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Consultation Document

Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

Date of issue: **6 November 2014**

Action required: Responses by **29 January 2015**

Overview

The Welsh Government is consulting on its Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. The Strategy sets out the Welsh Government's approach to tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of children and young people living in low income households.

How to respond

Please respond to this consultation by completing an on-line form, which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/people-and-communities/revised-child-poverty-strategy/?lang=en>

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

What are the main issues?

The Welsh Government is consulting on a draft Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales.

Tackling poverty remains one of the key priorities of the Welsh Government. Current levels of poverty in Wales are neither acceptable nor inevitable and this revised Child Poverty Strategy reaffirms our aspiration to eradicate child poverty by 2020. We recognise this ambition is extremely challenging, particularly due to the impact and scale of welfare reform and public expenditure cuts, but we remain committed to doing all we can with the levers and budgets we have.

Where are we now?

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 placed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to publish a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – and to set objectives for tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of low income families. Welsh Ministers fulfilled this duty when they published the 2011 Strategy, which covers the period 2011 to 2014. As a result, the Welsh Government is now consulting on a revised Child Poverty Strategy.

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy underlines our commitment to achieve the three strategic objectives / outcomes set out in our 2011 Child Poverty Strategy. These objectives are:

- 1) To reduce the number of families living in workless households.
- 2) To improve the skills of parents/carers and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment.
- 3) To reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

These three objectives reflect the policy levers available to the Welsh Government. More importantly, they also reflect what the evidence tells us around where the Welsh Government can have most impact, in terms of improving the outcomes of low income families.

Key developments

This revised Strategy highlights and strengthens the links with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan – with the Action Plan being the key mechanism for delivering the objectives we have set for tackling child poverty. The revised Strategy also includes a renewed focus on ensuring our strategies, policies, plans and programmes all link together to ensure a consistent and ongoing focus on children and young people. It also includes a focus on five priority areas, these being: food poverty; in-work poverty; childcare; action to mitigate the impacts of welfare reform; and housing and regeneration.

Children's rights are central to our approach. Poverty is a major barrier to children and young people achieving better life outcomes, a principle which is at the heart of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In this revised Strategy, we commit to ensuring children and young people continue to be involved in developing our approach to tackling child poverty in Wales.

Specifically, the revised Child Poverty Strategy reaffirms the following:

- The Welsh Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020. (The Child Poverty Act 2010 set this target for the UK Government.)
- The Welsh Government's commitment to delivering the three strategic objectives of the 2011 Child Poverty Strategy.
- How the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is our main delivery mechanism for taking forward the Welsh Government's commitments and action to tackling child poverty: our Action Plan sets out what we are doing to contribute towards eradicating child poverty in Wales.
- How the intended outcomes of the Child Poverty Strategy fit strategically with other key policies and programmes being delivered by the Welsh Government.
- How action to address tackling child poverty and action to reduce inequalities dovetail – via commitments set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the Strategic Equality Plan.
- How tackling poverty and improving the outcomes of children and young people from low income backgrounds is central to delivering on children's rights.
- The Welsh Government's commitment to take forward a collaborative approach to tackling child poverty – recognising the critical role to be played by Local Authorities, other public bodies covered by the Children and Families (Wales) Measure and the Third Sector.
- The population indicators we will use to measure progress, which are taken from the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Consultation Questions:

We have developed a number of key consultations questions we would like you to consider when you respond. These questions are:

1. Do you agree with our proposal to maintain our ambition to eradicate child poverty by 2020? Yes / No.

Comments:

2. Do you agree with our proposal to continue with our existing three strategic objectives for tackling child poverty? Yes / No.

Comments:

3. Are the policies and programmes underpinning our strategic objectives the right ones? Yes / No.

Comments:

4. Are you content with the collaborative approach we set out for tackling child poverty in Wales? Yes / No.

Comments:

5. Do you agree with the proposals we have set out under next steps? Yes / No.

Comments:

6. Do you agree with the indicators we propose to use to measure progress? Yes / No.

Comments:

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them. Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:



Ministerial Foreword

Tackling poverty remains one of the key priorities of the Welsh Government. Current levels of poverty in Wales are neither acceptable nor inevitable. This revised Child Poverty Strategy reaffirms our ambition to eradicate child poverty by 2020. We recognise this is extremely challenging, particularly due to the impact and scale of welfare reform and public expenditure cuts. However, we remain committed to doing all we can with the levers and budgets Welsh Government has to meet this challenging commitment.

This revised Strategy underlines our commitment to achieve the three strategic objectives set out in our 2011 Child Poverty Strategy. The outcomes underpinning our 2011 Strategy were developed in collaboration and consultation with a range of stakeholders and they remain valid and continue to be supported today. They are based on evidence which informs us how the Welsh Government can have the most impact in tackling child poverty. We are committed to delivering against these outcomes in the longer term, understanding there is no quick fix and it would not be appropriate to change our direction at this stage.

There have been a number of key developments since the publication of our 2011 Strategy. At the time, the impacts of the UK Government's welfare reforms were at an early stage. Furthermore, we have broadened our approach to tackling poverty. Alongside this strategy, we have a Tackling Poverty Action Plan which includes targets and milestones for everyone living in Wales, not just children and young people.

This revised Strategy highlights and strengthens the links with our Tackling Poverty Action Plan, with the Action Plan being the key mechanism for delivering the objectives we have set for tackling child poverty. The revised Strategy also includes a renewed focus on ensuring our strategies, policies, plans and programmes all link together to ensure a consistent and ongoing focus on children and young people. We know many of the levers available to the Welsh Government for tackling poverty are likely to have an impact on improving outcomes in the longer term. This includes action to address health and education inequalities. It is critical, therefore, to also focus on what more we can do to tackle poverty "here and now". As a result, this revised Child Poverty Strategy prioritises five key areas where we commit to doing more. This includes new commitments for tackling food poverty, childcare, in-work poverty, housing and regeneration, and mitigating the impacts of welfare reform.

Children's rights are central to our approach. Poverty is a major barrier to children and young people achieving better life outcomes, a principle which is at the heart of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In this revised Strategy, we commit to ensuring children and young people continue to be involved in developing our approach to tackling child poverty in Wales.

We look forward to hearing your views on the proposals in this revised Strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Introduction

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 placed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to publish a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – and to set objectives for tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of low income families. Welsh Ministers fulfilled this duty when they published the 2011 Strategy, which covers the period 2011 to 2014. As a result, the Welsh Government is now consulting on a revised Child Poverty Strategy.

Three strategic objectives for tackling child poverty in Wales

This revised Strategy reaffirms our commitment to delivering on the three strategic objectives set out in our 2011 Strategy. These objectives are:

- 1) To reduce the number of families living in workless households.
- 2) To improve the skills of parents/carers and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment.
- 3) To reduce inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

These three objectives reflect the policy levers available to the Welsh Government. More importantly, they also reflect what the evidence tells us around where the Welsh Government can have most impact, in terms of improving the outcomes of low income families.

This revised Strategy should not be seen in isolation. Action to address child poverty and deliver on our strategic objectives is being taken forward through our Tackling Poverty Action Plan¹.

Child Poverty in Wales: What the evidence tells us

Child poverty remains stubbornly high. The most recent Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data show for the three year period 2010/11 to 2012/13, an estimated 31 per cent of children in Wales were living in relative poverty (After Housing Costs). The equivalent figure for England is 28 per cent, Scotland 21 per cent and Northern Ireland 24 per cent. The Progress Report on Child Poverty published by the Welsh Government in November 2013 highlights although we are taking important steps to improve outcomes in some areas, significant challenges remain.

Poverty in Wales is affected by factors which lie outside of the control of the Welsh Government. This includes the role of the wider UK (and global) economy and the ongoing recovery from the recent recession. Changes to the tax and benefit system will inevitably have an impact on headline poverty figures and contribute to the scale of the challenge we face. Wales could start to see changes to the headline figures on poverty as the economy continues to recover and the number of people unemployed in Wales continues to fall. However, poverty projections by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) suggest child poverty will continue to increase between 2014-15 and

¹ Building Resilient Communities: Taking Forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en>

2017-18 albeit more slowly than in recent years as more families benefit from the introduction of Universal Credit. In the long-run, UK projections produced by the IFS show the poverty-reducing effect of the introduction of Universal Credit being outweighed by the impact of other reforms, in particular the switch to indexing most working-age benefits to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Real cuts to working-age benefits are a key reason behind rising poverty, explaining at least three-quarters of the predicted increase in child poverty by the end of the decade.² Recent analysis by the IFS on the impact of the UK government's tax and welfare reforms in Wales also suggests it is those households around the poverty line, and particularly those with children, which are expected to see the largest income losses on average, which will negatively impact on levels of child poverty.³

Being in employment provides the most sustainable (though not a guaranteed) route out of poverty and is also highly protective against living in persistent poverty. We know workless households are especially at risk of living in poverty and actions being taken forward as part of the Programme for Government (with its emphasis on jobs and growth for Wales) are essential to delivering on the child poverty agenda in Wales.

However, we also know in-work poverty is a growing issue. Evidence from research funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggests there are now more people living in poverty in Wales who are working, than not working. Analysis of the latest HBAI data shows in the three years ending in 2012/13, around two in every ten children in Wales live in both relative low-income (on an After Housing Costs basis) and in a household where at least one adult works. It is essential we use all available policy levers to ensure households who benefit from accessing training and employment opportunities are not moving from being in out-of-work poverty, to being in in-work poverty. Our 2014 Annual Report on the Tackling Poverty Action Plan includes specific commitments to address the issue in Wales.

Evaluation of the 2011 Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

Evidence from our recent evaluation of the 2011 Strategy suggests the approach we are taking in Wales is likely to make an important contribution to tackling poverty. However, this is likely to be in the longer term. As a result, it is essential we have a Child Poverty Strategy in Wales which continues to look for opportunities to improve the circumstances and outcomes of low income families here and now, as well as opportunities which ensure we prevent children currently growing up in poverty from becoming low income households in the future. For example, we know food poverty is increasing amongst low income households in Wales. It is critical we work collaboratively with a range of different stakeholders to identify opportunities to address this issue. Similarly, we know access to advice services, income maximisation schemes (e.g. Better Advice Better Lives), projects supporting improved financial literacy and affordable lending (e.g. Credit Unions) and initiatives such as the Discretionary Assistance Fund can make an important contribution to mitigating the impacts of living in a low income household.

² Source: Browne, J., Hood, A. and Joyce, R. (2014) Child and working-age poverty in Northern Ireland over the next decade: An Update. <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/7054>

³ Source: Phillips, D. (2014) The distributional effects of the UK Government's tax and welfare reforms in Wales: an update. <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/7258>

The evaluation also suggested the scale of programming is currently not enough to have an impact at the required level, in terms of tackling poverty. It is critical, therefore, we identify more opportunities to enable us to deliver change at the levels needed. For example, our Tackling Poverty Action Plan recognises the role of housing and regeneration, public procurement and a community benefits approach, in terms of generating training and employment opportunities for those living in deprived communities.

We will continue to reflect on the findings of the evaluation – to ensure the policies and programmes we are taking forward to tackle poverty can have maximum impact and maximum benefit for those in need of support. It is essential departments continue to develop and adapt the work they are taking forward, based on the best available evidence, to directly address child poverty.

A Strategic Approach

This revised Strategy does not sit in isolation. Reflecting the cross-cutting nature of the tackling poverty agenda, it is directly related to the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and other strategies and legislation which seek to improve outcomes for people from low income households.

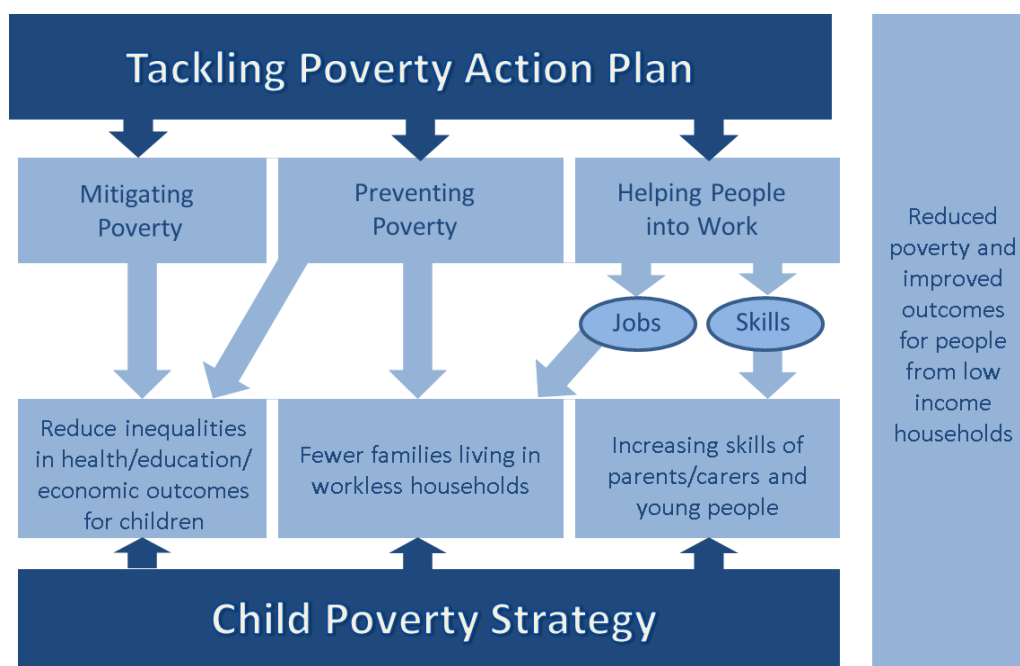
The Tackling Poverty Action Plan

In terms of the levers available to the Welsh Government to tackle child poverty, we know there is much the Welsh Government can do to prevent poverty (for example, by maintaining a strong focus on the early years of a child's life and action to improve educational attainment), to mitigate the impact of poverty (for example, by improving access to essential services), and to help people into work (for example, by increasing skills and supporting young people). For this reason, these key areas are the focus of actions being taken forward under our Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The Action Plan describes how we will tackle child poverty. It has a strong focus on improving the outcomes of children and young people from low income households, with specific targets which are directly linked to the three strategic objectives of our 2011 Strategy. Annex 1 provides a summary of how the commitments included in the Action Plan (and associated targets) contribute to the intended outcomes of this revised Strategy.

Figure 1 sets out how the intended outcomes of the Child Poverty Strategy are linked to the actions being delivered by the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Figure 1: Links between the Child Poverty Strategy and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan



We know we cannot “standstill”. Action to deliver on the key themes of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is kept under continual review, as we strive for the best outcomes for people living in low income households. Departments across the Welsh

Government will continue to work together – to ensure existing and emerging policies and programmes are more targeted to support children and adults in disadvantaged households and communities. In the last 12 months, this has led to new initiatives – which include *Rewriting the future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools* and £20 million for *Schools Challenge Cymru*, the Welsh Government’s flagship school improvement programme.

Progress against the actions set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is reviewed regularly. We are committed to producing an annual progress report. As well as reporting honestly on how we are performing against targets and milestones, the progress reports refresh the agenda by identifying further steps to ensure we are doing all we can to reduce poverty in Wales.

Strategic Fit

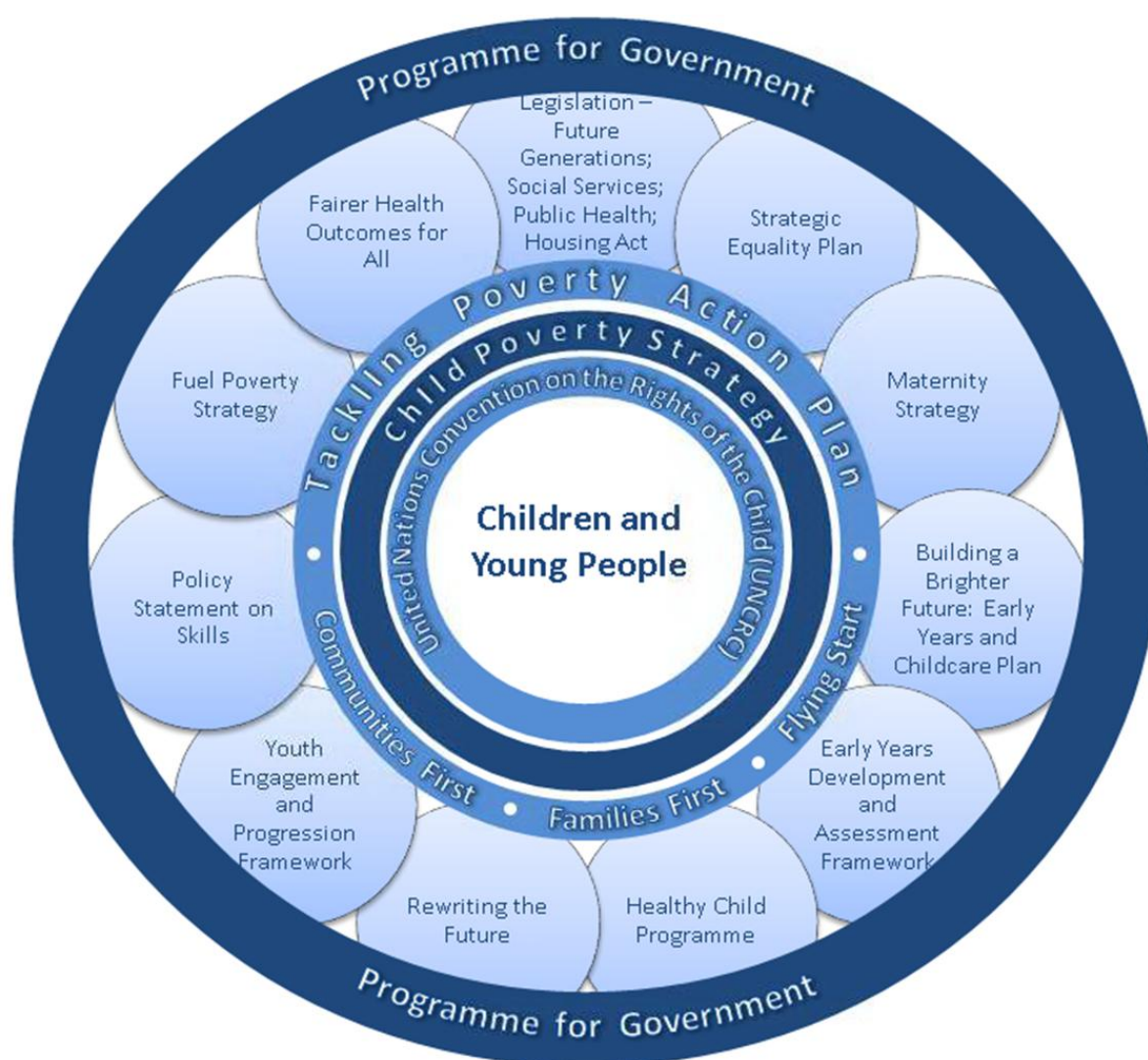
A consideration of children and investing in the early years should be central to the development of policies and programmes across Government. The development of this revised Strategy is an opportunity to strengthen our collective efforts on making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Wales, tackling inequalities and improving prospects in adulthood. We want children and young people to be free from poverty. However, we also want them to be as resilient and capable as possible. Supporting parents to provide a home environment where children and young people are able to learn and thrive is fundamental. Opportunities for children and young people to play contribute to mitigating the negative effects of poverty on children’s lives and help to build their resilience and overall wellbeing. Play can also be a means of reducing inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly recreational provision and those that cannot, so reducing poverty of experience for all children.

We know certain groups of young people are more at risk of living in poverty. This includes care leavers. The Welsh Government’s forthcoming strategy for Looked After Children, which focuses on improving educational outcomes, will help to ensure children who have been looked after are not disadvantaged, when leaving care.

It is also important we do more to link our existing plans and policies with work being taken forward in our disadvantaged communities by our tackling poverty programmes: Communities First, Flying Start and Families First. Work is being taken forward to develop a common outcomes framework for these three main tackling poverty programmes. The Communities First Programme continues to invest in the 52 most deprived communities in Wales, through work being taken forward by Communities First Clusters. Our Flying Start Programme provides a range of early years services for families with children under the age of 4, including free part time high quality childcare, enhanced health visiting and parenting support in deprived communities across Wales. Families First is our key programme for providing preventative services and support for children and families in poverty and supports our Team Around the Family approach. The common outcomes framework will support measuring performance across the three programmes and help to improve alignment and planning.

This revised Strategy sits alongside a number of other key plans, policies and strategy documents, as reflected in Figure 2 below. Further information on these key programmes and a link to relevant publications is provided at Annex 2.

Figure 2: Strategic fit between the Child Poverty Strategy and other Welsh Government Strategies



Tackling Poverty and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Improving the outcomes of children and young people from low income backgrounds is central to delivering on children’s rights in Wales. Article 26 of the UNCRC (children – either through their guardians or directly – have the right to help from the government if they are poor or in need) and Article 27 (children have the right to a standard of living which is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs) are specifically focussed on addressing income poverty and material deprivation. The right for every child to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development is a key element. Governments should provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to food, clothing and housing.

Being in poverty is a fundamental barrier to children and young people accessing their rights and achieving better outcomes. We know children growing up and living in low income households are much more at risk of having poorer health (and mental

health) outcomes, are less likely to reach cognitive and developmental milestones in the early years, have poorer educational attainment, are more likely to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the age of 16 and 24, and more likely to be unemployed and living in poverty as an adult.

Ensuring we have due regard to the UNCRC as we develop policies and programmes to support children and young people will be critical to addressing child poverty and improving outcomes. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure tackling poverty and child poverty are considered in the development of our policies and programmes through the completion of Children's Rights Impact Assessments.

In April 2013, the UNCRC adopted the General Comment on Article 31, covering the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts. This gave more detail to children's right to play and recommends that States should introduce legislation to ensure that all children should be given sufficient time and space to exercise this right.

Wales is the first country in the world to legislate for play and has contributed to the UNCRC General Comment.

An inclusive approach

We know we cannot hope to achieve significant reductions in child poverty without the support of the wider public, private and third sectors, which all have a role to play. We also recognise the importance of engaging with children and young people to seek their views and the need to ensure children's rights and equalities are considered.

Collaborating to tackle child poverty

The Welsh Government remains committed to taking forward a collaborative approach to tackling child poverty, recognising the critical role to be played by Local Authorities and other public bodies named in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. In addition to the requirements of the Measure, we know the third sector and private sector can play a vital role in reducing child poverty.

It is important Local Authorities and the wider public sector consider this revised Strategy when reviewing their own Child Poverty Strategies and objectives. This approach will build on the unique situation in Wales where the Welsh Government, Local Authorities and other public bodies are working to the same objectives to eradicate child poverty.

We recognise Local Authority Anti Poverty Champions are key partners in driving forward the child poverty agenda at a local level. The Welsh Government will continue to support this network of champions through Tackling Poverty Regional Events, which will focus on collaborative working to deliver better outcomes for those living in low income households.

The Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group (TPEAG) and the work they are taking forward will continue to inform our approach to tackling poverty and child poverty. Most recently, this has included advice and recommendations relating to the economy, tackling in-work poverty and the delivery of our key tackling poverty programmes.

We will also continue to engage with external organisations working directly with children and families through the End Child Poverty Network (ECPN) Cymru. Coordinated by Children in Wales, the ECPN includes representation from across the Third and statutory sectors. Members work to ensure policies are in place at all levels of Government which contribute to eradicating child poverty in Wales.

Ongoing engagement with children and young people

Consulting, listening and acting on the views of children and young people is essential and this revised Strategy includes a commitment to involve the participation of young people in the development of policies and programmes to deliver the targets in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

As a result of the full implementation of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, children and young people's views should be considered in legislation, policies and Ministerial decisions across the government to further implement children's rights. This reflects our commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 12 – which states “children have

the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions which affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account”.

Ensuring children have an active voice and can participate in the working of government is a key theme in the new Children and Families Delivery Grant, resulting in national visible mechanisms to hear the views of children and young people which will in turn influence the workings of Government.

Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities

Action to tackle child poverty and action to reduce inequalities complement each other – via commitments set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the Strategic Equality Plan.

Supporting groups with certain protected characteristics who are at greater risk of living in low income households is essential, in order to ensure they are not “left behind” when it comes to the tackling poverty agenda. We also know certain ethnic minority groups, disabled people, families with disabled children, lone parents (who are predominantly women), and younger people who are not in employment, education and training are more likely to be living in low income households. In particular, disabled people are disproportionately represented in both economically inactive and workless households. There is also evidence to suggest working-age disabled households, and particularly those on low incomes, will see significantly greater income losses on average than working-age non-disabled households as a result of the UK government’s tax and welfare reforms.⁴

It is unlikely we will eradicate poverty in Wales unless we aim to do more to support disabled people to achieve better outcomes and progress in the labour market. Equality is a Cross Cutting Theme in all key European Structural and Investment Funding Programmes and provides an opportunity to target and support those furthest from the labour market with specific action.

It is critical we continue to identify opportunities to “dovetail” the Welsh Government’s Strategic Equality Plan with the objectives in this revised Strategy and our Tackling Poverty Action Plan, and support those children and families with certain protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. We will ensure tackling poverty and child poverty are considered in the development of our policies and programmes Children’s Rights Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments. We will work to develop an integrated approach to assessing impact, where poverty and equality are considered together. This will support and enable Departments to consider impacts in terms of those most at risk of living in poverty and achieving poorer outcomes, as well as impacts for children and young people. It will also support a greater emphasis on monitoring the outcomes of those groups at risk of living in poverty and those with protected characteristics, on an ongoing basis.

⁴ Reed, H. and Portes, J. (2014) Cumulative Impact Assessment: A Research Report by Landman Economics and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) for the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Equality and Human Rights Commission Research Report 94. Phillips, D. (2014) The distributional effects of the UK Government’s tax and welfare reforms in Wales: an update. <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/7258>

Action to tackle child poverty: Next steps

As stated earlier, the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is the delivery mechanism for the objectives of this revised Strategy. Our Annual Report on the Tackling Poverty Action Plan published in July 2014, sets out progress made to date and other important developments.⁵ Under the three key themes of preventing poverty, helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty, a range of actions are being taken forward which will contribute to reducing child poverty. Specifically, we will continue to invest in the preventative agenda and the early years of a child's life.

Key policies and programmes contributing actions for tackling child poverty (contained within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan) include:

- Doubling the number of children benefitting from our Flying Start Programme to 36,000.
- Reviewing the formula used to distribute resources to health boards by Welsh Government to ensure allocation reflects need.
- Raising educational attainment amongst pupils eligible for Free School Meals through Rewriting the Future and Schools Challenge Cymru.
- Supporting young people into employment, education and training through our Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- Using European funding (for example – the European Social Fund) to target youth unemployment and attainment.
- Reducing the number of children living in workless households through programmes such as *Lift*, *Communities First* and *Families First*.
- Implementing the *Skills Implementation Plan*. This focuses on the policy actions from now until 2016 working with employers, unions and delivery partners. These are part of the longer-term reform required to secure a resilient and sustainable skills system for Wales.

Further information on specific policies and programmes being taken forward as part of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan can be found in Annex 1.

We know eradicating child poverty by 2020 is likely to be extremely challenging, particularly within the context of welfare reform and reducing budgets. Nonetheless, it is important to maintain this ambition in order to focus and strengthen our efforts to improve outcomes. In addition to the actions set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, this revised Strategy also prioritises five key areas where we commit to doing more to support children and young people living in low income households and mitigate the impacts of living in poverty. These five areas are:

⁵ Tackling Forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan Annual Report 2014:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en>

- Food Poverty
- Childcare
- In work poverty
- Action to mitigate the impact of welfare reform
- Housing and regeneration

1. Food poverty

Food poverty can be defined as an inability to afford or have access to food which provides a healthy diet. Evidence suggests food poverty is rising in Wales, including for those families who are working. Food poverty is an issue which is underpinned by a number of different factors, including affordability, awareness (related to education, information and skills) and access or availability.

The drivers of food poverty are low incomes and high and rising food prices, resulting in pressure on household budgets and the inability to afford (or to have access) to quality food to attain adequate nourishment. More recently, there are increasing reports of children and young people going hungry, particularly during school holidays, when they are no longer in receipt of Free School Meals. Conversely, there are also links between poor nutrition and childhood obesity, which is a significant problem in Wales.

To address food poverty in Wales, we will:

- Identify sustainable solutions to food poverty, as well as opportunities for collaborative working and addressing gaps in policy and implementation. This will include linking with work being taken forward to address the impact of welfare reform.
- Work with a range of external stakeholders and organisations which are already making a vital contribution to this agenda, with the view to developing a coherent and joined up approach to tackling and preventing food poverty amongst families with children.
- Develop a set of population indicators on food poverty to assess whether we are delivering change and achieving better outcomes.

2. Childcare

The availability of affordable and accessible childcare is essential to tackling child poverty, as we know families who are not working are more at risk of living in poverty and are especially vulnerable to persistent poverty. We know the affordability of childcare is a real barrier to parents and carers who want to take up training or employment opportunities. We also know there are issues of accessibility in parts of Wales, and gaps in provision, particularly childcare provision which wraps around the school day or in school holidays.

To provide affordable and accessible childcare in Wales, we will:

- Consider how existing resources can be best used to support families in accessing childcare which enables them to train or work.
- Work with key partners, including CSSIW, the WLGA, Local Authorities and the childcare sector, to consider innovative solutions which will help improve accessibility and availability of childcare provision.
- Consider options to best support families in affording childcare, with the view to supporting parents and second earners into work, as we know workless and part-working households are particularly at risk of living in poverty.
- Progress actions around childcare included in the Building a Brighter Future: Our Early Years and Childcare Plan.
- Implement the 10 Year Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Plan. High-quality early education and childcare makes a difference to children's outcomes, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

3. In-work poverty

Work provides the most sustainable route out of poverty. However, we know in-work poverty is a growing issue in Wales and can have significant implications for children in these households. In-work poverty is influenced by a range of different factors, including hourly wage rates, the number of hours worked and whether all adults in the household are working. Unearned income is also important, which includes tax credits / social security benefits. Amongst the levers available to the Welsh Government, supporting people into full time employment opportunities, supporting second earners into work, providing accessible and affordable childcare, increasing skills and mitigating the impacts of in-work poverty (for example, through initiatives such as Free Breakfasts, Council Tax Reduction and subsidised travel) will all be important.

To address in-work poverty, we will:

- Use European Social Funding for 2014-20 to support workforce progression, including through the proportion of the employed workforce with intermediate skills or above, and helping people into sustainable employment.
- Progress actions identified in the Policy Statement on Skills, which sets out our vision for employment and skills policy in Wales and the action needed by all stakeholders to develop a resilient, responsive and sustainable post-19 skills system.
- Encourage employers in the private, public and Third sectors to consider becoming Living Wage employers.
- Undertake further assessment of the characteristics of in-work poverty in Wales, to inform our approach to tackling in-work poverty in Wales.

4. Action to mitigate the impacts of welfare reforms

We recognise we do not hold all of the levers for tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of low income households. The impacts of welfare reform in Wales are

particularly acute for children and families living below the poverty line. Action to mitigate these impacts is critical. Despite differing standpoints on aspects of welfare reform and the wider agenda, we nonetheless recognise the importance of working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to maximise opportunities and deliver better outcomes.

To mitigate the impacts of welfare reform, we will:

- Work with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) through the Improvement Grant to support action to help people in Wales prepare for the changes being introduced by the UK Government. Supporting Local Authorities to prepare for the implementation of Universal Credit is one area of Welfare Reform the Grant covers.
- Support front-line advice services so they can provide advice on issues relating to debt, welfare benefits, housing, money management and discrimination advice. The Welsh Government has committed an additional £2 million to support front-line advice services in 2014-15 with the aim of maintaining such levels in 2015-16, subject to future budget considerations and other funding pressures.
- Ensure the effective delivery of the Discretionary Assistance Fund, which provides support for those who may find themselves in a crisis or emergency situation.
- Provide access to affordable finance through our funding for Credit Unions in Wales to ensure they continue to provide services to those who are financially excluded. To support this, the Welsh Government has committed £1.9 million of funding to Credit Unions until March 2017.
- Undertake work to develop solutions which will continue to focus passported benefits on those most in need. Recognising the importance of passported benefits to individuals and families, the Welsh Government has put arrangements in place to help ensure no one is disadvantaged by virtue of a claim to Universal Credit.
- Work with the DWP on the development of its Universal Support Delivered Locally, testing approaches which will help inform the development of assistance for those who need support to make and manage a claim to Universal Credit.
- Work with the DWP to identify opportunities for more joined up delivery. This includes the development of referral arrangements for Jobcentres in Wales to identify young people who could benefit from advocacy services and make referrals as appropriate.
- Work to mitigate the adverse impacts of the welfare reforms and maximise the outcomes for disabled people and those with health conditions in Wales.
- Challenge the UK Government on those aspects which are expected to have an adverse impact on individuals, families and communities across Wales.
- Escalate welfare issues with the DWP. Work with officials in the DWP to help improve benefit decision making and maximise the outcomes, including job outcomes, for people in Wales.

5. Housing and regeneration:

Housing and regeneration plays a critical role in supporting young people and low income families to achieve better outcomes. Living in poor quality housing can be detrimental to children and young people's health and wellbeing, with effects lasting into adulthood. In particular, the physical quality of the home is key to children's life chances and will affect their ability to study and thrive. Community space and facilities and opportunities to support play are also vital, particularly for children young people. Huge improvements have been made in recent years to the quality of the housing stock in Wales, through the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Families living in temporary accommodation and those who are homeless are less likely to access important support services. Homelessness too can have a significant negative impact on the children in households affecting their development and educational attainment. Furthermore, having a settled and secure home is important for parents. Without this, they are less likely to secure training and long term employment opportunities, which in turn affect their income. They are therefore more at risk of living in poverty.

Local Authorities which have retained their housing stock and housing associations have a vital role to play around broader efforts to tackle poverty. In some areas, as much as 70 per cent of households living in social housing are in receipt of benefits. Partners such as Registered Social Landlords are well placed to understand the issues low income families face and the support they need.

To tackle child poverty, we will:

- Work with social landlords to identify new opportunities to improve the outcomes of low income families. Their role is to provide homes and support tenants, in ways which maximise investment and opportunities within local communities.
- Create jobs and training opportunities in local communities and most importantly create and secure good quality homes for families by delivering 10,000 additional affordable homes. Continue to work with the housing sector to innovate and increase the supply of affordable homes across Wales providing a safe environment for children in Wales.
- Raise housing quality through the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Enforce action through the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 if it looks like the 2020 deadline for all 221,000 existing homes to meet WHQS will not be met.
- Require landlords to use a community benefits approach to letting contracts, ensuring the huge investment in people's homes will also provide job and training opportunities for local people and communities, with particular emphasis on those furthest from the labour market. Planned investment in the stock over the next 5 years is estimated at £2.5billion with £540million provided by Welsh Government, which provides us with a huge opportunity to improve outcomes..
- Ensure the Community Benefits "Delivering Maximum Value for the Welsh Pound-2014" Guidance measurement tools are completed for any project over £2million, to align with the Wales Procurement Policy Statement.

- Provide vital services and support to help families through the Supporting People programme, with a focus on young people aged 16-24 at risk of homelessness, care leavers and families with support needs.
- Tackle homelessness through the Welsh Government's Homelessness Prevention Programme, at the heart of which is the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The new legislation will come into force in April 2015 and will place an obligation on Local Authorities to prevent homelessness and the negative effects associated with it..
- Contribute to the regeneration of communities in Wales through the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme and its Tackling Poverty Fund, where seven local authorities have £1 million each over three years for regeneration investments focused on tackling poverty.

Legislative Opportunities

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:

This puts a duty on local authorities to promote well-being for people who need care and support, and carers who need support. A new national outcomes framework describes aspects of well-being which relate to all areas of an individual's life. This includes aspects such as education, training, recreation and social and economic well-being – which link directly to improving health outcomes and reducing poverty. It will evidence the contribution organisations make in supporting people to achieve their well-being outcomes, ensuring clear accountability for delivery.

Children and Families (Wales) 2010 Measure – Commencement second part Section 11 Play Opportunities, July 2014:

The commencement of the second part of this section of the Measure, places a duty on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. The commencement was accompanied by the publication of Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities – *Wales: a Play Friendly Country*. This includes securing play opportunities for children with diverse needs, including those living in poverty and disabled children.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Bill:

This proposes to set ambitious, long-term goals to reflect the Wales we want to see in the future. These proposed goals are for a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales – with cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. By achieving these goals, it will help children to reach their full potential by giving them the best start in life, and in turn leave a better legacy for our children and grandchildren. It will require a joint effort and better collaboration between the public, private and third sectors, working together to tackle the big challenges we all face: climate change, jobs and growth, skills, health inequalities and tackling poverty. The Bill also puts Local Service Boards and Well-being Plans on a statutory basis and simplifies requirements for integrated community planning. These developments will be critical to delivering an outcomes based approach to tackling poverty and child poverty at a local level.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014:

Housing plays an integral part of daily life for every person in Wales. It is an important influence on our health, education prospects, employability and leisure activities, as well as affecting our communities. The Act will help us make a difference to people and communities throughout Wales.

The Act will, amongst other things, improve the private rented sector, which is becoming a more common housing option for families. It will introduced new legislation on homelessness, which will see a much greater emphasis on preventing it in the first place and it will result in more action to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities which in turn will improve their access to health and education.

Public Health (Wales) Bill:

A Public Health White Paper was published for consultation between 2 April and 24 June 2014. This outlined a series of legislative proposals to address specific public health concerns. The White Paper attracted a significant level of interest, both from inside and outside Wales. The proposals sit alongside the overarching approach to legislation being taken forward through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill by taking practical actions in specific public health policy areas. The main proposals include improving health over the life course through proposals to address the important public health issues of tobacco, alcohol misuse and obesity; and to build community assets for health through proposals to strengthen the role of Local Health Boards when planning and delivering pharmaceutical services.

Reporting on progress and key population indicators on child poverty in Wales

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 requires Welsh Ministers to report on progress in relation to tackling child poverty every three years. The first Child Poverty Strategy Progress Report was published in November 2013, and so our next Progress Report is due in 2016.

The population indicators we will use to measure progress against the outcomes underpinning this revised Strategy are taken from the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the Programme for Government. We have committed to reporting on these annually (where data are available).

CHILD POVERTY POPULATION INDICATORS

- % of children living in relative income poverty (AHC).
- % of children living in workless households.
- % of working age adults with no qualifications
- % of 7 year old pupils eligible for Free School Meals achieving the expected level at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- % of pupils eligible for Free Schools Meals who achieve the Level 2 threshold including English / Welsh and Maths at Key Stage 4.
- % of young people aged 16-18 who are NEET.
- % of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET.
- % of babies (live births) born with a low birth weight (defined as under 2,500 grams) in the most deprived fifth of the population.
- Mean number of decayed, missing or filled teeth (DMFT) in children age 5 and age 12.
- WELLBEING INDICATORS: % of children living in material deprivation (using data from the National Survey for Wales) – plus indicator on wellbeing using the data from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey.
- Data Development Need: Percentage of children living in low income households reaching health, social and cognitive development milestones when entering formal education.

Where data are available, we will look to disaggregate these by protected characteristics to further explore the relationship between tackling inequalities and tackling poverty.

The Tackling Poverty Implementation Board oversees delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the policies and programmes which contribute towards delivering these population outcomes. A key role of the Implementation Board is holding different departments to account for the actions underpinning the Plan. Departments are responsible for reporting on progress – with performance measures in place to monitor whether children and families are “better off” as a result of the support and intervention they have received.

The Welsh Government will continue to report on the performance of individual policies and programmes as part of the Programme for Government and the Annual Report on the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, thereby ensuring a specific (and ongoing) focus on delivering better outcomes for children and young people living in poverty.

ANNEX 1: How the Tackling Poverty Action Plan supports the delivery of outcomes underpinning the 2015 Child Poverty Strategy

Actions being taken forward as part of our Tackling Poverty Action Plan which will make a direct contribution to tackling child poverty include:

Preventing poverty

- Expand the Flying Start Programme to reach 36,000 children and focus on progress towards more children exceeding their developmental milestones.
- Develop the Early Years Development and Assessment Framework. This aims to provide a common assessment framework which can be used by all early years services to both assess children's developmental progression at appropriate points and to chart their progression from birth through to the end of the Foundation Phase.
- Break the link between poverty and educational attainment through implementing commitments in *Rewriting the future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools*.
- Raise awareness in schools of the new guidance for inspectors – which includes a focus on how well pupils from low income households are supported and how effectively resources (including targeted grants) are used for this purpose.
- Take forward the Welsh Government's strategic action plan for reducing health inequalities *Fairer Health Outcomes for All* – including action to tackle higher levels of childhood obesity in our most disadvantaged communities.
- Reduce the number of babies born with a low birth weight by supporting expectant mothers to change health behaviours e.g. smoking cessation, physical activity, healthy eating.
- Monitor population health and wellbeing outcomes through the National Outcome Frameworks for the NHS and Social Services. The inverse care law suggests those in greater need have the poorest access to healthcare services. Our principles for prudent healthcare expect healthcare services to promote equity and to plan and provide healthcare which is proportionate to need. Health boards, through their community level mechanisms for planning and providing local healthcare services, are required to assess local population health and wellbeing need and to set out specific goals and actions to narrow the gap in health outcomes between the most and least deprived communities in their 3 year Integrated Medium Term Plans.
- Consider findings from the Independent Review of the National Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales, being taken forward by Professor Graham Donaldson. The remit of this review is to articulate a clear, coherent vision for education in Wales from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 (KS4). In formulating his recommendations Professor Donaldson has been asked to take into account our stated educational priorities, including reducing the impact of poverty of educational attainment. Professor Donaldson will report his findings to the Minister for Education and Skills at the turn of the year.

Helping people into work

- Help people into sustainable employment through direct support to business; facilitate private sector jobs growth by improving the overall business

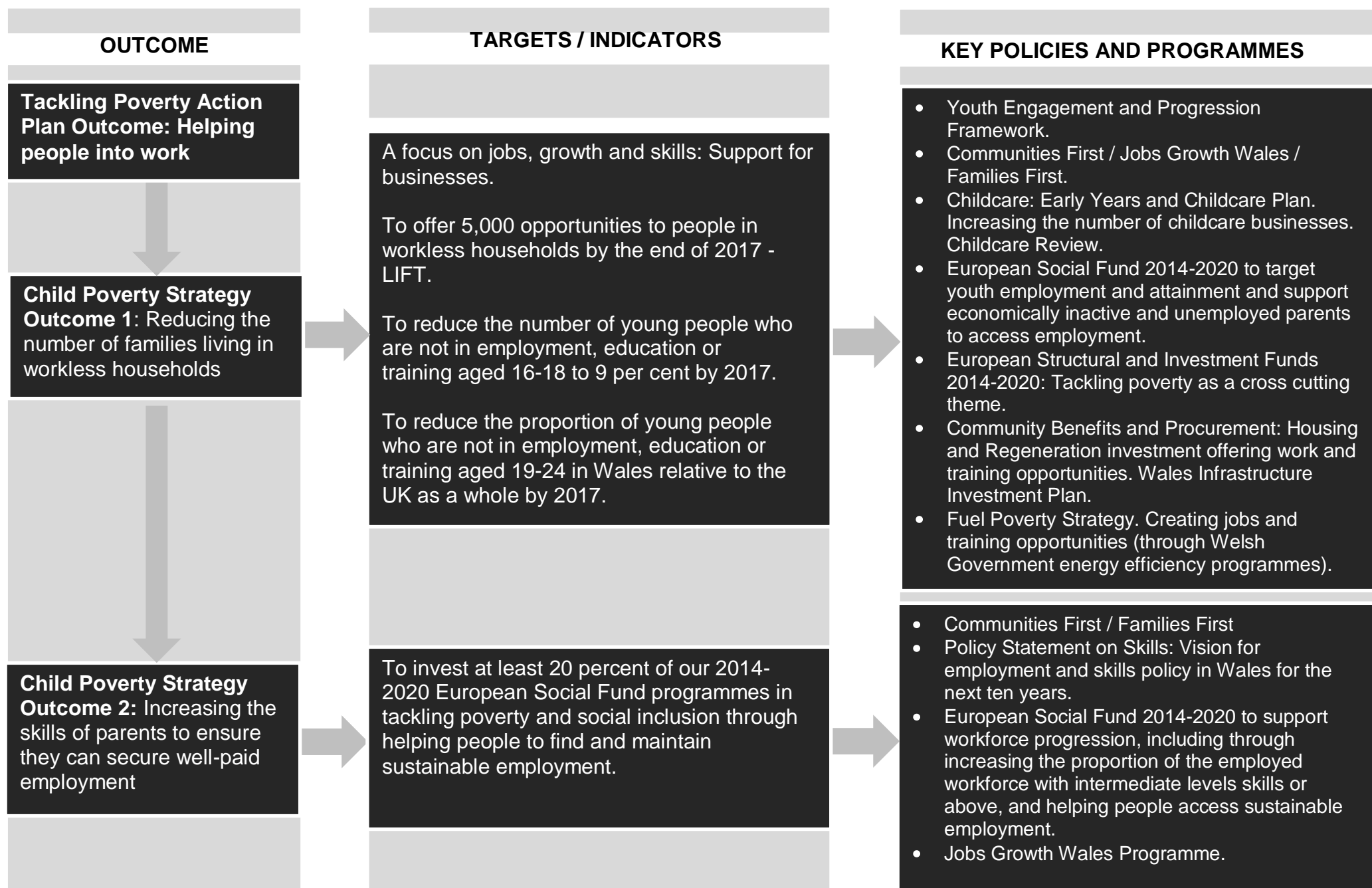
environment: and help create the conditions and framework for the private sector to flourish.

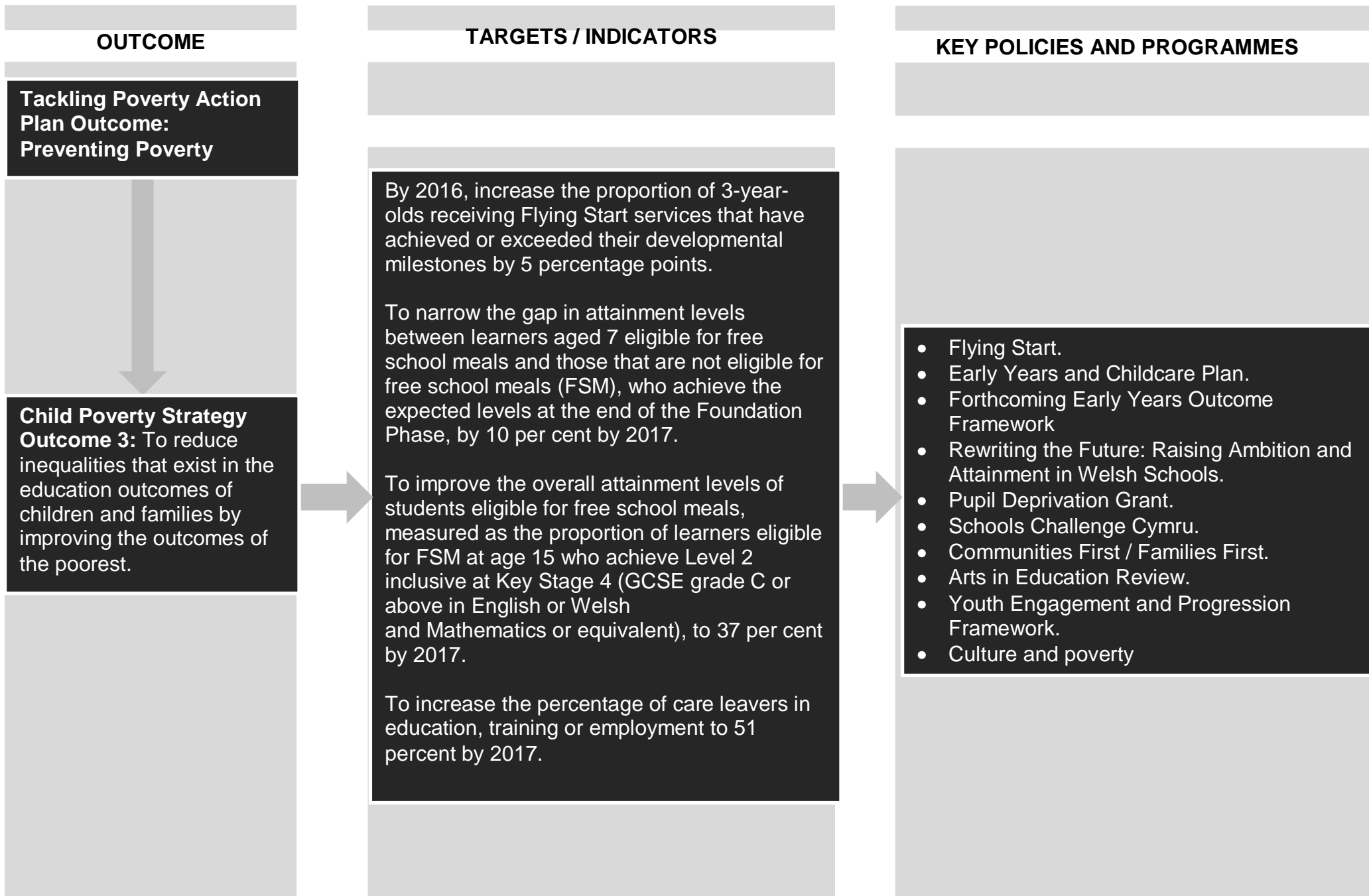
- Implement the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- Provide an additional £10 million to deliver around 5,000 new apprenticeships over the coming two years.
- Use European funding to target youth unemployment and attainment.
- Reduce the number of children living in workless households through programmes such as Lift, Communities First and Families First.
- Implement the Skills Implementation Plan, which focuses on the policy actions from now until 2016 working with employers, unions and delivery partners. These are part of the longer-term reform required to secure a resilient and sustainable skills system for Wales.

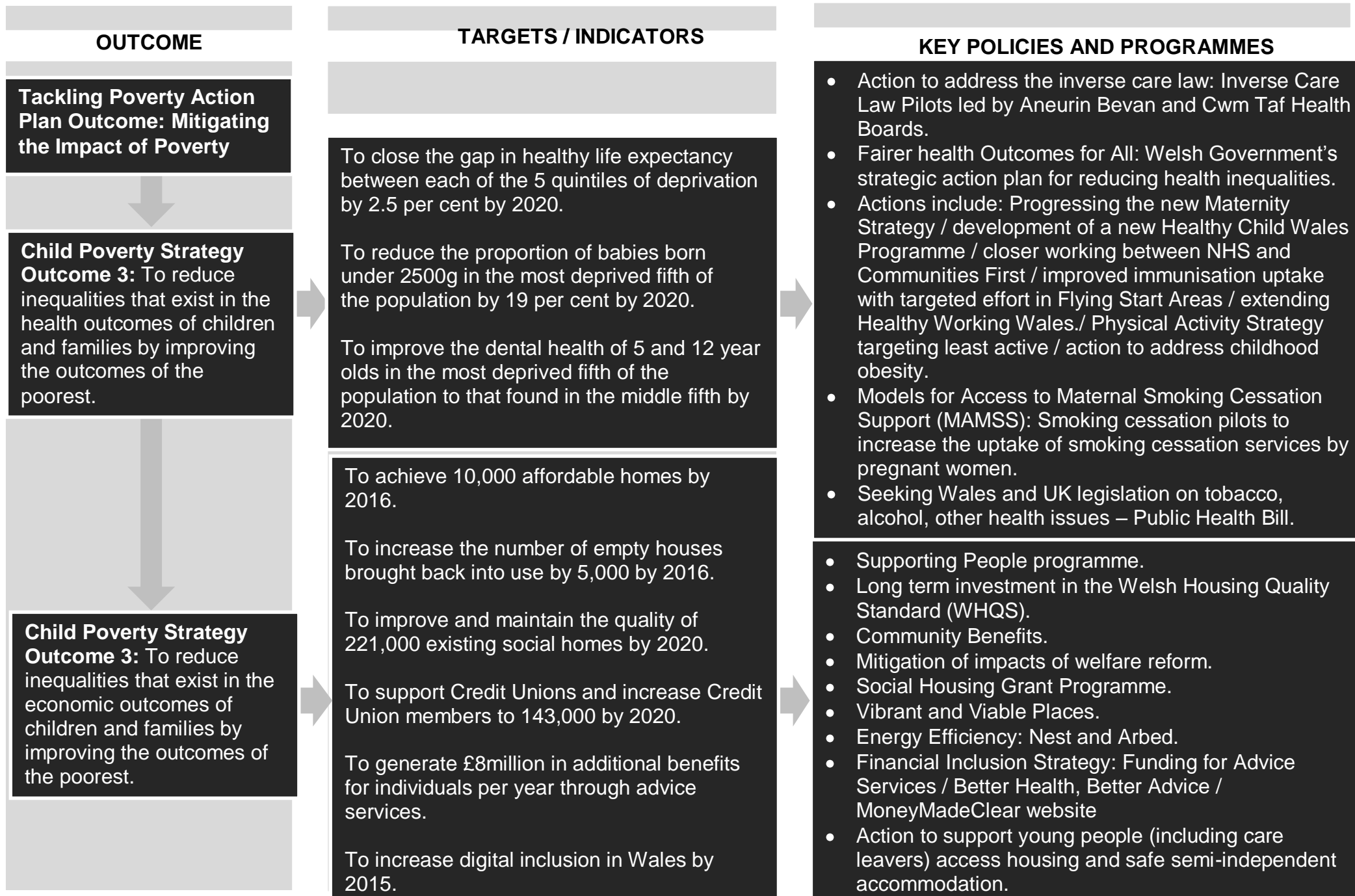
Mitigating the impact of poverty

- Review the formula used to distribute resources to health boards by Welsh Government to ensure allocation reflects need. Each health board is currently working on implementing their integrated three year plans and developing local plans.
- Tackle fuel poverty through our energy efficiency programmes, Nest and Arbed 2 ERDF.
- Ensure all funding allocations issued through the Rural Development Plan 2014-20 will consider poverty and social exclusion by including this as a Cross Cutting Theme across the whole programme.
- Undertake a review of evidence around interventions which are successful in tackling poverty in rural communities.
- Take forward the delivery plan for implementing the Culture and Poverty Report, in autumn 2014. In 2013 the Welsh Government commissioned Baroness Kay Andrew to carry out a review and make recommendations. Her report, Culture and Poverty was published in March 2014. The report identifies a number of issues and makes practical recommendations, including the need to underpin key national priorities such as literacy and numeracy. Our cultural institutions can play a vital role in contributing to tackling poverty. Museums, libraries, archives, historic monuments and arts organisations are key resources which can inspire people to learn and gain skills. They can help individuals and communities develop confidence and a sense of identity. All our communities should benefit from the great cultural strengths of Wales, building interest, appreciation and participation. The question of how best to address this in a strategic way is not one which has been asked in any other UK country.
- Introduce a new Youth Concessionary Fare Scheme to support young people to access opportunities for work, education, training and apprenticeships. A new discounted scheme for 16 and 17 year olds will start from September 2015, with £5million being invested in 2015-16 and £9.75million in 2016-17.
- Monitoring and feedback on Local Authorities Progress Reports on the Play Action Plans 2013-2014, the Annual Play Action Plans 2014. Progress to date has been monitored and areas of improvement identified.
- In October 2014, the “Sustainable Play Project” was awarded £1,410,028 under the Welsh Government Children and Families Delivery Grant. This is to increase and enhance the accessibility and quality of children’s outdoor play experiences. The project will concentrate on areas suffering from high levels of deprivation and for children with disabilities.

Child Poverty Strategy outcomes, relevant targets in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, and key policies and programmes







ANNEX 2: Key Policies and Programmes – additional information

Programme for Government: The Programme for Government is the Welsh Government's plan of action. It represents a real commitment to delivery, measured by the impact government is actually having on people's lives.

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/about?lang=en>

Communities First: Communities First is our community focussed tackling poverty programme. The programme provides funding for our most deprived communities, known as Communities First Clusters to narrow the economic, education/skills and health gaps between our most deprived and more affluent areas. It has three strategic objectives helping to achieve these outcomes, Prosperous Communities, Learning Communities and Healthier Communities. The programme has 52 Communities First Clusters which between them work with all of the communities which are eligible for inclusion in the programme.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/regeneration/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>

Families First: Families First provides funding to local authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Each local authority has developed a Families First Action Plan which sets out how they will implement Families First locally. We want Families First to help: working age people in low income families gain, and progress within employment; for children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, to achieve their potential; for children, young people and families to be healthy, safe and enjoy well-being; and for families to be confident, nurturing, and resilient.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/?lang=en>

Flying Start: Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years of age in some of the most deprived areas of Wales. The core elements of the programme are drawn from a range of options which have been shown to influence positive outcomes for children and their families. These include free high quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds, an enhanced Health Visiting service, access to Parenting Programmes and Early Language Development. This programme is universally available to all eligible children and their families in the areas in which it runs.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/flyingstart/?lang=en>

Strategic Equality Plan (2012): The Strategic Equality Plan highlights how the Government is fulfilling the general duty in the Equality Act 2010 and the Wales specific equality duties. The Plan is based on eight key Equality Objectives which have been developed following extensive engagement.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/equalityactatwork/?lang=en>

Supporting People Programme: The Supporting People Programme helps the most vulnerable in our society to live as independently as possible.. It provides support to help people to live as independently as possible live in their own homes, hostels, in supported housing and in other specialist housing. Helping people to manage their accommodation and to manage their income are part of a wide range of support delivered. At its heart is preventative and early intervention, which helps to reduce demands on other services such as health, community safety and social services. Funding for the programme is distributed vial local authorities working in Regional Collaborative Committees to assess and meet local need. Case studies on the Supporting People programme can be accessed via this link below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/supporting-people/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/supporting-people/case-studies/?lang=en>

Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan (2013): The Early years and Childcare Plan brings programmes and policies together in a more joined-up and coordinated way to support children and their families across the early years. Launched in July 2013, the Plan sets out an agreed course of objectives to improve our early years and childcare provision over the next 10 years. The main themes in the Plan are children's health and well-being; supporting families and parents; high-quality early education and childcare; effective primary education; and raising standards.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/building-a-brighter-future-early-years-and-childcare-plan/?lang=en>

Rewriting the future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools (2014): Schools, working with their partners, urgently need to break down the barriers faced by learners from deprived backgrounds by acting as the central focus for interventions and support. Rewriting the future shows what schools need to do, why deprivation matters and the evidence base for the four main themes of the strategy which are: Family and Community Engagement; the Early Years; High Quality Learning and Teaching; and High Expectations and Aspirations.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/rewriting-the-future-schools/?lang=en>

Fairer Health Outcomes For All (FHOFA) – Reducing Inequities in Health Strategic Action Plan (2011): A key action of Our Healthy Future was to develop a Reducing Inequities in Health Strategic Action Plan. The FHOFO Plan is about putting in place the building blocks to support a long term and systematic approach and joint working with our citizens and partners to achieve greater equity in health.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/reports/fairer/?lang=en>

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill (2014): This Bill proposes to strengthen existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

<http://wales.gov.uk/legislation/programme/assemblybills/future-generations/?lang=en>

Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (2013): The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework aims to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) over a 2 year period.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en>

Policy Statement on Skills (2014): The Policy Statement on Skills sets out future policy actions which will enable Wales to evolve into a highly skilled nation. It is focused on employment and skills and covers four priority areas: skills for jobs and growth; skills which respond to local needs; skills which employers value; and skills for employment.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en>

Fuel Poverty Strategy (2010): The Fuel Poverty Strategy sets out the actions Welsh Government intend to take to reduce fuel poverty in Wales. This includes the delivery of the demand-led fuel poverty scheme Nest. This targets fuel poor households, and offers more measures to help households living in off-gas, hard to treat homes.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/fuelpoverty/strategy/?lang=en>

Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales (2011): The Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales document sets out the Welsh Government expectations of NHS Wales in delivering safe, sustainable and high quality maternity services in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/strategies/maternity/?lang=en>