



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Annual Report – Annex

2023-2024

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Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare	
<p>1 Establish a new medical school in North Wales.</p>	<p>The North Wales Medical School is on track to take its first direct intake of students in September 2024. Student interviews concluded earlier this year and offers have been issued. Bangor University is planning a launch event in early autumn. The General Medical Council accreditation process continues to progress well and is now at Stage 7 of the process and Cardiff University remains a contingent partner. The launch of the new Medical School will enable us to train more medical students here and ensure we distribute both training opportunities and the provision of qualified doctors across Wales. Student numbers will continue to grow from academic year 2024-25 until they reach full capacity of 140 students per year in 2029-30.</p>
<p>2 Provide treatments which have been delayed by the pandemic.</p>	<p>We continue to make good progress reducing long waiting times – waits of more than two years (104 weeks) fell every month for two years. By March 2024, they were 71% lower than their post-pandemic peak. Our <i>Programme for Transforming and Modernising Planned Care and Reducing Waiting Lists in Wales</i>, set out our plans for reducing the pandemic backlog and targets. While the absolute targets have not yet been achieved, waits of more than two years only account for 2.7% of all waits for planned treatments and are now predominantly in the very challenged specialties, which we have identified. In 2022, when the plan was published, there were 34 specialties with waits of more than 104 weeks – by March 2024 this was 17. Progress to reduce outpatient waits to 52 weeks has been more challenging, as health boards’ focus has been on booking and seeing people on urgent and cancer pathways. Cancer performance in March 2024 was at its highest for two years. Urgent and emergency care performance has remained broadly stable despite record levels of people with urgent and life-threatening care needs accessing NHS services via 999 ambulance services or directly at emergency departments.</p>
<p>3 Deliver better access to doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals.</p>	<p>95% of GP practices now have processes in place to avoid the 8am bottleneck and enable people to contact the practice for an appointment throughout the day, and book appointments in advance. We provided almost £1m in 23/24 to increase District Nursing capacity at weekends and improve access to Community Specialist Palliative Care Nurses at weekends. 83% of general dental services commissioned are working under a reformed contract and 140,000 new patients received a full course of NHS dental treatment and 84,000 new patients received urgent care. People can access Clinical Community Pharmacy Service in 99% of pharmacies and prescribers are now available at 1 in 4 pharmacies providing free access to advice and treatment, often without the need to see a GP. The recurrent £5m to increase Allied Health Professionals in primary and community care has led to over 88 new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts. Through new legislation and contract reform, we have expanded the scope of eye care services provided by optometry primary care in Wales. New audiology service models have been introduced to support people in primary and community care, providing, for example, direct access to Advanced Audiology Practitioners in primary care settings.</p>

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
4	Reform primary care, bringing together GP services with pharmacy, therapy, housing, social care, mental health, community and third sector.	<p>The ongoing reform of all primary care contracts is continuing to support better access to care closer to home. Key achievements include: ongoing reforms to the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework building on the ambitions of <i>Presgripsiwn Newydd/A New Prescription</i>, including expansion of the list of conditions that pharmacies can provide free advice and treatment for under the Common Ailment Scheme; a new Unified Contract for General Medical Services (GP services) bringing consistency to services all GP practices in Wales must provide; significant reforms to optometry services in Wales focused on increasing clinical service delivery in the community and ongoing reform to NHS dentistry to provide better access to prevention and needs focused care and treatment. Clusters and pan cluster planning groups have continued to develop as mechanisms at community and county level to enable collaboration between GPs, pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals, mental health services, social services and third sector in the planning and delivery of integrated community based health and care services. These allow a direct line of sight between local services and statutory partners on Regional Partnership Boards. To demonstrate our commitment to locally led service planning, we allocated additional funding in 23/24 for building the capacity of the community multi professional workforce at scale.</p>
5	Prioritise investment in mental health.	<p>We continue to prioritise mental health and wellbeing with an additional £50m in 22/23 and £75m in 23/24 to support increased capacity in a number of service areas, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), primary care liaison, perinatal mental health services and eating disorder services to support early intervention and timely access to services. We also invested in areas that impact on mental health including substance misuse issues, employability, and prevention. In 23/24 we invested in 111 press 2 for urgent mental health support and the service is now available across Wales on a 24/7 basis and has been used by over 80,000 people. We also made £6m available to support the implementation of the recently published <i>Strategic Mental Health Workforce Plan</i>. This aims to provide a sustainable mental health workforce in Wales by 2034. Between February and June 2024, we ran a consultation on our new mental health and wellbeing strategy, the responses are currently being analysed.</p>
6	Prioritise service redesign to improve prevention, tackle stigma and promote a no wrong door approach to mental health support.	<p>We have provided dedicated resource for mental health in the NHS Executive to drive improvements in the quality, safety and performance of mental health services. All Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) have NEST (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trusted) leads to drive forwards regional implementation of NEST and the no wrong door approach. We published a co-produced <i>NEST self-assessment and implementation tool</i> in February 2024 and regular workshops are being run to support organisations to use the tool. NEST and children's rights training, which we co-produced with the Children's Commissioner for Wales Office and young people, is now available on the Health Education Improvement Wales learning platform Y Tŷ Dysgu. Every RPB submits annual NEST reporting in October. Mind Cymru have continued to deliver the Time to Change Wales (TtCW) campaign aimed at ending the stigma and discrimination faced by people with experience of mental health problems. In 23/24, 34 new TtCW community champions were recruited and trained. These are volunteers with lived experience of mental health problems who share their story to increase awareness and bring about change. 16 new employers have signed the Employer Pledge – a declaration demonstrating an organisation's commitment to take practical steps to reduce stigma around mental health and create an open environment for workers to discuss their mental health.</p>

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
7	Roll out child and adolescent mental health services ‘in-reach’ in schools across Wales.	More than £5.3m has been earmarked for the continuation of the all-Wales CAMHS school in-reach provision in 23/24 with 117 FTE staff working in schools. Activity continues to be monitored both via the <i>NHS Wales Performance Framework 2023 to 2024</i> and via the schools in-reach workstream of the Joint Ministerial Oversight and Delivery Board. Over the course of the summer, we are reviewing activity with a view to establishing baseline targets to aid monitoring, evaluation and ensuring a consistent and equitable service across all Wales.
8	Introduce an all-Wales framework to roll out social prescribing to tackle isolation.	The <i>National Framework for Social Prescribing</i> was launched at an online event in December 2023. The National Framework will develop a shared understanding of the language used and the approach taken to social prescribing in Wales: supporting social prescribing practitioners by raising skill levels, setting the expected outcomes from the perspective of each user, organisation, commissioner and referrer; and ensuring quality of provision. What it will not do is dictate how social prescribing is delivered in different communities. To support the National Framework a suite of guidance documents and tools, have been developed including: an explainer video, a report containing a suite of case studies, a <i>Competence Framework for Social Prescribing Practitioners</i> and a glossary of terms.
9	Review patient pathway planning and hospice funding.	We continue to prioritise palliative and end of life care and progress has continued to be made throughout 23/24. The phase 2 end of life care review recommendations on increasing capacity for district nursing and specialist palliative care nursing at weekends and bank holidays are being taken forward as part of the Further Faster (FF) programme. Phase 3 interim recommendations on the end of life care review were submitted in February 2024 and have been broadly accepted. As a result, work has started on a hospice commissioning framework with the Joint National Commissioning Committee and a £4m one-off subsidy grant has been made to health board commissioned hospices delivering ‘core’ NHS services. This one-off funding has supported hospices with energy costs, inflationary pressures and enabled them to match NHS agenda for change salary increases, thereby helping to retain their workforce.
10	Develop an HIV action plan for Wales.	The <i>HIV Action Plan for Wales 2023-2026</i> was launched in March 2023, completing this commitment. A new collaborative network, Fast Track Cymru (FTC), has been established with four health boards in Wales signed up to the coalition. FTC recently launched the Stop HIV Stigma Cymru campaign, an initiative seeking to empower individuals across Wales, through increased knowledge, to reduce HIV-related discrimination. Wales HIV Testing Week took place in November 2023 and was the most successful campaign to date with almost two million recorded online impressions from content across social media platforms resulting in a 6.4% increase in online test kits ordered compared with 2022 data. A biannual Late Diagnosis Cohort Review has been established looking at individual late diagnosis cases in Wales to identify common themes and share best practice.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
11	Introduce an autism statutory code of practice on the delivery of autism services.	The Code has been implemented from September 2021, completing this commitment. The first stage of the independent evaluation of the Code of Practice was published in November 2023 and each RPB received recommendations for their areas. The second phase, focussing on stakeholder experience, will now commence. Work is underway to update the Code to include and cover all neurodivergent conditions and for duties to extend to the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. The Neurodivergence Improvement Programme 2022-25, backed by £12m, is now in its final year. £5m has been allocated to RPBs in 23/24 to continue their improvement activities to develop sustainable services. Progress is also being made in relation to addressing gaps in provision for ADHD, workforce development, data collection, referral pathways and digital innovation. Further consideration is also taking place on the need for additional work to further embed the progress made to date, and to address rising demand for assessment and support.

Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people

12*	Pay care workers the real living wage and working with social partners through the Fair Work Forum consider further steps towards parity of recognition and reward for care workers.	We are moving in to the third financial year of our commitment to pay the Real Living Wage to social care workers in Wales, providing funding of circa £113m across 22/23 and 23/24 to support this commitment. We have commissioned an evaluation on the Real Living Wage which will initially look at the implementation and experience of delivery across the sector. A sub-group of the Social Care Fair Work Forum has worked in partnership with HR experts across the sector to develop a draft Pay and Progression Framework. Its initial focus has been on direct care across the independent sector as part of a phased approach. A consultation on the draft Framework was held in May 2023 and learning from this continues to inform phase 2 of the work through 2024 which includes the development of a suite of template job roles and descriptions. Ongoing work of the Forum also includes the establishment of a 'Social Care Workforce Partnership' for the independent social care sector in Wales. The overarching aim of this partnership is to agree a minimum set of employment expectations for staff working in the independent social care sector.
13	Increase apprenticeships in care and recruit more Welsh speakers.	We continue working closely with Social Care Wales (SCW) and wider stakeholders to encourage uptake in apprenticeships in care. Through our funding to SCW, we support the WeCare Wales programme designed to engage and inform jobseekers, raise the sector's profile, and provide support to jobseekers and employers. The campaign has achieved success in raising awareness evidenced by SCW's reporting an increase in traffic to the WeCare Jobs Portal with the apprenticeship pages being one of the most viewed. We have also provided £200k during 23/24 to support Welsh language in the social care workforce. The SCW Welsh Language Awareness eLearning module is now complete and will be included in the Introduction to Social Care recruitment programme. The Camau Mynediad 1, 2 and 3 course is also complete and features a North and South Wales version, so learners can choose which version to complete based on geographical area. An employer workforce planning project has been developed focusing on supporting employers to develop Welsh language workforce plans.

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
14*	Establish an expert group to advise by April 2022 on the practical steps towards delivering a national care service that is free at the point of need.	Following careful consideration of the recommendations in the Expert Group report, we have developed a three-staged approach to defining an Implementation plan. <i>Towards a National Care and Support Service for Wales - Initial Implementation Plan</i> issued in December 2023 and comprises research and activity that will be undertaken by the end of the government term. The research undertaken will inform the development of Stage 2 Implementation. This approach aligns with the recommendations of the Expert Group that to achieve the vision set out in their report would take around 10 years. Work has been undertaken throughout the last year to deliver the Rebalancing Care and Support Programme this includes establishing the National Office for Care and Support within Welsh Government, which became operational in April 2024, and laying a new Code of Practice – <i>The National Framework for Commissioning Care and Support</i> – as well as strengthening arrangements relating to Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) through updating the current Part 9 Statutory Guidance and the current Part 2 Code of Practice. Work has also progressed, led by the Fair Work Forum, to take forward the development of a Pay and Progression Framework for the social care workforce.
15*	Legislate to further integrate health and social care services.	Work is ongoing to revise the Code of Practice on social services functions which are exercised by local authorities under Part 2 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, as well as new regulations and revised Statutory Guidance for local authorities and health boards on partnership arrangements under Part 9 of the Act. The aim is to strengthen regional partnership working so that health and social services work together to achieve better outcomes for their local populations. This work has been undertaken as part of our Rebalancing Care and Support Programme. The changes to the Part 2 Code of Practice focus on two main areas: rebalancing the social care market through promoting not-for-profit approaches to delivering care and support; and promoting the involvement of people who need care and support, and their unpaid carers, in designing and delivery services, using the principles of co-production. The new Regulations and Statutory Guidance under Part 9 of the Act will particularly strengthen the role of the seven RPBs, which bring together local authorities, health boards and other partners to help assess the need for care and support and plan integrated services to meet those needs. We consulted on our proposed changes in the summer of 2023, and a further consultation on a set of new Regulations opened in April 2024. The revised Part 2 Code of Practice was laid before the Senedd in June 2024.
16	Support innovative housing development to meet care needs.	A total of £43m was invested across Wales through the Housing with Care Fund in 23/24. The Fund continues to support provision of accommodation services close to home for children with complex needs, investing in approximately 25 children’s residential schemes and 6 emergency, respite or transitional accommodation schemes for children and young people. Other investments include 24 supported living schemes for adults with a learning disability, 6 older people schemes and 14 supported accommodation schemes for adults and families experiencing mental health and other support and care needs.
17*	Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work.	We expanded the Childcare Offer to parents in education and training in September 2022, completing this commitment. In the first academic year (2022-23), this expansion saw 675 additional families supported through the Offer. The strategic communications plan developed for the Childcare Offer aims to improve awareness and take-up to encourage more parents to make use of the support available.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
18*	Deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision.	This commitment is part of our wider vision for developing a fully integrated early childhood play, learning and care (ECPLC) system in Wales. The roll out of phase one of the expansion concluded in March 2023 with all Flying Start services being offered to around 3,100 additional children under four. Delivery of phase two began in April 2023. Phase 2, focuses on delivering the childcare element of Flying Start to more two-year-olds working with our local authority partners and the childcare sector to provide the highest quality provision. By the end of March 2024, data from local authorities indicates that over 6,900 2-year-old additional childcare places have been offered under phase 2 to parents in Wales and over 1,000 children have taken up their Flying Start childcare places in a Welsh medium setting.
19*	Continue to support our flagship Flying Start programmes.	Flying Start is the Welsh Government's flagship early years programme. It continues to make a real difference to the lives of children in some of our most disadvantaged communities. Flying Start supports children to get the best start in life by delivering four key elements: high quality childcare; parenting support; intensive health visitor support; and support for speech, language and communication. In 22/23, the last full year of programme delivery data currently available, over 35,400 children received support from the Flying Start programme. In April 2023, a refreshed version of the <i>Flying Start Childcare Guidance</i> was published following consultation with local authority stakeholders and representatives of the childcare sector in Wales.
20	Prevent families breaking up by funding advocacy services for parents whose children are at risk of coming into care.	We remain committed to parental advocacy and good progress has been made by advocacy providers in the last year in recruiting staff, undertaking staff training, developing promotional materials, developing an outcomes framework and establishing referral pathways and provision across all areas of Wales. Around 200 parents have been supported with a range of issues including mental health, support with care proceedings, child protection conferences, housing and physical health. This has provided parents with an increased understanding of processes they are involved in and a greater awareness of their parental rights. This has resulted in parents being better equipped to self-advocate in meetings, feeling listened to and taken seriously and having a greater understanding of how decisions are made and who is making them.
21	Provide additional specialist support for children with complex needs who may be on the edge of care.	This commitment is delivered through the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and its model of care 'Supporting families to stay together safely and therapeutic support for care experienced children' with funding of over £18m in 23/24. This has supported 20 projects including the My Support Team (MyST) service in Gwent which provides specialised mental health services to children and young people aged up to 21 who are looked after or involved with children's social care and have complex mental health needs arising from early and compounded trauma. The Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPPS) programme, within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board area, provides 12 sessions of therapy for children and young people looked after, by certified behaviour analysts who can work with them to manage their emotions, behaviour, provide life story work and build relationships; to help stabilise placements at residential homes or with foster carers. In 23/24, the services funded by the RIF supported over 14,000 families and children and young people, allowing 1,400 children to remain safely with parents or wider family.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
22	Explore radical reform of current services for looked after children and care leavers.	The second Care Experienced Summit was held in Llandudno in October 2023. In March 2024, Ministers reported progress towards the Radical Reform Summit Declaration's vision to young people at a third Summit in Cardiff. The <i>Corporate Parenting Charter</i> had its official launch in September 2023 and work has taken place to promote sign up, with 40 organisations signing up so far. In January 2024, a draft of the first National Multi-Agency Practice Framework for Children's Services was shared with stakeholders and partners for comments. Based on feedback received further work is being undertaken. The Transformation Delivery Group has continued to meet and has set up two workstreams: the first focusing on data and metrics and the second on early help and prevention.
23*	Eliminate private profit from the care of children looked after.	We have continued to work with stakeholders on this commitment through the Eliminating Profit Programme Board. We introduced the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, to the Senedd in May 2024, following a consultation that fed into development of the provisions to restrict the making of private profit. Our investment of £68m in revenue funding over three years for local authorities has been utilised to develop workforce capacity, recruitment, and skills. This has included better support for foster carers, enhancing the range of foster care options for children, developing in-house residential care provision and supporting families to stay together.
24	Fund regional residential services for children with complex needs ensuring their needs are met as close to home as possible and in Wales wherever practicable.	In 2023, we reviewed regional provision and initiated a robust monitoring framework to capture developments. Regional residential services receive funding through a variety of funding streams. Through the framework we are monitoring use of the funding and progress in each region which enables us to have better oversight of our investment and the capacity of local authorities to plan and work collaboratively and strategically. In 23/24, 249 children and young people were supported in a residential service for complex needs. In the same period, 58 children and young people were also able to return safely to their family or a stable placement after receiving support. By the end of 2023, RPBs had allocated £25.4m from the Integrated Care Fund and Housing with Care Fund to deliver residential accommodation schemes for children and young people across Wales. We have also started a Good Practice Forum for the development of provision for children and young people with complex needs. This will be integral for sharing good practice and informing RPBs and local authorities of the challenges that have been encountered to inform planning and future placement commissioning strategies.

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
25	Strengthen public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent'.	<p>The <i>Corporate Parenting Charter</i> had its official public launch in September 2023 for voluntary sign up and we have focused on engagement to promote the Charter. There are 40 new 'corporate parents' signed up, working to ensure that care-experienced children and young people have the same life chances and experiences as all other children and young people in Wales. Through working to strengthen the role of public bodies as 'corporate parents' we have seen a wider interest in signing up to the principles from organisations other than local authorities such as health, education, housing and third sector organisations. The Corporate Parenting Implementation Group has continued to meet through 23/24. The Group has developed two toolkits – one for new 'corporate parents' including information on pledging and the second providing information on what corporate parenting is and examples of action which can be taken by a corporate parent working in different sectors. Work has also begun on the content of a new dedicated chapter on corporate parenting to be included as part of a wider update of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice for Looked After and Accommodated Children. The Charter will provide guidance to local authorities on strengthening the strategic approach to corporate parenting.</p>

Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future

26	Deliver the Young Persons Guarantee, giving everyone under 25 the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment.	<p>The <i>Young Person's Guarantee generation Z Series Annual Report (2023)</i>, published in March 2024, highlights that we are making strong progress in delivering this commitment with more than 30,000 young people starting on employability and skills programmes alone since the launch of the Guarantee. More than 5,000 young people have progressed into employment; more than 400 have started their own business and more than 14,715 have started apprenticeships. Phases 2 and 3 of the National Conversation with young people were also completed with a full report published in March 2024, alongside our update for participants, which sets out how we have listened to young people and responded to their feedback.</p>
27	Create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships.	<p>The latest figures show that almost 51,000 apprenticeship starts were delivered by the end of October 2023. Apprenticeships will continue to tackle skills shortages and gaps in priority sectors critical to drive productivity and economic growth, supporting our net zero ambitions, the every-day foundational economy and public services. We aim to at least maintain the number of apprenticeship start opportunities targeted during the previous Senedd. Delivery will be supported by our <i>Apprenticeships: policy statement</i>, issued in February 2024, which provides a strategic framework for the future of the apprenticeship programme with a focus on addressing the challenges that both individuals and employers are facing due to the impact of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and economic changes.</p>

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
28	Put social partnership on a statutory footing through the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.	The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act became law in May 2023. The statutory Social Partnership Council was established on 1 February 2024 and the social partnership duties came into force on 1 April 2024. This commitment is therefore complete.
29	Use the new network of Disabled People's Employment Champions to help close the gap between disabled people and the rest of the working population.	The Disabled People's Employment Champions have engaged with employers and trade unions to promote the recruitment and retention of disabled people; worked with key stakeholders including Business Wales and the Department of Work and Pensions; and have raised awareness of the Social Model of Disability across the public, private and third sectors. This has included presentations and webinars to social partnership and stakeholder networks, including the Workforce Partnership Council and the Workplace Rights and Responsibilities Forum. The latest <i>Wellbeing of Wales: 2023</i> report shows the employment rate for disabled people has remained relatively steady but still lags behind non-disabled people, whilst the disability pay difference was 9.7%, narrowing by 1.7 percentage points compared to the previous year.
30	Strengthen our Economic Contract.	Roll out of a strengthened Economic Contract, initiated in early 2022, has continued into new areas of business, including Freeports and Investment Zones – ensuring that business sustainability, fair work, wellbeing and a low carbon economy are central to our support for businesses in Wales. An external evaluation of the impact, outcomes and influence of the Economic Contract is in progress, with some emerging findings reported in April 2024. Since January 2022, around 500 Economic Contracts have been issued to businesses across Wales, with many more aligned with Economic Contract principles. Next steps will be guided by the fuller recommendations made in the final evaluation due in early 2025.
31	Support the Wales TUC proposals for union members to become Green Representatives in the workplace.	Implementation and development of the Green Representative network has been fully integrated into the work of the Wales TUC, completing this commitment. Ongoing activities include awareness raising and knowledge sharing amongst new and existing Green Representative.
32	Support the creation of a Community Bank for Wales.	Our vision for the community bank for Wales is one based on a mutual model, owned by, and run for, the benefit of its members. The Welsh Government does not have the powers to operate a community bank itself, therefore this is a project which must be led and owned by a commercial operator. Any organisation bringing forward community bank plans must demonstrate to investors (which could include the Welsh Government) and industry regulators that those plans are commercially sustainable and operationally resilient. Between 2021 and 2023 plans for a community bank were developed by a Welsh-based building society with the support of Cambria Cydfuddiannol Ltd. The Society invested considerable resources to develop their concept but in summer 2023 the Board of the Society judged that changed market conditions were no longer favourable to support the launch of a new brand and product range. Since that time, the Welsh Government has continued to champion the concept of a community bank. Further support has been provided to Cambria Cydfuddiannol Ltd, enabling them to identify and work with a potential new project owner. The Welsh Government continues to engage with stakeholders, convening dialogue and actions to support access to finance and banking services in Welsh communities.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
33	Develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies.	The three winners of the Tidal Lagoon Challenge were announced in March 2024. The three research projects, which will take two years to complete, are now underway and will report regularly to us. We are continuing to support the development of Menter Môn's Morlais tidal stream energy project on Anglesey. This is a fundamental step in supporting Wales' emerging tidal stream industry. We have also provided £1m of matched funding to Milford Haven in order to kick start the process of strengthening port infrastructure so that Wales can maximise the economic impact of floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea.
34	Enable our town centres to become more agile economically by helping businesses to work co-operatively, increase their digital offer and support local supply chains, including local delivery services.	Since April 2023, Menter Môn has delivered the latest phase of the Smart Towns Programme. To May 2024, the programme had engaged with 133 towns to make data-driven, evidence-based decisions. A Smart Towns Conference was held in March 2024 which highlighted the work of the programme and increased its profile. Business Wales provided dedicated digital business support including information, training courses, guidance and an events finder. Since February 2024 it has delivered 21 digital support webinars to 99 attendees which provided businesses with the skills and confidence they need to develop and enhance their online digital presence to improve their sustainability and resilience. In 23/24, 31 supply chain events were supported, with 901 suppliers attending, which helped businesses win new contracts, supporting business growth. These events also raised awareness of social value and its importance within procurement processes and supported keeping trade local and within the Welsh economy. Town centre businesses continue to be supported to co-operate with each other to bring improvements to their areas, creating vibrant locations in which business can thrive. This includes support provided to establish a new Business Improvement District in Wrexham in 23/24. We also commissioned a 'review of collaborative business and community models in towns and cities across Wales', which will inform the best use of revenue funding to support town centre collaborative groups.
35	Seek a 30% target for working remotely.	Our target is for 30% of the workforce to work remotely on a regular basis. Transport for Wales (TfW) monitors this as part of a framework for measuring progress against <i>Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy</i> . According to the 22/23 National Survey for Wales data, the target was exceeded with 34% of the workforce usually working remotely. Our <i>Smarter working, a remote working strategy for Wales</i> places emphasis on flexibility and choice with the need for consideration of individual employees as well as organisational needs.

Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation	
<p>36 Launch a new 10-year Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for a zero-carbon economy.</p>	<p>Our <i>Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy</i> was published in December 2021, completing this commitment. The Strategy sets a framework for cross-governmental infrastructure investments with an over-arching commitment to tackling the climate and nature emergencies. By applying the framework set out in the WIIS, we can improve the value derived from our infrastructure investments to meet cross-cutting objectives and deliver multiple benefits. In doing so, over the long term, we can protect public services and communities and help businesses to grow. The <i>Wales infrastructure investment strategy: project pipeline</i> was published alongside our <i>Final Budget for 2024-2025</i> in February 2024.</p>
<p>37 Deliver the Digital Strategy for Wales and upgrade our digital and communications infrastructure.</p>	<p>Delivery of the <i>Digital Strategy for Wales</i> continues. The Centre for Digital Public Services worked with Welsh public sector organisations to support key projects, including delivery of the digitisation of maternity records; modernisation of the taxi and private hire vehicle sector; and understanding challenges within the planning service. The Electronic Prescription Service went live in November 2023, with prescriptions in Wales transferred digitally between a GP surgery and pharmacy. The Centre undertook research to understand the readiness for AI and automation across the Welsh public sector and what support it could offer the Welsh public sector to enable the potential of AI in a secure and ethical way. <i>The Cyber Action Plan for Wales</i> was published in May 2023, outlining how we will use cyber resilience, skills and innovation to support businesses and public services. Also in May, the Cyber Innovation Hub was launched to transform South Wales into a leading cyber security cluster by 2030, bringing economic benefits and attracting high-value jobs. A second phase of research on a Minimum Digital Living Standard was published in November 2023 and helped us understand citizen and stakeholder perspectives of digital exclusion. To explore this further, a pilot project aimed at helping social housing residents get online was initiated in March 2024. On connectivity, our £56m full fibre broadband roll-out project delivered high speed broadband to 44,000 premises. JIGSO, our data platform, continued to help emergency services respond to major incidents.</p>
<p>38 Create a modern legislative basis for transport in Wales.</p>	<p>We are progressing work on bus reform legislation to increase public control over Wales' bus network. In March 2024, we published <i>Our roadmap to bus reform</i> which sets out how we will deliver this on the ground, working in partnership with local authorities, the bus industry, the third sector and Trade Unions. The franchising model will mean that decisions about bus services will be taken in the interests of the people of Wales while accommodating local and regional needs and differences.</p>
<p>39 Lift the ban on local authorities setting up new municipal bus companies.</p>	<p>Bus journeys account for three quarters of journeys by public transport in Wales, but to improve the bus network there is a need to end deregulation of the bus sector. We are preparing bus reform legislation which, as well as increasing public control over bus services in Wales, will lift the ban on new municipal bus companies. This will enable us to improve competition and public accountability for the bus network in Wales.</p>

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
40	Legislate to modernise the taxi and private vehicle sector and address the problems of cross-bordering.	We have consulted on proposals to modernise taxi and private hire vehicle licensing and in September we published a summary of responses. We will consult on a draft Bill later this Senedd, as well as taking forward reforms through non-legislative means, by continuing to work with passengers, the trade and licensing authorities to achieve a safer and fairer taxi and PHV sector. This will include updating non-statutory guidance for licensing authorities and working in partnership to introduce standardised training for taxi and private hire drivers.
41	Implement our new Wales Transport Strategy.	We are making progress in implementing <i>Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy</i> , working in partnership with TfW, local authorities and Corporate Joint Committees. In February 2024 we published revised WelTAG (Technical Appraisal Guidance) for transport professionals to ensure that appraisals of schemes in Wales aligned with <i>Llwybr Newydd</i> . In March 2024, the new <i>Active travel delivery plan 2024 to 2027</i> was also published which sets out how active travel commitments within <i>Llwybr Newydd</i> will be met. Work commenced on embedding our response to the Roads Review through our work, with many schemes seeing their case for change (WelTAG Stage 0) assessed using the revised WelTAG guidance. An £800m investment in new rolling stock across the rail network has seen the quality of rail provision improve for people using TfW services. Preparations are also taking place for the forthcoming bus reform legislation which will see a once in a generation change to the way services are designed and delivered.
42	Build on the success of our concessionary travel scheme for older people and look at how fair fares can encourage integrated travel.	As we take greater public control of the bus network through legislation, we are considering what our fare offer will be and how we can integrate that with TfW rail services. We continue to fund the Mandatory Concessionary Fare scheme which offers free bus travel for older people and people with certain disabilities; as well as the My Travel Pass which offers discounted bus travel for young people.
43	Work towards our new target of 45% of journeys by sustainable modes by 2040, setting more stretching goals where possible.	The continued successful rollout of our £800m investment in new rolling stock across the rail network, the delivery of the South Wales metro, our forthcoming bus reform legislation, our support of innovative solutions such as car clubs in rural Wales, and the publication of our <i>Active travel delivery plan 2024 to 2027</i> are helping more people to make journeys using more sustainable means. Over £100m funding has been awarded to local authorities and TfW in 23/24 for projects to help deliver <i>Llwybr Newydd</i> . Work continues on the <i>National Travel Survey for Wales</i> , which will provide data on the current percentage of journeys by sustainable modes.
44	Take forward the Burns Commission report for Newport.	The Delivery Unit based in TfW is progressing delivery of the South East Wales Transport Commission's recommendations. Regarding the improvements to the South Wales Main Line 'backbone' the TfW Unit is doing the studies necessary to inform decision making and we are working with Network Rail and the UK Government Department for Transport to take them forward. This includes a consultation on the five proposed 'Burns stations', developments undertaken by TfW, which is now being fed into the development plans. The design and development work undertaken by TfW to date will be fed into the South East Wales Regional Transport Plan which its Corporate Joint Committee are under a duty to develop.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
45	Develop a new major routes fund to improve the attractiveness and biodiversity of areas alongside major transport routes in Wales.	In October 2023 we published <i>Llwybr Newydd i Natur – the Nature Recovery Action Plan for our Strategic Road Network</i> . We are committed to reversing the decline in biodiversity and delivering positive enhancement measures through our work. The Plan sets out the actions we will take to improve how we provide benefits for nature in the management, operation, and improvement of our Strategic Road Network. To support the delivery of our Plan we are developing a dedicated fund for biodiversity improvements. This will enable a wide range of nature recovery projects to be carried out across our existing Network, restoring, improving and providing new habitats for wildlife. This will be in addition to the biodiversity enhancement measures we will carry out as part of our work to improve road infrastructure on our Network. To ensure we are meeting our nature recovery commitment in Wales, going forward all new road schemes and infrastructure improvement projects will deliver additional biodiversity improvements above the environmental mitigation we are required to do.
46*	Create a farm support system to maximise the protective power of nature through farming, recognising the needs of family farms in Wales & acknowledging ecologically sustainable local food production.	The Agriculture (Wales) Act achieved Royal Assent in August 2023 which embedded Sustainable Land Management as the framework for future agriculture support. A public consultation on the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme was published in December 2023. The proposed scheme recognises that farmers play a critical role in the sustainable production of food and addressing pressing issues such as the climate and nature emergency. To accompany the consultation 10 roadshows were held with over 3000 farmers attending. The consultation period finished in March 2024 with approximately 12,000 responses received, which are being analysed.
47*	Introduce a transition period to the new farm support scheme, including continuing stability payments, beyond the current Senedd term.	A transition period formed part of the Sustainable Farming Scheme consultation published in December 2023. We proposed that the three main layers of the Sustainable Farming Scheme are introduced in clear phases between 2025 and 2029, alongside Stability Payments intended to support those who move from the Basic Payment Scheme to the Sustainable Farming Scheme. In May 2024, we announced our intention to introduce the transition period from 2026 and are considering the scheme design which includes the proposed stability payments.

Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do

48*	Commission independent advice that will examine potential pathways to Net Zero by 2035.	The independent Net Zero 2035 Challenge Group comprised of experts selected from academia and public and private institutions, with expertise from across all key sectors of our economy. It has focused its work on five Challenges: how could Wales feed itself by 2035; how could Wales meet energy needs by 2035 whilst phasing out fossil fuels; how could Wales heat and build homes and workplaces by 2035; how could people and places be connected across Wales by 2035; what could education, jobs and work look like across Wales by 2035; and identifying cross-cutting issues and opportunities. The outputs of the Group are available on a dedicated website www.netzero2035.wales .
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* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
49*	Pursue devolution of powers needed to help reach net zero, including management of the Crown Estate in Wales.	Welsh Ministers have been clear that Wales needs additional powers to implement the policies necessary to reach net zero and to do so in a way that supports a just transition. We believe that devolution of The Crown Estate, in line with devolution to the Scottish Government, would give us greater flexibility in choosing how far and fast we deploy renewables and how we balance both the climate and nature emergency. We welcome the recommendations from the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales that the Crown Estate should be devolved and that the UK and Welsh Government should set up an expert group to consider the devolution settlement with respect to energy. We are committed to working with the UK Government to implement those recommendations.
50*	Work towards the establishment of an Environmental Governance Body, a statutory duty and targets to protect and restore biodiversity.	The proposed Bill, due to be introduced to the Senedd in 2025, will embed environmental principles into Welsh law, establish a new governance body to ensure robust oversight of environmental law by Welsh public authorities, as well as introduce a strategic nature recovery framework, which will include biodiversity targets. Building on previous policy work and engagement, in January 2024 we published a White Paper consultation and we are developing policy for the Bill that reflects the consultation findings. The Interim Environmental Assessor continues to oversee the functioning of environmental law in Wales and has received 36 submissions to date.
51	Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics.	The first phase of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023 (the Act) commenced on 30 October 2023, completing this commitment, with eight single-use plastic products either banned or restricted in Wales. These are plates, cutlery, drinks stirrers, straws (including attached straws), expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene cups and takeaway food containers, plastic-stemmed cotton buds and sticks for balloons. To help businesses and organisations comply with this legislation, statutory guidance was published. A commitment has been given for bans on the remaining three products (polystyrene lids for cups or takeaway food containers, oxo-degradable plastic products and single-use plastic carrier bags) to be completed by March 2026. The Welsh Government, along with the other three UK nations, also announced proposals to introduce legislation to prohibit the supply of wet wipes containing plastic and single-use vapes.
52	Introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses.	Considerable progress has been made in implementing the programme of work on Extended Producer Responsibility to incentivise waste reduction, make a crucial contribution to tackling the climate and nature emergency and help build a stronger, greener economy. This includes work to finalise the regulations to introduce the scheme for packaging, following an extensive consultation on its detailed design and operation, and the implementation of new requirements on larger businesses to report how much packaging they place on the market to calculate the financial liabilities businesses will incur. In addition, on the Deposit Return Scheme, UK-wide interoperability arrangements for the schemes for drink containers in each nation have been developed and agreed which complement the extended responsibility for packaging arrangements. A call for evidence was completed in March 2024 on the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for electronic and electrical goods and work continues on the UK-wide digital waste tracking service, which will support the schemes and record waste movements in near real time to both reduce the scope for criminal activity and help maximise the value extracted from resources. In addition, in April 2024 we successfully implemented new Workplace Recycling regulations which align with the successful approach for households in Wales.

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	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
53	Create a National Forest to extend from the North of Wales to the South.	In June 2023, the former First Minister launched the National Forest Status Scheme to enable woodlands outside the Welsh Government Woodland Estate to join the National Forest. We continue to fund 6 National Forest Liaison Officers based in Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to provide on the ground advice on the aims and benefits of the National Forest and how woodlands can apply to join. In November 2023, the first 15 woodland sites, from outside the Welsh Government Woodland estate became part of the National Forest. There is a rolling application process and the first half of 2024 has seen a further 13 sites join. The National Forest now comprises 26 Welsh Government Woodland Estate blocks made up of more than 70 individual woodlands and 28 individual non Welsh Government Woodland Estate sites owned by private landowners, charities, local authorities and organisations. As a result, there are over 100 diverse individual woodlands now in the National Forest network ranging from 1 to over 1,000 hectares and including small charity community run woodlands to large productive forests. The total size of the National Forest is currently 67,699 hectares.
54	Harness the economic, cultural, and recreational potential of the National Forest as part of progress towards a sustainable timber industry.	As part of the Welsh Government-funded Home-Grown Homes 2 project, Woodknowledge Wales supports the development and establishment of the National Forest, providing expertise and developing ways that the National Forest can supply high quality construction timber, whilst also providing recreation and health benefits. Woodknowledge Wales has developed a series of case studies, including one highlighting NRW's alternative timber sales approach, taking timber from a known forest to a known processor and onward to a known project. These will be used for knowledge exchange purposes, to share best practice with stakeholders and to be drawn on during the drafting of the Timber Industrial Strategy. National Forest case studies are being developed to highlight the diversity of the National Forest's sites, including one that focuses on the benefits of productive forestry.
55*	Develop a Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food in Wales.	Work has been undertaken to identify issues, understand the wider context, and to shape policy. This has included significant stakeholder engagement including two community food surveys, a consumer survey which attracted 1,018 respondents and a stakeholder survey to which 87 practitioners responded. We published 10 case studies from across the UK and Ireland and developed a systems map of community food in Wales in collaboration with Cardiff University. To interrogate this systems map, the community food stakeholder longitudinal focus group and nine wider stakeholder groups met involving over 80 people. Further engagement included site visits with community food growers and producers.
56	Introduce legislation to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining and ensure coal tip safety; strengthening local authority powers to protect the public and the environment.	Our priority is to ensure people living and working near coal tips feel safe and secure by reducing the likelihood of further landslides. Significant progress has been made on the key objective of our work on Coal Tip Safety to address the gap in information around disused coal tips. In November 2023, we published data relating to the location of category C and D tips (those that require frequent inspections). In March 2024, the location maps for category A, B and R rated tips, which are typically lesser in scale, were published. There are more than 2,500 disused coal tips in Wales, and it is important to be transparent about their locations. Over the winter the programme of inspection of category C and D tips has been completed with no major issues identified. In 2023, the Coal Authority began inspecting category B tips and by March 2024 it had inspected approximately 220 with inspections continuing. Work on new modernised legislation continues, which will provide the necessary framework for a long-term, fit for purpose regulatory regime for disused tip safety, and the establishment of a new public body solely focused on this work.

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	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
57	Introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales, consistent with World Health Organisation guidance and extend the provision of air quality monitoring.	The introduction of a Clean Air Act for Wales, consistent with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance and extended provision for air quality monitoring has been delivered through the introduction of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 (the Act), which gained Royal Assent on 14 February 2024, completing this commitment. Work is underway to implement the new responsibilities under the Act alongside our broader commitments under the <i>National Air Quality Strategy for Wales (Clean Air Plan for Wales)</i> . We are developing proposals for further enhancements to our air quality incident management service, national air quality monitoring networks and assessment capabilities. The associated scope, scale and timing of the proposals are subject to the specific national air quality targets which will be introduced in line with the duties under the Act.
58	Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.	Work to designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley made good progress in 23/24 with NRW leading the programme. Having previously completed the mapping of the initial Area of Search, NRW focused on more detailed evidence gathering and evaluation alongside active communication and consultation. At the end of March 2024, NRW had completed four of the six key technical assessments needed to inform the designation process – namely, Area of Search; Special Qualities; Forces for Change; and Management Options. During 23/24 good progress was also made on the other two assessments (Evaluation Areas and Candidate Areas). Collectively, these assessments provide evidence on the areas suitable for landscape designation, the reasons for their inclusion/exclusion, and how they can be most effectively managed. NRW also held an extensive public engagement exercise on the new National Park in October and November 2023. This provided detailed insights on a range of opinions, issues and concerns people have in relation to the proposed new National Park designation which included tourism demand, transport infrastructure, housing, and planning.
59	Support 80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres.	Through the Circular Economy Fund, we have continued to invest in repair and re-use supporting delivery of 53 hubs, alongside investment into community organisations such as Repair Café Wales, who have expanded the network of repair cafes to 118 communities across Wales. The network continues to grow and has become a global exemplar for the repair café model with 6,458 items diverted from the waste stream through repairs which delivers CO ₂ emissions savings and prevented 22 tonnes of material from being disposed. Investment has also continued into Benthŷg Cymru, which has supported an expansion of their network of ‘Libraries of Things’ to 20 sites across Wales, where in total they leased items 12,000 times, leading to carbon savings of 160 tonnes of CO ₂ e alongside providing an important service in a cost of living crisis. With the vast majority of items stocked being second hand donations or purchases, it is both preventing unwanted items from being landfilled and avoiding a need to purchase new equipment.

	<p>Programme for Government Commitment</p>	<p>Progress to 31 March 2024</p>
<p>60</p>	<p>Uphold our policy of opposing the extraction of fossil fuels in Wales, both on land and in Welsh waters, using the powers available to us.</p>	<p>Continued extraction and use of fossil fuels for energy is not compatible with the pathway to net zero at a pace that addresses the climate emergency. We have established policy for the extraction of coal and petroleum, and whereas every application for consent will be considered on its individual merits, we maintain a strong presumption against new extraction in any planning and licensing decisions. Consistent with our policy commitments, no new or extended Coal Authority licenses have been approved this year, and no new petroleum licences have been issued. Only one coal mine retains the necessary consents for mining. Of the 14 petroleum licences inherited from UK Government in 2018, only 5 remain with a further licence in the process of being surrendered this year. We are a member of the Powering Past Coal Alliance, a coalition of national and subnational governments, businesses and organisations working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy and the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, an international alliance of governments and stakeholders working together to facilitate the managed phase-out of oil and gas production. In <i>Net Zero Wales</i>, we make clear our ambition is to remove all current unabated gas generation from the system by 2035.</p>
<p>61</p>	<p>Expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces.</p>	<p>Several schemes expand the creation or enhancement of green spaces. The Nature Networks Programme supports the improvement of the condition and connectivity of our protected sites network whilst also helping to connect people with nature through community engagement. As part of this programme, in 23/24 £8.2m was allocated to support 42 terrestrial and marine projects encouraging capacity building and community engagement under the Nature Networks Fund, administered in partnership with NRW and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The programme also allocated £6m to NRW to continue delivering Land Management Agreements and terrestrial, freshwater and marine projects on land it manages or has control over. Local Places for Nature expenditure totalled more than £17m. The Community Packages scheme reports creation of 85 nature focused and 156 Community food growing sites, 60 orchards, 4 nature areas at transport interchanges and 19 therapeutic gardens. This covers more than 4 hectares of neglected land in urban and residential areas. Local Nature Partnerships created or improved more than 600 pollinator friendly, food growing or fruit orchard sites across Wales including sites for therapeutic health benefits and at transport hubs. In addition to this and of national importance is the 350 more sites with changed mowing practices of hundreds of hectares to improve biodiversity. Five Breaking Barriers projects have been completed with six still in progress assisting underrepresented groups to receive funding to create and improve green spaces sites in some of the most deprived areas of Wales increasing social cohesion and encompassing the vibrant multicultural community diversity. The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme awarded grant funding totalling £1.5m in 23/24, the scheme has supported 189 projects over 10 rounds with £8m for communities affected by landfill disposal. The Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing Scheme projects supporting joint working to address the nature and climate change emergencies completed in June 2023. Over the 5 year delivery period 61 landscape scale or pan Wales Green Space projects engaged 98,323 people with 6,997 Green Spaces improved, 44 species protected and 19,175 trees planted. Projects included the creation or restoration of 121 Meadows, 19 Community Food Growing initiatives and 192 Social Prescribing Pilots have been undertaken with 1,579 participants reporting improved wellbeing from contact with nature.</p>

Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise	
<p>62 Fund up to 1800 additional tutoring staff in our schools.</p>	<p>This commitment has been delivered through the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) programme which ensures all schools are provided with funding to recruit additional staff to support children and young people to manage the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. An evaluation of the RRRS programme, published in May 2023, found it enabled an estimated increase of 2,452 FTE support staff in schools, exceeding the commitment of 1800.</p>
<p>63 Build on our School Holiday Enrichment Programme.</p>	<p>In total £4.8m was allocated to the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) during 23/24. There were 175 SHEP schemes over Summer 2023 providing 11,150 places for children in areas of socio-economic disadvantage on each operating day, including support for learners needing 1:1 and those with additional learning needs. In addition, in summer 2023 a ‘Bag Bwyd’ was offered to participants in the majority of local authorities to support their household with pantry staples over the summer holidays. The most recent evaluation, undertaken by the WLGA, shows good progress was made in 2023 to grow the reach and impact of the programme.</p>
<p>64* Continue to meet the rise in demand for Free School Meals resulting from the pandemic & review the eligibility criteria, extending entitlement as far as resources allow & at least to all primary school children.</p>	<p>By March 2024, extended entitlement through the roll-out of universal primary free school meals resulted in more than 150,000 additional learners becoming eligible and more than 16m meals have been served. As of May 2024, 19 of the 22 local authorities had completed roll-out to all year groups, exceeding the target with the remaining local authorities on track to meet the target of September 2024. In rolling out this universal offer we are learning important lessons that will inform consideration of any future changes to eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales.</p>
<p>65 Invest in the learning environment of community schools, co-locating key services, and securing stronger engagement with parents and carers outside traditional hours.</p>	<p>In 23/24 we invested £6.5m to increase the number of Family Engagement Officers (FEO) in schools, with part of their role focused on improving pupil attendance. We invested nearly £400k in continuing our trial of Community Focused School Manager posts to provide additional support to families, join up key services and target non-attendance, improve attainment and support wellbeing issues. Good progress continues to be made, with individual local authorities reporting a range of family and community engagement approaches, which are: resulting in an increase in support available to children and their families; having a positive impact on learner attendance and engagement; and improving multi-agency working. We also worked with the British Council to deliver a Community Focused Schools conference and ran a professional learning event focused on community engagement. In addition, we identified £40m capital funding in early 2023, to continue to support delivery of capital works in our schools over financial years 23/24 and 24/25. This two year funding regime will allow a mix of planned small, medium, and large-scale capital works, making community focused investment more strategic, targeted and sustainable so that facilities can be accessible to everyone. Examples of investment interventions undertaken include facilitating community supported garden and kitchen spaces through Big Bocs Bwyd, health hubs, allotment and forest school spaces, sports facilities (pitches/cycling tracks/changing rooms/storage), and spaces for the provision of community learning.</p>

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
66*	Explore reform of the school day and the school year.	Following a period of stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering, a formal public consultation on reform of the school year was held between November 2023 and February 2024. The consultation sought views on the current structure of the school year, and proposals for alternative structures to best help mitigate the impacts of disadvantage; whilst also supporting learner progression, educational outcomes, learner and staff wellbeing, and align with contemporary patterns of family life and employment. The consultation received over 16,000 responses. In June 2024, the Cabinet Secretary for Education re-committed to exploring the proposals of a two-week October break; the flexibility to de-couple the spring (“Easter”) break from Easter; and a five-week summer break, but subject to further work on timescales and engagement with the sector and stakeholders. Following the successful Additional Enrichment Sessions Trials, which took place during the 2022-23 school year, policy work continues around ‘time in school’ with findings from the evaluation being taken forward through a range of other policy areas including enrichment and Community Focused Schools.
67*	Develop a sustainable model for supply teaching that has fair work at its heart.	The booking elements of the platform supporting the National Supply Pool for Wales successfully went live in November 2023 within Ynys Môn. Discussions are currently ongoing with stakeholders to collectively explore some of the challenges associated with a wider rollout. The new strengthened agency framework went live in September 2023 and includes: a requirement for agencies to sign up to the ‘SaferJobs’ network, a strengthened requirement for agencies to comply with statutory employment requirements, and that agencies work to support the Professional Learning Entitlement for supply teachers. The <i>Independent Welsh Pay Review Body’s review of the roles and responsibilities of supply teachers</i> was published in April 2024 and we will be having further discussions with stakeholders on its recommendations.
68*	Improve the teaching of Welsh history in all its diversity and complexity as a mandatory part of the new curriculum.	Welsh history is a mandatory part of the Curriculum for Wales, which started being taught in schools in September 2022. In June 2023, we issued a revised <i>Statements of What Matters Code</i> which makes explicit reference to the ‘history of Wales and the world’. This change means that there is now a legal requirement for all schools to include the history of Wales and the world in their curriculum offer. We have also issued updated Curriculum for Wales guidance for the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience to reflect these changes and support practitioners to develop this in their school’s curriculum. We continue to work with Adnodd to ensure the development of resources and supporting materials support Professionals’ understanding of the breadth and depth of Welsh history.
69*	Take the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill through the Senedd.	The Commission for Tertiary Education and Research was established in September 2023, completing this commitment and work is on track for it to become operational from August 2024. An implementation plan has been developed, and work is progressing in line with the required milestones to provide the Commission with its full range of statutory functions.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
70*	Develop a new mission-based national innovation strategy to be implemented across government and by the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research.	Following publication of our <i>Innovation Strategy Wales innovates: creating a stronger, fairer, greener Wales</i> in October 2023 we published a delivery plan, which sets out how we will deliver the strategy. Implementation of the strategy will also be a strategic priority for the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research when it becomes operational in August 2024. Since the strategy's publication in February 2023, we have also agreed a joint collaboration plan with Innovate UK, with clear actions to increase the amount of funding being awarded to Welsh initiatives.
71*	Increase the opportunities for learners from disadvantaged background to take part in the Seren Network.	This year the percentage of learners from a disadvantaged background in the Year 12 cohort increased to 15% from the 22/23 baseline of 12% and for this academic year baseline data has also been captured for Year 10 as 9%, Year 11 as 10% and Year 13 as 12.5%. A research programme was commissioned to explore the nature of the disadvantage attainment gap within Wales and across the UK and focus groups conducted with the target audiences including; disadvantaged learners who have never engaged with Seren but are eligible; disadvantaged learners currently engaged with Seren and parents and teachers at schools within disadvantaged communities. The findings of the research identified seven “barriers to access” to the Seren programme and proposed 20 programme modifications to help eliminate these barriers; 15 of the proposed programme modifications were implemented for the academic year 2023-24.

Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms

72	Implement and fund the commitments made in our Race Equality Action Plan.	The goals and actions of our <i>Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP)</i> are now embedded across government. The first annual report has been published and highlights the progress made across portfolios and the Race Disparity Evidence Unit is in the process of developing a framework to measure and evaluate the impact of the ArWAP. Progress highlighted in the <i>Anti-racist Wales Action Plan: annual report 2022-2023</i> included the implementation of the Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) in the health sector; the appointment of ten community mentors from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities in the childcare sector, continued funding to the Welsh Refugee council to support newly recognised refugees (former asylum seekers) to access ‘Move On’ accommodation; continued funding to ESOL hubs; funding to our Democratic Engagement Grant to improve democratic engagement and; the establishment of the Culture Grant Scheme for Grassroots Organisations, administered by Diverse Cymru, supporting grassroots cultural activities among Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups in Wales.
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* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
73	Explore legislation to address pay gaps based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and other forms of discrimination.	We have explored legislation completing this commitment. We have also used our influence through the Workforce Partnership Council (WPC) to take action which does not require new legislation. This has led to a report, issued in December 2023, on <i>Diversity monitoring arrangements within 3 public sector bodies</i> and the barriers to better practice. Through the WPC, we published a Joint Statement in December 2023 which reinforces the importance of diversity monitoring and encourages public bodies to review their data collection processes and follow best practice. We will build on this work with further activity to promote more transparency and consistency in diversity pay gap reporting, recognising the importance of public bodies in Wales setting an example of best practice.
74	Ensure public bodies and those receiving public funding address pay disparities.	Work to explore alignment of employment terms and conditions across the sector is on-going. The Devolved Sector Group made up of representatives from Welsh Government, Trade Unions and Arm's Length Bodies has continued to investigate further pay rate changes. In April 2024, it was agreed a sub-group would be established to further explore issues including the harmonisation of sick pay and maternity, adoption and shared parental leave; a reduction of the working week; and a longer-term review of other core benefits.
75	Pilot an approach to the Basic Income.	The formal enrolment period for the Basic Income Pilot for Care leavers in Wales closed in June 2023. Monitoring data published in September 2023 showed there were 635 care leavers enrolled on the pilot as of 31 July 2023, which represents a take up rate of 97%. Recipients have continued to access the advice and support put in place for the pilot, with 56% of the cohort being supported by Citizens Advice via the Single Advice Fund. Evaluation work is underway and the first evaluation report was published in February 2024. The first report provided a description of the young people on the pilot, an initial programme theory and initial attitudes of professionals towards the pilot. The evaluation team, led by the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) at Cardiff University, has established a co-production group of care experienced young people who meet regularly to inform the design and implementation of the evaluation. This group has had a tangible impact on the design of the evaluation, notably providing advice on how to collect data from young people on their mental health. CASCADE also works with Voices from Care Cymru to understand the views of care experienced young people.
76	Ensure the history and culture of our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities are properly represented by investing further in our cultural sector and museum network.	More than £5m has been awarded across the three financial years from 22/23 to 24/25 to deliver against the Culture, Heritage and Sport goals and actions in the <i>Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP)</i> and our specific commitment to properly represent and reflect the history of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people. The funding has seen both our arm's length bodies and local culture heritage and sport organisations deliver key projects focused on, but not limited to, training, review and decolonisation of collections and widening participation. Examples of work includes the Codi Cymru Exhibition which captures the stories of 27 Black Lives Matter activists from across Wales and is set to tour across the country over the next two years. The exhibition aims to raise awareness of racial injustices, promote dialogue and encourage positive change. Through our Culture Grant Scheme for Grassroots Organisations, managed by Diverse Cymru, funding has been awarded to a total of 26 groups and organisations across Wales. The scheme delivers on a key action in the ArWAP to identify a specific ring-fenced resource to support grassroots cultural activities Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
77	Make our Welsh public transport system more accessible to disabled people.	The development of our Equality Pathway as set out in <i>Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy</i> , continues and we have worked closely with our Disability Rights Taskforce to gather the views of disabled people on the barriers they face in using public transport. We have worked with local authorities to deliver training to their officers to support them in carrying out their Blue Badge duties. We hosted the National Centre for Accessible Transport in Wales as part of its UK-wide work to develop recommendations to make transport more accessible to disabled people based on their lived experience. Our investment in new rolling stock, station upgrades along the Core Valleys Lines and more widely in Wales, along with preparations for bus reform legislation, have put in place the foundations to best support disabled people to access public transport in all parts of Wales.
78	Continue our strong partnership with voluntary organisations across the range of our responsibilities.	Our focus remains on developing a Framework for Engagement with the sector, reviewing our volunteering policy and providing support to the sector. This has been through direct investment into the Third Sector Support Wales infrastructure and our Community Facilities Programme. In addition, our £200k investment during the pandemic in the Charity Commission’s Revitalising Trust Programme has now led to the revitalisation of nearly £7.5m of dormant trusts and foundations. We also increased the Volunteering Wales Grant by £1.5m in 23/24 to support the recruitment and retention of volunteers and the sector’s ability to support those requiring assistance.
79	Implement targets around Gender Budgeting.	We are collating learning from across three pilot areas (Young Person’s Guarantee, Personal Learning Accounts and E-Moves) to inform the next steps on embedding gender budgeting within our budget and tax processes. We have developed a best practice guide, an ‘Introduction to Gender Budgeting’ to assist officials across Welsh Government and to share best practice. We are also exploring how we can build a better understanding of how a gender lens and an intersectional analysis can inform future activity and resource allocation in future budgets. We have engaged proactively with the broader review of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process in support of wider work on gender mainstreaming. As a result, a series of gender budgeting questions have been developed, in collaboration with the Wales Women’s Budget Group, for inclusion in the revised EqIA. We continue to maintain links with a range of colleagues, partners and stakeholders who are interested in this work, including our Budget Improvement and Impact Advisory Group, as well as utilising the Wellbeing Governments network (WEGo) to share good practice and discuss areas of mutual interest. This engagement will help us when considering improvements we might make to improve gender budgeting within our budget and tax processes.
80	Strengthen the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy to include a focus on violence against women in the street and workplace as well as the home.	Following publication of our <i>Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: blueprint high level action plan</i> in March 2023, a progress update was published in October 2023 highlighting the steps we have taken to start delivery of the workstreams on; ending gender based harassment in all public spaces, work based harassment, tackling perpetration and addressing children and young people’s needs. Hearing the views of survivors was extremely important during the strategy consultation in 2022 and the survivor voice continues to feed into the multi-agency National Partnership Board co-chaired by us and Policing in Wales, and its workstreams through our National Survivor Voice Scrutiny and Involvement Panel.

Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive	
<p>81 Establish a National Music Service.</p>	<p>The National Music Service was established in May 2022 completing this commitment. It is supported by the <i>National Plan for Music Education</i> and £13m in Welsh Government funding from 2022 to 2025. The service aims to support every child and young person from the age of 3 to 16 to benefit from opportunities to play a musical instrument, to sing, and to engage in music-making activities in schools and communities. It provides a range of programmes for schools and is supporting music education via a ‘hub’ system, with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) serving as lead body and co-ordinating the programme provision with music services and other key partners across Wales. 70% of primary schools have engaged with the ‘First Experiences’ scheme, introducing them to musical experiences, and the ‘Music Pathways’ scheme for secondary schools is providing a wide range of opportunities for disadvantaged and underrepresented learners in particular to take part in and experience music.</p>
<p>82* Introduce legislation permitting local authorities to raise a visitor levy.</p>	<p>Legislation which permits local authorities to raise a levy on overnight stays in visitor accommodation will be introduced to the Senedd in 2024. Two further research projects have been undertaken, with publications to align with the Bill introduction date. The first, led by Bangor University, explores the non-economic impacts and best practice from introduction of a visitor levy in other destinations. The second, led by Cardiff University, explores the potential economic impacts from use of a visitor levy in Wales. Additionally, we continue to engage with our stakeholders to assess potential impacts and refine the policy. The Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) completed their initial discovery work in March 2024 which considered the service requirements for delivering a visitor levy. The WRA will continue to prepare for implementation of a visitor levy following the passage of legislation.</p>
<p>83* Legislate to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision.</p>	<p>The work of developing the Welsh Language and Education Bill continues. A public consultation on the White Paper ran from March to June 2023. A summary of responses to the consultation was published in February 2024. It shows that there is general support for the ambition and objectives outlined in the White Paper. The Bill will enable all pupils in Wales to become independent and confident Welsh speakers through the statutory education system. The concept of describing ability levels in the Welsh language and of continuous improvement to transform outcomes will also be central to the Bill.</p>
<p>84* Streamline the process for implementing Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>In 23/24 we met with all bodies subject to the standards with the Welsh Language Commissioner to ensure that our work in preparing the standards, and the Commissioner’s work to impose them was as streamlined as possible. This completes this commitment. It also ensured that bodies subject to the standards had a clear understanding of the different roles Welsh Government and the Commissioner play in developing the Regulations. There are now over 120 bodies under duties to comply with Welsh language standards.</p>

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
85*	Implement Welsh Language standards on public transport, health sector regulators, newly established public bodies, & water companies & begin work on implementing standards on housing associations.	Regulations were passed by the Senedd in September 2023 which made Welsh language standards applicable to companies who provide the public with water in Wales. These Regulations came into force in October 2023 which allowed the Welsh Language Commissioner to start working with water companies to implement the standards. Work has continued on adding public bodies currently not covered by the standards and preparing regulations to cover housing associations.
86*	Support an increase in Welsh speaking spaces, including workplaces.	During 23/24, a grant of up to £150k was awarded to Cwmpas to continue their work of supporting the establishment of new cooperatives that encourage the use of the Welsh language at a community level. We also invested £300k in the 'Perthyn' small grant scheme, which currently provides funding to 25 community groups seeking to create Welsh language spaces through social or cooperative businesses. Bangor University received funding to continue development of the ARFer programme, a behavioural pledge programme, which encourages Welsh speakers to use their language more frequently in the workplace and development of an app to facilitate wider adoption of the programme. Our 'Leading in a Bilingual Country' pilot programme, which promotes the integration of Cymraeg 2050 values and practices into organisational culture, concluded this year, with a 5-year programme now in development.
87*	Create a Welsh language Communities Housing Plan.	The <i>Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan</i> was published in October 2022, completing this commitment. Implementation of the plan continues. As part of St David's day celebrations, we launched the Cultural Ambassadors project, which is a partnership and collaboration with the Welsh Ambassadors scheme. Within a month of its launch 100 people received 'Bronze' certificates following completion of the course modules. A stakeholder meeting was held with local estate agents within the Dwyfor area in cooperation with the Dwyfor Pilot partners to discuss initiatives in the plan and opportunities to work collectively.
88*	Explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting & Communications Authority for Wales & provide additional investment to develop enterprises to improve Welsh based media & journalism.	We fulfilled the commitment to explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales through the publication of the expert panel's report, <i>A new future for broadcasting and communications in Wales</i> , in August 2023. Funding of almost £600k was made available for media and journalism in 23/24 supporting a range of projects including the Journalism Accelerator Top Up Fund, a research project mapping the Welsh journalism sector, support for Welsh language film through the Sinema Cymru fund, additional funding for Welsh language magazines through the Books Council of Wales and support for the AM platform.
89*	Pursue the case for devolution of broadcasting and communication powers.	We published our response to the expert panel's <i>A new future for broadcasting and communications in Wales</i> report in March 2024 and outlined our intention to establish a Broadcasting and Communications Advisory Group. As part of its remit, the Group will explore potential routes to devolution of broadcasting powers, aligned to the broadcasting recommendation set out in the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales report.

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
90*	Engage with the arts, culture and heritage sectors to develop a new culture strategy.	Following extensive engagement with the sector our draft Culture Strategy <i>Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024-2030</i> was published for consultation in May and will be open until September 2024.
91*	Invest in our theatres and museums, including committing to Theatr Clwyd, establishing the Football Museum and the National Contemporary Art Gallery.	Plans for the Football Museum for Wales have continued to progress and a full business case (FBC) was submitted in March 2024. A stage 3 gateway review undertaken by an independent panel has assessed the project. The project team have secured additional grants including from the Wolfson Foundation. We made an additional investment of over £500k to develop the Football Museum for Wales during 23/24. The FBC for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales was approved and work has commenced on developing the dispersed model in nine locations across Wales. Work has continued on possible options for a potential anchor gallery. Celf ar y Cyd – the digital platform for the national art collection launched in June 2023 and digitisation of the collection has continued during 23/24 alongside work to improve access. In total we invested over £2.5m to support this work during 23/24. Progress has also been made on the redevelopment of Theatr Clwyd, which we supported in 23/24 with over £12m.
92	Support the application to identify the slate landscape of North West Wales as a World Heritage Site.	In July 2021, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO inscribed the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales on to the List of World Heritage Sites (WHS), completing this commitment. Following the inscription, the Slate Partnership, led by Gwynedd Council and including Cadw, the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service, commenced implementation of the comprehensive Site Management Plan. Actions completed post inscription include the appointment of a World Heritage Coordinator shared between Cadw and Gwynedd Council, considerable progress developing the scheme to refurbish the National Slate Museum and commencement of the project to implement visitor and community infrastructure improvements within three of the four component parts – Ogwen Valley, Dinorwig and Blaenau Ffestiniog. Another achievement is an application to National Lottery Heritage Fund for support to implement community engagement work across all six components of the WHS.
93	Develop plans for a Museum of North Wales.	We are leading on work to develop plans for a Museum of North Wales, working closely with Amgueddfa Cymru. We are currently considering the significant financial challenges experienced by our cultural organisations and engaging with existing museums across the region.

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
<p>94 Promote equal access to sports and support young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs.</p>	<p>Funding provided through Sport Wales continues to have a significant impact at the grassroots level, with 894 sports clubs and organisations supported through the Be Active Wales Fund in 23/24. Sport Wales’ Investment Model was further developed to include organisations delivering cross cutting sporting activity such as Street Games Wales and The Urdd. This approach has ensured continued funding to grassroots sports. Further support has been provided through Sport Wales’ Energy Saving Grant which launched during 23/24 and was open to not-for-profit community clubs and organisations who deliver sport. Whilst not every project is complete, responses from over a third of the grant recipients highlighted an average cost saving of over £3.6k per club on energy bills and 3.9 tons of carbon offset per applicant. In 2024 Sport Wales published its latest Social Return on Investment study, carried out by Sheffield Hallam University, which showed that for every £1 invested in sport in Wales, there is a £4.44 return on investment – a total of £5.89bn in social value to Wales and the health benefits alone being worth £621m. These findings evidence the contribution and far-reaching benefits sport and physical activity have on the people of Wales.</p>

Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work

<p>95 Build 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.</p>	<p>In partnership with the housing sector, we are making progress in spite of the continued and significant challenges that affect the delivery of affordable housing in Wales. We provided record levels of funding through the Social Housing Grant (£250m in 21/22, £300m in 22/23 and £360m in 23/24). Measuring progress against the target, the Affordable Housing Statistical Release 22/23 shows that 3,212 affordable units were delivered for rent in the social sector in 22/23 across Wales bringing the total units delivered since 2021 to 5,775, a 25% increase on the previous year. We have a strong pipeline of housing schemes including both new builds and acquisitions that contribute to the delivery of the target. However, many significant challenges remain, impacting the pace at which some schemes can be delivered. Whilst our focus is on building new homes, acquisitions remain important in helping to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. We continue to support a range of initiatives that will deliver more affordable homes towards the 20,000 homes target, including our Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) and Leasing Scheme Wales. Building on success of the programme in 22/23, the TACP welcomed applications in 23/24, with a £87.2m spend.</p>
<p>96* Establish Unnos, a national construction company, to support councils and social landlords to improve the supply of social housing and affordable housing.</p>	<p>Unnos has made good progress establishing packages of work and commissioning expertise to support the delivery of social and affordable housing in Wales. The work packages include the review of development barriers for housing sites and the Market Insight research into Modern Methods of Construction.</p>

¹ The commitment to “Promote and support the work of the UK-wide Constitutional Commission being established by the UK Labour Party” is being taken forward by Welsh Labour and is not monitored by the Welsh Government civil service.

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
97*	Reform housing law and implement the Homelessness Action Group's recommendation to fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevent and rapid rehousing.	The reform of homelessness legislation continues at pace; informed by an Expert Review Panel, over 350 people with lived experience of homelessness and other stakeholders. A White Paper on ending homelessness in Wales was published for consultation in October 2023, with the summary of consultation responses published in April 2024. The consultation is informing the continuing development of the legislation and work is also underway to further develop a cost-benefit analysis to support a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment. As part of the wider transformation of homelessness services, we continue to take a 'no-one left out' approach to homelessness. Over the last 12 months, over 17,500 people have been supported with temporary accommodation with over £210m provided for homelessness prevention and support in 23/24, as well as capital investment through the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme to support move-on from temporary accommodation. The <i>Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework</i> was published in January 2024 to complement the <i>Ending Homelessness in Wales: a high level action plan 2021 to 2026</i> (updated in August 2023). The Framework will measure progress towards achieving the long-term goal of ending homelessness by making it rare, brief and unrepeatable.
98*	Publish a White Paper to include proposals for a right to adequate housing including fair rents and new approaches to making home affordable for those on local incomes.	A Green Paper Call for Evidence Consultation was held between June and September 2023. Six workshops were held across three locations, including Cardiff, Carmarthen and Llandudno as part of the call for evidence, 156 people attended and 386 responses were received during the consultation. This evidence is informing the development of the White Paper.
99*	Take forward actions to cap the number of second homes, bring more homes into common ownership and licence holiday lets.	Independent evaluation of the Second Homes and Affordability Pilot is in train and will report throughout the pilot's duration (i.e. until June 2026) prior to a final report in 2026 on the impact of interventions within the pilot in Dwyfor. We continue to provide funding support for the consideration, preparation and application of an Article 4 Planning Direction in the pilot area of Dwyfor (two local planning authorities have now concluded consultations on the application of these powers). As of April 2023, local authorities in Wales have been able to apply council tax premiums of up to 300% on second homes and long-term empty properties. From April 2024 seven authorities have increased the level of premium and a further seven have introduced new premiums, 18 of the 22 local authorities are now charging premiums on either or both types of property. In July 2023, we published a summary of responses to the consultation on a statutory licensing scheme for all visitor accommodation providers in Wales and this has fed into further development of the scheme that is continuing.
100	Support cooperative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts.	We continued to support Cwmpas (formally the Wales Co-operative Centre) with £180k a year (between 2022 and 2025) for the Communities Creating Homes programme. This provides vital support to community groups and other stakeholders to deliver cooperative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts. Cwmpas is working with 67 community groups, and there are 276 potential homes in the pipeline. Support has been provided to Gŵyr Community Land Trust, to access almost £900k from our Land and Buildings Development Fund to support the development of 14 carbon-zero homes in Swansea.

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	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
101	Create a timber based industrial strategy that can develop and sustain the high value production and processing of Welsh wood.	Work is progressing to create a timber-based industrial strategy that can develop and sustain the high-value production and processing of Welsh wood in collaboration with the Timber Industrial Strategy Working Group. Outputs from the Welsh Government funded Home-Grown Homes 2 project, which is halfway through its implementation, and our Delivering Net Zero project are also informing strategy development. A public consultation on the timber strategy and associated skills plan is currently being developed.
102	Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains.	The updated Welsh Quality Housing Standard went live in April 2024, setting an ambitious 10-year target for social homes. The Standard includes a number of new elements with the expectation that all existing social homes will reach Energy Performance Certificate rating A (EPC A) with a minimum Standard Assessment Procedure score of 92 (SAP 92). We continue to support social landlords to reach their decarbonisation goals and increase the quality of Welsh social homes through the Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). Since the start of the programme in 2020, 44 partners have been awarded £183m in funding (almost £64m in 23/24). 23,700 homes have been completed or are in the process of being completed. The ORP programme supports a test and learn approach to understand decarbonisation requirements and build the enabling environment to roll out decarbonisation more widely and at greater pace. The Wales Net Zero Carbon Hwb successfully launched its website in April 2024, with work continuing on a supply chain dashboard and a homeowner advice zone. We also continue to explore financing options for decarbonisation of all tenures including working on a pilot to support 'able to pay' owner occupiers on their decarbonisation journey.
103	Explore where services and contracts can sustainably and affordably be brought back into a strengthened public sector.	This commitment was completed in December 2022 following publication of a report and the <i>toolkit for insourcing in Wales</i> . The toolkit is intended to guide Welsh public sector decision making and help identify where services and contracts can sustainably and affordably be brought back (insourced) into a strengthened Welsh public sector.
104	Ensure that each region in Wales has effective and democratically accountable means of developing their future economies.	The four regional Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are now fully established, completing this commitment. They are working on the development of regional transport plans and strategic land use plans. Each CJC has a power to promote economic wellbeing to support the development and implementation of these plans.
105*	Keep regional partnership working under review with local partners.	The review of partnership arrangements was published in January 2024, completing this commitment.

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	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
106	Make 20mph the default speed limit in residential areas.	The default speed limit on restricted roads in Wales changed from 30mph to 20mph in September 2023. In April 2024 we pledged to put the voice of Welsh citizens at the heart of decision making on transport while setting out a three-phase plan on 20mph. Alongside a national listening programme, we are working with local authorities to revise the guidance making it clearer where roads can be exempted from 20mph. Over the three months after the default speed limit was introduced, reported casualties have reduced on 20mph and 30mph roads, (the lowest on record outside the pandemic period), and data to February 2024 shows the weighted mean speeds on a sample of main restricted roads has reduced by an average of 4mph. It is encouraging to see things moving in the right direction, although, it is too early to draw firm conclusions from the introduction of the 20mph speed limit.
107	Ban pavement parking wherever possible.	In our response to the recommendations of the report produced by the Wales Pavement Parking Taskforce we planned to consult with a view to introducing legislation. Due to the need to focus on introducing 20mph in residential areas this was delayed. We have now commenced consultation with local authorities to progress this commitment.

Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage

108*	Establish an independent, standing commission to consider the constitutional future of Wales.	The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales ('the Commission') was established by the Welsh Government in November 2021, completing this commitment. The Commission placed particular emphasis on hearing the views of citizens on governance and constitutional reform, in total more than 9,500 people engaged with the Commission in person, and nearly 15,700 people visited the Commission's online digital platforms. The Commission issued its final report in January 2024, including 10 recommendations to strengthen democracy in Wales and protect the devolution settlement. The Commission's recommendations were endorsed by the Welsh Government, and by the Senedd, in March 2024.
109*	Introduce legislation to reform the Senedd, based on 80 to 100 Members; a voting system, which is as proportional – or more – than the current one and introduce gender quotas in law.	The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill was introduced in September 2023 to deliver the majority of recommendations made by the Senedd's Special Purpose Committee. The Bill will provide a more effective legislature for, and on behalf of, the people of Wales. The Bill was passed by the Senedd in May 2024 and is expected to receive Royal Assent this summer. The Committee also recommended that the Senedd should be elected with integrated statutory gender quotas. This is being delivered through the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill, which was introduced on 11 March 2024 and is currently progressing through legislative scrutiny. It aims to make our Senedd more effective by better reflecting the gender make-up of the people of Wales.

* This commitment was part of the Co-operation Agreement during the period covered by the Annual Report

	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
110	Promote and support the work of the UK-wide Constitutional Commission being established by the UK Labour Party¹.	Ministers welcomed the Commission’s report, published in December 2022, and its recommendations for reform of the UK’s constitutional structures, including the devolution of new powers to Wales. This commitment is now complete.
111	Establish a Peace Academy – Academi Heddwch – in Wales.	Throughout 23/24 Academi Heddwch has continued to place peace both on Wales’ national agenda and on the international stage. In April 2023, Academi Heddwch supported the Women’s Peace Petition Partnership centenary celebrations with additional funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In July 2023, the Young Peacemakers Awards and the inaugural peace lecture took place at the Llangollen International Music Festival. Academi Heddwch also organised the 8th annual ‘From Classroom to Community’ conference at the Senedd in November which welcomed over 100 children and teachers from 10 schools across South Wales. International engagement has continued throughout the year with Academi Heddwch hosting the Argentinian Ambassador on International Day of Peace and a delegation from EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) as a key component of a broader programme to foster international cooperation within the Welsh cultural sector. The Wales Peace Research Network was also established in March 2024. Work on two key pieces of baseline research, “Wales as a Nation of Peace” and “Peace Education Review,” have also progressed.
112*	Seek to reform council tax to ensure a fairer and more progressive system.	We set out our plans for a fairer and more progressive council tax in a Phase 1 consultation in July 2022, and then sought views from people and stakeholders on the scale and pace of reform in a Phase 2 consultation in November 2023. The plans include delivering a fairer and up-to-date system of council tax bands following a property revaluation exercise in 2028, as the view of the people of Wales was to implement structural reform over a slower timeframe. From 2028, we will establish regular property revaluations every five years to keep the tax fair in the future, and responsive to economic conditions. In this Senedd term, we are progressing reviews of the arrangements for council tax discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums, and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, to ensure the system continues to help those in need. We are improving and streamlining the appeals process to make it easier to navigate and developing best practice with local authorities to improve the treatment of households struggling with council tax debt. The Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill was introduced to the Senedd in November 2023, enabling some of the reforms which require primary legislation, with future implementation to follow through a suite of subordinate legislation. We are working collaboratively with independent bodies (the Valuation Office Agency and the Valuation Tribunal for Wales) and local government to make incremental progress towards these achievements. The evidence and experts agree a fairer and more progressive council tax is one of the most beneficial actions we could take to reduce wealth inequalities, and we have been carefully considering the changes in our economic circumstances since the commitment was made. Local government, delivery partners, academia and third sector organisations continue to support our overarching aims.

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	Programme for Government Commitment	Progress to 31 March 2024
113	Reform local government elections to reduce the democratic deficit.	<p>The Welsh Government introduced the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill to the Senedd in October 2023. The Bill takes forward the areas requiring primary legislation that were supported in our consultation on the Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper published in October 2022. The Senedd’s scrutiny of the Bill explored how the Bill would help modernise Welsh elections, support stronger administration and help remove barriers to participation. The Bill was supported by the Senedd at Stage 1 in February and at Stage 2 in May 2024. Supporting the principles underpinning the Bill, our Democratic Engagement Grant supported local authorities and third sector organisations to be innovative in raising awareness of and engagement in Welsh democracy. To support objective monitoring of the democratic deficit, we commissioned the Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) to develop a definition and a means of measuring democratic health, they published their report in October 2023, and we are considering the findings. During 23/24, three local authorities in Wales, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Powys, voted to start a process of local consultation on the option of moving to the Single Transferrable Vote system. Having introduced the ability for local authorities to choose their electoral system in the Local Government and Elections Act 2022, the Welsh Government is neutral on the exercise of this power. If a council wishes to move to the Single Transferable Vote for the 2027 election, it must be agreed by November 2024.</p>
114	Put in place a £65 million international learning exchange programme.	<p>Taith, the international learning exchange programme, continues to provide life-changing opportunities for learners and young people across all education sectors in Wales. The first two delivery years have seen over £19m awarded to over 280 organisations to support over 12,000 forecasted mobilities involving over 90 countries and territories. Over 150 projects have been funded and include North Wales based GISDA, a charity working with homeless and vulnerable young people, who took a group to Finland for a week of cultural and educational exchange, and staff and pupils from Portfield School, a Haverfordwest special school, who visited similar schools in Sweden and Belgium. A new Taith strategy, published in October 2023, re-emphasises the core values of the programme, including the commitment to support people from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged backgrounds. Diverse Cymru and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs have been appointed as Taith Champions to support organisations working with people from underrepresented groups. A new stakeholder engagement structure has also been established to ensure that anyone with an interest in Taith can input into its development. The Taith funded Global Wales III project continues to promote the Welsh tertiary education sector internationally, welcoming numerous delegations to Wales, awarding 36 scholarships and supporting collaborations.</p>
115	Reinvigorate our twinning relationships across the EU through a Young People’s Twinning Fund.	<p>To gain greater clarity on current twinning arrangements, an online bilingual survey was undertaken in May 2023. The survey questionnaire was disseminated by the Welsh Local Government Association and One Voice Wales to democratic service teams in all 22 unitary authorities and 735 town and community councils. The survey received a total of 263 responses. While there are ad hoc twinning activities taking place, local authorities do not have the capacity to take forward further work in this area. Taith continues to provide international opportunities for young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>