

MANIFESTO

2016

FOR PEOPLE.
FOR PLANET.
FOR WALES.



Wales Green Party
Plaid Werdd Cymru

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INTRODUCTION

This is our vision for Wales. It is unapologetically bold. It is the Wales we will create if elected by the people on 5 May 2016.

The National Assembly for Wales is the last national political body in the UK that doesn't have elected Green voices. There are Green representatives in community councils, in local government, the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the London Assembly, as well as in the European Parliament.

Now is the time for Wales. Let's make history.

We will be the conscience of the National Assembly for Wales, resolute and with clear focus: championing an innovative green economy, social justice and climate protection for all.

We will ensure your elected politicians work for people, for planet and for Wales.

STATEMENT FROM ALICE HOOKER-STROUD



Wales has a rich history and we are a great country, full of good people wanting to make safe, happy lives for those we love; and who care for the world around us. There are many things to be proud of in Wales: our innovation, our spirit and our resolve.

But we are not where we need to be and our current Government seems intent on tearing our communities apart. Be it through long-term neglect and cuts to vital public services, be it through lack of action on climate change, or be it through failure to help communities adapt to the effects of climate change that we are already starting to see.

Almost a quarter of people in Wales live in relative poverty, the highest level in the UK outside London. The amount of people in 'low-pay' jobs hasn't changed for a decade. An estimated 40% of households can't afford to heat their homes adequately. And now, to add insult to injury, public services are being closed down and public assets sold off. Whilst Wales is failing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions far enough or fast enough; coastal towns are being told there will be no more sea defences, and as yet, no support for people to relocate or rebuild their lives. More and more towns and villages are being hit hard by storms and floods as our climate changes.

This is not sustainable – environmentally or societally. We need to do things differently.

The Wales Green Party is fighting to make our communities strong, supportive and self-sustaining. We want them to thrive into the future, and become resilient in the face of change.

We need warm, sustainable and affordable homes – cutting energy use, carbon emissions, and reducing fuel poverty. We need public transport that allows access to vital public services with low impact on the environment. We need schools, libraries, health centres, hospitals, and social care systems designed to fit our communities' needs across Wales. We need decently paid and sustainable work. We need community renewables that produce clean energy, and an investment for our future. We need to challenge the status-quo and move into a different future for Wales.

These are all things the Wales Green Party stands for.

Strong Green voices in the Assembly will hold Welsh Government to account on the social and environmental issues that affect our communities, and create a better future for Wales. Whether your local school is threatened with closure, your community is threatened by fracking, or your health threatened by a cold, damp home – or a hundred and one other things we all know we need to change to make Wales what it can be – the Wales Green Party has your back.

Green Assembly Members will stand up for you and for your community.

The Wales Green Party has never been closer to winning seats in the Senedd.

Your vote can get us there.

On 5 May #VoteGreen2016 to #ShakeUpTheSenedd for people, for planet and for Wales.

ALICE HOOKER-STROUD

WALES GREEN PARTY LEADER
LEAD LIST CANDIDATE FOR MID AND WEST WALES

SUMMARY: OUR TOP TEN PRIORITY AREAS

- 1. HOUSING:** At least 12,000 homes to be provided each year, of which at least a third must be social housing. Initial emphasis would be placed on reactivating vacant properties. We would seek to introduce Right to Rent legislation strengthening tenants' rights, and protect people from the Bedroom Tax by applying a rebate for Wales. We will launch a ten-year programme of investment in Wales' housing stock to make properties more energy efficient.
- 2. EDUCATION:** We will create a free, universal early education and childcare service from birth to the beginning of formal schooling – which would be started at a higher age. We will end the programme of school closures, especially in rural areas. We will scrap tuition fees for Welsh students studying in Wales, and reinvest in Further Education colleges. We will fund lifelong learning for all and further invest in adult learning opportunities.
- 3. HEALTH:** We remain absolutely opposed to any privatisation of the National Health Service. We will place greater emphasis on community and social care services through new approaches, on promoting public health and reducing health inequalities. We would address behavioural causes of ill-health by tackling addiction, increasing physical activity and promoting healthy living. We will fund preventative care for all sectors of the population, particularly the elderly, and give more funding for mental health support services.

4. **ENERGY:** We will commit to meeting all electricity demand in Wales from renewable sources by 2030. We will ban fracking. We will create an innovative green economy based on local micro and small-scale renewable generation projects across Wales, and invest in the national grid so it is fit for the future, and require councils to implement community energy strategies. We would fight Westminster not to invest in nuclear in Wales.

5. **TRANSPORT:** We will ensure that improving public transport is prioritised in transport funding allocation, investing to make it easier, faster and cheaper to travel across Wales by train and bus. We will bring back the North-South rail link, keep stations open, and set fares at level that encourages usage. We support the South East Metro and would cancel the planned expansion of the M4.

6. **CLIMATE CHANGE:** We will make Wales a leader in tackling this global problem by raising the ambition of emissions reduction targets, and setting out infrastructure priorities to meet these targets, such as in energy, housing and transport. We will incentivise green businesses to base themselves in our communities, ensuring Wales is an incubator for the innovation needed to tackle this global threat. We will work to manage and alleviate the impacts of climate change, and help those suffering in Wales, especially from flooding and sea level rise. We will ensure the Future Generations and Environment Acts have real impact, rather than being purely aspirational.

7. **JOBS:** The development of renewable energy technologies is worth billions of pounds to Wales and together with a programme of mass investment in improving our housing stock, will create tens of thousands of high quality jobs. We will prepare a sustainable infrastructure plan for the next 50 years to place Wales at the forefront of emerging global green economies, and will ensure this includes far more apprenticeships all across Wales. Small and medium sized businesses are the bedrock of our economy, and we will support the development of a level playing field for these enterprises.

8. **PROTECTING, DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING WALES:** We will seek specific legislation to ensure access to a minimum level of public services within a legally defined distance or travel time. We will work to ensure that all communities across Wales, including rural areas have access to the services they require such as libraries, post offices, GP surgeries, dentists, schools, high speed broadband and public transport connections.

9. **WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE:** People have a right to live their lives through the medium of Welsh: from nursery education through to college and university, as well as in the workplace and accessing public services. We will increase learning opportunities, for both children and adults, and place greater duties on public services to deliver bilingually.

10. **DEMOCRACY:** Local government must be more open and democratic. We want proportional representation for Welsh local government elections. We believe that Wales should reject the Westminster government's attempts to gag the third sector, charities or trade unions and prevent them from critically evaluating government policy. We will push for Wales to have at least 80 Assembly Members, half of whom would be elected from the proportional regional lists. Younger people must be encouraged to engage with our political process, so we will give 16 and 17 year olds a vote in all elections and referendums.



Alice Hooker-Stroud & Hannah Pudner
Leader & Deputy Leader of the Wales Green Party

BUILDING A VIBRANT AND RESILIENT WALES

The Wales Green Party will develop Wales' rich resources to build a vibrant, resilient and sustainable green economy. In Wales we are blessed with abundant natural resources that we can harness, farm, and use for the benefit of all. We can support innovative businesses, create sustainable jobs and new green apprenticeships. We have an inventive population, more than able to develop and grow a wide variety of businesses, supported through academic research at our universities.



DECIDING OUR OWN FUTURE

We need to bring people and communities closer to decision-making and decision makers. The further people are from the making of decisions, the less control they can exert over their own lives and the communities that they share. The Wales Green Party believes that all decisions should be made at a level as close as possible to the people affected by them, and for elected bodies to properly represent a population. The Draft Wales Bill is a huge disappointment. Far too few powers are being devolved, and the Bill as it stands still allows Westminster undue control and veto over Welsh matters.

We will:

- Reject the Westminster government's attempts to gag the third sector, charities or trade unions and prevent them from critically evaluating government policy.
- Seek greater devolution of independent decision-making from Westminster.
- Maximise the impact of the powers we already have.
- Reform local government elections to be fairer and more proportional.
- Further devolve powers to local government where appropriate to bring decision-making closer to people.
- Push for Wales to have at least 80 Assembly Members, half of whom would be elected from the proportional regional lists, as recommended by the Electoral Reform Society.
- Give 16 and 17 year olds a vote in all elections and referendums.

GROWING RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES



An uncertain global economic outlook means local economic activity needs to be maximised. Recent decisions have made this even more difficult as public expenditure cuts have resulted in the reduction and closure of many vital public services. These cuts are producing false economies. Less public money being spent in communities is less money spent in local businesses in these very communities. The closure of a school can lead to the closures of local bakeries, coffee shops and convenience stores. We will reverse this trend to see public investment targeted to maximise local economic activity and revitalise our town and villages.

We will:

- Seek specific legislation to ensure access to a minimum level of public services within a legally defined distance or travel time. We will work to ensure that all communities across Wales, including rural areas have access to the services they require such as libraries, post offices, GP surgeries, dentists, schools, high speed broadband and public transport connections.
- Support publicly funded institutions to increase the proportion of Welsh goods, services and technology they purchase year on year. Institutions that provide goods and services to users, including schools, hospitals and care homes, will be encouraged to increase their spending through Welsh providers.
- Support the development of local markets and marketplaces, 'buy local' schemes, and farmers markets. We will work to connect producers and consumers, shorten supply chains, and better link rural and urban areas through these supply chains.
- Build partnerships between our universities and businesses to develop innovation, especially for smaller businesses, with tax breaks and subsidies for research and development activities.
- Support the development of a level playing field for small and medium sized businesses .
- We will incentive green businesses to base themselves in our communities, ensuring Wales is an incubator for sustainable innovation.

CLIMATE ACTION

Building a sustainable society for future generations requires acting responsibly on the big environmental issues we face. Current reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are not going far enough, fast enough. We must also recognise that some impacts of climate change are now unavoidable, and make sure that we plan effectively to support communities to minimise those impacts where possible, and adapt to changes as necessary.

We will:

- Make Wales a leader in tackling this global problem by raising the ambition of emissions reduction targets, and setting out infrastructure priorities to meet these targets, such as in energy, housing and transport.
- Work to manage and alleviate the impacts of climate change, and help those suffering in Wales, especially from flooding and sea level rise.
- Ensure the Future Generations and Environment Acts have real impact, rather than being purely aspirational.

DECARBONISED, DEMOCRATISED, AND DETOXIFIED ENERGY GENERATION IN WALES

The UK Government has abandoned any pretence of support for the renewable industry, for the huge potential of new green technology, and for decarbonising our energy supply. Following the fragile global commitments on climate change at the COP21 international negotiations in Paris, Wales has not only an obligation to go green, but a major opportunity. The Wales Green Party would fill the gap left by the UK Government's short termism, and reap the economic and social benefits of embracing clean, safe energy.

We need only look to Denmark, a country similar in size and population to Wales, to see what a small country can achieve in green technology. Wales can be an incubator for innovation, exporting our expertise to the rest of the world whilst creating tens of thousands of jobs. Wales' history was once embedded in energy, industry and innovation and our clean future can be too.

We will:

- Produce all electricity demand in Wales from renewable sources by 2030.
- Ban the exploration and exploitation of shale gas through hydraulic fracturing ('fracking').
- Create jobs and revitalise our communities with an ambitious programme to install local micro and small-scale renewable generation projects across Wales.
- Invest directly in our national grid to ensure it is fit for a future with distributed small scale energy generation and storage, and locally owned energy markets.
- Require all councils in Wales to implement community energy strategies in their area.
- Incentivise local authorities to support green projects by allowing them to reinvest 100% of the ensuing business rates in public services.

- Support housing associations, local authorities, and other public bodies to set up energy supply companies run in the interests of their tenants and residents.
- Give communities a say on big decisions on planning and energy infrastructure, but ensure projects give something back through community benefit funds.
- Support and accelerate the development of tidal lagoons in Wales by requiring Natural Resources Wales to streamline the application process for Marine Licences.
- Ensure Welsh Government pension schemes divest from fossil fuel investments, and incentivise all publicly funded employers in Wales to do the same.
- Fight Westminster not to invest in nuclear in Wales.

SMARTER, MORE EFFICIENT ENERGY USE AND WARM HOMES FOR ALL

As well as generating clean, safe energy, we also need to use less. Our homes, businesses, and public buildings all have a role to play in reducing waste, saving money, and being responsible custodians of our country for future generations. Storing electricity and heat is another vital component in reducing waste, and ensuring we make the most of energy generated from renewable sources.

Too many people struggle to afford a warm home. This pushes them into debt, harms their physical and mental health, and can make them ashamed of their own homes. We recognise that health services, councils, housing providers, and private landlords all have a role in ending Wales' cold homes crisis, and making Wales a great place to invest in an energy efficiency business.

We will:

- Make upgrading our old, inefficient housing stock a national infrastructure priority.
- Launch a ten-year programme of investment in Wales' housing stock to make properties more energy efficient.
- Continue to offer on-demand and area-based energy efficiency programmes to people in fuel poverty, ensuring everyone can have a warm home.
- Widen access to these programmes to people whose health is at risk from the cold, involving health bodies in referrals to the schemes, to ensure no one goes home from hospital to a cold house.
- Introduce a simple, accessible, zero-interest loan scheme for home energy efficiency improvements for those who can afford to pay, learning the lessons from the UK Government's failed Green Deal programme.
- Require managers in the public sector to produce plans to reduce energy consumption through staff behaviour change, and upgrading their built estate, especially where it would produce a net benefit to the public purse to do so.
- Use planning legislation to require new housing developments to include district heating schemes, onsite generation from small scale renewables, and integrated energy storage as appropriate.
- Require new build properties to meet the highest standards of energy efficiency, such as Passivhaus, which have almost no heating costs.
- Work closely with the green technology sector to ensure Wales has the infrastructure, skills, and policies to support widespread use of electricity and heat storage, and electric vehicles.

HARVESTING OUR FARMED RESOURCES

Our policies aim to support the people who farm and produce our food and forestry products, whilst ensuring our land is sustainably managed for food, forestry, soils, leisure, biodiversity and wildlife; and is accessible to everyone.

We will:

- Appoint a Land Reform Group to examine the effect of land ownership concentration, looking at opportunities for employment, and how best to improve access to land in rural and urban areas.
- Enhance the diversity of small-scale farms, and improve access to farming land for new entrants to farming by increasing local authority farm tenancies and encouraging other forms of farming organisation, including cooperatives and community supported agriculture.
- Develop planning policies that allocate land in green belts around larger settlements for small farms, market gardens, dairies and forestry enterprises.
- Support sustainable diversification and multiple use of agricultural land and buildings, to ensure that farms have strong and multiple incomes.
- Maintain Wales's GM-free status.
- Increase support for farms to convert to organic status, support existing organic farms and promote less-intensive farming with minimal use of chemicals.
- Ban the use of snares.
- Legislate against puppy farms.
- Support the existing legal protection for badgers, support the Welsh Government's badger vaccination programme, and oppose any badger cull.
- Ensure that habitats are managed to their best potential, through the enforcement of legislation and the direction of subsidy.
- Refocus forestry policy to produce quality timber and locally used biomass.
- Move small and neglected woodlands back into productive use and support apprenticeships in forestry skills.
- Support community access to land for growing and food preparation resources, including community gardens, community kitchens and allotments.
- Ensure that allotments are protected in local plans and encourage councils to open more allotments where there is demand.

MANAGING WATER

Water is a key feature of Wales' landscape. In our times of changing and unpredictable climate it is important that we get our water management right. The implications of how we manage water for drought and flood management, as well as drinking water quality, affect us all and go far beyond our borders.

We will:

- Work with Natural Resources Wales to ensure the implementation of their Flood Risk Management Plans, to safeguard homes, businesses and transport links.
- Evaluate the creation of new National River Parks in Wales to coordinate the management of integrated land use in river catchments for flood, drought and water quality management.
- Encourage water companies to shift from short-term 'end of pipe' solutions to long-term sustainable solutions to reduce pollution.
- Increase monitoring of watercourses and enforce penalties for all types of watercourse pollution.
- Improve sewage treatment and increase the amount of treated waste that is returned to the land where feasible.

MARINE LIFE PROTECTION, FISHERIES AND FISHING

The principle that all marine activities need to function sustainably and within environmental limits is the overriding objective of all Wales Green Party policies within marine and coastal sectors. We overfish our oceans, increasingly via high-impact industrial fleets that are little connected to local fishing communities. It is vital this unacceptable situation is urgently addressed.

We will:

- Fully implement a large-scale, ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas around the coast of Wales, selected using best scientific practice, and established as 'no-take' reserves closed to commercial fishing and other extractive activities.
- Write Marine Spatial Plans in consultation with coastal communities as well as experts. These plans will embody a requirement for sustainability; adopt an ecosystems approach, and recognise the precautionary principle. Different-scale Marine Spatial Plans will be integrated and conform to the subsidiarity principle.
- Reform fisheries policies in favour of small-scale, low impact fishing methods and the inshore fishing fleet.
- Ban beam-trawling, and scallop dredging in Special Areas of Conservation.
- Discourage industrial-scale fish farming which causes widespread pollution of inland and coastal waters and spreads disease to wild fish, in favour of small-scale aquaculture which can be sustainable and is an important source of food and income.
- Phase out fish farms that involve overstocking; heavy use of feed, chemical or fossil fuel inputs; production of substantial pollution; or hazardous conditions.
- Push for implementation and stronger enforcement of existing marine pollution directives and demand higher penalties for those who pollute the marine environment, commensurate with damage inflicted.

REVALUING OUR WASTE



We need to shift our understanding of waste from supply-driven disposal to demand-driven recovery. What we might consider to be waste, is in fact a resource to re-version and re-use. We need to make sure that products are designed to last and be readily reused, whilst packaging is kept minimal and readily recyclable.

We will:

- Require local authorities to keep organic waste local, composted for communities to use.
- Support the roll-out of community waste initiatives, such as Repair Cafes.
- Support research and development in Wales into waste revaluing and circular economies, and support universities to work with businesses and initiatives to develop new opportunities and employment. Use subsidies and tax breaks to incentivise development in this sector.
- Encourage companies in Wales to use readily recyclable and minimal packaging, and tax companies for the disposal of their packaging waste.
- Work with large scale buyers, such as supermarkets, to reduce food waste at all levels of operation.

CONNECTING WALES AND SHARING RESOURCES

We know that investment in our future infrastructure brings jobs now and safeguards the jobs of tomorrow. We need the right investment in the right place at the right time to build a Wales we can all be proud of and which works for us all.

Local council pension investments across Wales amount to over £11 billion, over £730 million of which is estimated to be invested in fossil fuels, destroying our planet. The entire public sector pension pot in Wales far exceeds that for local councils, and investing our money in financial services and projects benefits overseas companies rather than local economies. We need to bring money back home, divesting it from increasingly financially risky fossil fuel funds.

We will:

- Prepare a sustainable infrastructure plan for the next 50 years to place Wales at the forefront of emerging global green economies.
- Create a Wales Fund for infrastructure, energy and homes in Wales, requiring public sector pension funds to invest a minimum of 5% of their holdings in the fund.
- We will require public sector pension funds to publicly declare their exposure to fossil fuel investments, and to take urgent action to reduce their exposure to 0% over the next 5 years.

MAKING TRANSPORT WORK FOR EVERYONE

People, goods and services need to move freely around Wales. We need a public transport system that can move people to where they want to be, when they want to be there, and at a price that is affordable. We need a rail system that can better support freight travel. We need to ensure that more public transport and private vehicles move over to electric motors, improving air quality, providing energy storage capacity and increasing carbon efficiencies. We need to reclaim public money from road expansions and reinvest it in public transport that works for all. We need to get Wales moving.

We will:

- Invest in the South Wales and Valleys rail electrification, the South East Metro and the rail connection between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. In mid Wales we will make improvements to the Cambrian Line and the Heart of Wales line, and in North Wales we will improve rail links with the North of England. We will open stations where required, such as Carno in Powys.
- Bring together existing transport franchises in Wales and fully integrate rail and bus services.
- Invest in bus routes all over urban and rural Wales, reversing decades of declining public funding.
- Cancel the M4 extension and redirect the £1 billion investment to public transport improvements.
- Explore and pilot new methods of providing transport particularly in rural areas, such as developing community based car sharing, electric car and bicycle hire at railway stations and community-run bus routes.
- Provide all apprentices and job seekers with discounted public transport cards.

- Make walking and cycling safer. We will support the development of 'Home Zones', develop new safe cycle and walking routes to link communities and services, and implement a 20mph speed limit in all residential areas, including through rural villages.
- Improve information provision on public transport, and ensure it is accessible for all with audio announcements on buses, coaches and trains

BUILDING CONNECTIVITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

We live in an information age, where access to a computer and fast broadband defines access to services, information, education and jobs. We need to ensure parity of access across the whole of Wales. We need to use these technologies to their best advantage in the efficient delivery of services, innovating to remove geographical barriers of access.

We will:

- Ensure that there is equality of access to fast broadband across the whole of Wales.
- Pilot and deliver new technologies for education, health and the arts, including the development of virtual lessons to support rural schools and expand curricula; delivering virtual appointments with medical consultants where appropriate to the care pathway; and expanding the provision of live streamed arts performances from all over the world.
- Promote digital literacy across all of the population, and ensure that people for whom accessing the internet is more difficult are not excluded from accessing services.
- Incentivise service providers to introduce community hubs in rural areas.

EXPLORING WALES

Wales is a vibrant, beautiful, invigorating, inspiring and calming place to live in and visit. It has bustling cities, with parks, museums, galleries, arts and cultural events; countryside that can support adrenaline-charged activities and quiet moments of contemplation. Wales has taste bud tingling food, inspirational workshops run by talented craftspeople, beautiful accommodation to stay in and fresh air to gulp into congested lungs. It is a place to be inspired by and to regenerate in. We need to share our Wales more, both amongst ourselves and with others in the UK and beyond, supporting local services and stimulating economies.

We will:

- Strategically assess how best to enhance Wales's sustainable tourism potential.
- Ensure that all new tourism developments have year-round community uses specified in their planning consent, improving community facilities and providing year-round income for employees.
- Require local authorities to have sustainable transport plans for tourism, including seasonal bus routes to tourism destinations and the development of initiatives or local businesses that provide bike, electric bike and electric car hire at bus and railway stations.

LOOKING AFTER EVERYONE

More equal societies always do better than unequal ones. Almost every modern social and environmental problem – ill health, violence, drugs, obesity, mental illness, long working hours, big prison populations, pollution – is more likely to occur in a less equal society. Imagine a society in which everyone is respected whatever their ethnicity, sex, age, religious belief or non-belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, size, disability or other status. We would all be healthier, happier and more confident. This is the society that the Wales Green Party wants to create.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING



Education is a public good and worthy of public investment. It drives the development of knowledge, understanding, and personal fulfilment, as well as being the engine of our economy, and often the heart of our communities. Wales needs an education system that is flexible, works for all ages, and prepares people for life as well as for work. Education underpins all that we are. We must support it so it can empower our nation and our people to thrive.

EARLY YEARS EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

We will:

- Create a free, universal early education and childcare service from birth to the start of formal education. This system would be run by local education authorities and would extend the existing primary schools, pre-schools, nurseries and childcare network. Parents and other volunteers would be supported to help run the service.
- Raise the starting age of formal education, putting more emphasis in the foundation stage on social cohesion, play, relatedness and character building as well as knowledge and skills, making it a unique education stage in its own right.
- Insist early years educators have qualified teacher status with specialist knowledge of early years education; and ensure all other staff are qualified to level 3.

- Take action to reduce teacher workload, assess pay levels and provide effective professional training for all teachers and teaching assistants.
- Aim towards class sizes of 20.
- Continue the policy of no Academies or Free Schools in Wales.
- End the programme of school closures, especially in rural areas.
- Ensure all pupils have access to mental health support services.
- Ensure the right for every child with a disability to access mainstream education.
- Protect the right of children and families to choose home education and flexi-schooling.

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

We will:

- Create one post-16 independent funding body for both colleges and universities, at arm's length from the Government, to oversee the strategic vision, development and funding of these institutions.
- Restore the funding taken away by recent devastating cuts to colleges and adult community learning. Expand community education into new environments to revolutionise access to learning, such as in residential homes.
- Develop and promote apprenticeships, traineeships and other work-based learning as a genuine, well-respected vocational alternative to academia.
- Protect and extend the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), ensuring college students who need the most support, receive the most support.
- Reinststate the maintenance support grant system for full and part time university students, from foundation through to postgraduate study.
- Ensure there are no tuition fees for Welsh students studying in Wales.
- Introduce fee and maintenance loans for postgraduate students.
- Reinvest in part time study, giving parity of funding to full time study.
- Ensure that colleges and universities offer a free crèche to students, changing and breast-feeding facilities, and religious facilities such as prayer spaces.
- Ensure all students can access effective mental health services with ease.
- Protect Disabled Student Allowance and ensure those with disabilities are enabled to study, fully supported by their institution and relevant education agencies, such as Student Finance Wales.

WHERE WE LIVE



A secure and affordable place to live is one of our most basic human needs. We need to return housing to its original purpose: providing us – each and every one of us – with affordable and sustainable shelter.

We will:

- Make available 12,000 new homes a year, located in the right places to the right standards. One third of these will be made available for social housing.
- Ensure that all existing social housing and housing association building stock is brought up to level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes by 2020.
- Update Part L of the Building Regulations in Wales for all new buildings to be carbon positive by 2020.
- Ensure that no new housing is built on flood plains.
- Address 'land banking' by ensuring that planning permissions for housing developments need to be implemented within 3 years rather than the current 5 years.
- Protect people from the Bedroom Tax by applying a rebate for Wales
- Introduce Right to Rent legislation strengthening private tenants' rights.

LIVING HEALTHILY AND HAVING THE CARE WE NEED

We believe that everyone in Wales should be enabled and supported in achieving their full health potential and well-being; regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, income, employment, geographical location or educational attainment. This means improving everyone's health and well-being and reducing health inequalities. We must encourage better behaviours to embrace a healthier lifestyle; help improve physical environments, infrastructure and communities; and ensure that health and social care services adopt a person-centred approach. Fundamentally, we believe in health and social care for all, based on need and not ability to pay.

We will:

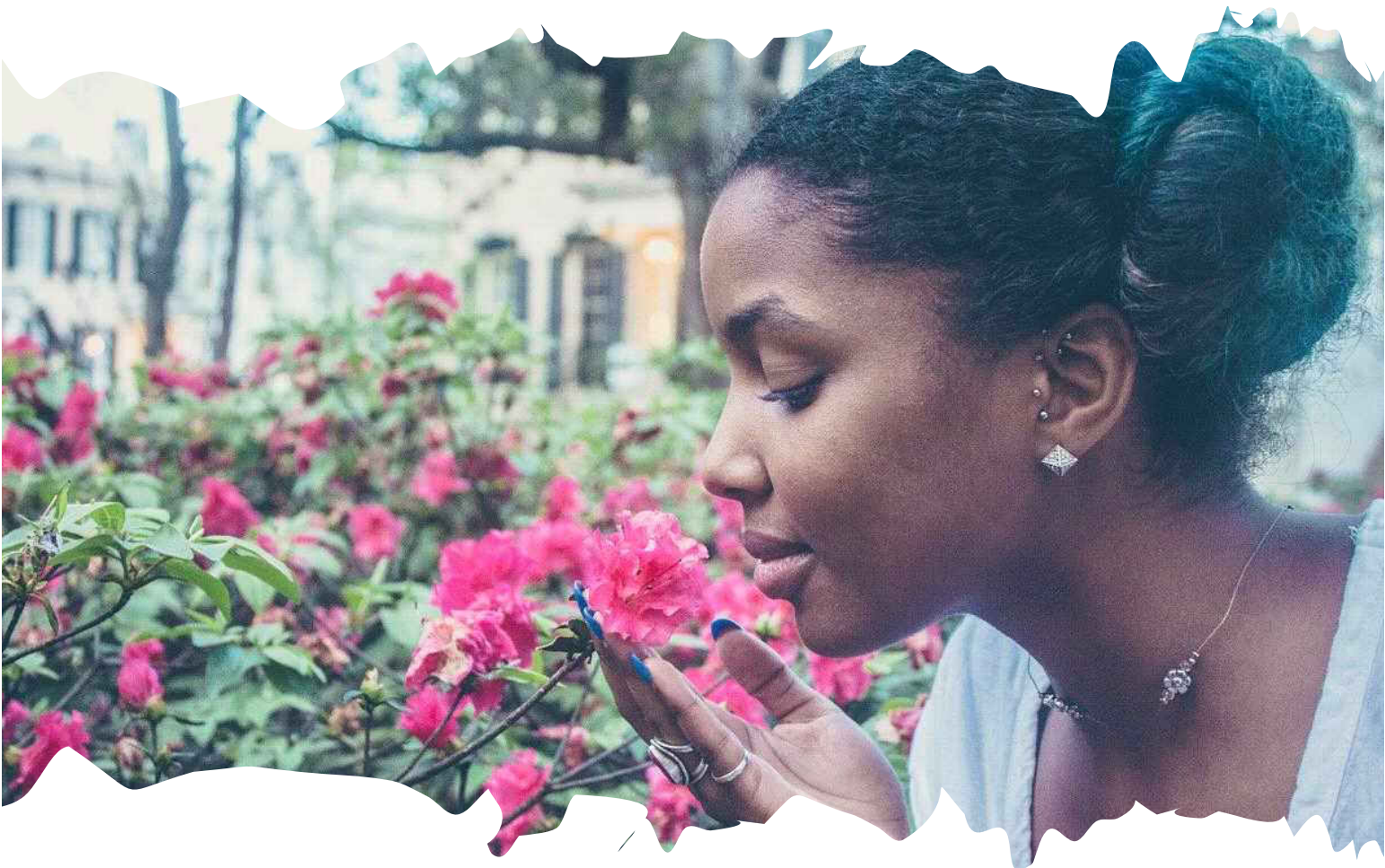
- Remain absolutely opposed to any privatisation of the National Health Service.
- Put greater emphasis on promoting public health and reducing health inequalities across the full range of government activity.
- Address behavioural causes of ill-health by tackling addiction, increasing physical activity, promoting healthy work, play, eating and sexual behaviours; ensuring all school children know how to grow, cook and eat healthy food; and funding preventative care for all sectors of the population, particularly the elderly.
- Address structural barriers to good health by improving urban and rural environments and pollution levels such as by implementing a 20mph speed limit in built up areas, and developing safe cycling and walking routes to connect our communities and services.
- Make eye and dental checks free for the whole population.
- Tackle addiction, treating it as an illness not a crime. We will introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol and ring-fence local authority funding for addiction treatment centres.
- Restrict the advertising of high sugar drinks and foods to children, and require manufacturers to reduce sugar in everyday foods and drinks sold in Wales.
- Spend Wales' share of the 'sugar tax' being applied across the UK on public health measures.
- Implement institutional changes in NHS Wales to ensure it meets the changing needs of our population and to improve levels of accountability. Change the focus of the NHS to a person-centred health and social care service prioritising the needs of individuals, their families and communities.
- Invest in dementia care.
- Ensure that NHS services are co-produced in consultation with citizens.
- Combine health and social care across the board, to create more integrated, more efficient and more person-centred services. Establish a transition fund to facilitate these structural changes in the way NHS and social care services are delivered in Wales.
- Increase the accountability of Local Health Boards through ensuring that the independent members have links to their communities.
- We would support the comprehensive Autism Act proposed by the National Autistic Society covering not only health but education, and full support for all those on the autism spectrum.

SAFEGUARDING EQUALITY FOR ALL

Wales has traditionally celebrated diversity and welcomed refugees. It's time once again to live up to that tradition. Not only is showing a warm Welsh welcome the right the thing to do. Every member of our society should feel safe and welcome; and appreciated and respected for who they are. We must challenge those in political life who wish to stoke fear for short term, selfish ends. A diverse, integrated Wales is stronger Wales.

We will:

- Review and strengthen legislation protecting the rights of people against discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, ethnic background, or other such protected characteristics.
- Create a Minister for Equality, to ensure that the needs of all peoples in our society are proofed across service delivery. From the young to the old, from sexual and gender equality to religious equality, and embracing all our ethnic, religious and social groups in Wales.
- Insist that public bodies implement codes that ensure equality of access to public services for all citizens with disabilities. A programme based on series of small initiatives such as improved street pavings and furniture, and visual or aural triggers in services such as public transport, would help make life better for those with disabilities.
- Work with local authorities to house refugees, provide support services for those in need, and ensure they are welcomed into our communities.



NOURISHING OURSELVES

Wales' language, sports, arts and culture are key elements of our society to be proud of. By taking part in our cultural life at its broadest level, we are nourished, communities are strengthened and our mental and physical health is improved.



LANGUAGE

We have a vision for the Welsh language to thrive – to be a part of homes, workplaces and public spaces across the country. Sustainable, local economies are a vital step in supporting this vision, but there are other important interventions to be made.

We will:

- Ensure that there is free provision for learning Welsh at all levels, from beginner to expert, and prioritise this for the workforce to ensure public services can be delivered bilingually.
- Expand opportunities to learn subjects through Welsh at college and university, particularly by investing in the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- Encourage the provision of bilingual activities within communities, helping people from all language backgrounds to mix and to inspire non-speakers to take up and practice their Welsh.
- Encourage more teaching through the medium of Welsh from the age of three.
- Protect S4C's budget allocation

ARTS AND CULTURE

The arts and artistic expression is the birthright of us all. It enriches us as individuals, communities and as a wider nation.

We will:

- Establish protected baseline funding to safeguard rural theatres from local authority budget cuts. These organisations provide irreplaceable cultural resources to rural communities; deliver key Assembly priorities around social inclusion, education and regeneration.
- Support community arts organisations, particularly those targeting exclusion and isolation caused by such factors as rural location, disability and income, such as Celf o Gwmpas.
- Support national museums and cultural bodies to develop their Wales-wide education services, travelling to schools away from their immediate area, subsidising school trips to the museums and galleries from around Wales, and using technology to its best advantage, running virtual workshops for distant schools.
- Encourage the growth of local arts associations to stimulate and strategically support local arts provision, who would in turn represent local communities on regional arts boards.

SPORTS

Sport is a key way that we can increase our physical activity levels, improve our mental and physical well-being, and can also benefit community cohesion.

We will:

- Assess physical sports provision at a local and regional level, identifying gaps and barriers to provision, such as the need for expensive equipment. We will require schools, leisure centres and professional sport organisations to work with local sports clubs to develop local provision.
- Support Sports Wales in implementing their Strategic Equality Plan, and identify new opportunities for ensuring equality of access at all levels of sport in Wales regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnic background, language, or other differentiator.
- Ensure sports education is a protected element of the school curriculum. Children need to have physical activities every day in their primary and secondary school timetable, with at least 2 hours of physical education per week and half an hour of swimming lessons for all children.

