

A red dragon, the national symbol of Wales, is depicted in a stylized, cartoonish manner. It is facing left, with its mouth open as if breathing fire. The dragon is superimposed on a background of the Welsh flag, which features a red dragon on a white and green field. The dragon's body is red with black outlines, and its wings are spread. The background is a close-up of the flag, showing the red and white stripes.

# A plan for recovery & change

Let's build a better Wales

The Welsh Conservative Party  
Manifesto 2021



Welsh  
Conservatives

Ceidwadwyr  
Cymreig

# Our plan

Our plan will kickstart Wales’ economic recovery and rebuild for a stronger, greener, more equal future by:

- **Creating 65,000 new jobs to help the Welsh economy bounce back and give more people the security of a regular wage**
- **Guaranteeing the NHS is there for everyone by building five new hospitals and providing extra funding to the NHS every year, with 3,000 more nurses and 1,200 doctors by 2026**
- **Put in law our respect for the Welsh NHS with an NHS Covenant to guarantee increased investment and support for our NHS heroes for the future**
- **Delivering 5,000 more teachers and more investment in Welsh education to provide the best schools and skills for young people**
- **Building 100,000 new houses in the next decade to kickstart the Welsh economy and give more people the opportunity to own their own home**
- **Investing £2 billion to create modern infrastructure for Wales, including an M4 Relief Road, upgrades to the A55 and A40, and 20,000 green charging points**
- **Making Wales Net Zero by 2050, with investment in clean energy solutions to reduce carbon emissions, and creating 15,000 new green jobs**
- **Helping people with the cost of living pressure, by delivering a Council Tax freeze for at least the next two years, putting more money in everyone’s pockets**

# Contents

A plan for recovery and change	2
Introduction	4
Our plan for	
› Finishing the job on Covid-19	7
› Securing jobs and livelihoods	9
› Building better roads, rail and broadband	13
› Building a better healthcare service for everyone	17
› Building better schools, colleges and universities	23
› Building back greener	29
› Supporting local communities	33
› More affordable, high quality housing	39
Our legislative programme	40

# A plan for recovery and change

Over the last year our nation has fought the greatest health crisis that the world has seen for over a century.

We all know someone who has lost their job, lost their business or suffered a devastating loss of a loved one as a result of Covid-19.

Our economy is currently experiencing the deepest recession since records began, and evidence shows that Welsh communities could be amongst the worst hit in the UK.

The pandemic has exposed what 22 years of Labour government has done to Wales. The slowest growing economy in the UK, the worst education results and NHS waiting lists that doubled – all before coronavirus hit.

So as the vaccine rolls out and we look towards recovery, Wales stands at a crossroads. And these elections are a real chance to secure the change Wales needs.

The Welsh Conservatives have a plan for change, to get Wales back on track, and build a brighter, more prosperous future.

It is a plan which is focused on creating jobs by investing in the critical infrastructure and public services that underpin our economy and society – our transport system, schools, hospitals, and housing.

Our plan will kickstart Wales' economic recovery and rebuild for a stronger, greener, more equal future by:

- ▶ Creating 65,000 new jobs to help the Welsh economy bounce back and give more people the security of a regular wage
- ▶ Guaranteeing the NHS is there for everyone by building five new hospitals and providing extra funding to the NHS every year, with 3,000 more nurses and 1,200 doctors by 2026
- ▶ Put in law our respect for the Welsh NHS with an NHS Covenant to guarantee increased investment and support for our NHS heroes for the future

- ▶ Delivering 5,000 more teachers and more investment in Welsh education to provide the best schools and skills for young people
- ▶ Building 100,000 new houses in the next decade to kickstart the Welsh economy and give more people the opportunity to own their own home
- ▶ Investing £2 billion to create modern infrastructure for Wales, including an M4 Relief Road, upgrades to the A55 and A40, and 20,000 green charging points
- ▶ Making Wales Net Zero by 2050, with investment in clean energy solutions to reduce carbon emissions, and creating 15,000 new green jobs

- ▶ Helping people with the cost of living pressure, by delivering a Council Tax freeze for at least the next two years, putting more money in everyone's pockets

Our plan for recovery and change is credible, costed and reflects the Welsh Conservatives vision for a brighter future for Wales.

By giving us your support on the 6th May we will deliver the change Wales needs to recover and build a better Wales.

**Andrew RT Davies**  
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Senedd

**Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP**  
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

**Rt Hon Simon Hart MP**  
Secretary of State for Wales

## INTRODUCTION

The Wales of today is completely different to the Wales of 22 years ago when the Welsh Assembly was formed.

The name the National Assembly for Wales is no-more, renamed the Welsh Parliament. The Welsh Government for the first time in 800 years has powers over how much tax we pay, as well as the ability to create new taxes.

However, some things have not changed. Labour are still in charge, as they have been for the last 22 years.

Yet the people of Wales do not feel better off or have greater opportunities than they did when Labour first took charge of our country. The last year alone has laid bare the deep fault lines in our economy, our society and our healthcare system that Welsh Labour has allowed to grow deeper in that time.

Now is the time for change. And this election is an opportunity for the people of Wales to vote for the change they want, creating a more prosperous country with opportunity and hope of a better future.

Our priority first and foremost is to defeat Covid-19. We'll continue the Welsh and British success story in delivering the vaccine to everyone, whilst also kickstarting Wales' recovery. As the

vaccine rolls out we'll rebuild Wales, starting with the economy. Without a strong economy we cannot invest in the public services we all rely on or level-up the whole of Wales.

Our vision is backed up by our costed plan for change, which will deliver economic recovery and jobs by ending the dither and delay in Welsh Government which has held us back for so long and cost so many jobs and futures.

By creating more jobs we will restore hope, ambition and opportunity to Wales, so that everyone can see the next rung up the ladder. If that's setting up your own business, owning your own home or the new job that helps you provide for you and your family, we will support you and help you to achieve it.

Our plan for change will deliver better hospitals with greater investment in our Welsh NHS. With more doctors, nurses, and other health professionals we will tackle the waiting time crisis for treatment in Wales, which doubled in the year before the pandemic but has exploded during it.

Our plan for change will ensure first class schools by ending the underfunding of our young people that has gone on for far too long under successive Labour Governments and will see 5,000 more teachers in our classrooms. Our education system can no longer lag behind the rest of the UK, our young people must have the same opportunities as other parts of the UK.

We can rebuild Wales to be a place of opportunity. We can once again power the world, though this time with green renewable energy, and transform the Welsh economy to be the global centre of the green economy.

I believe that we can build a better Wales in a strong United Kingdom.

A strong Wales in a new Global Britain which takes advantage of the new trade deals around the world following Brexit. Where, as part of the UK, we can keep our streets safe with more police officers and increased investment, with the Welsh and the UK Governments actually working together to level-up the whole of Wales with new infrastructure to support our economy, our NHS and our public services.

Whilst Labour and Plaid are obsessed with the constitution our plan is focused solely on Wales' recovery from the pandemic. Rather than seeking more powers, more politicians or raising your taxes, we will use the powers Wales already has to level-up across the country and deliver improvements for everyone.

The pandemic has put Wales at a crossroads. The choice on 6th May is clear. We can either choose Labour, and more of the same stagnation that we have had for the last 20 years – or we can choose to vote for change, and the hope of a more prosperous country with better jobs and opportunities for our children.

With new energy and new ideas, we'll deliver our plan for recovery and change. A transport system that's fit for purpose, 65,000 more jobs. Better hospitals with more NHS staff on the front line. First class schools with more teachers. And a stronger, more prosperous Wales.

**Andrew RT Davies**  
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives  
in the Senedd





# Finishing the job on Covid-19

Great progress has been made, but the first 100 days of the next Welsh Government will need to be focused on winning the battle against Covid-19, we will:

- ▶ Implement our roadmap to recovery with a clear timetable and ambitious vaccine targets for the full re-opening of our economy and society, giving windows of opportunity for businesses to plan their revival, with a joined-up UK-wide approach
- ▶ Enhance Test, Track and Protect with funding to meet demand to clamp down on any outbreak, avoiding any more national lockdowns
- ▶ Urgently review and start funding businesses immediately based on need, ending the first come first served nature of current Welsh Government support for Welsh jobs
- ▶ Create a real comeback programme for our young people from lost in-person learning, with significant support for tutoring, summer schools and targeted help for those that need it
- ▶ Develop a clear plan to enable the Welsh NHS to clear the waiting list backlog that has further deteriorated during the pandemic, utilising cross border and independent facilities to speed up treatment
- ▶ Mobilise members of the public and former healthcare professionals to join their local NHS team, as part-time reservists, to support our NHS during periods of high demand
- ▶ Ensure that the lessons of the pandemic are not lost with a public inquiry into every aspect of the handling of Covid-19 in Wales
- ▶ Appoint a dedicated Covid-19 Recovery Minister in the Welsh Government to oversee all areas of coronavirus recovery, including the vaccine rollout across Wales with every adult offered both doses by the end of October, and delivery of any booster shots
- ▶ Maintain and enhance the programme of asymptomatic testing for Covid-19 in schools and in businesses with more than 10 employees
- ▶ Support people experiencing long-term effects of Covid-19 by establishing clinics dedicated to treating long Covid, and ensuring they get the support they need within Government
- ▶ Ensure that Wales is prepared in the event of another pandemic, working to create a Welsh Pandemic Network for the production of PPE and hand sanitiser to support our Welsh NHS and care homes
- ▶ Urgently establish routes of support for people suffering with mental health problems as a result of the pandemic, especially NHS staff, care workers and families who have experienced trauma due to patients being alone at the time of their death



# Securing jobs and livelihoods

The Welsh economy has been devastated by the pandemic. Whilst the UK Government has helped to protect more than 500,000 jobs in Wales, the Welsh economy was left vulnerable by 22 years of Labour-led Governments in Wales. With the economy declining even before the pandemic, we need to kick start the Welsh industrial engine to rebuild Wales.

Our plan will deliver more jobs, hope and security for everyone in Wales. It will rebuild and rebalance our economy, so that we can level-up across the whole of Wales with new technology and new investment. Our plan will enable us to build back better from the pandemic and the bad decisions and missed opportunities of twenty years of Labour Governments.

We will use the £2.5 billion of extra investment from the UK Government to deliver our commitments and ensure every part of Wales has the support they need to build back better from the pandemic.

- The Welsh economy was in decline before the pandemic hit falling by 2.4% at the start of 2020
- Before the pandemic Wales had a lower employment rate than the UK average
- The average workers' annual pay is more than £2,600 a year less than a worker in Scotland or England
- Business in Wales pay the highest rate of tax in Britain
- 10 Welsh towns are in the top 20 most economically vulnerable towns in the UK

## What we will do:

- ▶ Create 65,000 jobs in Wales over the next Parliament, with at least 15,000 green jobs
- ▶ Establish a National Mission to grow the Welsh economy, with a clear target to create 65,000 new jobs with government, businesses, and entrepreneurs all working together to play their part. When our National Mission has been achieved, we will cut the basic rate of income tax to support hardworking families
- ▶ Ensure no new taxes for the duration of the next Senedd term
- ▶ Deliver 100,000 new homes over the next 10 years
- ▶ Introduce a Covid bounce back package, which includes the establishment of a £2.5 billion Rebuild Wales Investment Fund and maintain the cut in VAT to 5% for tourism businesses until April 2022

- ▶ Support new micro businesses with our “Jump Start Scheme” paying the employer National Insurance contributions of two new employees for two years to accelerate growth
- ▶ Establish “Innovate Wales”, based in North Wales, a one stop shop for firms to support new enterprises, and encourage existing businesses to grow and export
- ▶ Create Business Rate Free Zones providing a 3-year business rate holiday for SME’s as part of our Covid Community Recovery Fund
- ▶ Stop Labour’s tax raids, including their Tourism Tax, Social Care Tax, Driving Tax and Employee Parking Tax
- ▶ Abolish business rates for small businesses and reform the outdated tax on growth
- ▶ Reverse the Welsh Government’s decision to block a Freeport in Wales, leading to the development of over 15,000 jobs
- ▶ Boost opportunities for workers hardest hit by the pandemic with our Covid “Retrain, Gain” programme to get people into key sectors to kickstart the economy
- ▶ Work to end the tax on aspiration by cutting Land Transaction Tax (stamp duty), scrapping it for first

time buyers and raising the threshold to £250,000 to help more families and hard-working people to benefit from the security of home ownership

- ▶ Undertake reviews of every Welsh Government funded organisation to ensure maximum value for money for the taxpayer
- ▶ Rule out an increase in the number of Members of the Senedd
- ▶ Support Welsh firms to bounce back from the pandemic by giving them priority for government contracts by proactively promoting opportunities, particularly to micro and small businesses

## Deliver a new deal for North Wales:

- ▶ Introduce a dedicated Minister for North Wales to ensure it is no-longer the forgotten region of Wales
- ▶ Move the new Welsh Treasury and a reformed Welsh Development Agency to North Wales creating 200 new jobs
- ▶ Level-up and join-up public transport in North Wales, delivering a North Wales Metro which integrates public transport with active travel
- ▶ Upgrade the A55 to address pinch points and increase resilience

- ▶ Improve rail links between North Wales and the North West of England, including Manchester and Liverpool Airports
- ▶ Work with the UK Government to deliver a Freeport at Holyhead
- ▶ Promote North Wales as a premier destination for international visitors
- ▶ Establish a North East Wales Institute of Technology
- ▶ Locate a National Art Gallery collection in North Wales
- ▶ Deliver modern community hospitals in Rhyl and Flint, and a new medical school for North Wales
- ▶ Build a Rapid Diagnostic Centre for North Wales cutting waiting times for tests and reduce the need for repeat hospital appointments
- ▶ Create a mother and baby unit in North Wales for mums with severe post-natal mental health challenges
- ▶ Work with the UK Government to ensure cross border collaboration between North Wales and the North West of England on health, planning and economic development

## Rebuilding Wales’ tourism industry

### Where we are:

Tourism plays a huge part in Wales, employing more than 150,000 people and contributing around £6 billion to the Welsh economy. The pandemic has hit the sector hard and it will need support to kickstart the industry and attract more holidaymakers to Wales.

Despite the important role tourism plays in Wales it has been badly let down by successive Labour Governments which have failed to invest in our transport links, failed to promote Wales as a top destination and are now threatening holiday makers with new taxes to visit Wales.

We have a clear plan to rebuild the tourism industry, to give it support to come back stronger and to promote Wales to the world, improving the visitor options to drive up numbers, creating jobs and boosting the economy.

### What we will do:

- ▶ Rebuild the Welsh tourism industry by launching an international marketing campaign, “Experience Wales” building on North Wales as a global must visit destination
- ▶ Work with the industry, deliver a Welcome Back to Wales Festival in 2022 to showcase Welsh tourism and to encourage people to come back following the pandemic, using the Queen’s Jubilee to promote the best of Wales and Britain
- ▶ Along with the UK Government, maintain the cut in VAT for tourism businesses until April 2022
- ▶ Create a comeback package for seaside and market towns to level up with a Tourism Towns Fund, enabling communities to improve their local economy by attracting new visitors with free WiFi or improved transport links
- ▶ Unleash the potential of Visit Wales by giving operational independence from Welsh Government and enabling it to be industry-led
- ▶ Increase Wales’ national tourism offer by retaining free entry in National Museums, create a National Military Museum for Wales based in Brecon, a Welsh National Observatory, a Welsh Sports Hall of Fame and a National Art Gallery for Wales, with collections in North and South Wales

- ▶ Work with UK-wide organisations, such as Visit Britain, to promote Wales on the international stage and with airlines to secure more routes into Wales

## WORK WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT

- ▶ Implement Growth Deals worth £800 million for the whole of Wales
- ▶ Deliver a UK Shared Prosperity Fund that tackles inequality and deprivation and levels-up the whole of Wales
- ▶ Ban public bodies from imposing their own direct or indirect boycotts, disinvestment or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries, which undermine community cohesion





# Building better roads, rail and broadband

## Where we are:

Our economy is held back by a transport system that fails to connect people to jobs. Many of our roads are constantly congested. Trains are overcrowded or rarely turn up on time. And our bus network fails to serve too many rural communities.

This all acts as a barrier to businesses setting up in Wales, doesn't allow us to back our tourism industries and makes our young people feel they have to leave Wales to pursue a successful career.

We have a real plan to level-up Wales with the support of the UK Government and to deliver the infrastructure that Wales deserves, creating jobs and opportunities for all.

- The number of journeys undertaken by local bus in Wales declined by 22% between 2008/9 and 2018/19
- The Metro in North Wales has only received £50 million from the Welsh Government – £700 million less than South Wales
- There are 30,000 traffic jams in Wales a year costing the Welsh economy nearly £300 million
- 9,000 train services were cancelled in 2018/19

## What we will do:

- ▶ Build the M4 relief road in South Wales, upgrade the A55 in North Wales and the A40 in West Wales. As key routes to the rest of the United Kingdom, we would designate them as “Union Highways” to ensure their priority in rebuilding our economy
- ▶ Level-up and join-up public transport in North Wales, delivering a North Wales Metro which integrates public transport with active travel
- ▶ Open-up Mid Wales by upgrading the A470, creating passing places where appropriate, as well as a £250 million Rural Roads Fund to remove the blight of potholes and improve safety
- ▶ Return Cardiff Airport to private ownership
- ▶ Promote the Dinas Powys and Chepstow by-passes



**Liz Hill O'Shea**  
Candidate for Aberavon  
Community Volunteer

- ▶ Establish a £20 million Welsh Ports Development Fund to support an increase in Welsh exports, creating more jobs, alongside the UK Government's Freeport programme
- ▶ Support rural businesses and enable more people to work from home by eliminating mobile phone and broadband black spots through removing barriers to network improvements and creating a £50 million Not-Spot Fund
- ▶ Create a fast-charging network of 20,000 electric car charging stations
- ▶ Mobilise Welsh universities and the private sector to create a centre of excellence and research in energy storage and transportation

## WORK WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT

- ▶ Maximise the opportunities to access the £4.8 billion UK Government Levelling-up fund for the whole of Wales
- ▶ Deliver rail infrastructure improvements, such as the West Wales Parkway
- ▶ Improve rail links between North Wales and the North West of England, including Manchester and Liverpool Airports
- ▶ Make North Wales the UK's Small Modular Reactor hub creating long-term, skilled jobs



**Peter Fox**  
Candidate for Monmouth  
Council Leader



# Building a better healthcare service for everyone

The last year has given many people a renewed respect for our frontline health and care professionals. They have endured more than anyone can imagine. We owe it to them to ensure that they have the best facilities to do their jobs. Ultimately, we need to make sure that our health and care professionals know how valued they are, especially when they are there to support us through our darkest times.

Throughout the last year, the spotlight has been on our health service. The pandemic has increased waiting times significantly, but in the year before the pandemic hit waiting times in Wales doubled, and targets for treatment in A&E and for cancer continue to be missed or never met.

But the pandemic has also shown what we can do as a United Kingdom. Together, the UK's vaccine supply arrangements have been world class, enabling the UK to have one of the fastest vaccine rollout programmes. By working together in the future we can benefit our key services, especially our NHS.

Our plan for our Welsh NHS will see us deliver increased investment for a stronger health service that is able to tackle the challenges ahead of us. The impact of the pandemic on our physical and mental health cannot be understated, and our NHS needs an ambitious plan to clear the backlogs and repair the damage caused not just by the pandemic but by twenty years of Labour in Wales. As the vaccine rolls out, we can start to get a grip on the waiting lists that Labour allowed to get out of control before the pandemic hit.

In conjunction with the professionals in the NHS, our plan will clear the backlogs and repair the damage by working together with the UK Government to utilise NHS facilities across the UK, guaranteeing investment in our NHS and recruiting 1,200 doctors and 3,000 nurses.

- 5 out of 7 health boards in Wales were in special measures or targeted intervention in 2019
- The target of 95% of people being seen in A&E within four hours has never been met
- Cancer waiting time targets have not been achieved since 2008
- Before the pandemic 1 in 7 people in Wales were on a waiting list for treatment – four times as many people than in England
- More than 2,000 people have been waiting more than 2 years for treatment

## What we will do:

- ▶ Enshrine an NHS Covenant into law to protect the NHS for future generations, guarantee increased spending on the NHS and primary care each and every year, and ensure that staff receive the pay and rewards they deserve
- ▶ Ensure that no one should wait more than one year for treatment in the NHS with our Patient Guarantee
- ▶ Transform mental health by treating it with the same priority as physical health
- ▶ Support patients with a new Patient Safety Commissioner, and enshrine patients' right to choose how they access treatment
- ▶ Deliver 1,200 more doctors, 3,000 more nurses and other professionals through our 'Retain, recruit and train' programme
- ▶ Mobilise members of the public and former healthcare professionals to join their local NHS team, as part-time reservists, to support our NHS during periods of high demand
- ▶ End the queues of ambulances outside Welsh hospitals by focusing on the time to treatment for patients, so that ambulances and hospitals work together to deliver timely care

- ▶ Double our critical care capacity

## BUILD A MORE RESILIENT NHS

- ▶ Create NHS Wales as a separate organisation, independent from the Welsh Government.
- ▶ Establish the NHS Hospitals and Buildings Recovery Fund to level-up and modernise hospitals and primary care facilities across Wales, so that our valued NHS staff and their patients have state of the art facilities to deliver world class care
- ▶ Embrace new ways of working, such as online appointments, to make it easier to see a GP or specialist
- ▶ Expand the Access to Treatments Fund so that doctors can use the most advanced, life-saving treatments for cancer, rare diseases, and other conditions that aren't currently available on the NHS
- ▶ Work with other Governments across the UK to guarantee patient access to the nearest appropriate health provision utilising cross border and independent facilities to speed up treatment

- ▶ Work with the UK Government to ensure that emergency pandemic responses are uniform across the UK, with consistent messaging and which is evidence led

- ▶ Establish a national vaccination reminder system
- ▶ Promote healthy lifestyles in schools, provide free access to local authority gyms and leisure centres for 16 – 24 year olds and invest in more active travel options for walking and cycling

## TRANSFORM MENTAL HEALTH WITH INCREASE PRIORITY

- ▶ Undertake a fundamental review of mental health services through a Commission on Mental Health, with service users, families, professionals and the charity sector
- ▶ Introduce a new Mental Health Act, to replace outdated legislation and ensure the latest thinking is incorporated in to mental health provision
- ▶ Establish and publish targets on waiting times for mental health treatment for key issues including eating disorders

- ▶ Increase spending on mental health and wellbeing services in real terms in each and every year of the next Welsh Parliament
- ▶ Create a network of mental health crisis centres that are open around the clock for people to access in mental health emergencies
- ▶ Ensure that mental health treatments are utilising the latest technology and work with Universities to make Wales a leader in mental health treatment
- ▶ Increase the capacity of mental health services for children and young people to prevent placements at great distances from their loved ones
- ▶ Deliver dedicated mother and baby units in both North and South Wales
- ▶ Ensure that all schools, colleges and universities have mental health and wellbeing services for learners to access



**Gareth Lloyd Davies**  
Candidate for Vale of Clwyd  
NHS Physio

## IMPROVE STANDARDS, GOVERNANCE AND SAFETY

- ▶ Establish a new joint Health and Social Care Inspectorate, “Health and Care Improvement Wales”, to end the cycle of health boards languishing in special measures or targeted intervention
- ▶ Health and Care Improvement Wales would set appropriate targets for the NHS and Social Service Departments that are backed by health and care professionals and the public
- ▶ Remove Ministerial influence in NHS escalation and intervention arrangements and give the new inspectorate powers to intervene quickly when problems are identified
- ▶ Guarantee the future of Welsh Community Health Councils for the full term of the next the Welsh Parliament, protecting their independence to enhance their role as patient watchdogs
- ▶ Ensure GP representation on each Health Board in Wales
- ▶ Update ambulance management systems to send patients to the fastest A&E at the time, and introduce an ‘ambulance to bed’ waiting target

## IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND PATIENT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- ▶ Work with stakeholders to develop, and publish within 12 months, new national delivery plans for:
  - Cancer
  - Heart Disease
  - Stroke
  - Dementia
- ▶ Prevent hospital closures and downgrades for the duration of the next Welsh Parliament term
- ▶ Deliver five new and upgraded community hospitals over the next parliament in Flint, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown, Rhyl and West Wales
- ▶ Establish the new cancer centre of excellence for South East Wales, following an independent clinical review
- ▶ Build a network of rapid diagnostic centres across Wales to cut waiting times for tests and reduce the need for repeat hospital appointments
- ▶ Protect the status of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant and Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest as fully serviced district general hospitals, with the return of consultant-led maternity services at Withybush

- ▶ Revisit the proposals for reorganising health care provision in West Wales
- ▶ Extend the role of community pharmacies in delivering health care via a new contract, including prescribing for common ailments, delivering immunisations and diagnostic tests, and medicine reviews
- ▶ Rollout electronic prescriptions
- ▶ Deliver a new dental contract to reflect modern dental practice, making NHS dentistry an attractive career, and improve access to dentists across Wales
- ▶ Support patients undergoing cancer treatment by providing free dental care
- ▶ Expand the role of opticians in the delivery of community based eyecare, including the treatment of minor eye conditions and the monitoring of degenerative conditions, such as glaucoma
- ▶ Re-establish Minor Injuries Units in Rhyl and Tenby
- ▶ Establish an NHS Gambling Addiction Service for Wales
- ▶ Deliver an Autism Act for Wales and improve services for people with learning disabilities

## IMPROVE SOCIAL CARE

Delivering effective and compassionate social care is one of the greatest challenges and responsibilities facing governments as people continue to live longer. We will develop a plan for sustainable social care for the future by establishing a Cross Party Commission to consider long-term sustainable funding solutions for social care, and guarantee to provide parliamentary time to deliver its recommendations.

### What We Will Do:

- ▶ Appoint a Chief Social Care Officer for Wales
- ▶ Introduce a Welsh Minimum Care Wage of £10 per hour to boost the pay of care workers across Wales in recognition of their vital work
- ▶ Work with the sector to recruit and retain care workers, including training care home workers to undertake basic checks such as blood pressure and to tackle common ailments such as trips and falls
- ▶ Expand the role of Occupational Therapists as part of wrap around care to maintain patient independence, and review access to Disabled Facilities Grants so that housing plays its fullest role in health and social care

- ▶ Increase the capital limit to £100,000 for those accessing residential care to ensure that people do not lose their life savings to care costs
- ▶ Establish a £15 million Care Innovation Fund to promote joint-working between the NHS and social service departments
- ▶ Promote independent living by offering online self-assessments to support the early identification of support needs
- ▶ Introduce a right to respite for unpaid carers and give them free access to training, support and carer assessments
- ▶ Support young carers with a Young Carers Card scheme to provide free bus travel and grants to access education, training and employment
- ▶ Extend free bus travel to principal carers of those over the age of 60



# Building better schools, colleges and universities

Results in Wales have been consistently below the rest of the UK for many years. It is time that a Welsh Government stood up for our children's future and delivered the changes needed to take Wales off the bottom of the UK league tables for education.

A generation of young people have been let down and we can't afford to repeat it. We need to improve education standards so that businesses can get the skilled workers they need, and the ambitions of a generation aren't limited.

The failure in education lies firmly with Labour. Due to UK Government funding, Wales should be spending £1,000 more per pupil than it currently does. Teachers, teaching assistants and the whole education community are doing their best but are being hampered from the very top.

We will end this underfunding and deliver our clear plan to back teachers and parents.

Within our first 100 days we deliver a real comeback programme for our young people from lost learning, with significant support for tutoring, summer schools and targeted help for those that need it.

## What we will do:

- ▶ Deliver 5,000 more teachers across Wales
- ▶ Improve standards by reducing class sizes and tackle bullying via a school to school mentoring scheme
- ▶ End the underfunding of our young people and guarantee that more funding directly reaches the classroom
- ▶ Get Wales off the bottom of the UK league table by restoring targets for reading, writing, numeracy and digital skills and changing the Estyn inspection process

- ▶ Make Wales a nation of excellence by encouraging schools to take on specialist status in the arts, sciences, modern foreign languages and sports
- ▶ Increase school funding in each and every year of the next Welsh Parliament
- ▶ Require Estyn to undertake unannounced visits and take on new responsibilities to advise on school governance
- ▶ Scrap the Welsh Baccalaureate to allow pupils to focus on GCSEs, A-Levels and their vocational equivalents
- ▶ Refund tuition fees for those who choose to work for at least five years as doctors or nurses in the Welsh NHS, or as teachers in Welsh schools, after their studies

- In the last ten years the number of teachers in Wales has dropped by nearly 3,800
- Spending per pupil has dropped by 6% since 2010
- GCSE results in 2019 were worse than in 2007
- The number of further education students in Wales has fallen by 30% since 2012

**Barbara Hughes**  
Candidate for Clwyd South  
Farmer



- ▶ Establish a Welsh Education Advisory Services to improve access to employment opportunities and teaching career pathways, as well as standardising recruitment processes across all schools
- ▶ Provide all newly qualified teachers with a guaranteed first year of employment in a Welsh school or college
- ▶ Enable schools and teachers to catch up on missed education by delaying the implementation of the new Curriculum in Wales until September 2023
- ▶ Introduce different routes to excellence with the expansion of degree apprenticeships
- ▶ Boost Welsh Universities’ ability to undertake world leading research

**PROMOTE LEARNER WELLBEING AND SKILLS FOR LIFE**

- ▶ Ensure skills for life are a priority in the curriculum to enable young people to manage their finances and eat healthily
- ▶ Ensure that all schools, colleges and universities have mental health and wellbeing services for learners to access

- ▶ Retain the Pupil Development Grant
- ▶ Increase funding for learners with additional learning needs
- ▶ Provide young carers with grants to support access to education, training and employment
- ▶ Introduce healthy school dinners that are sourced locally
- ▶ Accelerate and extend the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme to rebuild education facilities and the economy in Wales

**STRENGTHEN PARENTAL VOICE AND CHOICE**

- ▶ Prevent the closure of any school that is able to deliver the national curriculum, without the agreement from parents, teachers and governors
- ▶ Create more Welsh-medium school places and explore opportunities for teacher exchanges to enable staff to grow their welsh skills
- ▶ Provide free school transport to pupils attending their nearest Welsh-medium secondary school and review free transport to their nearest faith school

**CUT TUITION FEES AND ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES**

- ▶ Introduce a compensation scheme for students whose courses have been disrupted by the pandemic, especially those students who are unable to afford to return
- ▶ Cut tuition fees in half for Welsh students studying STEM and modern foreign languages subjects at Welsh universities in recognition of their value to the Welsh economy
- ▶ Refund tuition fees for those who choose to work for at least five years as doctors or nurses in the Welsh NHS, or as teachers in Welsh schools, after their studies
- ▶ Work with Welsh Universities to introduce intensive degrees that can be completed over two years
- ▶ Introduce a Student Accommodation Quality Standard for halls of residence
- ▶ Help young people access education, training and employment with free bus travel and discounted rail travel for 16-24 year olds

**PROMOTE TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION, SKILLS  
AND LIFELONG  
LEARNING**

- ▶ Create a Second Chance Fund to enable those who have left formal education to go back and study a level three qualification
- ▶ Invest an extra £100 million in Further Education colleges to enable colleges to support Wales’ economic recovery through training the next generation and upskilling the current workforce
- ▶ Establish an Institute of Technology in North Wales focusing on STEM subjects
- ▶ Utilise Further Education to lead and create apprenticeships from all Welsh Government funded major infrastructure projects
- ▶ Promote the establishment of a social enterprise in every Welsh secondary school to enable young people to develop business skills
- ▶ Provide 150,000 apprenticeships by 2026

**INVEST IN CHILDCARE**

- ▶ Expand free childcare provision to two-year-olds
- ▶ Help those on the lowest incomes by funding a programme for children in receipt of free school meals to cover all school holidays for the whole of the next Welsh Parliament term
- ▶ Support the development of the Mudiad Meithrin so more parents can access Welsh-medium nursery provision
- ▶ Reform Flying Start to ensure that it is targeted at families who need it, not postcodes

**WORK WITH THE  
UK GOVERNMENT**

- ▶ Increase UK investment in research and development in Welsh universities
- ▶ Ensure access to visas for students from overseas wanting to come and study in Wales
- ▶ Maximise participation from Wales in the Turing Programme, especially from those from disadvantaged backgrounds
- ▶ Provide access to international research projects and funding



**Amanda Jenner**  
Candidate for Ceredigion  
Qualified Teacher





# Building back greener

Despite promises, the Welsh Labour Government failed to take real action on the environment. No action on air quality. No action on single use plastics. At the same time the concerns of our rural communities have too often been ignored.

It's not enough to go back to how things were. We need to build back greener, delivering more green jobs, while backing our farming and agricultural communities as we work towards meeting our carbon emission targets.

Our plan to build back greener will also protect and enhance rural communities and the services they rely on. We will support our farmers and agricultural industries, and bring forward legislation to improve air quality and tackle the scourge of single use plastics.

Finally, by utilising Wales' coast we can create long-term, highly skilled green jobs, whilst protecting and enhancing our environment.

- The independent Climate Change Committee have confirmed the Welsh Government is failing to meet its carbon emission target by 2050
- When the Welsh Government weren't meeting their target for tree planting – they cut the target in half
- 13,000 years are lost off people's lives a year in Wales due to air pollution – costing the NHS £1 billion every year

## What we will do:

- ▶ Create 15,000 green jobs and make Wales the green energy capital of the world
- ▶ Protect our seas and rivers by banning single use plastics and delivering a deposit return scheme
- ▶ Support communities to build back from flooding and to prevent flooding in the future
- ▶ Tackle climate change by ensuring Wales meets our net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050

## PROMOTE A GREEN RECOVERY

- ▶ Establish a £150 million **Wales Marine Energy Investment Fund** to purchase equity in marine energy projects, including small scale and hydro, to produce renewable energy whilst prioritising those with flood protection benefits
- ▶ **Scrap Natural Resources Wales** to improve transparency and create two separate organisations focused on the commercial and the current regulatory function
- ▶ Create the **Independent Office for Environmental Protection and Climate Change for Wales**, to hold the Welsh Government and other public bodies to account in tackling climate change and protecting our environment
- ▶ **Work with the private sector** to attract Wales' first Gigafactory
- ▶ Support the **Welsh steel industry** to become the greenest in the world
- ▶ Introduce a **Clean Air Act** to tackle pollution and reduce the incidence of respiratory diseases
- ▶ Increase penalties and improve enforcement for fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti and littering to ensure that those responsible pay for their actions
- ▶ Ban single use plastics for non-medical use such as plastic wet wipes, straws, stirrers, disposable cups and cotton buds to reduce harm to wildlife and blocked sewers and drains
- ▶ Deliver a **deposit return scheme** for bottles and cans to promote recycling and minimise waste
- ▶ Stimulate the creation of **15,000 long-term green collar jobs** to help Wales meet its carbon reduction targets
- ▶ **Work with Welsh universities and the private sector** to create a new centre of excellence and research into energy storage and transportation
- ▶ Set a **target of net-zero carbon emissions in Wales by 2050** and a target for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2026
- ▶ Support households to improve the **energy efficiency** of their homes with vouchers up to £5,000, with households on low incomes receiving up to £10,000
- ▶ **Work with bus companies** to electrify their fleets
- ▶ Fund a **Welsh Tidal Power Feasibility Study** to accelerate the delivery of tidal power projects around Wales and provide open source data for developers

## REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING

- ▶ Create a **National Flood Agency** to coordinate flood risk management, the response to flooding events and to work with local communities to carry out independent inquiries into flooding events
- ▶ Undertake an **urgent risk based assessment of flood risk and existing defences in Wales**
- ▶ Scope out required **flood alleviation measures** to include catchment retention proposals
- ▶ Double the investment in flood defences in Wales to £120 million a year
- ▶ Establish **Blue Belts** in areas of high flood risk to prevent irresponsible development
- ▶ Plant at least **eight million trees a year**, to soak up around half a million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, whilst also reducing flood risks

## ENHANCE ANIMAL WELFARE AND PROTECT WILDLIFE

- ▶ Establish an **animal offender register in Wales**

- ▶ Ban the keeping of primates as pets
- ▶ Review **pet breeding standards and registration requirements** to ensure adequate protection for animals and bring forward the ban on the third party sale of cats and dogs
- ▶ Promote **honest labelling to enhance consumer choice**, including distinguishing between stunned and non-stunned slaughter methods and introduce CCTV in abattoirs
- ▶ Establish a **£20 million Wales Wildlife Fund** to support conservation efforts across Wales

## BACK FARMERS

- ▶ Introduce an **Agricultural Bill for Wales** setting out how our farmers and land managers will be supported with public money for public goods, whilst helping the sector to invest in new technology, become more productive and receive a fairer price for their produce
- ▶ Use our exit from the EU to encourage the **public sector in Wales to 'Buy Welsh'** to support our farmers and reduce environmental costs
- ▶ **Work with the sector** to invest in **meat freezing facilities** to improve the shelf life of key exports, such as Welsh lamb, to sell Wales to the world

- ▶ Guarantee financial support for **Welsh farmers** at a level of no less than that previously provided by the EU for every year of the next Welsh Parliament and work with farmers to create a new support scheme for Wales
- ▶ Reverse the **Wales-wide Nitrate Vulnerable Zone** and work with farmers on the voluntary code already agreed to reduce pollution
- ▶ Create **comeback support for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show** to ensure it remains Europe's second largest celebration of rural life

## REVIVE THE WELSH FISHING INDUSTRY

- ▶ Increase funding for fisheries across Wales throughout the next Welsh Parliament and support the regeneration of our coastal communities
- ▶ **Work with stakeholders** to deliver a **new fishing strategy for Wales** which would be based on the principle of 'maximum sustainable yield'
- ▶ Place a **legal duty on the Welsh Government** to maintain fish sustainability for every stock

## WORK WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT

- ▶ End the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 and ensure all new vehicles are zero emission at the tailpipe by 2035
- ▶ Maximise the benefits for **Welsh producers** of new trade deals struck with countries around the world
- ▶ Design a **Shared Prosperity Fund** that can target pockets of deprivation in rural Wales
- ▶ Ensure the availability of **Seasonal Agricultural Workers**
- ▶ **Work with the Home Office** to establish a **National Rural Crime Taskforce for Wales**





# Supporting local Communities

Across Wales, and the rest of the United Kingdom, communities have come together during the pandemic to support the most vulnerable in society and to fight Covid-19. This renewed sense of community must not be lost as we look to rebuild stronger than ever before. Sadly, too many communities feel ignored or left behind and bear the brunt of bad decisions made in Cardiff Bay.

Our plan to rebuild communities will empower them and give more power to the people who know what their community needs most – the people who actually live there. As we do that we must make sure Wales remains an inclusive and open society, working to eradicate poverty, remove division and promote diversity regardless of race, gender, language, religion or sexual orientation.

At the centre of our communities are the arts and charitable organisations, and the individuals that support them. We will work with communities, helping them to rebuild and recover from the pandemic.

- Council Tax in Wales has more than trebled since 1998
- Councils in North Wales received a smaller increase in funding than Councils in South Wales
- Welsh Labour failed to give communities more power over excessive council tax rises or to protect local services
- Councils in Wales have nearly £1 billion in usable reserves

## What we will do:

- ▶ Protect community assets by enabling local people to run and expand facilities that benefit the local community
- ▶ End rough sleeping in Wales by 2026
- ▶ Promote and support the Welsh language with one million Welsh speakers by 2050
- ▶ Support service personnel and veterans for their contribution to Wales, and utilise local Armed Forces Champions and the Veterans' Commissioner for Wales
- ▶ Increase funding for Police Community Support Officers each year, and expand the Safer Streets fund to support CCTV and improved street lighting across Wales



**Donna Gavin**  
Candidate for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney  
Former Army Major

## EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- ▶ Empower local communities to establish neighbourhood plans, allowing them to influence where development should happen, what their communities should look like, and what they should include
- ▶ Introduce a Community Ownership Fund and Right to Bid to support the takeover of assets such as libraries, pubs, leisure centres and green spaces, particularly those threatened with closure or development
- ▶ Reform the local government funding formula to ensure fair funding across Wales, particularly in our rural councils and help prevent inflation busting council tax increases
- ▶ Give security for local people and council services by enabling a council tax freeze for the first two years of the next Senedd term, with the ambition of freezing for the full term
- ▶ Implement council tax referendums for local people to have a say on excessive council tax rises above 5%

- ▶ Establish a single point of access for benefits and support schemes administered in Wales and explore the possibility of automatically passporting Universal Credit claimants to this
- ▶ Enhance local streets by guaranteeing at least weekly food waste and recycling collections, and fortnightly bin collections

## TACKLE HOMELESSNESS

- ▶ Introduce a “housing first” model for supporting homeless people
- ▶ Appoint a Homelessness Commissioner, ideally someone who has experienced homelessness to work with stakeholders to tackle rough sleeping and its causes in Wales by 2026
- ▶ Immediately bring 150 empty social housing properties back into use specifically for people who are at risk of homelessness
- ▶ Ringfence the funding for the Housing Support Grant for a period of three years

## UNLEASH WALES’ SPORTING OPPORTUNITY

- ▶ Establish a network of Welsh Sports Ambassadors to work with schools to inspire the next generation of sporting excellence, promote engagement in sports and close gaps in participation
- ▶ Establish a network of 3G and 4G synthetic turf pitches throughout Wales to improve access
- ▶ Create a Welsh Talent Sporting Fund to support talented Welsh athletes to succeed on the world stage including at the Paralympic and Olympic games
- ▶ Work with the UK Government to submit a bid for the opening stages of the Tour De France and the 2030 FIFA World Cup. Work to attract other major sporting events to Wales including the Rugby World Cup 2031, the Europa League Final, the Invictus Games and the Commonwealth Games
- ▶ Create a Community Sport Bounce Back Fund to enable community clubs to rebuild

## SUPPORT OLDER PEOPLE

- ▶ Introduce a legal requirement for public sector bodies to consult with older people when making decisions which affect their lives
- ▶ Support our older people by:
  - Maintaining free prescriptions
  - Maintaining Free bus travel
  - Promote Free entry to CADW sites for the over 75s
  - Pilot free rail travel for over 75s
- ▶ Run annual national awareness campaigns against elder abuse, age discrimination and scams and swindles
- ▶ Ensure that older people can access Welsh Government funded work programmes

## HONOUR OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

- ▶ Support service personnel and veterans for their contribution to Wales and the UK, especially throughout the pandemic and in the vaccine roll out, utilising local Armed Forces Champions and the new UK Welsh Veterans’ Commissioner by providing:

- Free bus travel and discounted rail travel
- Free entry to CADW heritage sites
- Free access to local authority leisure centres
- Priority access to NHS treatment for service related illnesses or injuries
- Priority access to home adaptations via Disabled Facilities Grants

- ▶ **Increase the funding for Veterans NHS Wales** to increase its capacity and ability to work with others to support veterans with PTSD and mental ill-health

- ▶ **Ensure that veterans are given priority for access to social housing** and that no veteran is forced to live on the streets

## TACKLE DISCRIMINATION

- ▶ **Adopt a zero tolerance culture across Welsh Government** to ensure no discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, religion or disability
- ▶ **Work with Race Alliance Wales** and other stakeholders to develop a Strategic Race Equality Plan
- ▶ **Work with faith communities** and other stakeholders to address anti-

Semitism, Islamophobia and other religious hate crime

- ▶ **Engage with LGBT+ stakeholders** to address discrimination and intolerance, and ban so called conversion therapy in Wales
- ▶ **Expand services and ensure increased sustainable funding for prevention, protection and support for women** who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence
- ▶ **Enshrine the United Nations' Convention** on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into Welsh law
- ▶ **Support communities to challenge violence** against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in all its forms, especially through utilising education

## PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE

- ▶ **Maintain a target of one million Welsh speakers** by 2050
- ▶ **Protect funding, and the operational and editorial independence of S4C**
- ▶ **Establish a Welsh language Digital Initiative** to promote Welsh language broadcasting and online services

- ▶ **Increase investment in projects which promote the daily use of everyday Welsh**, which includes refresh of Mentrau Iaith and introduction of Tipyn Bach
- ▶ **Invest in developing Welsh language skills in the education and childcare workforce** and give a greater role to Coleg Cenedlaethol in initial teachers education and further develop its influence in further education
- ▶ **Support the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Gobaith Cymru** to bounce back from the pandemic and grow

## WORK WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT

- ▶ **Maintain the ban on convicted prisoners** having the vote at elections
- ▶ **Crackdown on unauthorised encampments** with fines of up to £2,500 and three months in prison
- ▶ **Bring major sporting events to Wales**
- ▶ **Introduce safe standing at football grounds**



**James Evans**  
Candidate for Brecon and Radnorshire  
Farmer



- Over 67,000 people in Wales are on a social housing waiting list
- The Welsh Government is building less than 3,000 affordable homes a year
- There are more empty homes than second homes in Wales



# More affordable, high quality housing

## Where we are:

The pandemic has dramatically highlighted how important our homes are, and how more needs to be done to ensure that people have homes that are fit for purpose.

To build a better Wales, we want to use housing to give the Welsh economy a shot in the arm. Working with local people to ensure that homes are built in the right places, in keeping with the community, built with the environment in mind and that there is affordable housing for everyone who needs it.

Owning your own home is a dream for many people and we will help people achieve it by reversing Labour's attack on aspiration through restoring the Right-to-Buy in Wales, and ending the tax on opportunity to help people onto the housing ladder.

## What we will do:

- ▶ We will launch an ambitious target to build 100,000 homes over the next 10 years, whilst ensuring enough affordable housing in our local communities, including 40,000 social homes
- ▶ Restore the Right-to-Buy in Wales, reinvesting sale proceeds into more social housing and protecting homes from sale for 10 years
- ▶ Cut Land Transaction Tax (Stamp Duty) to help more families and hard-working people to get onto the housing ladder, by raising the purchase price threshold to £250,000 and scrapping it for first time buyers
- ▶ Extend the Help-to-Buy scheme to empty properties in need of renovation
- ▶ Explore options to make it easier for tenants to move home, including the introduction of deposit passporting
- ▶ Reform leasehold tenures including implementing a ban on the sale of new leasehold homes, with appropriate exceptions, and establish a redress system for leaseholders
- ▶ Establish a Fire Safety Fund to compensate leaseholders for fire safety works and the scourge of tackling unsafe cladding, guaranteeing any Barnett consequential from the UK Government to the fund
- ▶ Commit to achieving and maintaining the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and introduce a Student Accommodation Quality Standard for halls of residence
- ▶ Ensure housing standards are fit for purpose, future proofed with improved accessibility for all
- ▶ Have a real strategy for utilising developer contributions, simplifying Section 106 funding to speed up house building
- ▶ Overhaul the Welsh planning process, with new technology and cutting red tape whilst putting communities first

# Our legislative programme

1. Agriculture Bill
2. Animal Welfare Bill
3. Autism and Neurodevelopmental Conditions Bill
4. British Sign Language Bill
5. Clean Air Bill
6. Community Empowerment Bill
7. Mental Health Bill
8. NHS Covenant Bill
9. NHS Independence and Leadership Bill
10. Older People's Rights Bill
11. Planning and Development for the 21st Century Bill
12. Student Accommodation Quality Bill
13. War Memorials and Heroes Bill
14. Welsh Democracy and Accountability Bill
15. Welsh Hearts Bill



Welsh  
Conservatives

Ceidwadwyr  
Cymreig