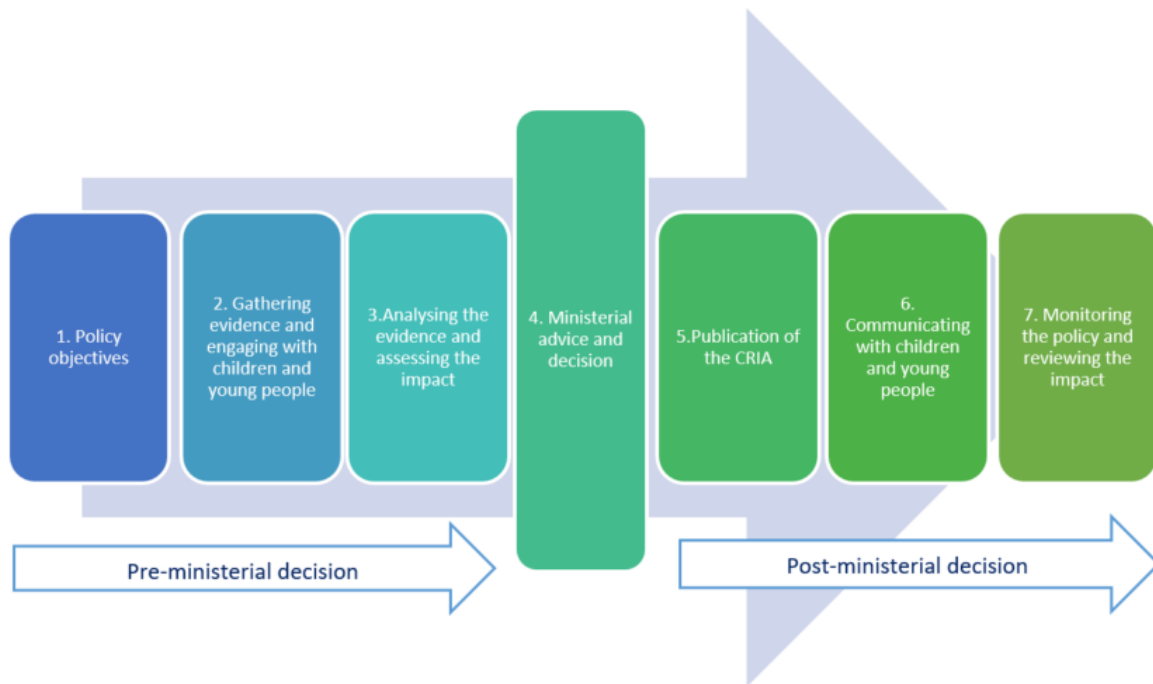


## A. Children's Rights Impact Assessment



### 1. Policy objectives

On 9 July 2024, the then First Minister, Vaughan Gething, announced the Welsh Government's legislative priorities for the remainder of the Senedd term. This included the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill (the Bill) which will give greater security to the people living in their shadow.

The main purpose of the Bill is to ensure that disused coal and non-coal tips do not threaten human welfare by reason of their instability. The provisions in the Bill address the legacy of disused tips in Wales by creating a new disused tip management regime, designed to ensure that disused tips do not threaten human welfare because of instability. The policy intent is to decrease the likelihood of a landslide by establishing a regime for the regulation, management, and inspection of disused coal and non-coal tips. This will create a safer environment for communities and infrastructure located close to disused coal and non-coal tips across Wales.

The concerning trend of climate change impacts has led to the increased prospect of landslides, which can cause significant damage to communities, critical infrastructure, and the environment. The provisions in the Bill will have a positive effect on the welfare of citizens including children and young people by reducing the probability of the adverse consequences associated with a landslide such as: loss of

life; injury; mental health issues; damage to housing, schools and health centres; transport and utility disruption; pollution and destruction of the environment.

The Welsh Government's proposals for the Bill were consulted on in [Coal Tip Safety \(Wales\) White Paper | GOV.WALES](#), which ran from 12 May 2022 to 4 August 2022.

The Bill will establish a new body, the Disused Tips Authority for Wales (the Authority) and confers functions on the Authority. The Authority's main objective, as provided for in the Bill, is to ensure that disused coal and non-coal tips do not threaten human welfare by reason of their instability. The Authority will undertake a range of activities, including the assessment and subsequent categorisation of disused coal and non-coal tips, monitoring functions and the creation and maintenance of an electronic register of disused tips. The Bill also provides the Authority with the ability to require an owner of land to carry out operations on land where it considers such operations to be necessary to prevent or deal with threats to the stability of a disused coal and non-coal tips, or to stabilise a disused coal and non-coal tips or prevent it from becoming more unstable, so as to avoid or reduce threats to human welfare. The Authority must provide advice and assistance to Welsh Ministers in relation to disused coal and non-coal tips and can give information and advice to any person in relation to disused tips.

## **2. Gathering evidence and engaging with children and young People**

[Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) requires Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 12 of the UNCRC gives children the right to be engaged in decisions that may affect them.

Children in Wales were commissioned to deliver a number of consultation events aimed at gathering the views of young people aged 14-16 years on the provisions in the Bill (see Doc 1 attached). The consultation was limited to this age range due to the potential trauma evoked by the history of coal tip disasters, the legacy within communities of coal tips still remaining and the potential safeguarding and wellbeing concerns that may be raised by younger children being involved in the project.

Officials also presented the White Paper proposals to the Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022, utilising their expertise to reflect on how the proposals impact on children and young people. The group commented they welcomed Welsh Government looking at the impact of these proposals on children and young people

The provisions in the Bill will benefit children and young people living in close proximity to disused tips, because the main objective of the Authority established by the Bill, is to ensure that disused tips do not threaten human welfare by reason of their instability.

Our analysis of the location of disused coal tips illustrates that approximately 85% of all disused coal tips are located in the South Wales valleys, which contain some of the most deprived areas in Wales ([Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(gov.wales\)](#)).

Several factors influence deprivation and therefore child poverty in those areas, for instance low household income, worklessness, lack of education and skills in the household and rising cost of living. Children in those areas often consider “the pit” to be free play space as preserved in family memories, unaware of the risks the disused tip may pose.

We believe the Bill will have a positive effect on the safety of all citizens, whether falling within a protected characteristic or minority group or not, by reducing the probability of landslides and the associated impacts such as loss of life injury; short- and long-term physical and mental health concerns; damage to housing, schools and health centres; transport and utility disruption; pollution and destruction of the environment.

Welsh Government welcomes the initiative of local authorities to tackle anti-social behaviours, such as bike scrambling, which some children and young people may engage in, which can contribute to tip instability, therefore increasing risks to communities and infrastructure in close proximity to disused tips. Rhondda Cynon Taff has recently [launched a campaign](#) against scrambler bikes on disused tips after the police called on the public to report incidents, as illegal off-road vehicles could damage disused coal and non-coal tips and may cause a landslide. The campaign has been supported by other local authorities, National Resources Wales and the Coal Authority.

- **What participatory work with children and young people have you used to inform your policy? If you have not engaged with children and young people, please explain why.**

As outlined above the Bill provides for the establishment in law of a new management regime for disused tips. The new expert body, the Authority, will engage with tip and landowners advising and encouraging them to meet their responsibilities, but also use its powers to step in where those with responsibility cannot or will not do so. Children and young people are not expected to fall into the category of tip/landowner.

However, it is expected children and young people will benefit from the implementation of an effective management regime for disused tips, as monitoring and maintenance can reduce the likelihood of tip slips and the impacts these can have on communities.

We engaged with Children in Wales to consult with young people on the White Paper. The consultation events included an online workshop for young people and an in-person event for 14–16-year-olds in Neath Port Talbot. These events provided a guided, interactive means for young people to find out more about tips, express views on the provisions in the Bill and suggest effective ways of presenting information about tips such as posters in schools. However, the young people also suggested whilst QR codes and website may have some benefit they could also be a barrier to information due to lack of service or digital poverty and literacy

Welsh Government officials also presented the White Paper proposals to the Children’s Rights Action Group (CRAG) on the 23rd of June 2022, utilising their expertise to reflect on the potential impact on children and young people.

### 3. Analysing the evidence and assessing the impact

- **Using the evidence you have gathered, what impact is your policy likely to have on children and young people? What steps will you take to mitigate and/or reduce any negative effects?**

Children and young people form part of the communities that could be affected by landslides from disused tips. The Bill provides for the establishment of a new regime for the regulation, management, and inspection of disused coal and non-coal tips, designed to reduce the likelihood of future slides, thereby safeguarding Welsh communities which includes children and young people, and infrastructure that is in close proximity to disused coal and non-coal tips.

Our young person's consultation event showed a clear consensus that tips should be made safe for the future of our communities. When asked "Do you think coal tips should be monitored and managed?" the young people who participated in the online workshop agreed this was important.

They highlighted the additional benefits of protecting and preventing further damage to our environment as another key benefit of the proposed regime. They were keen to ensure that the tip areas could be utilised in a productive manner but were concerned about who was going to be employed to work on this area and how they would be funded.

Most of the young people consulted held a positive attitude towards the proposals to create a new body to manage and maintain disused tips in Wales.

*"people deserve to be safe and to not have to worry about landslides, flooding and pollution"* (young person)

However, many felt that more work was needed to help inform young people and communities around disused tips. To this end, it was agreed that the creation of a public-facing asset register of disused tips was a positive step towards greater public awareness. The need for documentation that is clear and accessible emerged as a consistent theme throughout our consultations with young people.

In response to the consultation on the Coal Tip Safety White Paper, Children in Wales highlighted young people were of the opinion that people deserve to be safe and to not have to worry about landslides, flooding and pollution. Young people also shared valuable insights and thoughts including better handling, long term and local investment and measures to prevent hazards. In addition, the adoption of the Bill's provisions was also recognised as an opportunity to raise knowledge and understanding of the environments in which children and young people live.

- **How does your proposal enhance or challenge children's rights, as stipulated by the UNCRC articles and its Optional Protocols? Please refer to the [articles](#) to see which ones apply to your own policy.**

The proposals relate indirectly to Articles 6,12,17,24,27 and 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In relation to these, we have identified no negative impacts from our proposals on the rights of children under the UNCRC.

<b>UNCRC Articles or Optional Protocol<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Enhances (X)</b>	<b>Challenges (X)</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<p><i>Article 6 - Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.</i></p>	x		<p>The overarching aim of the Bill is to protect human welfare, communities and critical infrastructure by introducing a consistent and robust system of assessment, registration, management, monitoring and oversight of disused tips in Wales.</p>
<p><i>Article 12 - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.</i></p>	x		<p>Working with Children in Wales we have engaged with children and young people ensuring they had an opportunity to express their views about the proposals in the White Paper. The young people involved agreed with our policy approach.</p>
<p><i>Article 17 - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.</i></p>	x		<p>The Bill requires the Authority to compile an electronic register of disused tips in Wales that pose a threat to human welfare by reason of instability or could pose such a threat in the event of instability. The register will inform the approach taken to improve risk-management and decision making across Wales in a transparent manner. The Bill also requires the Authority to have public access to the electronic register, which will include maps and other types of information relevant to the tip. This will help to improve public</p>

---

			<p>confidence through access to information.</p> <p>Upon introduction of the Bill a short summary of the Bill with aims and objectives, specifically for children and young people will be provided to accompany the introduction of the Bill.</p>
<p><i>Article 24 - Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this</i></p>	x		<p>The overarching aim of the Bill is to protect human welfare, communities and critical infrastructure by introducing a consistent and robust system of assessment, registration, management, monitoring and oversight of disused tips in Wales.</p> <p>The regime will also prevent disused tips from threatening human welfare by reason of their instability and therefore it will avoid landslides which may have a negative impact on mental health and anxiety in young people and children. In addition, a stress factor identified by <a href="#">Public Health Wales recovery from landslides</a> report includes stress relating to education and schooling, such as loss of education facilities and loss of socialisation associated with attending school</p>
<p><i>Article 27 - Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.</i></p>	x		<p>The main objective of the Authority introduced by the Bill is to ensure that disused tips do not threaten human welfare by reason of their instability. The Bill will achieve this by establishing a regime for the assessment, registration, monitoring and management of disused tips.</p>

<p><i>Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment</i></p>	<p>x</p>		<p>Following consultation with young people, the need for information on disused tips to be widely accessible and presented with clarity was recognised. They were keen to be kept informed in the process regarding the coal tips and 'the coal tip safety White paper,' and they would like to know more. The adoption of the Bill's provisions was also recognised as an opportunity to raise knowledge and understanding of the environments in which children and young people live.</p> <p>We have committed to producing a short summary of the Bill with aims and objectives, specifically for children and young people to accompany the introduction of the Bill.</p> <p>The Bill requires the Authority to compile an electronic register of disused tips in Wales that pose a threat to human welfare by reason of instability or could pose a threat in the event of instability. The register will inform the approach taken to improve risk-management and decision making across Wales in a transparent manner. The Bill also requires the Authority to provide public access to the electronic register, which will include maps and other types of information relevant to the tip. This will help to improve public confidence through access to information. The electronic register will be developed to ensure it is accessible by the public.</p>
---	----------	--	--

#### **4. Ministerial advice and decision**

The impact of the proposals on children's rights will be incorporated into ministerial advice. This will ensure that the welfare and rights of children have been fully considered, and any identified issues are addressed.

## **6. Communicating with Children and Young People**

- **If you have sought children and young people's views on your proposal, how will you inform them of the outcome?**

The Coal Tip Safety White Paper consultation sought views from all stakeholders, including children and young people. We focused on delivering a small number of targeted events from meetings to consultation events purposely designed for young people. One online workshop was specifically held to seek views and understanding from young people and a report encompassing the views of the participants was produced by CiW.

[A summary report](#) on responses to the consultation paper was published on 9th November 2022. In addition, the Welsh Ministers provided a [detailed response](#) to the Law Commission report on 'Regulating Coal Tip Safety in Wales' on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023. The Law Commission report was also subject to a [consultation](#), which sought views on the need for new primary legislation to ensure people living and working near tips feel safe and secure.

Taking account of the views expressed by young people during the consultation on the White Paper, upon introduction of the Bill we will provide a short summary of the Bill with aims and objectives, specifically for children and young people to accompany the introduction of the Bill.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- **Following this review, are there any revisions required to the policy or its implementation?**

No revisions are required to the policy or its implementation. A robust tip management regime to address the legacy of disused tips will create a safer environment for everyone living or working close to disused tips across Wales, including children and young people.

Following consultation with young people, the need for information on disused tips to be widely accessible and presented with clarity was recognised. The electronic register will be developed to ensure it is accessible by the general public.

Further impact assessments will be carried out as appropriate in due course when subordinate legislation is being drafted detailing the direct nature of the Authority's work. This subordinate legislation will be subject to consultation, there will be opportunities for full engagement with stakeholder groups, including children and young people, whilst policy is being developed. It will be



easier for the impacts to be envisaged by those stakeholders at that stage when specific policy considerations are being drafted.

## **Doc 1 The Children and Young People's Consultation Report**

***August 2022***

### **Purpose of Report**

During July 2022 Welsh Government policy colleagues requested a Children and Young People's consultation on 'The Coal Tip Safety White Paper'. The Coal tip consultation aimed to collect children and young people's views relating to the coal tip white paper in the area they live and reside. The Young Wales team produced a plan to consult with young people and feedback key findings during August 2022.

### **Background**

There are [over] 2,500 disused coal tips in Wales, a legacy from the mining industry. Many of these tips are located close to communities, roads, railways as well as historic sites and designated habitats. Recent events such as the landslide in Tylorstown in 2020, shows the impact storms and heavy rainfall can have on these tips. Current estimates indicate climate change could have an impact on mining legacy infrastructure due to predicted increases in rainfall.

85% of the tips are in the South Wales Valley region, which includes some of the most deprived communities in Wales. The Welsh Government (WG) would like to introduce new legislation regarding this matter to ensure that the tips are managed correctly and more importantly safely.

The WG has produced a white paper on the 12 of May titled 'The Coal Tip Safety White Paper, which includes proposals on the key components of the new management regime. The White Paper offers an opportunity for those with an interest in how coal tips should be managed, including those who live in the communities close to these tips.

The WG proposed for a new management regime to include the introduction of a new public body to oversee the regime and a new approach to assessing tips and

monitoring them. The aim of the new regime is to ensure a consistent and proportionate regime, which can help to reduce the likelihood of future landslides.

Through Young Wales the WG committed to holding consultation events for young people who live around, or have interests in, the coal tips. These sessions aimed to provide an opportunity for young people to comment on the proposals.

## **Approach & Methodology**

All consultations carried out by Young Wales support participation and enable the voices of children and young people to be heard and listened to, in order to inform decisions made that may affect their lives; underpinned by the UNCRC and the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards.

### Safeguarding

Due to the potential trauma involved in the history of coal tip disasters, the legacy within communities of coal tips still remaining and the potential safeguarding and wellbeing concerns that may be raised by children being involved in the project, it was agreed we would only consult with a very small number of young people in a controlled environment where we could ensure that 'check in's' could be built into the sessions and follow up numbers for support would be provided should young people worry about the information they have learnt about coal tips. We also agreed that where possible we would select young people aged 14 plus.

Coal tip consultation sessions were delivered using a structured plan (can be found in the appendix) varied methods were employed with the expertise of facilitators through partners to engage with young people on this important topic and was delivered in person and online. Two sessions delivered one in person and one online.

### In person session

The in-person session was delivered in Neath and Port Talbot (NPT).

During the session, the scene was set for the young people regarding coal tips in South Wales, including what is a coal tip, the number of coal tips in NPT and the history of the laws in the area relating to the tips. The young people were then shown a video of the incident in Tylorstown where they had a discussion on climate change and the impact this has on the tips.

A brief explanation of the different parties involved with managing the coal tips and the concept of a Supervisory Authority was provided to the young people in attendance. The young people then participated in an activity where they were asked to position themselves in the highlighted areas of the room depending on their feelings/opinions and answers on questions, they were also given explanations of the content of each question to ensure an understanding.

Online sessionThe online session was structured differently to accommodate the session being virtual and difficult to carry out physical engagement activity. Questions and discussion points were shared using Jamboard<sup>2</sup>.

As with the session in NPT session the scene was set for the young people regarding coal tips in South Wales, including what is a coal tip, the number of coal tips in NPT and the history of the laws in the area relating to the tips.

A brief explanation of the different parties involved with managing the coal tips and the concept of a Supervisory Authority was provided to the young people in attendance. The young people were provided with a [Jamboard](#) where questions were asked.

#### Consultation questions:

- Do you think coal tips should be monitored and managed?
- Who do you think should be responsible for doing this?
- What do you think about our proposal to create a Supervisory Authority who would ensure professional people are working to help keep tips safe? How would you like to see this working?
- Do you like the proposed categories for coal tips? Are they easy to understand?
- Do you think it is a good idea to have information on coal tips in Wales all in one place? How would you like to see this? How do you think it could help?
- What do you think should happen to people if they do not follow the rules for keeping coal tips safe?
- We are looking to create a register of people who know how to look after tips. Would you like to learn how to look after a tip for your job?

#### Closing questions

- What would you like to see happen in the future with the tips in your area?
- Are there things we have not covered which you would like to raise?

---

<sup>2</sup> **Jamboard** was a digital [interactive whiteboard](#) developed by [Google](#) that let students and educators collaborate, create, and present in real time

- Would you be interested in learning more - How can we best keep you informed?

## **Main Findings**

Key messages from the session in Neath and Port Talbot for young people.

### **Do you think coal tips should be monitored and managed?**

All 6 YP said yes, agreed this was important.

### **Do you think a Supervisory Authority is a good idea?**

- One young person said no 'should be done by other authorities already in place' – 'too many supervisors, will not actually 'do' anything. Too much bureaucracy.'
- One young person was unsure – thought that it was a good idea but needed to be careful to ensure people do not worry too much about coal tips.
- Four young people said yes – 1 YP in particular disagreed with the above, 'do not think that we should sugar-coat the issue. People should be aware of the dangers.'

### **Do you like the proposed categories?**

- Three young people said yes – good to prioritise, more precise.
- Three young people said unsure/ in the middle –
- Two young people said there were too many categories, could get confusing for people and potentially unnecessary.
- One young people asked the WG official about the variables that would impact the categories had a brief conversation about this.

In relation to the materials at the coal tips a young person asked the question to the WG official who was present what would be done with the material? The answer given was 'it is dependent on the particular coal tips and gave examples from different countries, e.g. in France some of them have been made into sculptures. Young People thought this was a good idea.

### **Are the categories easy to understand?**

- Six young people said 'Yes.'
- *One young person needed clarification on one element before agreeing that is they are easy to understand.*

In relation to the clarification, another young person suggested that there should be signs at each coal tip with information about what a coal tip is, the category of the coal tip and what this means. There should also be a QR code, which gives more information for those wanting to know more.

### **Do you think it is a good idea for all of the information to be in one place?**

The young people present all agreed to this and also continued to emphasis the use of QR codes at each coal tip.

Young people also expressed the addition of different resources to help inform and educate the community such as posters that could be place in schools, one young

person mentioned before the session they were unaware of coal tips. Another young person mentioned more images and information is needed to provide adequate warning around Category D/1 tips.

It was also mentioned by young people that a website and QR codes could also be a barrier due to lack of service or digital poverty and literacy. Therefore, further resources such as posters and signage around the pits are needed to ensure relevant information is given before anyone enters a tip.

**WG would like to create a register of people who know how to look after tips. Would you like to learn how to look after a tip?**

All the young people said that the register was a good idea in itself.

Three young people said no.

One young person said they would be very worried about there being a disaster which they were on the job – they would be blamed if this were to happen, especially following Aberfan.

Two young people said unsure/ in the middle. They wanted to reinforce the importance of training even for those who do not do this for a job – maybe for those involved in coal tips but their work is not directly related to it. What do people do in situations where there is waste coming down from a coal tip?

One young person said yes. They want to be fully prepared if something does happen to help reduce the risk of an incident.

**Who do you think should be looking after coal tips?**

Inspectors, landlords, Government, estate owners/business owners, capable people, people with free time, a new group/party [in discussion this YP was referring to the Supervisory Authority]

Landlords, professionals, WG, UK government, local government, real estate owners, volunteers, local community, companies who generate waste, inspectors, nature people.

WG, Local authority, landowners, anyone with an interest - Educated civilians, coal-based professionals, councils/national government.

People with enough knowledge and experience, Specialists for coal tips, designated members of the government, people living near coal tips, responsible patient adults that can deal with these situations.

Coal board, governments, councils, landowners, authorities

**How do you think they should do it?**

“They should check the tips for any changes. Look at weather conditions and how it affects the tip to gain for information for warnings and to prepare. Informing people about what they are, how dangerous that tip is and things to do to help. Put all tips into categories.”

“Getting rid of them.”

“Carrying out regular tests. Monitoring closely. Informing locals of the danger. Knowing when/how to use suitable equipment to help the coal tips”?

“Informing people. Checking on the coal tips regularly. Keeping the area clear”

“Monitoring areas and location. Help with the labour. Usage”

“By looking after them and getting rid of them and educating people on them.”

General discussion – mentioned advertising to ensure people know about coal tips. Targeting parents and schools to ensure that information is passed down to both adults and children.

**What should happen to people who do not follow the rules? - General discussion.**

They should have warnings, to ensure they know, then fines. Multiple chances to go through the system before they go to prison.

YP wanted to reinforce that this system of fines/ prison time should be put into place after education and awareness raising. Make sure that there are signs by the tips and videos for those who cannot read.

**What would you like to see happen in the future with the tips in your area?**

Young people stated that all tips should be removed but were aware that this could take some time. Before the complete removal it is important to ensure they are well monitored and managed this could significantly reduce the risk of an incident. With that said the number of higher risk tips should be reduced, first and young people agreed targets should be in place. And the possibility of low-risk tips not being removed as they are part of the legacy and history of mining in Wales. There should be museums focused on coal tips, or sections about tips in museums about the history and legacy of mining in Wales. It was stated by a youth worker present at the session that colour coded signs could be used to ensure that the signs are easy to understand from a distance how safe or unsafe they are. WG official mentioned in the session that previous projects that have incorporated coal tips into other things without removing them in other countries, e.g., vineyards, mountain bike trails, etc. Young people thought this was a good idea, but that we should again focus on the higher risk tips – make these safe before converting lower risk tips to other uses.

When the Young people were asked if they would like to be kept up to date and further informed on all of them agreed and wanted to know more.

Key messages from young people and those facilitating the online session.

**Do you think coal tips should be monitored and managed?**

Many insights were shared “people deserve to be safe and to not have to worry about landslides, flooding and pollution” (Young Person).

**‘Who do you think should be responsible for doing this?’**

The general consensus was that Welsh Government should be responsible, as well as UK government, local community (with support of LA), and decisions should be passed by owners of land.

**What do you think about Welsh Government's proposal to create a Supervisory Authority.** They would ensure professional people are working to help keep tips safe. How would you like to see this working?'

Participants thought it was a good idea and it is important, and as one young person commented "as long as they're transparent with the local communities and general public" and no coal tip should 'slip through the net.'

**'Do you like the proposed categories for coal tips? Are they easy to understand?'**

Participants felt that this was not very young person friendly and needs to be made clearer – maybe a young person friendly version; include a key to explain the categories.

**'Do you think it is a good idea to have information on coal tips in Wales all in one place? How would you like to see this? How do you think it would help?'**

Participants thought this was a good idea because people can find 'accurate information in one place', but also to make sure that easy read documents should be made available so that everyone understands; include visuals, summaries, audios and videos; also have the information on multiple platforms to make it helpful for "different people have different go-to resources".

**'What do you think should happen to people if they don't follow the rules for keeping coal tips safe?'**

Participants commented that fines should not be the first course of action; rather education should be the focus for example in schools and community centres. Some people who may break the rule may not be aware, so it is important to educate and raise awareness first "A fine seems to be a short-term fix though and not the only option."

**'Welsh Government are looking to create a register of people who know how to look after tips. Would you like to learn how to look after a tip for a job?'**

Participants did not want this role as a job themselves but recognised that others might want to "especially if it's something that directly affects them." One participant commented "it depended on how much support is given from the government."

**'What would you like to see happen in the future with the tips in your area?'**

Many valuable insights were shared here including better handling, long term and local investment, measures to prevent hazards.

**'Are there things we haven't covered which you would like to raise?'**

Participants commented on maybe looking at the social impacts; specific actions WG do to maintain coal tips.

**‘Would you be interested in learning more? How can WG best keep you informed?’**

Participants did want to learn more, and suggested creating a website and use social media, and email chains for information and staying in touch.

On other thoughts, one young person commented on coal mining and identity and the importance of taking into consideration that “coal tips to be part of our heritage and history” so the thoughts of “those affected in areas should be considered when looking at measures” and that people’s wellbeing and safety should be “prioritised above all”.

One young person who lives near a coal tip had a lot to say and took a lot of time to share their insights. They were reassured that they can share as much as they like, as it is important for WG to listen to the views of those directly impacted by living in areas with coal tips. An email will be sent over to the young people so that they can share any further insights that can be passed onto WG.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude young people generally did not know of coal tips in South Wales before attending the session unless they were directly affected. With that, more work is needed to help inform young people and communities around coal tips and informing them of specific categories and risk using signage around coal tips and further resources in schools and communities such as posters and the use of QR codes that can be linked to a single point website.

Many ideas were shared around the management of the coal tips and the WG proposal, the young people were happy with this but signified the importance of transparency with how it is undertaken and managed. There was not a clear consensus of who should be involved specifically however it should be a multi-agency/industry approach including Owners of the tip and the WG.

Young people agreed with the categories and highlighted the importance of the tips being identified clearly so the public are aware and would help prevent any incidents at the coal tips.

It was mentioned that better usage of the coal tips such as the removal of high-risk coal tips to prevent danger to the public. However, they agreed with the idea of reusing the coal tips for different activities such as vineyards, mountain bike trails, etc. like they have done in other countries. They did however, stipulate that the focus should be the removal of high-risk dangerous tips first. Young people agreed targets should be in place and could possibly help when removing high risk coal tips and changing the use of low-risk coal tip.

Over both sessions young people that they would like to be kept informed in the process regarding the coal tips and ‘the coal tip safety White paper,’ and they would like to know more. Young people were asked if they would like to be kept up to date and further informed, however participants felt that the paper is not very young person



friendly and needs to be made clearer – maybe a young person friendly version; include a key to explain the categories.

Multi-generational work is needed to ensure the legacy and history of Coal mining in Wales is kept and shared for generations to come and the young people mentioned coal mining museums or exhibitions in current museums around the coal mines and tips.

This has been a fantastic piece of work that has reached young people where coal tips can and have had an impact on their life whether they are aware or not. And now that they are aware they would like to be further involved.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU  
CHILDREN IN WALES

21 Windsor Place, Cardiff CF10 3BY

**21 Plas Windsor, Caerdydd CF10 3BY**

02920 342 434