

Hello

Poverty can stop people having happy, healthy lives.

Poverty – not having enough money to buy food, clothing and a safe place to live.

It can mean people miss out on opportunities others enjoy.

It can stop children doing well in school or getting an education.

It can mean people have more illnesses or bad health.



The Welsh Government wants to tackle poverty across Wales. So, in 2013 we developed the **Building Resilient Communities: Taking Forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan**.

Each year we report on how well we are doing. This is our 2015 report.

The report shows that we have achieved, or are progressing well to achieve, some targets set in our Action Plan. It also shows the areas where we need to do more.

Some things we can't do!

Some of the cutbacks from the UK Government make tackling poverty even harder.

Working together:

We can't do it on our own – this is why it's important all parts of Welsh Government and our partners work together to achieve results.

Our plan fits in with other Welsh Government plans like:

- **The new Strategic Equality Plan for 2016** – this will help tackle problems some groups of people face from poverty and inequality.
- **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** – sets out our goals for a healthier, stronger Wales with happy communities where everyone is treated fairly and equally.
- **The Community Benefits Policy** – helps to make sure the projects we fund bring jobs and benefit the people of Wales.



Early Years

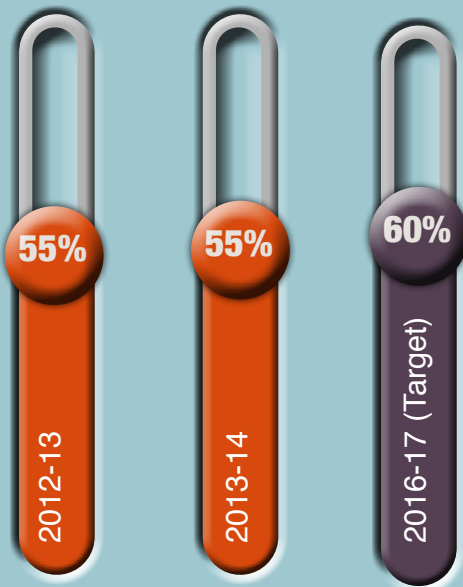
We want every child to do well and have opportunities. Helping children when they are young can make a real difference.

The target – by 2016 we want to:

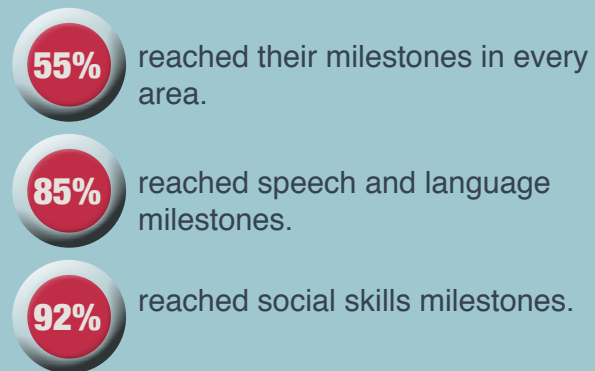
- see more 3 year olds getting the support they need through our Flying Start services.

Where we are now

The graph shows the percentage of Flying Start children that reached their development milestones at age 3.



Flying Start 3 year olds in 2013-14



Key programmes/policies – things we do

- **Early Years and Childcare Plan** – sets out how we will give young children a better start in life and improve childcare over the next 10 years.
- **Flying Start** – supports children so they have the best start in life.
- **Families First** – supports families which face problems because of poverty and helps them achieve their potential.
- **Pupil Deprivation Grant for Under 5's** – we have a new £300 grant per child for schools and other settings that helps support learning for 3 and 4 year olds in poverty.



Education

We want all children and young people to do well in school. Children living in poverty don't tend to do as well as children not in poverty we call this an attainment gap so we want to support those children to do better.

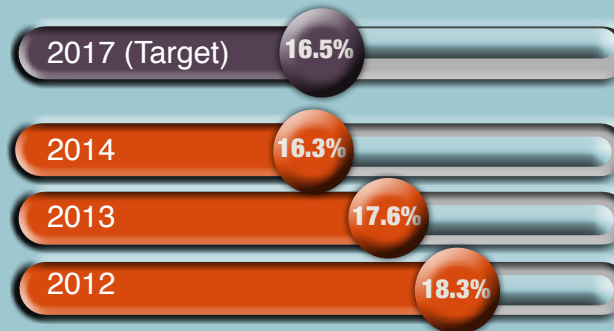
We use the number of children who get free school meals to help us know how many face poverty.

The Target – by 2017 we want to:

- close the attainment gap between 7 year olds who get free school meals and those who don't to 16.5%

Where we are now

The graph shows the percentage gap of those children age 7 who get free school meals and achieve their expected levels, and those children who don't. We have already reached the target we set to close the attainment gap to 16.5% ahead of time.

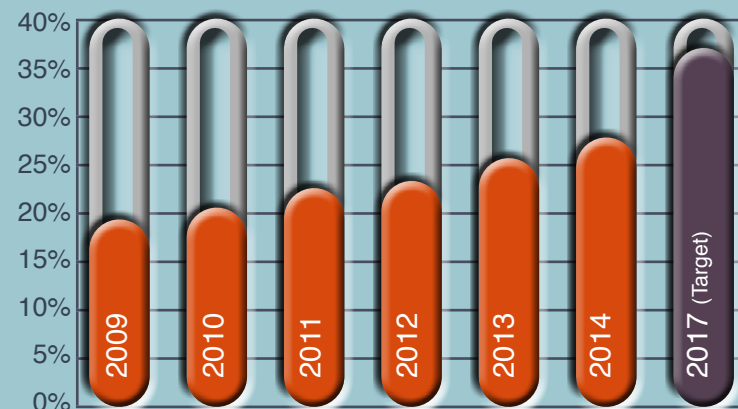


The Target – by 2017 we want to:

- increase the number of 15 year olds who get free school meals and get five GCSEs grade C or above including English or Welsh and Maths to 37%

Where we are now

This graph shows the percentage of children age 15 that get free school meals and get five GCSEs grade C or above. While the percentage of children has increased, we still need to do more to achieve of our target by 2017.



Key programmes/policies – things we do

- **Rewriting the Future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools** – aims to help pupils with learning.
- **Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)** – gives money to schools to support learning for pupils who get free school meals or who are looked after children.
- **Schools Challenge Cymru** – supports some schools to improve results.
- **FaCE (Families and Community Engagement) guidance** – helps schools to engage with parents.
- **Culture and Poverty Report** – works with families so they can learn and benefit from culture and heritage.
- **Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales** – helps looked after children get the support they need to do well and get good qualifications.

Young People not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

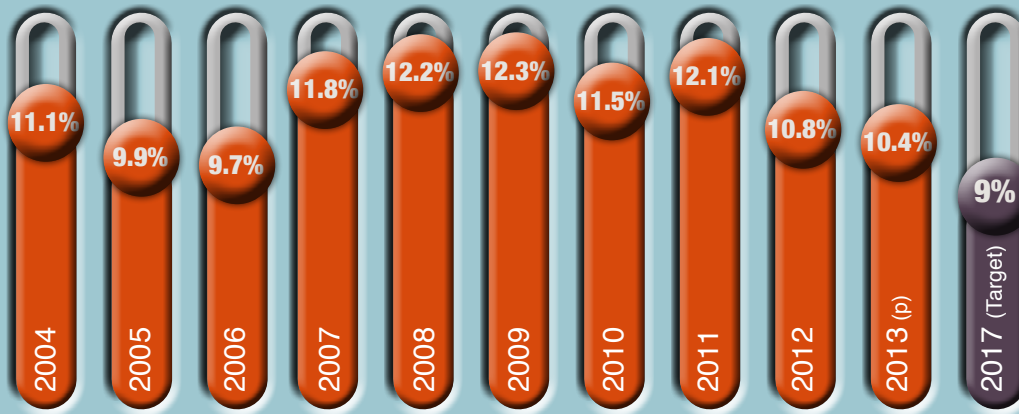
Young people who are not working, training or in education are more at risk of poverty.

The Target – by 2017 we want to:

- reduce the number of young people who are NEET aged 16-18 to 9%
- reduce the number in Wales who are NEET aged 19-24 compared to the UK as a whole.

Where we are now

The number of young people who are NEET aged 16-18 has reduced to 10% and we are close to achieving our target.



The gap between those NEET age 19-24 in Wales and UK has slightly increased from the previous year.



Key Programmes/Policies - things we do

- **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework** – aims to reduce the number of young people who are NEET over a 2 year period.
- **Jobs Growth Wales** – has given 14,989 job opportunities for 16-24 year olds.
- **Apprenticeships** – we will offer over 50,000 apprenticeships in the next four years.
- **Traineeships** – will support young people to get a job by helping their learning and confidence.
- **Concessionary Fare Schemes** – in September 2015 we will offer reduced bus fare prices for all 16-18 year olds.



Job opportunities

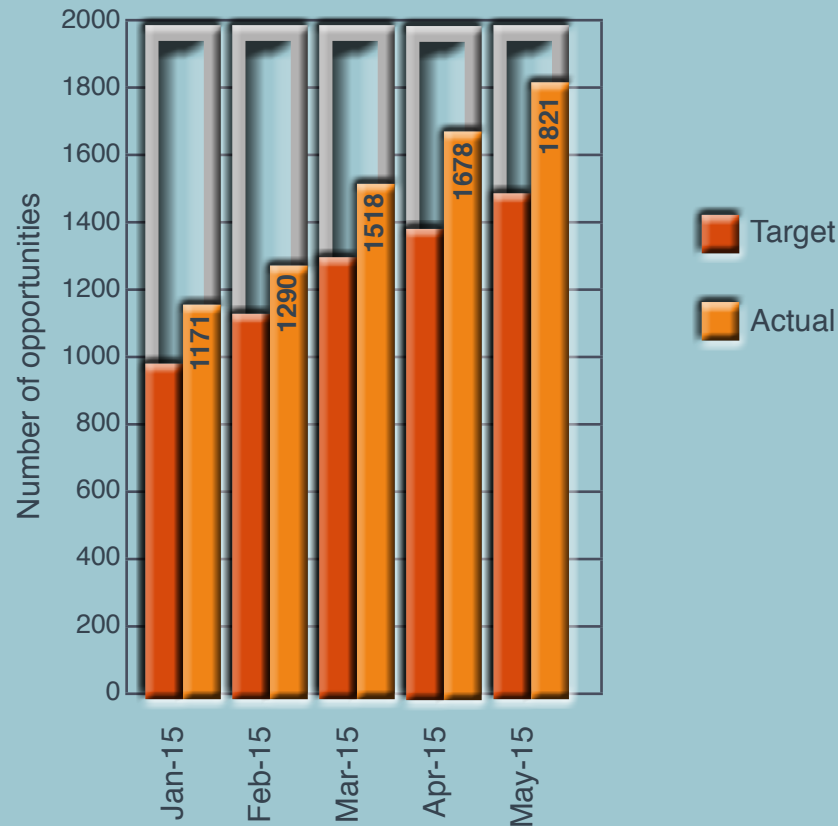
When no one in a household has a job, the family is more at risk of living in poverty.

The Target – by 2017 we want to:

- offer 5,000 training and employment opportunities to people in workless households.

Where we are now

The graph shows the number of opportunities the Lift Programme has provided to people from workless households in 2015. It shows we are progressing well towards the target set.



Key Programmes/Policies - things we do

- **The Lift Programme** – gives training and employment opportunities and is being delivered in nine areas across Wales. By May 2015, this gave 1,821 training and employment opportunities with 314 people supported into employment.
- **Communities for Work** – aims to tackle poverty through creating jobs that last and supporting people who have been out of work for a long time.



Health inequality

People in poverty have poorer access to good health care, even though they often need it more.

Life expectancy

There's a big gap in how long people live depending on whether they are in poverty or not.

The Target – by 2020 we want to:

- close the gap poverty makes to how long people live by an average of 2.5%.

Where we are now

The gap has not changed.

Low Birth Weight

The health of babies can be affected if they are born with a low birth-weight.

The Target – by 2020 we want to:

- have less babies born under 2500g. (6lbs)

Where we are now

The number of babies born with a low birth-weight has fallen steadily.

Dental health

The Target – by 2020 we want to:

- improve the dental health of 5 and 12 year olds living in poverty.

Where we are now

The number of 5 year olds with at least one decayed or missing tooth has fallen since 2012.

The number of 12 year olds with at least one decayed or missing adult tooth has also fallen.

Key Programmes/Policies - things we do

- **Local Health Boards** – are working to spot and treat people who are at the most risk of heart disease or not living as long as they should because of poverty.
- **The Public Health (Wales) Bill** – takes action to support people's health, including through making laws about e-cigarettes and who can sell tobacco.
- **Funding** – will go where it's needed the most using the latest information we have.
- **All Wales Maternity Network** – all Health Boards will check a baby's growth in the womb so they can spot when they are small.
- **Mental Health plan** – improves mental health services.
- **Healthy Working Wales** – improves health at work.



Housing and communities

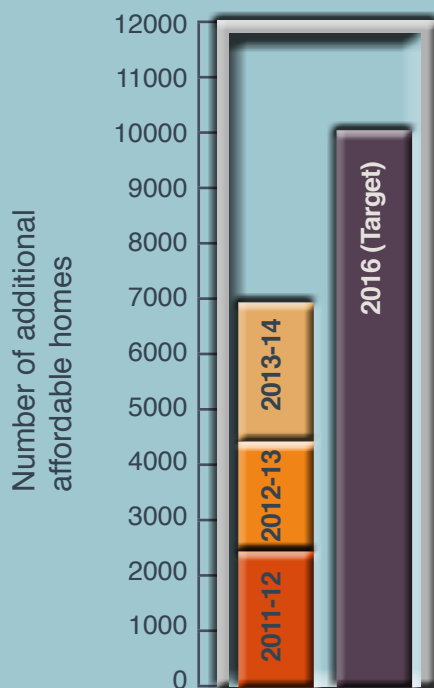
Having good quality housing and strong communities can make a real difference to people's health, wellbeing and ability to get a job.

The Target – by 2016 we want to:

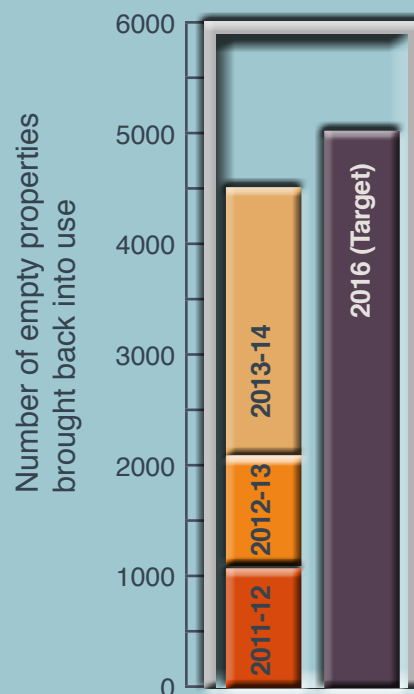
- have 10,000 more affordable homes by 2016
- to get up to 5,000 empty houses back in use.

Where we are now

This graph shows that as at March 2014 a total of 6,890 affordable housing units were delivered across Wales which means we are on course to achieve the target.



We are on course to exceed our target of bringing 5,000 empty properties back to use in this term of Government.



Key Programmes/Policies - things we do

- **Supporting People Programme** – provides support for people to stay in their own homes.
- **The Housing (Wales) Act 2014** – says how Local Authorities must help people who are at risk of losing their home.
- **Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)** – makes sure there are better quality homes for people to rent.
- **Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP)** – makes sure communities are safe, and have opportunities for families to have everything they need like play areas.
- **Town Centre Partnerships (TCPs)** – supports towns to encourage more people to visit them, promote events, and tackle the problem of empty shops.
- **Town Centre Loans Scheme** – provides £5 million of funding to help create jobs and growth.
- **Energy Efficiency** – schemes which help reduce fuel poverty.



New

We have a new **Child Poverty Strategy**. The Welsh Government has the ambition to make sure no child is living in poverty by 2020! It sets out our vision and goals for helping low income households. The Child Poverty Strategy made commitments to do more in these areas:

Strong economy

Families need to have well-paid jobs to help them get out of poverty. We want to make sure businesses can come to Wales, stay and grow so there are more well paid jobs. We will help over 180,000 working people gain qualifications and speak to the businesses about how we can work together.

Welfare Reform

We want to reduce the impact of changes to the support available from the UK Government for families in Wales, especially those in low-income households. We need to make sure people are prepared for this and get the support they need. We will support organisations that give people advice on benefits and debt, and help Local Authorities train their staff to support people.

Food Poverty

More and more people are affected by food poverty. This can be because of how much food costs, not being able to get to larger, cheaper shops, not having cooking skills or other reasons. We met with different groups in April 2015 to decide the next steps to tackle food poverty across Wales and are now taking action to do this.

In-Work Poverty

More households are now living in poverty even though someone has a job and is working. To tackle this we want to make sure there are better paid, full time jobs available. We will work to make sure people are paid enough money to live on, which is called the Living Wage, and help 4,000 adult with health issues remain in work.



Childcare

Families need good quality childcare they can afford to use so they can work and have training opportunities. We want to look at all the ways of increasing the childcare we have in Wales. We will make sure people working in childcare are properly trained and work to provide more childcare for those that need it most.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing and Regeneration was already a priority in the Action Plan but is now a priority in the Child Poverty Strategy as well. We will work towards starting the second phase of the Housing Finance Grant. We want this to deliver around 2,000 new affordable homes and create 5,000 new jobs.

Rural Poverty

In addition, we want to do more to help people in rural areas who also face poverty. This can be because they may face higher living costs, struggle to get to services such as the internet, and often have to pay more for fuel and transport. We want to support them. We will look at what sort of activities help reduce rural poverty and use European funding to target people on low incomes in rural areas.

Thanks for reading this

If you want to read the full copy of the report you can find it here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/child-poverty/?lang=en>

