

Manifesto Analysis 2016

National Assembly for Wales election

Policy asks

The Mental Health Foundation in partnership with Gofal calls on the Assembly to:

- Support future generations by promoting good mental health and wellbeing from an early age and providing training and support in schools, colleges and universities.
- Improve access to psychological therapies in Wales.
- Reduce inequalities faced by people with mental health problems and for groups that are at higher risk of developing mental health problems.
- Tackle stigma and discrimination, especially in the workplace and in the health service. Improve mental health funding and outcomes for people with mental health problems.
- Take cross-government action to improve mental health and wellbeing.

We have used a Mental Health in All Policies approach to explore how each of the manifestos might support our policy asks. We analyse how each of the party's agendas address mental health and wellbeing regarding: Communities, Children and Young People, Housing and Homelessness, Multi Morbidities and Work (page references for each party manifesto are included).

The Candidates

Wales goes to the polls on 5 May to elect the 60 Assembly Members of the National Assembly for Wales. Please find the full list of parties and their leaders below: All six of the parties standing for election have published manifestos.

Welsh Conservatives: Andrew Davies

Welsh Green Party: Alice Hooker-Stroud

Welsh Labour: Carwyn Jones

Welsh Liberal Democrats: Kirsty Williams

Plaid Cymru: Leanne Wood

UKIP: Nathan Gill



Plaid Cymru pledge to improve access to treatment and support (including tackling waiting times) for people experiencing mental ill-health, this include psycho-social support such as art, green space and sport. Plaid's public health focus involves targeting alcohol, cigarettes and psychoactive substances with new policy objectives to reduce lifestyle-related illness. Plaid have made a number of pledges relating to addressing inequalities and tackling poverty; these include: improving the representation of women and ethnic minorities in politics, consulting with disabled people's groups as a statutory requirement for any future changes to welfare reform and supporting anti-poverty initiatives such as Citizen's Advice.

The Wales Green Party want to create a Minister for Equality to ensure 'that the needs of all people are proofed across service delivery.' A central focus for the Welsh Green Party is to tackle health inequalities and promote public health initiatives. They pledge to address behavioural causes of ill-health by tackling addiction, increasing physical activity, promoting healthy work and eating and fund preventative care for all people, but particularly the elderly.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats held a debate on mental health in the Senedd last October (2015) ahead of World Mental Health Day and unveiled a number of new policy proposals that are reflected in their manifesto. These proposals include: increasing levels of mental health funding, setting waiting times targets (particularly for CAMHS) and investing in access to services. They propose to set up a mental health taskforce in Government to mobilize Welsh Government - their key vision is 'to end mental health discrimination.'

Welsh Labour proposals include a taskforce to explore ways of improving behaviour, wellbeing and mental health in education settings and to make Wales a dementia friendly country. The party will initiate the development of a loneliness and isolation strategy and create a 'Wales Wellbeing Bond'. Mental Health treatment, support and prevention services will be prioritised with greater access to talking therapies at earlier stages and they will continue to address stigma.

The Welsh Conservatives would appoint a Deputy Minister for Public Health. In recognition of loneliness and isolation 'as a public health risk,' they would increase funding for befriending services to tackle loneliness and isolation amongst older people. The Welsh conservatives also identify women as a particular at risk group during the ante natal and post-natal period and pledge to improve access to mental health support for women in Wales. The Welsh Conservatives would also promote mindfulness as way of supporting recovery. Similarly to many of the parties, they pledge to increase mental health funding and reduce waiting times.

UKIP have made a number of proposals related to improving access to psychological therapies in Wales – this includes: the provision of evidence based psychological therapies within 28 days of referral; improving access for children and young people in Wales and Introducing formal and comprehensive data collection on 'the relative success of talking therapies as compared to drub-based treatment.' UKIP also want to improve support for women during and after pregnancy.

Mental Health

Increase spending on mental health services in Wales with a better balance between services for children and adults. (p.15)

Increase spending on mental health services in real terms, each and every year for the next Assembly term. (p.18)

Establish a new 28 day target for access to talking therapies for children and adults by 2021. (p.18)

Ensure that crisis teams are available 24/7 at all major emergency departments. (p.18)

Increase the capacity of mental health services for children and young people. (p.18)

Improve access to mental health support for women, before, during and after pregnancy. (p.18)

Promote mindfulness as a means of preventing poor mental health and supporting recovery. (p.18)

Take action to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination. (p.18)

The Welsh Conservatives would introduce a new Autism Bill which would look to end autism's lack of statutory identity in Wales. (p.54)

Communities

Appoint a Deputy Minister for Public Health. (p.16)

Recognise loneliness and isolation as a public health risk. (p.16)

Increase funding for befriending services to tackle loneliness and isolation amongst older people (p.20)

Work with communities to design a regeneration programme centred on strong locally-based organisations to tackle poverty, build a stronger society and deliver community ownership.

Embrace the social model of disability, recognising that disability is caused by the way society is organised, rather than individual impairment.(p.42)

Place fuel poverty at the heart of action to tackle social deprivation – working with Fuel Poverty Coalition Cymru members and support an independent advice services for people in fuel poverty. (p.42)

Support credit unions to ensure their sustainability, working with them to improve financial inclusion and access to affordable finance. (p.42)

Prioritise and simplify funding to enable community responses to social issues such as peer mentoring for substance abusers, combating bullying, tackling loneliness, financial education and community safety.(p.42)

Use devolved levers to support, and aid the integration of, asylum seekers and refugees seeking sanctuary. (p.42)

Maintain funding for the Supporting People programme. (p.44)

Work with community-based organisations to help members of minority language households improve their skills in English and/or Welsh, giving priority to refugees and asylum seekers. (p.44)

Children and Young People

Meet the needs of children who are acting as carers, improving identification, supporting the identification of young carers to break down barriers in education, and introducing concessionary fares. (p.27)

Introduce awareness training for staff working in education, social housing, care, and youth work about the specific needs of vulnerable groups.(p.44)

The Welsh Conservatives would introduce an Additional Learning Needs Bill which would seek to improve conditions and resources for children with additional learning needs. (p.54)

Housing and Homelessness

Introduce a 'Healthy Homes, Healthy People' energy efficiency Wales programme for fuel-poor households. (p.42)

Multi Morbidities

Support vaping in public and pilot the use of e-cigarettes in NHS smoking cessation services. (p.16)

Implement a £400 weekly cap on residential care costs, offering security to those entering such settings. (p.17)

The Welsh Conservatives will implement specialist plans to guarantee improved outcomes in the fight against Wales' four biggest killers - cancer, heart disease, dementia and stroke. (p.17)

Welsh Green Party

Mental Health

Invest in dementia care. (p.19)

Support the comprehensive Autism Act. (p.19)



Ensure that mental health services have equal status with services associated with physical health and increase funding to this sector. (p.19)

Communities

Create a Minister for Equality to ensure that the needs of all people are proofed across service delivery. (p.19)

Work with local authorities to house refugees, provide support services for those in need, and ensure they are welcomed into the community. (p.19)

Housing and Homelessness

Support efficiency programmes to people in fuel poverty. The party will look to widen access to these programmes to people whose health is at risk from the cold. (p.10)

Ensure that young people and other vulnerable groups are safeguarded during the provision of temporary accommodation. The party will raise the maximum priority age in homelessness from 18 to 21 and invest in youth-specific hostels. (p.19)

Multi Morbidities

Address behavioural causes of ill-health by tackling addiction, increasing physical activity, promoting healthy work and eating. (p.19)

Funding preventative care for all sectors of the population, particularly the elderly. (p.19)

Tackle addiction as an illness, not a crime. The party would introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol and ring fence local authority funding for addiction treatment centres. (p.19)

Spend Wales' share of the 'sugar tax' on public health measures. (p.19)

Welsh Labour



Mental Health

Access to talking therapies and promote better emotional health in schools. (p.13)

A taskforce to explore ways of improving behaviour, wellbeing and mental health in all education settings. (p.16)

Communities

We will take further action to make Wales a dementia friendly country. (p.10)

The Party will invest in healthy living through the creation of a 'Wales Wellbeing Bond'. (p.13)

The party will initiate the development of a loneliness and isolation strategy. (p.13)

Mental Health

Key vision is to end mental health discrimination. The party will legislate to put mental health on a level footing with physical health and will aim to reduce waiting times. (p.29)

Expand liaison psychiatric services which will provide immediate access to specialized mental health support to those with physical health problems. (p.33)

Increase levels of mental health funding to reflect the needs of the population. (p.33)

Set waiting times targets and invest in access to services. (p.33)

Reduce waiting times for children looking to access CAMHS services. (p.33)

Strengthen the Crisis Care Concordat and improve follow up support for those who visited A&E after self-harming or suicide attempts. (p.33)

Ensure seamless support for veterans and service personnel. (p.33)

Support community services and volunteers working to combat loneliness, especially in later life. (p.33)

Set up a mental health taskforce in Government to mobilize the entire Welsh Government. (p.33)

Making dementia awareness and care training mandatory for healthcare workers and running a public awareness campaign. (p.34)

Set new targets for health boards to improve dementia diagnosis rates by 5% a year, every year, until it reaches a 75% diagnosis rate. (p.34)

Develop public information on the role of carers, and support carers seeking to balance work, education or training with their role as carers. (p.35)

Abolish Public Health Wales and transfer the responsibility and funding for public health to local government. (p.36)

Require health impact assessments on policy decisions taken at all levels. (p.34)

Develop social prescribing and 'insulation on prescription' to link up to the NHS with the fuel poverty agenda and other schemes. (p.34)

Tackle the obesity crisis in Wales. Use some of the proceeds of the sugar tax to supplement public health budgets for community projects. (p.34)

Housing and Homelessness

Protect and empower vulnerable tenants. (p.41)

Commission research to look at equality issues on evictions and ensure tenants know their rights. (p.44)

Prioritise and maintain Supporting People Funding and Homelessness Prevention (p.44)

Establish publically funded safe houses for LGBT+ and victims of abuse or those who face homelessness as a result of being LGBT+. (p.44)

Protect refugee services' funding and ensure a sustainable funding model for refugee and other independent specialist domestic and sexual violence services. (p.44)

Issue new guidance classing trans* individuals as 'vulnerable' for the purposes of allocating social housing and ensure full equality monitoring and customer profiling questions on gender identity are asked. (p.44)

Tackle fuel poverty by incentivizing private landlords to insulate homes (p.45)

Reinstate the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group with appropriate powers to recommend policy. (p.45)

Encourage a portion of any community benefit scheme to be set aside to tackle fuel poverty and high energy bills in the community. (p.45)

Introduce a new Local Government Bill which devolves more powers to councils including over public health giving councils more power of general competence to enable them to work better for their area, reduce performance indicators and repeal many of the restrictions on local action. (p.54)

Requires all councils to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment of their structures. (p.45)

Tackle drug misuse by introducing preventative, health-based approaches for drug users, treating them as victims not criminals. Further to this, the Lib Dems have pledged to ensure that drug and alcohol agencies are adequately resourced to tackle substance misuse. (p.61)

They have pledged to tackle violence against women and girls by ensuring teachers, social workers, police officers and health workers in areas where there is a high prevalence of female genital mutilation or forced marriage are trained to help those at risk. (p.61)

Protecting funding for tackling violence against women and girls. (p.61)

Introduce a new scheme to identify mental health and substance abuse issues amongst offenders and provide the most appropriate treatment for them when they enter the criminal justice system in Wales. (p.62)

Tackle rough sleeping in Wales by looking at the Housing First model used in the state of Utah and in Medicine Hat, Alberta. (p.62)

Reconsider the vulnerability classifications for homeless individuals and increase the homelessness prevention period from 56 days to 90 days. (p.62)

Work with credit unions to create the conditions whereby social housing providers will be able to rehouse those with historic rent arrears. (p.62)

Conduct a full review of the causes of the overrepresentation of BAME individuals in the criminal justice system. (p.62)

Plaid Cymru



Mental Health

It will increase spending on Mental Health services in each year of the next Assembly term and improve access to trained counsellors and therapists in the community. (p105)

It will reduce waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and ensure the transition to Adult services are more robust and delivered in an age appropriate way. (p105)

It will fund research into additional therapeutic models of treatment to widen choice including looking at contributions from access to art, green spaces and sport. (p105)

It will establish a specialist residential centre for people with eating disorders with the aim of making Wales a world leader for rehabilitation and treatment. (p105)

The party supports the 'Time to change' campaign and will work with employers to ensure support services for employees with mental health problems. (p105)

Communities

The party want to make the consultation of disabled people's groups a statutory requirement for all future changes to welfare policy. (p155)

It will legislate to protect and promote the rights of autistic people, their families and carers. (p101)

On fuel poverty, Plaid will create a system of locally owned energy companies. (p153)

The party will work with voluntary organisations to improve the representation of women and ethnic minorities in politics, and also any other underrepresented groups or communities. (p39)

Plaid will provide support for anti-poverty measures, including the Supporting People programme, and anti-poverty networks such as Citizens Advice Bureaux and food banks. (p153)

The party wish to increase the number of specialist nurses in hospital settings to address inequalities in the provision of health services for people with learning disabilities. (p155)

The party wants to work towards the implementation of a framework for Primary Care Services for Trans people, with the development of a Gender Identity Clinic in Wales. (p157)

The party will end the twelve month donation ban for gay men. (p157)

A national campaign would be launched by Plaid to draw attention to issues such as consent, sexist language and mutual respect. (p157)

Children and Young People

Legislation will be introduced to stop violence against children, support improvements to forensic services and promote education to prevent sexual assault. The party will also work to prevent and end domestic violence. (p161)

Investment will be made rehabilitation in to reduce substance abuse, education and support for prisoners and alternatives to prison for women and young offenders. (p161)

It will introduce free fruit in schools and promote healthier school meals. (p101)

The party will ensure Schools in Wales will be required to keep a register of bullying incidents related to sexuality. (p157)

Housing and Homelessness

On homelessness, the party want to use preventive measures to keep people in their homes whenever possible. Plaid wish to end the intentionally test for those who are facing homelessness and repeal the Pereira Test from the Housing (Wales) Act. (p153)

The party want to end the placement of under-18s in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. (p153)

The party wants to introduce a more rigorous system in the allocation of social housing. (p149)

The party wishes to implement restrictions on rent increases within tenancies and grant renters longer term and more secure tenancies. (p151)

The party wishes to use the Welsh Government's 'discretionary housing payments power' to compensate in full families affected by the Bedroom tax. (p153)

Multi Morbidities

Plaid Cymru will support colleges and universities to ban smoking on campuses. (p101)

The party will introduce legislation to allow Local Authorities to ban smoking in public places such as parks and outside schools. (p101)

It will consult on raising the minimum age of purchasing cigarettes to 21. (p101)

It will legislate for a minimum unit price of alcohol. (p101)

The party will establish a national training programme on New Psychoactive Substances for all staff providing public services. (p101)

It will ensure a network of residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities exists in all parts of Wales. (p101)

It will reduce demand for acute treatment through greater peer support and public health policies to reduce lifestyle-related illnesses. (p103)

Work

Plaid will introduce a jobs guarantee for those under 25 who had been searching for work for more than four months. (p59)

Plaid intend to establish sheltered employment schemes for those who need a more supportive environment to return to work. (p155)

The party is committed to ending gender segregation in the workplace and promoting more flexible working patterns. (p157)

Plaid wish to introduce gender balanced management boards in Welsh Government funded organisations. (157)

UKIP



Mental Health

UKIP will direct patients diagnosed with debilitating long-term conditions or terminal illnesses to mental health professionals when appropriate. (p.11)

The party will charge one elected member of each local health board to champion mental health provision. (p.11)

To ring fence mental health funding at a higher level than is currently the case (£587m in 2014-15). (p.11)

Incentivise local authorities to protect the mental health services they provide and to reverse cuts in community mental health services. (p.11)

The party supports the provision of evidence based psychological therapies within 28 days of referral. (p.12)

Introduce formal and comprehensive data collection on the relative success of talking therapies as compared to drug-based treatment. (p.12)

Promote Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as an avenue for the most severe cases. (p.12)

Improve psychological therapies for children and young people across Wales. (p.12)

Invest in the assessment and treatment of ADHD, autism and other neuro-development conditions, including more severe conditions where young people develop psychosis. (p.12)

Train staff to identify, support and involve carers of people with dementia as well as enabling quicker diagnosis. (p.12)



Mental Health Foundation

mentalhealth.org.uk

The Mental Health Foundation, a UK wide charity, has been in existence for 65 years. We focus on researching and evaluating fresh approaches to mental health with a view to advocating helpful policy change and the roll out of best practice more widely. Our work is centred on prevention – we believe that there is far more scope for interventions that prevent people developing mental health problems and which sustain recovery. Access to mental health services is critical, but as a society we also need to focus on bringing down the need for these services and developing good mental health for all.

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