arrangements will be driven by the quality of provision made by each college.



- Strengthen, through legislation if necessary, the current arrangements for the planning of local curricula with colleges and schools operating on a level playing field in order to reduce competition and to eliminate duplication and over provision.
- Ensure parity of esteem between college lecturers and school teaching staff by maintaining the current link between their pay and conditions.
- Introduce an all-Wales contract for FE lecturers.
- Continue our support for the development of community and adult learning, including through the Wales Union Learning Fund, and improve progression routes by requiring effective regional collaboration between FE and HE institutions.

Labour has long expressed its opposition to the incorporation of colleges of FE. We do not however intend to return colleges to local authority control: the ‘footprint’ of many of Wales’ FE colleges is often now too big for a single local authority to accommodate. Instead, we believe that colleges of FE, like every other publicly funded educational establishment in Wales, are public assets which belong to their local communities as well as its community of staff and learners. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Reform the governance of FE in Wales, along not-for-profit or social enterprise lines, in order to give a wider range of stakeholders a say in how colleges are run.
- Ensure that learner voice is central to strategic decision making in colleges of FE.

Critical to the vision Welsh Labour has for FE in Wales is its potential to meet the needs of the widest possible range of learners. That is why the Labour-led Assembly Government has made widening access such a key part of our plans. For many young people and their families, that means providing direct support with the costs of education. The aim of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is to address the link between low income and low participation by providing a financial incentive to young people from low-income households to remain in full-time education beyond compulsory education. Welsh Labour will:

- Maintain Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) for learners aged 16-19 throughout the period of the next Assembly.

Higher Education: The Labour-led Assembly Government has made it clear that the pattern of Higher Education (HE) provision in Wales, determined largely in the 19th Century, is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century. Our universities are, in many cases, too small to achieve the critical mass necessary to achieve excellence either in teaching or research. A number are not able to compete with the same degree of success for external research funding as their counterparts elsewhere in the UK nor to establish themselves securely in what is an increasingly global knowledge economy. Such structural problems must not be allowed to get in the

way of the many successes that our universities have achieved:

To be as good as the very best across the world, our universities must adapt. To help develop an increasingly successful higher education sector we will:

- Through legislation where necessary, bring coherence and efficiency to HE education in Wales through the establishment of a single strategic planning and funding body.
 - Use the full range of our powers, including legislative powers, to ensure that by 2013 no university in Wales is operating on a turnover that is less than 75 per cent of the UK average.
 - Strengthen the governance of HEIs by introducing more external challenge at Council level and by ensuring that the learner experience and the learner voice is central to the good governance of HE in Wales.
 - Continue to drive the transformation and rationalisation process that is beginning to take shape in Wales creating a smaller number of stronger universities. We do not intend to see the closure of any of Wales HE campuses.
 - Ensure that all HEIs in Wales have properly funded Student Unions able to represent their members effectively and that HEIs deliver meaningful 'student charters' in collaboration with their student bodies.
-

As well as creating the conditions that are required to achieve excellence in teaching and research in HE across Wales, our commitment to promoting social justice remains undiminished. Welsh Labour is already committed to keeping fee levels as low as possible and we will only allow fees at Welsh Universities to rise above £4000 where institutions are able to demonstrate that they are improving the student experience and widening access.

We are also committed to supporting students, especially those from low income families, while they study. So, no matter what fee is charged by a university, Welsh Labour will

- Implement our pledge that no student ordinarily resident in Wales will pay higher fees, in real terms, during the lifetime of the next Assembly than if they had been students in 2010-11. This will apply no matter where the student chooses to study, in Wales or elsewhere.
- Deliver on our commitment to bring HE to some of our most disadvantaged communities by ensuring the establishment of the University of the Heads of the Valleys initiative. This commitment is not only about bringing HE nearer to those who might benefit most, it is also about re-generating the heart and soul of the community.
- Maintain our commitment to provide real financial support to students from the lowest income households to at least current levels throughout the next Assembly.

- Continue to support Y Coleg Ffederal in its mission to provide independent oversight, management, and development of Welsh medium higher education across Wales.

EMERGENCY

WELSH AMBULANCE
SERVICES NHS TRUST



NHS
Wales
GIG
CYMRU



Chapter 4

Standing up for Wales - 21st Century Health Care

The NHS in Wales has improved significantly over the past few years, with more people seen and treated faster than ever before. Massive investment together with reform and the hard work of staff has made a huge difference to the speed and quality of care that patients now receive.

Over the lifetime of this Labour-led Government, we will have invested over £1.4 billion in facilities and medical equipment to support improved health services for the people of Wales.

Health and Social Care services are facing a number of challenges including a rising elderly population, an increase in the numbers of patients living with one or more chronic conditions such as asthma or arthritis, rising obesity rates and a challenging financial climate.

Primary care

We will continue to rebalance services to provide more care in the community setting, closer to patients' homes. Patients in Wales come into contact with the NHS some 22 million times a year, and 8 out of 10 of these contacts already take place outside a hospital setting.

In the last two years alone, more than £70 million has been invested in new primary care premises across Wales.

There has been major investment in GP surgeries.

Because of the central importance of accessible GP care services we will:

- Require GPs to make surgeries more accessible to working people, so that they can access local GP services in the evenings and Saturday mornings.
 - Accelerate the development of on-line appointments for flexible GP booking.
 - Instigate a programme of annual health checks, led by GPs, practice nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals, for everyone over the age of 50 over the next Assembly term.
 - Give patients the opportunity to access information on self-care and order repeat prescriptions online.
 - Build on the success of NHS Direct, and offer a single number for accessing out-of-hours health care in Wales, linked in to the local out-of-hours services.
-

- Ensure all out-of-hours services will be provided by the local NHS.
- Support a scheme that promotes Community Pharmacy in Wales as the first port of call for the consultation and treatment of common minor ailments.
- Support the self-care of patients via the Community Pharmacy network, recognising the accessibility of this clinically qualified professional without the need of an appointment.
- Continue to work with community pharmacists to significantly reduce the amount of waste medicines, cutting the waste of valuable NHS resources.

Ambulances

Since 2006, the Labour-led Assembly Government has provided funding of £32.6m to the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) in support of its Vehicle Replacement Programme.

This has helped the service buy 601 vehicles, including 223 emergency ambulances (EMS) and 254 patient transport (PTS) vehicles. While WAST is consistently achieving targets, we will continue to move the ambulance service from being just a provider of transport to a deliverer of emergency health services.

During the next term we will:

- Continue the transformation of the ambulance service, including the development of new, outcome targets to reflect the needs of the health service of the future.



We will ensure that the service:

- Provides a wider range of clinical services which better meet the needs of patients within Wales and supports positive health outcomes.
- Develops and trains a highly skilled and motivated workforce.
- Is fully integrated with other health, local authority, emergency and voluntary organisations to provide people with the information, care and support they need in their own homes and communities.
- Achieves a swift response time to calls where patients face immediately life threatening illness.
- Responds more quickly to patients suffering strokes, heart attacks and major trauma.

- Works with its health partners to significantly reduce mortality levels for stroke, cardiac arrest and major trauma.
- Provides individual and personalised patient care services, with patients collected on time and in vehicles which meet their needs.
- Significantly reduces the number of people who unnecessarily attend A&E departments and hospitals through the development of more clinically effective services.
- LHBs will be required to meet the cost of unacceptable delays in ambulance handovers at A&E units.

Modernising acute services in Wales:

In Government, Welsh Labour has made massive investment in our hospitals and diagnostic equipment - ensuring the very best treatment for people when they need it, as close as possible to where they live, including cross border services.

We have delivered on our pledge to reform NHS Trusts to improve accountability, eliminate the use of private sector hospitals in NHS Wales and will continue to rule out the use of PFI in health services.

Investment in nursing and healthcare assistants has increased in recent years and now account for more than 43 per cent of the NHS workforce. We are determined to fully utilise the expert

skills of our graduate nurses and other health professionals. We are committed to extending the role for nurses, including consultant nurses, and have put in place the necessary measures to enable nurses to develop their careers.

We will develop the wider availability of 7 day services, to ensure rapid investigation and treatment and give greater flexibility for patients. This will include extended access to consultant-led services in critical areas such as accident and emergency, stroke care and paediatrics.

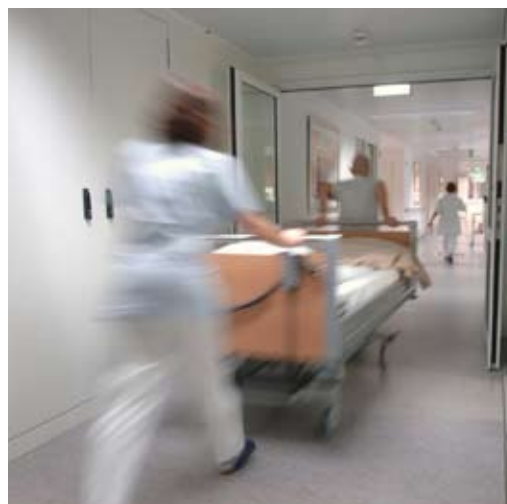
Workforce flexibility will be a priority for the next Labour government to ensure that essential health services are available 7 days a week, and 24 hours a day.

Welsh Labour is committed to ensuring the safety, privacy and dignity of patients through ending the practise of mixed-sex hospital accommodation. Since 2008, £300 million has been invested in the provision of new hospitals providing single-sex accommodation, largely through single en-suite rooms. In the next Assembly term a Welsh Labour Government will:

- Offer care with dignity and respect, with progress being measured locally and reported locally by our Local Health Boards (LHBs).
- Require LHBs to produce a national specialist services strategy for Wales.
- Require LHBs to work together to modernise their pathology services.

- Provide every patient with a chronic condition with an individual care plan actively responding to their health needs.
- Ensure that every member of staff in NHS Wales - from Board to ward - takes part in a national customer care programme to ensure proper information for patients, that decisions are clearly communicated and that patients and their families are fully involved in ongoing care.
- Continue to focus on quality of care, reducing infections, pressure sores and falls using mechanisms such as the successful 1000 Lives Plus programme.
- Require LHBs and Trusts to adopt a zero tolerance approach to health care associated infections, pressure ulcers and ventilator induced pneumonias.
- Be open and transparent in our delivery of new clinically-focused targets, focused on key priorities such as cancer, cardiac care and stroke services, which LHBs be will required to publish.
- Ensure patients receive care according to clinical priority. Should an operation be cancelled twice, we will guarantee the operation takes place within two weeks - at the earliest opportunity for the patient.
- Continue to roll out free parking at all Welsh hospitals.
- Review the blue light emergency services, looking at how they can be better integrated and efficiencies

made through the sharing of control rooms, vehicle maintenance and other back office costs.



Maternity

Maternity services have improved significantly in recent years with investment from the Labour-led Government in new equipment, facilities and staff. With nearly 35,000 children born in Wales each year, we believe every child should have a secure start in life and that mothers should feel confident, capable and well supported.

We are meeting the birth rate plus requirements for the number of midwives in Wales. There are more than 100 obstetricians in Wales, supported by over 230 junior doctors and other medical staff, with 1,265 midwives, and over 300 maternity care assistants who provide more support for midwives and pregnant women. All these figures are whole-time equivalent staff. In addition, over the last 10 years Wales has consistently had low infant and neonatal

death rates that are comparable to the rest of the UK.

Welsh Labour in Government has recently published a draft strategy for maternity services for consultation, which sets out our vision of providing high quality, safe and sustainable maternity services across Wales.

Welsh Labour will work to ensure that maternity services in Wales:

- Are amongst the best in the world.
- Provide a range of high quality choices of care, from midwife to consultant-led services.
- Employ a highly trained workforce, which is empowered to deliver.
- Place the needs of the mother and family at the centre of maternity care.
- Promote healthier lifestyles for pregnant women which have a positive impact on them and their family's health.
- Assist pregnant women who develop life threatening conditions are to receive more rapid assessment and treatment thanks to new measures being introduced in health boards across Wales.

Healthcare teams will be introducing more timely treatments including swift recognition of symptoms, daily assessment to ensure there is no deterioration in the woman's condition and that there is quicker access to specialist care when needed.

There will also be a specific focus on preventing the development of potentially life threatening blood clots during and after pregnancy.

Cancer

More than 100,000 people are living with cancer in Wales, but thanks to earlier diagnosis and improved treatment, more and more people are surviving and living longer. Investment in caring for those with cancer and measures to reduce the incidence of the disease through education and awareness has, and will remain, a priority for a Labour Assembly Government.

Cancer patients in Wales are now treated faster than ever, with virtually every patient referred as an urgent case treated within two months, and those referred for another condition - but subsequently diagnosed with cancer - treated within one month.

In an effort to reduce the incidence of cancer, we are investing in educating people about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet, and prevention through the introduction of the bowel cancer screening programme to provide early detection and introduced the human papilloma virus vaccine which protects women from up to 70 per cent of the viruses that can lead to cervical cancer.

With regards to Breast Cancer, along with routine screening for women aged between 50 and 70, we have invested in new state-of-the-art mobile screening units, which will help

improve access to health checks in rural areas.

We will improve support and care for people being diagnosed and recovering from cancer, and have been working with Macmillan Cancer Support to identify the non-clinical aspects of cancer care that patients and their families need to help inform service planning and delivery.

Macmillan's policy document will help inform the development of the next Assembly Government's strategic plan for cancer for the period 2011-2015.

Having delivered on cancer waiting times, in our next Assembly term Welsh Labour will:

- Concentrate on improving survival rates.
- Ensure that every person diagnosed with cancer has their own care plan. This will include clear milestones for rapid diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.
- Provide every person diagnosed with access to an identified key worker to support them and their families.
- Give every person diagnosed with cancer access to information to help them with the financial, emotional and practical impact of cancer.
- Establish specific outcome and survival measures to monitor progress and allow comparison both UK-wide and internationally.

Cardiac Care

Coronary heart disease is Wales' biggest killer - responsible for a third of premature deaths in men and a quarter of premature deaths in women. Waiting times for diagnosis and treatment of cardiac disease have reduced significantly over the last few years. Welsh Labour in government has established heart failure clinics and invested in the improvement of our coronary care units. We have expanded services on diagnostic procedures and have invested in public access defibrillators in strategic sites across Wales.

In the next Assembly term we will:

- Ensure that LHBs have effective delivery plans in place to achieve the NSF (National Service Framework) standards.
- Continue to improve outcomes for those with heart disease.
- Tackle variations in access and clinical care.
- Drive up the quality of patient care.
- Decrease the numbers of those at risk from coronary heart disease through public health campaigns.

Stroke

Stroke is the third most common cause of death and the greatest cause of adult disability. The impact of stroke is devastating for a large percentage of stroke survivors and their families.

We have recently developed an action plan to reduce the risk of people developing a stroke. The campaign will encourage people to have their blood pressure and their pulse checked, improve diagnosis and make sure people at greater risk of stroke are referred to treatment.

Building on the success of the introduction of intelligent targets and improved access in the next term, we will focus on improving clinical interventions and patient outcomes and on the overall quality of stroke care:

In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour will:

- Provide 24/7 access to thrombolysis.
- Increase the use of telemedicine.
- Provide access to high quality stroke rehabilitation.
- Expect LHBs to achieve full compliance with the national standards and targets for stroke by 2015 and ensure that every patient receives all of the required elements of acute stroke care within set timescales to ensure the very best outcome.
- Help people to lead healthy lifestyles by encouraging physical activity and a balanced diet, and discouraging people from risky behaviours such as smoking and excessive drinking.
- Support the creation of healthy settings, such as healthier schools, hospitals and workplaces.

- Work with community pharmacies to raise awareness of stroke risk and use Medication Usage Reviews to support the correct use of anti-hypertensive medication.

Palliative Care

End-of-life care is an area that can touch every individual and family in Wales who deserve the best experience from general and specialist health care professionals.

We have invested an extra £7 million in palliative care services in the last Assembly term to give improved 24/7 cover to medical staff, improve hospice at home services and bereavement services. A future Labour Assembly Government will:

- Continue to prioritise end-of-life care, building on improvements achieved in the last term.
- Be committed to ensuring that such care should be delivered in a balanced way, using the expertise of both the third sector and the NHS.
- Ensure that families will be able to access care, advice and support 24/7.
- Prioritise an increase in the support available for bereaved children.

Mental Health/Dementia services

There has been large investment to modernise mental health services across Wales from an integrated mental health unit nearing completion in Wrexham to work starting on a new mental health

assessment unit for older people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

In July 2010, the Labour-led Assembly Government launched a new plan to improve child and adolescent mental health services. Since 2008, we have invested an extra £6.9 million in these services and allocated £8 million to developing school-based counselling services.

A new Children’s Unit has been opened in Abergele, while a new £26 million Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit will open in Bridgend this summer. New community Eating Disorder services with specialist teams have also been established right across Wales.

We have also invested in a new mental health and well-being service for veterans.

Thanks to advances in medicine and quality of life, the population is getting older, which is something to celebrate. But, as people get older the risk of dementia increases and this is a significant challenge for us in Wales. Our focus is to improve the quality of life of individuals and their families.

In the next Assembly term we will:

- Use the legislative powers delivered by the Mental Health Measure to ensure modern, user-focused care is consistently in place.
- Provide every patient with an

individual care plan, informed and approved by them and their carers.

- Review access to the range of ‘talking treatments’ across Wales.
- Ensure access to crisis intervention teams.
- Raise awareness of mental health issues amongst employers and employees so that those with mental health problems can gain and retain employment.
- Continue to improve care and support for people with dementia and their families.
- Continue to reduce the time between the onset of symptoms of dementia and diagnosis.
- Continue to move away from institutionalised environments, focusing on effective community-based care, other than in the most serious and exceptional circumstances.
- Introduce a dementia care awareness programme for all healthcare professionals in Wales, ensuring that general care on hospital wards responds to the prevalence of dementia from a growing elderly population.

Dentistry

Thanks to the substantial extra investment Welsh Labour has made, access to general dental services has improved significantly over recent years. Areas where access has proved

difficult in the past have seen some of the greatest improvements. In the Hywel Dda LHB area for example, there are now over 40,000 more people accessing NHS dental care than in March 2006 and in Powys the figure is almost 10,000.

We have recently frozen dental charges in Wales for the fifth year in a row to help maintain wider access to NHS dentistry, so that patient charges in Wales have remained the same since April 2006.

In the next Assembly term a Labour Government will:

- Ensure that charges remain affordable and in doing so helping to tackle oral health inequalities.
- Continue to increase access to dentists where there are localised problems.
- Invest in raising awareness of people's responsibility in taking care of their own oral health as they should for their general health and well-being.
- Build on our 'Designed to Smile' oral health programme, which is being rolled out across Wales following 2 super-pilots targeting 3-5 year olds in greatest need. The expanded programme will include older and younger children, with funding of £2.2 million set aside for oral health improvements.

Eye care Services

In Government, Welsh Labour has developed and implemented the Wales Eye Care Initiative, which includes the Low Vision Service and Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service. This initiative is unique to Wales and has received international acclaim.

We have invested more than £1.2 million annually to provide free examinations for those groups vulnerable to eye disease and almost £1 million for the free assessment and supply of low vision aids each year.

We are now also piloting a new way of diagnosing and treating patients with glaucoma. This is evaluating the feasibility of diagnosing and monitoring glaucoma by optometrists working in the community, supported by hospital consultants.

In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour in Government will:

- Expect LHBs to support the work of clinical leader in providing an integrated and seamless eye care services in which Ophthalmologists and Optometrists in the community work together to speed up referrals, treatment and ongoing care of patients.
- Establish Ophthalmic Diagnostic and Treatment Centres (ODTC) in key locations throughout Wales to speed up and improve eye care.
- Expect LHBs to monitor 'wet' Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

services within their catchment area to ensure appropriate delivery of treatment in line with an all Wales protocol.

- Require the Wales Low Vision Service to provide enhanced low vision services across Wales to ensure equity of access for all patients.

Services for the deaf and hard of hearing

Welsh Labour will work with local authorities, health boards, and emergency services to make sure that they have policies in place to ensure equal access for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Labour in Government has worked to improve services for deaf and hearing-impaired children in Wales. Children and young people and their families need a high quality service and recognising this, the Labour-led Assembly Government has supported the development of the Quality Standards for Paediatric Audiology (Wales).

Alongside work to improve service provision, efforts have been made to improve the quality of patient information available for Hearing Aid users. Our new public sector equality duties will be far more progressive than any others across the UK, and will place a duty on public bodies to make sure that the services they provide meet the needs of those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The new duties will also include a duty on bodies to involve disabled people

in planning services to ensure that their needs are met. Welsh Labour in Government will:

- Work with the RNID on the delivery of services for learners who have complex needs.
- Ensure a maximum waiting time of 14 weeks for direct referral to audiology for the first fitting of hearing aids.
- Improve patient care and ensure the help and support for children with hearing difficulties is consistent across Wales.
- Continue to expect the Newborn Hearing Screening programme to perform to the highest standards.
- Expect healthcare organisations to develop accessible information policies to address the communication needs of people with sensory loss.

Public Health and Substance Misuse

Welsh Labour is committed to tough action to tackle inequalities in health - particularly the health harm caused by tobacco use (in particular to protect children) and the excessive availability of alcohol.

The Labour-led Assembly Government has invested £190 million in public health in the last term, covering a wide range of programmes targeted at improving health.

Recent teenage conception rates are falling faster in Wales than England.

While welcoming this, we are not complacent and are working to reduce the rate even further. Our Sexual Health Action Plan aims to reduce teenage pregnancies further and improve sexual health. The plan highlights the importance of prevention, education, individual responsibility and access to healthcare services, when required.

Around 70 per cent of smokers say they want to give up, and around half of those going through the Stop Smoking Wales programme succeed in quitting smoking for good. We will continue to offer support through this important programme.

Welsh Labour realises that substance misuse not only has a devastating impact on individuals and families, but also on society through drug-related violence and crime. Our efforts have concentrated on helping children, young people and adults resist or reduce substance misuse, supporting substance misusers to improve their health and maintain recovery and tackling the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate availability of alcohol and other substances.

Last year over £22 million was allocated to Community Safety Partnerships in Wales for frontline substance misuse treatment centres, improving the provision of counselling services and increasing children and young people's services. We are also investing in prevention and education to stop people becoming

hooked on alcohol or drugs in the first place, and are also investing in treatment and rehabilitation for those who are dependent upon drugs.

The substantial extra investment by the Labour-led Assembly Government has also resulted in over 8,500 additional treatment places being created in Wales since 2006.

Welsh Labour recognises that people who have mental health and substance misuse problems need to be identified and receive appropriate treatment. Everyone who presents themselves to substance misuse treatment services, whether they be from the criminal justice system or any other referral route are prioritised according to clinical need. Waiting times have improved considerably over the last few years, and 87 per cent of all clients were treated within the target of 10 working days in 2009/10.

In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour will:

- Establish an annual health campaign to tackle the five biggest public health priorities - alcohol, obesity, smoking, teenage pregnancies, and drug abuse.
- Build on our programme of measures to discourage young people from starting to smoke, support smokers who want to give up, and lobby UK Government on non-devolved issues such as reducing tobacco imagery to young people.

- Consult on legislation to ban smoking in areas of hospital grounds where volumes of smoke may be high and where patients, visitors and staff congregate, including specific designated areas of hospital grounds.
- Introduce measures to recover the costs of wasted resources in A&E Departments through alcohol misuse - currently estimated to cost our NHS around £70-£85 million.
- Continue to press the case for stricter controls and stronger action from the UK Government in relation to the promotion of alcohol, the price of alcohol and licensing.
- Consult on whether legislation should be introduced which would require the involvement and consent of parents for cosmetic piercing procedures on a young person below a certain age.
- Continue our programme of a nurse for all secondary schools in Wales to help address the health, emotional and social needs of young people and promote healthy behaviour.
- Continue our work in schools and colleges which aims to develop self-esteem and self-awareness, while empowering young people to explore the many aspects of sexuality and healthy personal relationships.



Health Inequalities

In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour will:

- Maintain our pledge that prescriptions will be free to all people living in Wales.
- Require LHBs to target health inequalities within their own areas, including a targeted campaign on the most deprived communities within the populations they serve.
- Require that action is taken to deal with the greatest variation through a clear local programme, backed up by Health, Social Care and Wellbeing strategies.
- Adopt an early-years programme focusing on the importance of health

in early years - drawing in expertise from health visitors, GPs, family support services, education, social care and the third sector.

an increase in the number of organ donors in Wales and the result that a number of lives will be saved and the quality of lives of many more improved.

- Prioritise new models of working with families with complex needs by rolling out Integrated Family Support Services across Wales.
- Continue to support the development of the international health strategy which enables NHS staff in Wales to contribute to the Wales for Africa policy agenda.
- Use our influence with the UK government to support international health partnerships which take into account the particular strengths of the Welsh Links approach.

Organ Donation Bill

The Labour-led Assembly Government began to hold debates across Wales on the matter of organ donation in 2008. The outcomes of these public debates clearly demonstrated that the majority supported a change to the status quo and the introduction of legislation in respect of organ donation. A Legislative Competence Order included in the last legislative programme of the Assembly Government failed due to lack of time.

We will introduce an Assembly Bill in order to move to an 'opt out' system of donation, backed up by a comprehensive communication programme. The key benefit would be



Chapter 5

Standing up for Wales - Supporting People

Demographic changes will mean that many more of us will have direct contact with social care services in the future. The economic challenges facing Wales will also put additional strains on families who may need a helping hand or more skilled, longer-term professional support.

Making sure that the right kind of care is there when we need it is something far too important to be left to chance or to the 'market'. If and when the time comes and we need to call on social services, we need to know that the help on offer is the help we need; not just the help we can afford.

Fairness and well-being are at the heart of Welsh Labour's message and why 'public interest must be above private profit'.

Everyone wants and needs a holistic view to be taken of themselves and their circumstances. Take, for example, what older people say are the challenges facing them. They are equally concerned with the closure of post offices, poor maintenance of pavements, reduced street lighting, transport and community safety as they are about the increasing challenges to their health that sometimes come with advancing years.

Providing high quality, reliable and consistent support and care for those

who need it is a matter of social justice as well as the mark of the compassionate communities we seek to build and in which we would all like to live.

Delivering Care

Welsh Labour is committed to a strong public sector serving local communities. Our ambition for the future of social care will require much closer and 'smarter' collaboration between local authorities in Wales. We must not allow inconsistencies in standards of service delivery to be brought about through problems of scale. We will:

- Maintain our commitment to integrated social services departments with a strong family orientation.
- Develop a much more active consortium approach to the delivery of social care services.
- Require local providers to take a much more strategic approach to commissioning, especially of specialist services which we intend to

see commissioned on a regional or all-Wales basis wherever possible.

- Support and encourage the voluntary and not-for-profit sector to provide those services, currently operated for profit through the promotion of social investment bonds, ‘time-banking’ and strengthened support for social enterprises.
- Support the development of small providers and more service user led organizations.

We have made considerable progress in driving up the standard of social care in Wales and this must continue. Progress can only be measured by the results achieved for the users of care services. We will:

- Introduce a National Outcomes Framework for social care providers. This will be supported by a new set of straightforward, published performance indicators that will allow both users and providers to understand and contribute to the development of social care services.

The delivery of effective social care services requires a highly skilled workforce that is both well managed and well led. We remain committed to the generic model of social work education. However, we believe that initial training can be enhanced through continuing professional development and that post-qualifying training and effective supervision are critical to the delivery of high quality social care and social work services. We will:

- Review the post-qualifying training arrangements for social workers operating in Wales with a view to setting national standards for their continuing professional development.
- Review the leadership training available to social work and social care managers in Wales with a view to establishing a suitable qualifications framework for leaders.

Adult Social Care

Building on the vision captured by the Labour-led Assembly Government’s ‘white paper’, Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action, we will:

- Fulfill our commitments to supporting carers through the full implementation of the Carers’ Measure, as introduced by the Labour-led Government in Wales.
- Ensure the provision of accessible, relevant and up-to-date information and support to help individuals and families in their caring role, alongside a refresh of the Carers Strategy for Wales to ensure that it remains fit for purpose over the period of the next Assembly.
- Develop and introduce simplified and ‘portable’ assessment processes for all users of social care and social work services to ensure that care planning is of the highest standard.
- Using our new legislative powers we will introduce a Social Services Act to simplify the web of legislation that currently regulates social care in Wales

in order to make access to services much easier and more understandable to those who need them. This will be based on a thorough review of the current legislative and regulatory framework for social work and social care services.

- Legislate for national eligibility criteria for access to all social care services.
- Publish a set of mandatory National Standards for all social care services which will be common to ALL services.
- Put ‘re-ablement’ at the heart of our approach to providing services to older people and require local providers to set out their arrangements for re-ablement services with the intention that, wherever possible, services should be commissioned at a regional level.

Children’s and Young People’s Services

Wales has a truly distinctive and internationally regarded rights-based approach to children’s social care services. We believe in a rights-based approach because children are a relatively powerless group in society. Children’s rights are no more than the human and civil rights that adults already enjoy and with every right comes the equal obligation to respect the rights of others. Children’s rights are the key to their inclusion, equality of opportunity and equity of treatment. Protecting their rights is a way of ensuring that they are

able to make the same claims on the attention, resources and protection of government as everyone else.



Through Welsh Labour’s leadership, we have put on a statutory basis our long-standing commitment to the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child, captured in our ‘Seven Core Aims’ for children:

- Have a flying start in life.
- Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.
- Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.
- Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.
- Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

- Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing;
- Are not disadvantaged by poverty.

In the next Assembly term we will:

- Continue our Free Breakfast programme and Free school milk programme for young people up to the age of seven.
- Continue to use the Seven Core Aims as the national framework for developing policy for children and young people.
- Ensure that the ‘Rights Measure’ is given full effect in government policies and programmes throughout the course of the next Assembly.
- Work with the Children’s Commissioner for Wales, children’s organisations and the third sector to promote wider understanding and appreciation of rights-based policy making and service delivery.

While a rights-based approach brings benefits through increased engagement, enhanced participation and active citizenship to all children and young people, it is particularly important in securing the basic entitlements of vulnerable children. Living a life free from poverty is a civil right; being free from abuse is a fundamental entitlement. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Introduce a Wales Children Act, to build on the Children’s Rights

Measure introduced by the Labour Government during the last Assembly. We will use this new law to:

- Introduce a national looked-after children’s service to ensure that an adequate placement choice is made available for young people who have to live away from home. The service will operate to common standards that we will set out in legislation. The service will be overseen by a Standards and Compliance Unit, established by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Subject to the outcome of the UK Government’s review of Family Justice, preserve the principle of separate representation for children in relevant family proceedings in Wales.
- Consult on the establishment of a single, national adoption agency for Wales.
- Review the law relating to child protection and set national standards to be achieved by every local authority. We will review the current structure of Local Children’s Safeguarding Boards with a view to substantially reducing the number of such Boards operating in Wales.
- Consider integrating adult protection reporting and planning processes with those for children and young people.

In government, Welsh Labour undertook to respond positively to the Concluding Observations made by the Committee for the UNCRC when it last reviewed the UK’s compliance with the Convention in 2008. The next

periodic review by the Committee will take place during the period of the next Assembly. In preparation for the next review and in accordance with existing commitments we will:

- Take a lead role in preparing for the next periodic review of the UK's compliance with the UNCRG.
- Continue to promote positive images of young people wherever possible to counteract negative portrayals in the media and elsewhere.
- Continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, we will support improved access to play for children with disabilities.
- Continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people in Wales to participate in decision-making on issues which affect them.
- Work to make physical punishment of children and young people unacceptable through the promotion of positive alternatives.
- Continue to improve the transparency of budgeting for children and young people at Welsh Assembly Government level.

Families with Complex Needs

We understand the value of early intervention to successful outcomes across a range of family problems. We also understand the value of making sure that services around the family are delivered in a way that 'makes sense' to

the family. The Labour-led Assembly Government has already legislated to introduce the innovative, locality-based, multi-agency Integrated Family Support (IFS) Team and we have established the Families First grant scheme to support our anti-poverty strategy by developing 'wrap-around' services for families in challenging circumstances. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Commence existing powers to improve the coordination of assessments amongst professionals to ensure that where any child is identified as possibly being in need of services, an appropriate referral will be made to children's social services.
- Ensure that the experience derived from IFS teams is used to develop further our model of integrated services around the family.

Youth Work and Youth Justice

We are immensely proud of the work of the youth services, both statutory and voluntary. Every year, our youth services engage with over 100,000 young people. The Labour led government in Wales provided over £14m in revenue and capital grants between 2008 and 2011 in order to ensure that we delivered on the commitments we made in our National Youth Service Strategy (2007).

This foundation needs to be built on and, during the course of the next Assembly,

- We will refresh our youth service strategy and maintain our commitment to grant funding to at least the levels that we have provided over recent years.

We believe that young offenders are young people first and offenders second. We will continue to take every opportunity to provide services to young people in trouble. In time, we want to be able to manage all of our youth justice services in Wales ourselves. Over the course of the next Assembly, the Welsh Labour is committed to:

- Preserving the legacy of the Wales Youth Justice Board and to establish an appropriate mechanism for maintaining a strategic view of youth justice provision in Wales.
- Maintain local Youth Offending Teams but operating with much more strategic direction across Wales, legislating as appropriate, to require closer co-operation between agencies at every level.
- Continuing to provide education and training services to young people from Wales incarcerated in Wales and elsewhere as though such young people were formally ‘looked after’, as defined by the 1989 Children Act.
- Encouraging an expansion of police-led restorative alternatives to prison, linked to local services providing assessment and diversion for young people arrested for less serious offences.

Help for Veterans

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our Armed Forces and veterans for the services that they have and are giving to our country. Welsh Labour want to make sure that serving personnel, veterans and Forces’ families are able to access services which meet their specific needs and recognise the service that they have given to their country.

National Armed Forces Day recognises the sacrifice of current personnel, veterans and those who have lost their lives in the Service of their country. Wales was proud to host the national event in 2010, which was part funded by the Assembly Government and supported by several Welsh Labour Ministers. We want to continue to honour our services in a yearly event to mark their contribution.

Last year we established an Expert Group on the Needs of the Armed Forces Community in Wales to identify issues affecting the Armed Forces community in Wales and to help find solutions to some of these issues.

Already we are working together to address such issues as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, access to healthcare for specialist veterans and childcare issues, all of which have been discussed with the Group.

We have already put in place specific support for service personnel and veterans in the NHS, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged in their healthcare needs when they are posted

to different parts of the country. New funding from the Labour-led Assembly Government has enabled the expansion of Veterans' mental health services across Wales and the funding we provide for Combat Stress helps to support psychologically injured veterans. We are determined to ensure a comprehensive health service that delivers treatment, assessment and signposting for veterans and Service families, accessible across all parts of Wales.

To support veterans in lifelong learning the Assembly Government provides funding for Service Leavers from Wales to undertake further or higher education which provides a guarantee of free tuition towards a level 3 or first degree qualification for people leaving the Armed Services after more than 6 years service.

We are determined to do more and will:

- Extended eligibility for the concessionary travel scheme to seriously injured war veterans and armed forces personnel living in Wales.
- Extend the priority status that Service personnel and veterans have in our Homebuy Scheme the widows and widowers of personnel who have been killed in Service.

A fourth term Welsh Labour Government will:

- Honour the service and sacrifice of our serving personnel and veterans by supporting Welsh Armed Forces Day Parades across Wales.

- Extend our free swimming scheme to veterans and serving armed forces personnel on leave.
- Assess any additional support that is required for the families of serving personnel.
- Continue to provide priority NHS treatment for health conditions related to their military service and access to specialist in-patient services.
- Ensure future funding for the all-Wales mental health and wellbeing service for veterans.
- Continue to promote and fund the free and confidential helpline for people experiencing mental health problems, including post traumatic stress disorder.
- Continue to fund the charity, Combat Stress, to offer residential support to veterans where necessary.
- Work with the Ministry of Defence to forge stronger links between the NHS and military, including bringing together new lead executives in the new Health Boards with responsibility for veterans and service personnel.
- Ensure that veterans and carers will be given information on other services and support that they are entitled to, in an effort to improve their health and quality of life.



Chapter 6

Standing up for Welsh Homes

Welsh Labour believes that a warm and secure home is crucial and the starting point for so much in life: it aids health and well being, provides a learning environment for our children and improves life chances in general. We recognise that our housing needs change through the various stages of our lives. Some will be lucky and never need help with finding or keeping a home and many will need help at some point - whether from our family or friends for help with a deposit, moving house or support when we're older so that we can keep living in our own home. For some though, there will be times when the people around us can't help and we need other people and other services to help us have a home and a stake in our community.

The Labour-led Assembly Government has put the home at the heart of our policies and programmes. Over the last four years we have worked with the housing sector to:

- Deliver the biggest improvement in council and housing association homes in 50 years through the Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme with over £900 million invested.
- Build an additional 6,500 affordable homes across Wales.
- Invest around £130 million a year in providing support to 50,000 of the most vulnerable people in society to

help them find a home and live the life they aspire to within it.

- Use housing investment to create over 2000 jobs and training opportunities in our most disadvantaged communities through initiatives like the i2i Can Do Toolkit.

Welsh Labour remains committed to a strong mix of social and private housing and focussing on those in greatest housing need. We reject the Tory-led UK government's savage cuts to spending on housing and its attacks on our poorest communities.

Welsh Labour, working with partners, is committed to:

- Securing a further £1.2 billion to deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard for all council and housing association tenants across Wales.
- Using this massive investment not only to improve housing stock but also maximise its impact on local and community economic development through imaginative procurement to promote skills development and employability.
- Supporting the development of interest-free Property Appreciation Loans to allow low income homeowners to borrow to improve their properties.
- Working with councils and landlords to improve housing standards and tenants rights in the Private Rented Sector.
- Support Tenant Participation services.

Build more homes

We will help deliver the extra homes required to meet increased housing need by making housing a higher priority in the coming decade. We will increase the supply of new affordable, energy efficient homes through Social Housing Grant together with accessing innovative forms of finance such the Welsh Housing Partnership and housing bonds, better use of the planning system and by making public land available for housing. We will:

- Introduce a new Empty Properties initiative in partnership with local authorities to target the thousands of homes in Wales that have been empty for more than 6 months.

Innovation

Welsh Labour always seeks innovative solutions to housing problems. We will:

- Support local authorities who wish to build new homes for rent and encourage innovation through Community Land Trusts and other new ways of providing land and funding for housing.

Development Plans

We will:

- work with stakeholders to ensure that Local Development Plans and planning policy at a local level helps address the shortfall in homes.

Support vulnerable people and tackling homelessness

Welsh Labour has a strong track record of supporting vulnerable people. In the next term we will:

- Build on our ten-year Homelessness Plan and continue to invest in vulnerable people - whether they are young people leaving care, older people who are becoming frail, or people who are experiencing mental ill health - to avert homelessness, to have and keep in their homes and build the kind of life we all want for ourselves, friends and families.

- Take forward a range of projects to tackle homelessness across Wales, including local Bond Boards, and we will seek to ensure that best practice is spread across Wales.
 - Improve services and opportunities for groups within the community who experience discrimination/ require particular attention: lesbian, gay and bisexual people, people in black and ethnic minority groups, and the needs of gypsy-travellers.
- work with social landlords to ensure they are more accountable to their tenants and local communities.

Create strong communities

Housing is at the heart of strong communities. Welsh Labour in government will:

- Ensure that housing investment delivers a minimum of 2,000 additional jobs and training through the i2i Can Do Toolkit and will work across Assembly Government departments to embed this imaginative, flexible approach to procurement in other investment programmes.
- Invest a further £50 million in the ARBED programme to increase the energy performance of our existing homes and help combat fuel poverty.
- Introduce a new Flexible Tenure initiative that will allow people to move between renting, home ownership and shared ownership as their life circumstances change.
- Promote Mutual Ownership of housing, including consideration of the 'New Foundations' model, and



HEDDLU ATEG
POLICE SUPPORT

Chapter 7

Standing up for Wales - Safer Communities for All

Thanks to the actions of Labour Governments in Westminster and in the Assembly, crime is down by more than a third; violent crime is down by over 40 per cent and the risk of being a victim of crime is the lowest since 1981. But the ability of our Welsh police forces to maintain this downward trend will be seriously hampered by the decision of the Tory-led UK Government to slash funding to police forces in Wales by £34 million over the next three years, which could result in a reduction of 1,600 police officers and staff.

Although policing is a non-devolved issue, a Labour-led Assembly Government has ensured that where we can intervene, we have taken steps to make our communities safer with over £22 million in the last four years invested in community safety programmes. We recognise that feeling secure in your community is as important as having access to good education and healthcare services. That is why we condemn the UK Government's decision to put the safety of our neighbourhoods at risk through savage cuts to policing and reductions in front-line officers.

The Tory-led Government cuts are not about removing waste from the system, they are about reducing the number of police officers and community support officers who patrol our streets as well as

staff who provide essential services to help fight crime. The Labour-led Assembly Government cannot fill the gap left by the savage Tory-led budget cuts but we will support our Welsh police forces to keep our communities safe. In the Assembly term we will:

- Fund the employment of 500 Police Community Support Officers in Wales.
- Seek to establish a Wales Business Crime Unit to tackle business crime.
- Support action to deal with the increasing problem of crime and vandalism within the public transport network.
- Support the extension of 'no cold calling zones' to protect people from doorstep crime.

Tackling Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women

Domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault and honour-based crimes continue to blight Welsh communities. Since 2004 when Welsh Labour introduced the Government's first strategy to tackle domestic abuse, funding has risen by £5.363 million, an increase of almost 400 percent. Last year we launched our Violence Against Women Strategy, "A Right to be Safe" which aims to tackle all forms of violence against women, and recognises that gender inequality lies at the heart of the issue.



The Labour-led Assembly Government has made tackling domestic abuse a priority and has invested both in refuges to support women to escape from abuse as well as services to support victims of rape and sexual assault through the development of our Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC's).

In working with women's organisations Welsh Labour has also invested to challenge the attitudes which too often perpetuate violence against women. The groundbreaking campaign, One Step Too Far has challenged out-dated attitudes towards women and the recent Stop Blame campaign has challenged the myth that rape and sexual harassment is the fault of the victim.

Despite the progress Welsh Labour in Government has made, incidences of violence against women are far too prevalent and we are determined to do more to stop violence and domestic abuse affecting the lives of thousands of women and children across Wales. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Save 10,000 lives by ensuring all key health, social care and education workers can detect the early warning signs of domestic abuse and putting in place clear steps to protect women and children.
- Place a duty on relevant public sector bodies to have a domestic abuse and violence against women strategy in place.

- Work with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to monitor action taken by public bodies to address violence against women as part of their compliance with the public sector equality duties.
- Fund the appointment of Wales' first human trafficking co-coordinator.
- Continue to challenge out-dated attitudes towards women through on-going public awareness campaigns.



Chapter 8

Standing up for Equality

Equality and Social Justice is at the heart of Welsh Labour's agenda. That is why we were the Party that secured a statutory duty in the first Government of Wales Act for the Assembly to have due regard to equality of opportunity in everything it does. It is why we ensured that the Labour-led Assembly Government was the first to publish a single equality scheme and is why we have developed regulations for specific equality duties which take greater steps towards delivering equality than any other government in the UK. The Labour-led Assembly Government was also the first in the UK to publish a comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment alongside the 2011/12 Final Budget and will monitor the impact of the budget in line with this Assessment.

It is clear that the UK Tory Government's Budget cuts will disproportionately impact on women in Wales: there will be a major impact on lone parents, who are mostly women; there is a high proportion of women working in the public services who will be threatened by redundancy, and welfare benefit cuts will fall disproportionately on women. We will make every attempt to alleviate the adverse impacts on women and will review and base our existing activities & new initiatives on clear and sound evidence.

Under Welsh Labour the Welsh Assembly Government has adopted the

social model of disability. We believe that it is society that creates attitudinal and physical barriers to disabled people being able to fully participate and we want to break down these barriers. With our funding Disability Wales has been able to undertake projects such as Way to Go - Planning for inclusive access which help disabled people to challenge the planning process to ensure that physical barriers are addressed in planning and design stage and "Words to Wales" which promotes knowledge and understanding of the barriers that are faced by disabled people. Cuts to benefits, the third sector and public services by the UK Tory

and Lib Dem coalition will hit disabled people particularly hard.

Through our approach to equality impact assessing our spending plans Welsh Labour will:

- Continue to ensure that we mitigate against the worst impacts on disabled people of the UK Government's policies and cuts.

The Single Equality Scheme has committed the Labour-led Assembly Government to apply the principles of the statutory gender, race and disability equality duties in relation to age, religion and belief and non-belief, sexual orientation and transgender wherever possible.

Our new public sector duties will provide the basis for securing equality in the provision of public services - making sure that services meet the needs of women, men, disabled people, older people, Black, Asian and ethnic minority people, the gay and transgender community and people with different religious beliefs. We want to ensure that the different needs of people from different ethnic groups and of people with disabilities are recognised and catered for, especially in key public services such as education and social care.

Our engagement with equality groups has been a crucial part of developing a distinctive Welsh equality agenda.

The Faith Communities Forum, chaired by the First Minister, has maintained good relations with diverse faith groups in Wales and has also engaged with various community members in Wales including minority ethnic youth and women.

A Disability Equality Advisory Group, chaired by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, provides a forum for disabled people to engage with and influence Government policy.

Engagement across equality groups takes place in the biannual meetings between Ministers and third sector equality groups.

Key to ensuring that public services do meet the needs of all communities is creating a more diverse pool of senior decision makers in the public sector workforce, in public appointments and in political life. Welsh Labour are proud to have taken the steps which secured the first gender balanced legislature in the world and we are proud to have supported initiatives which have led to an improvement in the diversity of local councillors and in public appointments. A fourth term Labour Government will go even further to deliver a more representative pool of decision makers in Wales.

Despite the strides we have made with the help of the Labour UK Government legislating for equality in the workplace and the work of our trade union partners in campaigning and

negotiating on the ground we know that the workplace continues to be an arena where inequality exists. The fact that the gender pay gap stubbornly remains at 12 per cent and senior professions in certain sectors and management positions across the public sector are still dominated by men means that we must do more to address inequality in the workplace. We also want employers to recognise the positive benefits of having in place workplace policies which can assist employees who may be experiencing domestic abuse or mental health problems.

In our communities we have invested in promoting community cohesion through our Community Cohesion Strategy, our Gypsy Traveller Strategy and through the Advancing Equality Fund which helps grassroots organisations such as race equality bodies to work to promote equality in their communities. We believe that this work is vital in tackling the rise in right wing extremism and we will continue to work with Police and equality organisations to ensure that our communities are safe and tolerant.

In the next Assembly term we will:

- Aim to establish stronger Welsh accountability for equality and human rights legislation, including the enforcement of Wales specific duties. We will therefore explore how this can best be achieved.
- Ensure that cultural differences are taken into account in the provision of social care services.
- Establish trade union equality reps across the public sector to ensure that organisations meet their statutory equality obligations and work towards creating the fairest and most diverse public sector workforce in the UK.
- Encourage employers to implement workplace policies on equality issues such as domestic abuse and mental health in order to support staff and tackle sickness absence.
- Commit to maintaining the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant to at least current level and will not diminish our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Black, Asian and Ethnic minority children in Wales.
- Work with partners to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying and hate crime.
- Work with the Police and race organisations to tackle the rise in extreme right wing protests.
- Implement our new specific equality duties, requiring employers to identify the root causes of the gender pay gap in their organisation and take action to address them.

- Identify steps that can be taken to close the ethnicity and disability pay gaps.
- Undertake research to look at how best women and families can be supported. Initially we will consider a group of single-parent mothers with children over seven who are looking for work, to discover what are the barriers to gaining employment and looking at a similar group of mothers who are in work, to see what factors made this possible. The results of this research will help influence future policy making and funding decisions.
- Seek to introduce Norwegian style gender quotas for appointments to public bodies in Wales, ensuring that at least 40 per cent of appointments are women.

Equality issues are also discussed in other sections of this document:

Violence against women
(in **Safer Communities**)

Disabled children
(in **Tackling Poverty**)

Free childcare – Flying Start
(in **Education**)



Chapter 9

Standing up to Tackle Poverty in Wales

Welsh Labour is committed to tackling poverty and social exclusion. We have already developed a number of programmes to bring individuals and communities out of poverty, from Communities First to Flying Start to a range of help for individuals to manage their finances. Investment in communities through the third sector and by supporting public services has been key to tackling poverty and in the next term Welsh Labour will need to re-double its efforts in order to mitigate the effects of the Tory-led Government's massive cuts to public services, the third sector and welfare benefits.

The potential negative impact on household incomes and the knock-on effect of people needing enhanced support from the Assembly Government and third sector organisations in Wales cannot be underestimated. Whilst the Assembly Government cannot fill the gap that will be left by the Tory-led UK Government slashing public spending we will aim to put in place the support which Welsh communities and individuals need to grow out of poverty.

Supporting and Regenerating our Communities

Welsh Labour has a proud record of supporting and investing in our communities. Our Community Facilities and Activities Programme has provided funding for more than 300 community buildings and our

Regeneration Strategy has successfully provided funding to regenerate communities across Wales.

European Structural Funds secured by a Welsh Labour Government have made an important contribution to this success. Overall, some £405 million investment has been committed to regenerate communities across Wales from Ebbw Vale to the Mon a Menai Project in Anglesey and Gwynedd, the North Wales coastal region to the Heads of the Valleys Scheme which has benefitted town centres in Newbridge, Bargoed and Ferndale. We will continue to invest in communities across Wales and to provide the infrastructure to support people to escape from poverty.

In addition to our investment in regenerating our communities we have supported 155 of the most deprived communities with £342 million of funding through our flagship Communities First Programme. Our Outcomes Fund has encouraged investment from the Assembly Government, local government and other partners in raising skills, tackling health inequalities and problems with crime and anti-social behaviour in these communities. This targeted action by a range of public services will be a key feature for the future.

The Communities First programme has made huge strides in regenerating deprived areas and tackling poverty through providing training and skills, developing affordable childcare, improving the health of local people, generating business and tourism and improving community safety. Unlike the Tories we believe that these achievements should be celebrated and developed. And so a fourth term Welsh Labour Government will continue to empower individuals within communities to come together, highlight problems and collectively look for solutions. We will aim to support local people to develop their communities through the introduction of time-banking which rewards the contribution people can make to their locality by giving them access to a social, educational or cultural event in return for the time they give.

The Tories and Plaid Cymru have already said that they would withdraw funding from Communities First but we will not turn our back on some of our most deprived communities. In short, Communities First has a future with Welsh Labour and we will:

- Develop an Anti-Poverty Action Plan bringing together all the levers within the Assembly Government and our social partners to help communities and individuals out of poverty.
- Continue to invest in our most deprived communities, integrating our Communities First Programme with all our regeneration activity and ensuring that Communities First areas are a priority for funding across all Assembly Government programmes.
- Refocus funding on delivering our priorities to reduce poverty through a set of agreed outcomes with local communities, local and Assembly Government.
- Utilise the skills of the community development workforce that we have invested in over the lifetime of the programme to focus in on delivering these outcomes.
- Establish new Communities First boards at a local authority level and require all key services to contribute in achieving agreed outcomes in Communities First areas.
- Increase the flexibility of the new programme to be able to support people living in poverty wherever



they live, whilst continuing to invest in the most deprived areas.

- Actively promote the development of time-banking.
- Work with trade unions, employers and other stakeholders to explore ways of ensuring a living wage for every worker in Wales, given that low pay is a significant problem for many families and the challenges of in-work poverty remain.

Financial Inclusion

Providing people with help to manage their finances will continue to be a key plank of our programme to tackle poverty. A lack of financial capability combined with irresponsible lending

and an increase in unemployment due to the recession and more recently public service job losses resulting from the UK Government cuts, including cuts to benefit advice services, has meant that many people have found themselves in financial difficulties.

Welsh Labour has already begun to tackle this problem in the short term by providing additional funding to Citizens Advice Cymru to help them to establish a telephone advice line, as well as developing the Moneymadeclear service which in addition to a website and telephone service now provides face to face financial advice for individuals, as well as working with employers to deliver financial advice to employees.

Our Financial Inclusion Champions are working with the All-Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit to tackle the problem of loan sharks and illegal money lending; raising awareness of the dangers of loan sharks, providing advice and support to victims and directing them to other sources of affordable lending, such as credit unions. In the longer term the Labour-led Assembly Government wants to ensure that children have a sound financial education in order to take them into adulthood. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Continue to support and expand the credit union network with over £3.4 million of funding until 2013.
- Support third sector advice providers to assist people who have debt problems or need help to manage their finances.
- Roll out the financial education in schools programme through embedding financial capability in the curriculum.
- Over the next four years, explore work with local councils in Wales to promote the provision of accessible payroll deduction facilities, in order to make credit union membership more easily available to local authority employees.

Child Poverty

No child should spend their early years living in poverty, especially in a relatively prosperous country with a modern and developing economy. The effects on children's health, development and well-being of missing out on things the rest of us take for granted and having to bear the isolation and stigma of poverty, are well known. Poverty not only leads to a diminished experience of childhood, it often limits life chances well in adulthood.

Welsh Labour's political roots lie in the fight to end poverty and, in government, we introduced through the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, a statutory requirement on Welsh Ministers, local authorities and other public bodies including health authorities, National Parks and the Arts Council to set out the actions that they will take to eradicate child poverty.

We have made substantial progress in the fight against the historical legacy of child poverty in Wales. Of the 31 indicators that Government uses to measure rates of child poverty in Wales, we have made real progress in over a third of them, including reducing teenage pregnancies, improving educational achievement with vulnerable groups and reducing the number of families living in temporary accommodation. We know that we have to re-double our efforts in the next Assembly term and will:

- Reaffirm our commitment to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020.
-

-
- Deliver on every one of the commitments that we have made in the Labour-led Government's Child Poverty Strategy to:
 - Reduce the number of families living in workless households;
 - Improve the skills of parents and young people living in low income households so they can secure well-paid employment; and
 - Reduce inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes of children, young people and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

To achieve these aims, we will continue to make the substantial investment in early years' provision (that we describe elsewhere in this Manifesto) on the basis that support for parents and additional educational investment in children is vital in reducing the effects on families of low income and worklessness. We will:

- Ensure that the Labour Government Families First grants programme is maintained throughout the period of the next Assembly.

We recognise that there are families with particular vulnerabilities who are more likely to be living in poverty, including families with disabled children. Disability brings its own economic as well as social and emotional pressures that can lead to a greater risk of family poverty. In order

to promote better access to play for disabled children, to improve provision of short breaks and to promote the integration of services for families of children with disabilities, especially at key points of transition in their lives, we will:

- Maintain a distinct focus on the circumstances of disabled children as part of our Child Poverty Strategy and our Families First programme.

Most parents are able to support their children to take part in recreational and personal development activities from within the family budget. This can take the form of out-of-school sporting activities, learning to play a musical instrument or taking part in projects with real community benefits, such as volunteering. Such opportunities are not available to all children and young people. We need to make sure that they are so that every young person is able to fulfil their potential. We believe that there are commercial, charitable and cultural interests in Wales that would be willing to coordinate their efforts to provide the means to offer such 'life chances' to some of our more disadvantaged children and young people. Government has a key role in maintaining a national focus on those most at risk of missing out on the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and abilities. We will:

- Seek to develop a 'Life Chances Fund' to provide financial support for disadvantaged young

people to enable them to take part in recreational and personal development activities that might otherwise be denied them.

Fuel Poverty

Welsh Labour in government has tackled the growing problem of fuel poverty, working closely with the major energy companies to invest in energy efficiency and fuel poverty measures in homes. The Labour-led Assembly Government's ground-breaking Arbed programme has benefited 6,000 homes in the poorest areas of Wales. We believe there is room to be even more ambitious on this agenda, particularly with rising fuel prices leading to greater fuel poverty. Welsh Labour also welcomes the decision of Ofgem to order the UK's electricity and gas suppliers to reform their overly complex pricing structures and inject greater competition into electricity generation capacity to ensure markets work more effectively for consumers.

Ensuring our fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes run side-by-side the Labour-led Assembly Government's new fuel poverty scheme will focus on the needs of individual houses, addressing gaps in current provision and providing measures for householders in hard-to-treat and off-gas properties. Welsh Labour in government has also introduced a package of support to enable businesses to secure micro-generation certification accreditation to encourage more

businesses to help support this growth in these new technologies. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Through our strategic Arbed policy lever in funds to improve the energy efficiency of homes across Wales, making improvements to a further 10,000 homes by 2015.
- Ensure that as far as reasonably practicable, those eligible for funding towards energy efficiency measures will receive it, helping to lift them out of fuel poverty.
- Continue to support statutory targets on fuel poverty and will ensure that, as far as reasonably practical, no households in Wales should live in fuel poverty beyond 2018.



Chapter 10

Standing up for Rural Communities

Rural Wales has some of the most beautiful landscapes in Britain and Europe and can offer a quality of life that is second to none. Welsh Labour believes that the key priorities for people living in rural areas are the same of those people living in other areas of Wales: jobs, excellent public services, quality education and skills training, good quality and affordable housing and a better quality of life.

Welsh Labour however recognises and understands the particular challenges facing Wales' rural communities. Much of rural Wales is dependent upon agriculture, tourism and the public sector and employment is often seasonal. Welsh Labour recognises that a vibrant rural economy needs a greater diversity of employment which is resilient and sustainable over the long-term. The rural communities of Wales tend to have lower average incomes and many people face higher costs, whether in housing, transport or energy. In addition many people living in rural Wales face difficulties in accessing jobs, services or leisure facilities. This leads all too often to some profound problems of exclusion and isolation.

Poverty is not a purely urban phenomenon and many people across rural Wales experience the impact of poverty and deprivation: Rurality and sparsity can be significant elements in

the social exclusion and deprivation suffered by many people living in rural Wales.

Welsh Labour will:

- Work to diversify the rural economy.
- Continue to use the Rural Development Plan for Wales up to 2013 to provide additional funds to support economic activities. This support will be targeted to stimulate economic activity in rural communities and will include a focus on food processing and restoring the manufacturing base in rural Wales.
- Seek to ensure that fast broadband access is made available to rural areas.
- Work with Ofcom to ensure that regulation is used as a tool to ensure that rural communities have access to faster broadband speeds and new digital services.

Rural Transport

Welsh Labour recognises the importance of public transport for rural communities in order to improve access to services and quality of life.

Welsh Labour will:

- Continue to encourage and support the development of community transport schemes that meet the needs of those living in rural areas.
- Examine the best options for providing local bus services to ensure that rural communities have services which are reliable and which provide access to local services and a means to travel to work.

Rural Health

Welsh Labour in Government delivered a Rural Health Plan which has sought to ensure a more flexible and innovative approach to the delivery of services for those individuals and communities who are located far from mainstream health provision. Welsh Labour will:

- Continue to build upon this initiative to ensure that all public services are delivered in ways that recognise the particular needs of rural Wales.
- Ensure that people across Wales have access to high quality health services as close as possible to where they live.

CAP Reform

The future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is important to rural Wales.

Changes in Wales over the last decade have seen improvements in respect of the environment, food safety, animal and plant health along with high animal welfare standards. Welsh Labour will work to secure the best interests of Welsh farmers during the negotiations on reform of the common agricultural policy from 2013 to 2020.

We do not believe that the current approach of the Tory-led UK Government will deliver the sort of support that Welsh farmers will require in the coming decade: This will lead to severe cuts to the CAP budget which would hit rural Wales hard.

Welsh Labour will

- Represent Welsh interests and work for a reform that is fair to both producers who require stable and predictable income and consumers who need high quality food at a fair price.
 - Seek to actively support food production and recognises the clear and important differentiation between Pillar One and Pillar Two.
 - Ensure that the CAP continues to underpin the financial structures that are absolutely vital for sustainable, thriving rural communities.
 - Continue to fight for support for farmers in less favoured areas and will ensure that CAP continue to provide essential support in maintaining the fabric of life in rural communities.
-



- Continue to support those CAP payments which are essential to the viability of many farmers and communities in rural Wales.
- Support a system that provides income support to farmers, sustains food production and encourages sustainable land management.

Promoting Welsh foods

Welsh Labour has always been a champion of the excellent food and drink produced in Wales. The food sector in Wales helps carry the Welsh brand across the world. We will:

- Continue to support Welsh food producers, processors and distributors and work to strengthen food production and processing in Wales, developing the whole supply chain and investing in increasing the value of Welsh produce.
- Seek to continue developing the existing high quality and variety of food produce. We will seek to build a sustainable food system which balances the challenges of food production, energy needs and environmental protection.
- Use public procurement imaginatively in ensuring that the needs of the small scale producer or supplier are taken into account by public service providers when issuing procurement contracts. We will seek to strengthen support for local authorities and other public bodies in sharing good practice in the benefits of buying local produce.
- Examine how the Welsh Government can apply the successful model of Hybu Cig Cymru to develop,

promote and market other Welsh produce.

- Continue to support the establishment of a UK Supermarket Ombudsman who will work to regulate the supply chain and ensure the sustainability of different foods and fair pricing throughout the supply chain.
- Through the Labour-led Assembly Government's Wales Rural Development Plan build a brighter future for rural communities and the economy of rural Wales.
- Seek to diversify and strengthen the rural economy by the promotion of Farmers' Markets, the pursuit of new markets the growth of cooperative marketing arrangements and investment in new equipment.
- Invest in quality tourism businesses and market more effectively Wales' quality visitor attractions, accommodation and food industry.
- Take a science-led approach to evaluate and review the best way of tackling Bovine TB.
- Undertake a strategic review of land use in Wales to consider changing demands for food production, natural resources and restoring eco-systems and sustainable development.

Woodlands

Welsh Labour's vision for woodlands in Wales is one of sustainability - living within our environmental limits, using only our fair share of resources and

creating a resilient and sustainable economy. By 2050 our woodlands alone could abate half of Wales' annual CO₂ emissions, if carbon reduction targets are achieved.

Over the next 50 years we want our woodlands to provide more social and community benefits, support more local industries and contribute to a better quality of environment and lifestyle throughout Wales. We want more of the wood used in Wales to have been grown in Wales. We recognise the potential from forestry and forests towards our wider environmental goals while at the same time providing green jobs.

There are currently large areas of unmanaged broadleaved and farm woodlands in Wales and, whilst not all of this woodland is suitable for the market, collectively it represents a major opportunity to increase the production of useable timber, especially for heating, helping the development of smaller businesses, as well as supporting our commitment to sustainable living.

As Wales' tourism industry moves increasingly towards shorter, activity-based breaks, our beautiful forest environment is able to support the development of a Welsh forest-based leisure industry leading to greater local prosperity and job creation. This will also help raise awareness and understanding for a wider audience about trees, woodlands and forests.

We will promote sustainable and productive woodland management, employment and wealth creation. Unlike the Tory-led UK Government which tried to sell off the Forestry Commission in England, Welsh Labour believes that our woodlands are for people - serving our needs for a healthier lifestyle, education and jobs. In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour will:

- Ensure woodlands are for people - serving local needs for health, education and jobs.
- Make a positive contribution to biodiversity, landscapes and heritage, reducing other environmental pressures and ensuring environmental quality.
- Ensure that Wales' sustainable forests are used locally in the building of sustainable homes.
- Respond to climate change by helping reducing our carbon footprint by maximising our woodlands for carbon abatement.
- Help create a competitive and integrated forest sector with innovative, skilled industries supplying renewable products from Wales.



Chapter 11

Standing up for the Environment and Sustainability

Sustainability lies at the heart of Welsh Labour; affecting everything we do in helping to secure our children's and future generations.

Welsh Labour's vision is for a sustainable Wales to become a 'one planet' nation by putting sustainable development at the heart of government; creating a resilient and sustainable economy that lives within its environmental limits and only using our fair share of the earth's resources to sustain our lifestyles.

The sustainability challenges facing this, and future generations, demands continuing leadership on sustainability from Welsh Labour in government. The fact that we are a small nation does not mean we can shy away from the urgent challenges we all face.

Wales is one of only a small number of countries worldwide to have sustainable development as one of the core principles of its constitution. It is this distinctive legal duty that ensures we move forward in a way which reflects our environmental, social and economic needs. Welsh Labour in government has a vision of a sustainable Wales that:

- lives within its environmental limits, using only its fair share of the earth's resources so that our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources, and we are resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- has healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems that are managed sustainably;
- has a resilient and sustainable economy that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change;
- has communities which are safe, sustainable, and attractive places for people to live and work, where people have access to services, and enjoy good health;
- is a fair, just and bilingual nation, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential.

To reflect this Welsh Labour in government will:

- Maintain our commitment to the Sustainable Development Scheme – One Wales One Planet - that sets out how Welsh Labour in Government will use its devolved powers - from health, transport to education - to make all our public services sustainable and reduce Wales' environmental impact on the world.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of its delivery and use fresh evidence to update our actions and assess the progress made towards more sustainable outcomes for Wales.

Welsh Labour wants to create communities which are safe, sustainable and attractive places for people to live and work, where people and families have good access to services and enjoy good health.

Welsh Labour wants citizens of all ages and backgrounds to be able to determine their own lives, shape their own communities and achieve their full potential by future proofing the world for our children and children's children. Welsh Labour will:

- Legislate to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle in all our actions across government and all public bodies.
- Legislate to put in place a new independent sustainable development

body for Wales, following the Tory-led UK Government's decision to scrap the Sustainable Development Commission.

- Legislate to create more sustainable communities through the planning system using Assembly Government guidance which requires the use of sustainable building standards.
- Ensure development plans reflect the responsibility to deliver sustainable communities across Wales.

Tidy Towns

This flagship initiative is a good example of Welsh Labour putting our values into practice. Across Wales, Welsh Labour has supported local authorities and third sector groups and is empowering people to improve their local communities. In the next term we will:

- Maintain our work on the Tidy Towns programme, helping communities make their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.



Air and Water Quality

Major investment has been made in improving the quality of air and water across Wales. Securing this quality for future generations is vital. Welsh Labour will:

- Continue to invest in improving air and water quality, ensuring the highest possible quality for both urban and rural areas.
- Ensure we manage our resources of land, water and air over the long term,

Protected landscapes: National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and our Marine Environment

Across Wales there is network of special places that provide some of the best examples of landscapes in Europe. For over fifty years Labour has acted to secure the long term management of these living landscapes. This is coupled with an increased recognition that our coastal and marine environments also need management to secure a sustainable future. Welsh Labour will:

- Continue to protect our beautiful scenery and protected landscapes and create new marine conservation zones.

Living Wales

In our fourth term Welsh Labour in government will reassess the principles which underpin A Living Wales –our Natural Environment Framework.

In particular Welsh Labour recognises that our environment:

- has an intrinsic value,
- is our life support system,
- is a finite source of raw materials and resources,
- is central to our quality of life, sense of place, health and wellbeing, and
- underpins our economic development.

Welsh Labour also recognises that people experience environmental inequalities which must be addressed. To achieve that, we are committed to:

- recognising and living within environmental limits, locally and globally,
- ensuring that all of our policies take the environment into account, in accordance with our statutory Sustainable Development duty,
- stimulating and enabling collaboration across the Welsh public sector,
- working with business and voluntary sector partners,
- encouraging individual citizens and communities to live in an environmentally sustainable way, and providing leadership by acting now for the future.

Welsh Labour's approach is to look at the environment as a whole and act to secure a more integrated approach to



managing the natural environment that improves the health of ecosystems as a whole. During the next term of the Assembly the main changes that our new ecosystem approach will bring are:

- A focus on the value of the environment as a whole, delivering environmental, social and economic outcomes
- Delivering positive environmental change, not simply conserving what we have
- Changes to how decisions affecting the environment are made
- Delivering positive economic and social opportunities
- Delivering opportunities for public involvement

In the next Assembly term we will:

- Lead significant changes in the way we regulate the environment and deliver policy, ensuring our communities and neighbourhoods have the highest possible standards.
- Look to bring the Environment Agency Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales together as one organisation to work closely on the development of 'A Living Wales', sharing services and operational resources to deliver it.

Action on Climate Change

The threat of climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face. If we are to accept responsibility and face

up to these very real threats, we must ensure that we do all we can to prepare for those challenges ahead.

We have the vision, underpinned by strong Welsh Labour values, to lead on this agenda. Despite our current difficult economic conditions, we can help shape a new vibrant, sustainable Wales, which reflect our aspirations and are rooted in the shared values of sustainability, co-operation, fairness and equality of opportunity. We need to act now in order to future proof the world for our children's children. Climate change is the most visible sign of living unsustainably.

The Labour-led Assembly Government's Climate Change Strategy for Wales was launched in October 2010 and aims to cut emissions by 3 per cent each year. It confirms our level of ambition in tackling the causes and consequence of climate change and recognises that the scientific consensus on this issue demands ever greater action if we are to secure a safer and greener future.

The Labour-led Assembly Government's planning policy for Sustainable Buildings sets a minimum standard for sustainability of new buildings in Wales and reduces the carbon emissions of new homes by more than 31 per cent. Welsh Labour has also made it easier for people to install micro-generation equipment such as domestic solar panels and has removed certain types of micro-generation

equipment from planning controls, ensuring no requirement to pay planning fees and reduced the financial burden to homeowners. In the next Assembly term Welsh Labour in government will:

- Continue to give a strong lead by cutting the Assembly Government's own carbon footprint and introducing ambitious national regulations to ensure all of Wales matches this commitment.
- Continue to take action on climate change, working with the independently-chaired Climate Change Commission for Wales, developing low carbon communities and promoting changes in all aspects of life.
- Harness available resources and engage with every sector to contribute to the Assembly Government's target of a 3 per cent annual carbon emission reduction by 2011 and a 40 per cent reduction by 2020.
- Continue to work on addressing the challenge of climate change by bringing our commitments closer to the science and aiming for an even higher carbon emission reduction.
- Continue to invest in adaptation to climate change, ensuring that we are prepared for the changes that might arise, such as extreme weather and flooding.

- Introduce higher construction standards in new housing as we move towards zero carbon building. We will work towards a 55 per cent improvement in building standards over 2006 levels by 2013. This will be three years ahead of England in introducing standards that help deliver zero carbon.
- Ensure that Wales continues to play a part on the world stage working with the Network for Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, the Climate Group at the UN and contributes to the global deal on climate change and Wales acts as an exemplar to other smaller states and regions.

Low Carbon Regions

Welsh Labour is committed to regeneration and renewal of our cities. We will build on the successful investment which has been made in these areas and take action to deliver low carbon communities. We will:

- Continue leading our work on the transition to Low Carbon Regions in each region of Wales, coordinating action on reducing emissions from transport, waste, food, land use, housing and the built environment under the leadership of the Wales Spatial Plan Area teams and key partners.

Access

Welsh Labour in government has taken action to improve access to

our countryside for all. This remains important to our aims for the next term of the Assembly. We will

- Remain committed to improving public access to land with better access for families and young children.
- Improve rights of way for cyclists and walkers and create an all Wales Coast Path by 2012.

Fair Trade

Welsh Labour is proud to have helped ensure Wales became the first Fairtrade nation. This showed how a small country can take steps to help bring about big change. Welsh Labour in government will

- Continue to support Wales as a one of the first ever Fairtrade nations.

Allotments

Welsh Labour recognises that one effective way for local communities to become more sustainable and healthier is through the provision of local allotments. Yet in many parts of Wales the demand for allotments is not met by supply. Welsh Labour will therefore:

- Legislate on the amount of land to be used for allotments.



Cycle routes

Under Welsh Labour there has been a significant investment in cycle routes and other opportunities to improve movement away from cars, for recreation and health and well being. We will build on this and embed future needs by:

- Legislating to place a duty to provide cycle routes in key areas.

Waste

Transforming and improving lives for all those living in Wales has also led to our vision for a zero waste society. By 2025 all sectors in Wales will be recycling 70 per cent of waste and by 2050 we will achieve zero waste, making Wales a leaner, cleaner and greener place to live.

In the next Assembly term, Welsh Labour will:

- Introduce regulations to restrict biodegradable materials going to landfill. This will help encourage increased recycling and help cut carbon emissions.
- Continue to invest in more facilities to help Wales meet the challenge of a zero waste strategy, increasing the levels of recycling helping to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste.

A Green Economy

Economic prosperity and growth do not have to be sacrificed for climate protection. Climate Change challenges will only be resolved through a shift to a resource-efficient, low carbon and green economy and it is essential that action is taken to promote investment in green jobs and renewable energy.

Our energy needs in a modern society will remain considerable and must be met securely from low carbon sources. Our Low Carbon Energy Statement set out how we intend to maximise energy savings and energy efficiency to make producing the majority of the energy we need from low carbon sources more feasible and less costly. We aim to generate up to twice as much renewable electricity annually by 2025 as we use today. By 2050, at the latest, we will meet almost all of our local energy needs, whether for heat, electrical power or vehicle transport, by low carbon electricity production. Half of this will come from marine energy, a third from wind

and the rest from sustainable biomass and other sources.

Rising fuel prices inevitably lead to a greater need to deal with those in fuel poverty. It is critical that fuel poverty and energy efficiency integrate if we are to tackle this issue. Our new fuel poverty scheme aims to focus on the needs of individual houses, with new scheme addressing gaps in current provision and providing measures for householders in hard to treat and off-gas properties. We have also introduced a package of support to enable businesses to secure microgeneration certification accreditation to encourage more businesses to help support this growth in these new technologies.

We will:

- Provide people with the skills and opportunities to take advantage of the growth in new renewable technologies and the employment that will come with the ‘greener’ society.
 - Work with industry to move to resilient low carbon energy production. We will bring together the major generators to share best practice in carbon reduction.
 - Continue to seek responsibility for renewable energy consents up to 100MW on both sea and land, enabling Wales to move quicker in providing clean energy solutions for all.
- Maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits of our investment to help reduce climate change, eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development and regeneration throughout Wales. This will include recognition of the contribution to be made by generators, suppliers, distributors and regulators of energy.
 - Establish a national infrastructure planning system for waste, energy and water helping ensure planning arrangements are streamlined and in line with Wales’ national policy.
 - Recognise that the Severn Estuary represents a strategically important source of renewable energy with the potential to generate 5 per cent of UK electricity supply. We will work to help ensure that this potential is harnessed.

PENRHYN CRESCENT
LLANDUDNO

Canol y Dref
Town Centre

Toileddau
Toilets 

 Canolfan Croeso
Tourist Information



 Craig-y-Don
(Bowls, Tennis)



 Theatr Gogledd
North Wales Theatre

Tramffordd y Gogarth
Great Orme Tramway



 Llandudno Surf

Chapter 12

Standing up for Culture and the Welsh Language

Welsh Labour in government has always recognised the vital importance of the arts to Wales through our commitment and financial support: that there is more to life than the bottom line. Welsh Labour also believes that a healthy, vibrant democracy and civil society vitally needs a plurality of news media and public service broadcasting. Labour has never seen the future of the Welsh language in isolation from the future of the communities where Welsh is a living language.

Media

Welsh Labour believes that a healthy, vibrant democracy and civil society needs a plurality of news media and public service broadcasting. Welsh Labour does not believe the Tory-led Government's idea of promoting local television is a viable option in Wales, given our dispersed population and the fragile commercial potential for local TV in the UK. The prospects for local television will only improve if the current public service model is undermined: an option we believe has dangerous implications for Wales, our democracy and wider civil society.

Regulation and the role and future of Ofcom

With the proposed abolition of Ofcom's Consumer Panel and the significant enhancement of the role of

Ofcom's Wales Advisory Committee, along with the other national committees, we will

- Argue that not only should Ofcom's Wales Advisory Committee become a sub-committee of the main Ofcom Board, but that there should be a Wales member of Ofcom Board.

Performance and accountability of broadcasters and regulator

In the next Assembly term we will push for maintaining the existing plurality of public service broadcasting and press the UK Government that the existing provision by ITV of just under 4 hours of news a week, plus an hour and a half of other material, including current affairs and political coverage, should be the minimum condition for ITV's license renewal.

Welsh Labour believes there should be a duty of broadcasters operating in Wales to keep the National Assembly for Wales informed of their activities. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Press for the broadcasters and the regulator to report on an annual basis to the National Assembly for Wales, with Ofcom, BBC/S4C, ITV, Channel 4 reporting annually to a NAW committee.

Welsh Labour believes there should be greater transparency in the way S4C is run, and that the Assembly Government should be consulted on the governance arrangements of this new service. Consequently we will:

- Press for a full review of the operation and governance of S4C and seek a line of accountability to the National Assembly for Wales

We also believe the operation and accountability of the BBC Trust, however modified in the expected Broadcasting/Communications Bill during the lifetime of the UK coalition government, should be reviewed with the aim being to strengthen its in-Wales machinery. We will:

- Explore the possibility of a Wales Committee of the BBC Trust being established, as a sub-committee of the main BBC Trust Board, to ensure accountability and scrutiny of the BBC Wales' performance/output. And in appointing a Welsh member to the BBC Trust, we will seek to

ensure this appointment is made on the same basis as in Scotland.

While we are sceptical of the commercial viability of the model of local TV proposed by the Tory-led UK Government we believe that there will be greater opportunities in Wales provided by local community and web-based TV, radio and other forms of digital media, and would wish to support such alternative and creative forms of news coverage, community and democratic participation.

Creative Industries

Welsh Labour has long argued for the importance of the creative industries to the Welsh economy, which is why the Labour Assembly Government established the Creative Industries Strategy in 2004. Progress on delivering that strategy has been mixed, as the Hargreaves Review in 2010 demonstrated. With creative industries being one of the six key sectors within the Economic Renewal Programme, Welsh Labour believes that Welsh broadcasters should be expected to maximise the economic leverage of their very significant annual expenditure, much of it publicly funded, for the benefit of independent Wales-based production companies and the Welsh economy. Welsh Broadcasters should be required to include their progress in this area in the annual reports we propose that they make to the National Assembly for Wales. We will:

- Press for a fairer share of TV production from UK broadcasters such as the BBC, for Wales-based independent production companies.

The Arts

Welsh Labour in government has always recognised the vital importance of the arts to Wales through our commitment and financial support: that there is more to life than the bottom line. That was our pledge as a government and we have kept to our word. Welsh Labour believes in ‘Arts for all’ and has consistently championed greater provision and wider access to high quality art in Wales for all. The arts showcase the best of Wales, as important to our individual and community sense of worth and well-being as our policies on health, sport and education. Aneurin Bevan, Wales’ greatest twentieth century figure hailed the arts as the foundation of the better life.

As a result of the investment from the Labour-led Assembly Governments we now have first-class venues across Wales, from the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, Venue Cymru in Llandudno and Galeri in Caernarfon, offering world-class performances to the people of Wales. The arts, through our outstanding National Companies such as the established WNO, the National Dance Company of Wales and the new National Theatre Wales have established international reputations giving Wales prestige and

profile and allowing us as a small country to punch above our weight. Wales now also presents itself on the world stage with international artists at Artes Mundi and Welsh artists at the Venice Biennale. Hundreds of thousands in Wales have also benefitted from our policy of free entry to museums and galleries.

In these more challenging times, we have not lost sight of our commitment or the potential of the arts for our nation. Despite savage cuts by the Tory-led UK Government, and at a time when the arts in England are having their budgets slashed, the Labour-led Assembly Government has shown its continued commitment through the funding of the arts through the Arts Council Wales . We support quality arts for Wales, at home and abroad, and we will continue our backing for both companies and individual artists, across all art forms. To fulfil this commitment Welsh Labour will:

- Retain our free entries to Museums policy.
- Require the Arts Council Wales to continue improving access and reducing the barriers to participation and appreciation of the arts.
- Require the Arts Council Wales to make arts for young people a central plank of its future action plan in an agreed Compact with the Department of Children, Education, Lifelong learning & Skills.

- Require the Arts Council Wales to undertake a strategic developmental and support role for arts organisations in Wales.
- Ensure the Heritage department engages with other Assembly Government departments to put creativity at the heart of the Arts, Creative Industries, Digitalisation and Social Well-being agenda.
- Seek to introduce a Heritage Preservation Bill to strengthen the protection of listed buildings in Wales.
- Review the provision of Theatre in Education in Wales.

The Welsh Language

Labour has never seen the future of the Welsh language in isolation from the future of the communities where Welsh is a living language. Since 1999 Labour in government has always sought to strengthen the place of the language in everyday life throughout the whole of Wales. And we have been successful in ensuring that Welsh is more visible and has a more established place in all aspects of Welsh life.

From education to business and in public life and in social use the Welsh language is thriving and growing. However we recognise that the future vitality of the language is inextricably linked to the economic and social future of those communities.

Welsh Labour has a proud record of protecting and promoting the Welsh language, demonstrated through our long-standing commitment to Welsh-medium education, ensuring the language continues to flourish for future generations.

In government, our commitment was underlined by introducing the Welsh Language Measure during the third Assembly term: Legislation which establishes the first ever Independent Commissioner to ensure the language is protected and developed.

Welsh Labour will:

- Remain committed to ensuring the Welsh language is a ‘living’ language, one which thrives in everyday use across our country.
- Ensure Welsh public services are accessible to people through the medium of Welsh.
- Seek to increase the number of people speaking and using Welsh in our education system.
- Focus on post-16 provision to ensure that students can continue to study and learn through the medium of Welsh outside of the school environment.

- Seek to expand the opportunities for people to use Welsh across all public services in Wales.
- Continue to deliver funding for new affordable homes in Wales as this is a vital contribution to sustainable communities that can support the future of the Welsh language.
- Seek innovative ways of ensuring that the Welsh language is passed on through families and that users feel comfortable choosing Welsh.
- Work to ensure that community groups feel able to use the Welsh language as a part of their activities and are able to operate bilingually.
- Focus on increasing the use of the Welsh language in the electronic media and will seek to ensure that everyone has a choice to use Welsh wherever possible.
- Seek to persuade international businesses providing web and online services to make these available in Welsh.

Passionate about sport

Welsh Labour is proud of its record in Government in delivering on its commitment to sport. We recognise fully the important place sport holds in the hearts of our people - whether it is in the local park, the school playing field or in a packed Millennium Stadium - the people of Wales are passionate about sport.

In Government, we have always recognised the huge benefits that sport brings to

individuals and communities. On a range of different levels sport brings:

- Improved health and wellbeing.
- Social and community cohesion.
- Economic benefits associated with educational attainment, skills development, tourism and employment.
- Environmental benefits.

Welsh Labour is proud that in government we have supported Sports Wales' 'Vision for Sport in Wales' in order to maximize participation and performance:

- **Sporting skills:** We remain committed to ensuring children and young people are provided with basic physical skills from an early age and that physical literacy is as important a developmental skill as reading and writing.
- **Sporting Opportunities:** We remain committed to ensuring all children and young people are able to access a range of sporting opportunities as part of the formal curriculum, after school and in the community.
- **Sporting Workforce:** We have supported the development of a professional and voluntary workforce to provide quality sporting experience for all.
- **Sporting Excellence:** We have continued to nurture talent to deliver sustained success in sport from grassroots to elite level on the world stage.
- **Sporting Innovation:** We have encouraged collaboration, supporting

new ways of delivering sporting opportunities to increase participation and improve elite performance.

Welsh Labour in Government were pioneers in understanding the health benefits of offering free swimming schemes for older people and our school children. Following the success of the scheme, we have extended the opportunities for children to swim free-of-charge at weekends. In the next Assembly term we will:

- Retain our free swimming commitment.

To take this level of commitment to its next stage, we support Sport Wales' aim of enabling children and young people to have access to undertake at least five hours of sporting activity every week, delivered not just in and around the local school but in the wider community also.

When it comes to hosting world-class international sporting events, thanks to Welsh Labour's vision and ambition for our country, Wales is now playing on the world stage as host to the 2010 Ryder Cup, the 2009 Ashes Test Match, the World Rally Championship, Olympic tournaments in Cardiff, and by co-hosting the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

However, we are not content to rest on our laurels. As demonstrated by Welsh Labour's vision to host the Ryder Cup in Newport, there are huge economic benefits that accompany such events. We have proved that Wales can be a

prime location for major international competition. In Government Welsh Labour will:

- Work with Cardiff to explore the feasibility of bidding to host the Commonwealth Games in 2026.
- Work with national, UK and international sports federations to ensure more major events are hosted in Wales in the future, ensuring that the whole of Wales reaps the benefits of this ambition.



CONCLUSION

This programme for government sets out the detailed actions that Welsh Labour will deliver during the next term of the National Assembly for Wales. It is an exciting and far reaching agenda that will deliver improvements for families, communities and businesses across Wales.

At the heart of our work during the fourth term Assembly will be growth in the Welsh economy and action on jobs for young people.

We will meet the longer term challenges facing our country – action on climate change and to build a sustainable nation.

We will reform the work of government to meet the challenges of the years ahead. At the heart of our work will be improved accountability.

Our pledges will deliver a fairer future. The people of Wales will be safe with Labour as we keep free bus passes, free prescriptions, free school breakfast, help for Welsh students and support for workers made redundant.

There has been extensive consultation with organisations across Wales in the making of this programme of government. We thank everyone for their contributions. It is a programme for the people of Wales made by the people of Wales