

TOGETHER FOR WALES

Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru





Carwyn Jones and his team have shown the difference that a Labour Government makes to the lives of people in Wales. They have delivered jobs and opportunities for our young people, investment in health and education, and a strong economy that works for everyone in Wales.

This manifesto sets out our ambitious plan for five more years of delivery. Welsh Labour is ambitious for Wales, because we believe that our nation has a great future.

So while the Tories promise yet more cuts from Westminster, Welsh Labour will continue delivering for communities across Wales.

Now, more than ever, we need a strong Government in Wales. By choosing Welsh Labour on 5th May, we can build a better, fairer, more prosperous Wales together.

Nia Griffith MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Wales

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TOGETHER FOR WALES



FOREWORD

Together we have built a Wales that is more confident, more equal, better-skilled and more resilient. As a country we have punched above our weight on the world stage, and now we are ready to do more.

Never before has Wales led the UK in the way we've bounced back from a recession. And though times are still tough for many, unemployment here is now lower than London or Scotland. Inward investment is at a record level, and more of our young people than ever before have the skills they need to shape their own futures.

Wales is on the up.

This manifesto is the culmination of a conversation we've had with you – the Welsh people. Through events and debates across the country, we have listened to your concerns – and here we present our answers to the challenges of Wales today and Wales tomorrow.

The manifesto – and our promises to you are built around the ideas of family and fairness. Where ever you are on life's journey, and what ever your hopes and aspirations, our pledges and policies are designed to make sure the next Welsh Labour Government can help make things a little easier.

Childcare support for working parents; more money for schools; 100,000 all-age apprenticeships; tax cuts for small businesses; a New Treatment Fund for the NHS, and a better deal for people who need care in old age.

Welsh Labour will form a government that will be there for you and your family at the moments that matter. All schools will be better funded, but not in competition with one another. Our NHS will be modernised, but not privatised. Better support for the small businesses that drive our economy and breathe life into our town-centres. Safer, faster roads and rail networks - a transport system built for the future.

The momentum we see in our improving infrastructure and public services can only be derailed by a change in political direction. Now is not the time to take a risk, now is the time to build on the firm foundations we have set.

Unlike the Tories, we'll never take people for granted. Welsh Labour is a party of the people, for the people.

If you play fair, play by the rules, and pay in – we are with you.

That is the Welsh Labour way. Together for Wales.



Rt Hon Carwyn Jones
Leader of Welsh Labour

PROSPEROUS



PROSPEROUS

The greatest benefit of prosperity is the security it brings to individuals.

So our aim is clear: better jobs, closer to home.

In the fourth Assembly, Welsh Labour stood up for Wales and led the UK in economic growth and in reducing youth employment. In the fifth term, we will go full throttle to deliver prosperity – with work and secure homes for all.

For parents it means a better deal on childcare. As the party for parents we will provide 30 hours free childcare a week for the working parents of three and four year olds, 48 weeks of the year. Women still constitute the most undervalued resource in our economy, but in offering Britain's most generous childcare system, the opportunity to secure employment or to start a business will be available to tens of thousands who are currently constrained by childcare pressures.

In order to grow the economy we will enhance the support for home-grown businesses that have the potential to become global leaders. Measures to support investment in skills, marketing, advertising and networking opportunities will form the basis of a business accelerator support scheme. This will include co-operative enterprises which are of increasing significance to our economy in Wales.

We will support and encourage the development of City Regions, working with partners to make the Cardiff City Region Deal a success, and support the development of the Swansea Bay City Deal. We will build on our success in key sectors like the Creative Industries, modern manufacturing, aerospace and the automotive sector. We will also work to unlock the potential of the North Wales economy, continue the regeneration of the Valleys and promote the rural economies of Mid and West Wales.

We call on the UK Government to work with us to save our vital steel industry. The Tories should not betray the hopes and ambitions of steelworkers today as Mrs Thatcher's government did in the 1980s.

Now is the time to build on the record levels of inward investment and rapidly falling unemployment. We will not waste time on a costly reorganisation of the business support sector in Wales.

We will fight for Britain to stay in Europe, and to play a leading role in a reformed Union.

We will also work alongside the UK National Infrastructure Commission to ensure key investment decisions recognise the needs of Wales.

We know the value of the Welsh pound in procurement and will continue to evolve our procurement policy using the new regulatory powers to bring economic, social and community benefits to Wales. We will eradicate rogue and bad practices through our procurement powers, and promote fair employment practices.

No one should have to leave their community in order to move up in the world, so we will build the transport infrastructure needed to better connect people with places of employment and equip people of all ages with the skills needed for a successful career.

Security in retirement comes from knowing you do not have to give up what you have worked for in order to enjoy care in later years, so we will more than double the capital that people can keep when entering residential care.

For the environment we will take a lead in developing more renewable energy projects –

supporting technologies like tidal lagoons - and better planning. Our robust and unequivocal opposition to fracking will continue.

Our natural environment is not just a place for recreation and agriculture – it is also vitally important for biodiversity. We will support best practice across Wales.

We will also help people access affordable credit whatever their status, by assisting credit unions to increase their capacity and reach. We recognise the need to maximise income through benefit take up campaigns, especially for older people, and supporting advice services.

We will explore options for ending land-banking. We believe long term partnerships can help deliver the accelerated rate of house building we need, and the quality environments we require, and we will learn from best practice around the globe.

The economic security of the farming industry and our rural communities is dependent on our continued membership of the EU - delivering the Rural Development Plan, further extending broadband coverage and constantly seeking new markets for our food and drink industries, including through procurement.

We will offer a tax cut to all small businesses in Wales - helping 70,000 businesses and reducing bills to zero for half of all eligible firms. We will work with all of our partners to help secure a vibrant future for high streets.

We will guarantee not to increase Income Tax in the next Assembly term when these powers are devolved to the Welsh Parliament.

WE HAVE DELIVERED

Record inward investment, leading to 10,000 more jobs

15,000 jobs for young unemployed people

More than 100,000 apprentices in the last five years

The joint highest rise in economic growth in the UK

10,000 affordable homes

5,000 empty homes brought back into use

3,300 home buyers assisted through Help to Buy

Over 500 Community Support Officers

The end of blacklisting in the construction sector

£5.6 billion in infrastructure projects across Wales



SECURE

Our aim is clear: better jobs,
closer to home.



SECURE

We recognise our responsibility to keep the people of Wales secure – at home, at work and in our communities.

We are protecting social housing by ending Right to Buy. Building on this, we will deliver an extra 20,000 affordable homes in the next term. In our bid to end homelessness, especially for young people, we will take advantage of every opportunity to bring empty homes back into use.

We have developed new co-operative housing projects, making new homes available for rent and part-ownership in both urban and rural parts of Wales. We have also legislated to make things easier for fully mutual co-operatives to grant assured tenancies, and we will continue to support co-operative responses to our housing needs in Wales.

For working people we will repeal sections of the UK Government's regressive Trade Union legislation in devolved areas and take further action on the living wage and zero hours contracts.

We will continue to engage with affiliate Trade Unions and the Wales TUC to ensure that the

views of the unions are heard in designing the future of public service delivery in Wales.

We will resist attempts by the UK Government to transfer Attendance Allowance to the Welsh Government and instead fight hard to protect it at the current rate.

We are proud to support people who have and continue to serve in our armed forces, and will work with the Armed Forces Expert Group to inform our actions in the 5th term of the Assembly in line with our Armed Forces Covenant.

From April this year we have increased the amount of military compensation payments which are disregarded in calculating care costs, and from next year they will be disregarded totally.

Safe communities are important to people and we know that Welsh Labour Police and Crime Commissioners will defend the numbers of police on our streets against Tory cuts. We will also continue in our determination to tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence by implementing and building on the provisions of our ground-breaking Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act.

We will work with the Commissioners in combating the threats of cybercrime.

We will work with the UK Government and our partners to share best practice in guaranteeing the security of the people of Wales and to act against extremism. In recognising our international obligations to others we will ensure Wales plays a determined part in improving the lives of people in war-torn places and disaster zones.

We are the party of equality and social justice. Women have been hit particularly hard by Tory welfare cuts and we have taken action to mitigate these impacts. We are working to increase and improve diversity in our democracy and will take further action to ensure elected bodies and public sector boards better reflect Welsh society.

In playing our part to protect the environment, we will commit to stretching emissions and landfill targets that will see a Welsh Labour Government becoming carbon neutral by 2020. We will support the development of tidal lagoons and community energy schemes, and support the roll-out of free smart energy meters to all homes to reduce bills.

We will continue to improve animal welfare and will commission a review of the current wide ranging animal welfare legislation to inform our next steps. We support the ban on fox hunting and take a science-led approach to evaluate and review the best way of tackling Bovine TB.

Investment in flood defence work will continue and we will take further action to improve water management in our environment.

Sustainable development will remain a central organising principle of our Welsh Labour Government. Our Environment Act provides a strong framework for long-term action to counter climate change. We will report on the new Well-being indicators to measure the progress our country makes.

WE WILL DELIVER

30 hours a week free child care, 48 weeks of the year for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds

Tax cuts for all small businesses

Repeal of regressive UK Tory Government Trade Union laws in devolved areas

Improved opportunities for public sector contracts to be secured by Welsh businesses and the social benefits of government procurement

20,000 affordable homes and keep 'Help to Buy'

The end to 'Right to Buy'

A Business Accelerator Support Scheme for Welsh-based medium-sized employers with global potential

A Welsh development bank

Options for ending land-banking to help employment and boost house building rates

A guarantee not to increase Income Tax in the next Assembly term when these powers are devolved to the Welsh Parliament



HEALTHY

HEALTHY

Welsh Labour has defended the Welsh NHS from the Tories' top-down reorganisation that has wasted billions of pounds and shattered services in England. In Wales we have stood firm against privatisation and will keep the profit motive out of our Welsh NHS.

We know that the last time the Tories ran our Welsh NHS it was starved of funding and left in a state of severe underinvestment. Hospitals and health centres were deprived of essential maintenance, social care was ignored and market forces were allowed to increase the costs of health provision.

Welsh Labour has led the way in combating the Tory dogma that profit is more important than the health and welfare of patients. The OECD recently stated "quality is at the heart of the Welsh health system, the importance of high quality and patient centred care is given a high priority."

We agree and remain committed to driving up quality even further in the next Assembly term.

We have led the drive for healthier lifestyles, taking action against smoking, excessive drinking and the promotion of fast food in and near school premises.

The OECD recognises that quality of care is at the heart of our Welsh NHS.



We have legislated on organ donation, leading the way in the UK.

We continue to invest in new diagnostic services to improve waiting times. We are providing £85 million to support education and training programmes for healthcare professionals and to increase the number of nursing training places by 10 per cent. Today we have the highest level of nurse training places commissioned in Wales since devolution. Our investment will raise this number still higher.

We will introduce a groundbreaking New Treatment Fund, enabling the most advanced drugs and high cost treatments for cancer and other life threatening illnesses to be available in Wales first.

We will continue to invest more money per person in health and social services in Wales than is being invested in England.

Using our groundbreaking new laws we will make social care a sector of national strategic importance by investing in the development of the social care workforce to help complete the journey towards integrated health and social care. We will complete the review of the functions of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales to support integration.

We will cut waiting times further by eliminating unnecessary attendance at hospitals and GP surgeries, whilst also reminding patients of their rights and responsibilities as partners of the Welsh NHS.

In Wales we recognise the value of Community Pharmacies and will invest in their capacity to deal with minor ailments as one way of managing pressure on GP surgeries and our health system generally.

The OECD recognises that the quality of care lies at the heart of our Welsh NHS. But we will go further. We will consult on the potential for a statutory duty of candour to further promote a culture of openness in our health and care systems.

We will take further action to make Wales a dementia friendly country.

We are spending more per head on cancer treatment than England but recognise the ongoing need to keep improving diagnostic rates and outcomes for the people of Wales while learning from the best in Europe.

WE HAVE DELIVERED

Record investment in the NHS and social care, employing more staff than ever

£172 per person more spent on health and social services in Wales than in England

Improved integrated care, with £70m for the Immediate Care Fund in the last two years

Continued free prescriptions and free hospital parking

Improved access to GP surgeries

Faster treatment times and improved survival rates for cancer patients in Wales

The UK's first mandatory food hygiene rating system – 'scores on the doors'

New Mental Health legislation and helped tackle the stigma for people suffering mental illness

Capped domiciliary care charges

A living wage for NHS staff



ACTIVE

Together for Wales



ACTIVE

We all know that in the 21st Century new challenges must be addressed, alongside the investment made in the hospital and community services on which we all rely.

We want everyone in Wales to be physically active and to live, work and play in environments that help, not hinder, regular physical activity. Being more active as a nation will help us to tackle conditions such as obesity and improve our quality of life in later years. It will also help develop resilience against mental illness.

Mental Health treatment, support and prevention services will be prioritised with greater access to talking therapies at earlier stages in order to help people cope with emotional challenges. We will continue working to end the stigma of mental illness and work with schools, employers and other partners to improve wellbeing at work, in education and in our communities.

Schools, employers, communities and third sector organisations that are supported by government will be challenged to encourage and empower people to be more active.

We will introduce a new 'Wales Wellbeing Bond' that invests in the best groups and activities for reducing sedentary lifestyles, poor nutrition and excessive consumption of alcohol.

The people of Wales love their Welsh NHS. We do too. It is our proudest achievement and we will see that the contract between people and the NHS is one of mutual respect, where we are all active partners.

WE WILL DELIVER

A New Treatment Fund to give Welsh patients access to treatments for life threatening illnesses first

A doubling of the capital people can keep when entering residential care to £50,000

Investment in a new generation of integrated health and social services centres – alongside the transformation of our hospital estate

More action to tackle the stigma of mental illness, increase access to talking therapies and promote better emotional health in schools

Further action on limiting zero hours contracts in social care and work with the sector to raise the prestige of the profession

More investment in facilities to reduce waiting times and exploit digital technologies to help speed up the diagnosis of illness

Action to attract more GPs to Wales and encourage more doctors to train in Wales

Quality of Care at the centre of our agenda and work to prevent industrial action by respecting NHS staff in Wales in a way that the Tories do not in England

Better access to GP surgeries, making it easier to get an appointment

Plans to develop a nationwide and cross-government strategy to address loneliness and isolation



AMBITIOUS

AMBITIOUS

The prosperity and security of a country depends on the skills and values of its people.

We recognise the vital importance of the first 1,000 days in every child's life, including a safe, warm home, a foundation for reading skills and good health. We support early intervention to ensure the best start in life.

We have made unparalleled progress in improving the skills and qualifications of Welsh citizens.

Apprenticeship completion rates in Wales are far better than in England. A* results at A-Level have risen over the last two years and are now at their highest level since the grade was first introduced in 2010.

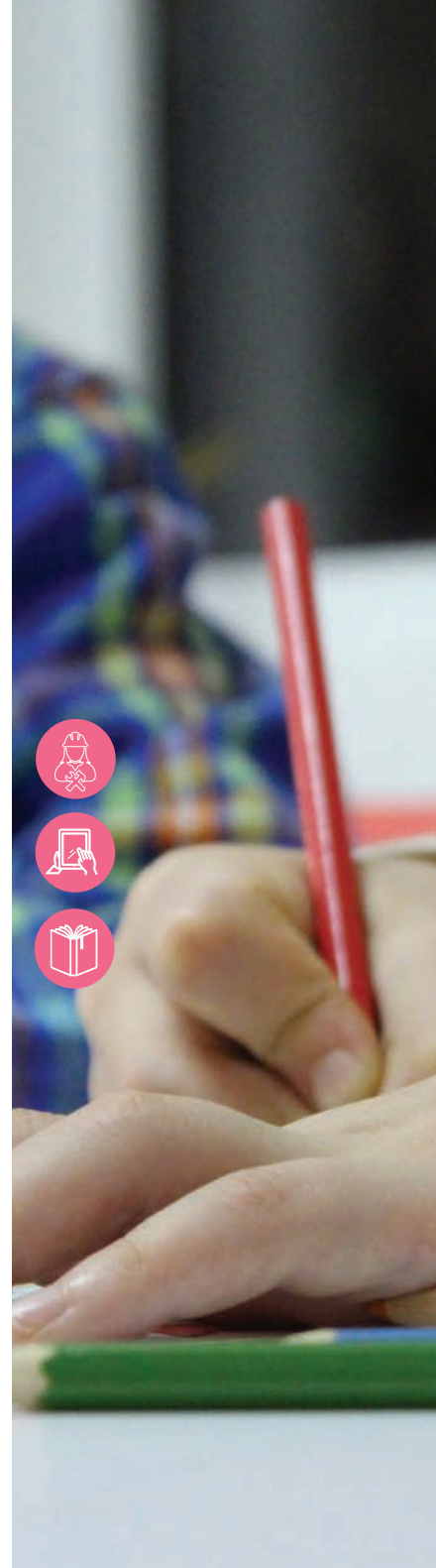
We propose to create at least 100,000 all-age apprenticeships to ensure alignment between the skills people gain and the skills the economy needs. We want Wales to be a country that gives equal esteem to vocational education.

We will create a new all-age programme of support for people seeking the employability skills needed to get quality jobs. Support will be tailored to individuals and aligned with the emerging job opportunities in their communities.

To strengthen the link between learning and the world of work we will overhaul work experience and create a new, stronger youth work service to help prevent youngsters being workless at the outset of their adult lives.

We will invest £2 billion in a new generation of community school and college buildings and in schools we will give parents a voice by assisting in the creation of parents associations in all schools. This will be essential as we roll out the groundbreaking new curriculum for Wales.

As part of our commitment to increasing the number of Welsh speakers we will continue to support the planned expansion of Welsh medium education in our schools.



WE HAVE DELIVERED

Increased funding for schools in spite of savage Tory cuts to Wales

The biggest school building programme ever, worth £2 billion

Unrivalled support for students and learners

Record exam results

Ten million free breakfasts in primary schools over the last five years

Record numbers of apprentices and completion rates of over 80 per cent

Protection of the Education Maintenance Allowance

Action to help break the poverty link through the Pupil Deprivation Grant

A record fall in youth unemployment

15,000 jobs for young people through Jobs Growth Wales



LEARNING



LEARNING

As the party of opportunity, community and prosperity, we will move to introduce more wrap-around activities for learners at all schools, utilising sport, physical activity, music and the arts as opportunities for young people to be active beyond the classroom.

Good school buildings should be available when teaching in the classroom ends. If necessary we will legislate to give communities better access to facilities before and after the school day, as well as at weekends. These community assets are too important to stand empty.

We will build on the record success of education in Wales by investing an extra £100 million to improve standards in our schools. This will build on the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the transformative work of Schools Challenge Cymru.

We know that educational attainment is built on good behaviour and attendance at school. So, we will establish a taskforce to look at how we can further improve behaviour in schools and eliminate intolerance, bullying and mental distress in schools, colleges and universities. As a party, we will defend people who face stigma and prejudice or who require extra support due to caring commitments.

Following consultation on the new Autism Service for Wales we will raise awareness, provide information, advice and training and so improve support for people over the next term of the Assembly.

In education as in work and in life, Welsh Labour will defend equality of rights and responsibilities for all people, regardless of disability, age, gender, sexuality, race or religion.

We know Tory austerity has limited the opportunities of many families and children, but we have defended the interests of our young people and their parents. We will continue to do so. We will pilot a “lunch and fun” programme during the summer school holidays to remove the disadvantage many youngsters face when the school term ends. We will create a Music Endowment Fund to help youngsters realise their musical talents.

We have offered unrivalled support to Welsh students. We will consider the recommendations of the Diamond Review and we will put forward a better package than that on offer in England.

"There is a new momentum for improvement and this must continue if young people are to develop as fully as they can..."

Estyn



WE WILL DELIVER

A £2 billion school building programme

100,000 all-age apprenticeships

£100m extra to further drive up standards in schools

Coding skills in schools to open up new opportunities in the digital economy

Schools open for community use and wrap-around activities for children, including a pilot of “lunch and fun” clubs

A taskforce to explore ways of improving behaviour, wellbeing and mental health in all education settings

Business Clubs to bring work experience into schools and re-shape careers support

A Music Endowment Fund to help youngsters access music services and instruments

A new funding body for Higher and Further Education in Wales

A better package of student support than that on offer in England, based on the recommendations of the Diamond Review

UNITED



Llandudno



ARRIVA

Trains - Wales
Trenau - Arwy Cymru



UNITED

The wider world shapes and influences us. Digital media present us with an endless flow of information, culture, entertainment and learning opportunities.

We need to go digital-first in our delivery of government services and to support the physical infrastructure that unites people at a local level.

We will bring people together digitally by offering fast reliable broadband to every property in Wales, making Wales one of the most connected countries on the planet. By 2017 we will have enabled 96 per cent of properties to connect to superfast broadband, but we are committed to giving every property a fast, reliable broadband connection.

We will work with communities to protect local facilities that bring people together: including libraries, museums, arts centres, leisure centres and pubs. We will introduce measures to help prevent unnecessary closures and to assist communities to take ownership of community assets themselves where possible and appropriate.

We will address digital exclusion by setting a target of helping 95 per cent of people gain at

least the basic digital skills needed for the 21st century.

We will build on our massive investment in transport infrastructure to enable people to travel safely and easily around our nation. We want to work with partners across the border on strategic rail and road routes. This will mean the roll-out of electrification of both the South and North Wales Main Lines. We will demand both of the UK Government as well as fast links from North Wales to the air hubs of the North West of England.

In North Wales we will promote the work of the Mersey Dee Alliance.

Valleys communities are being transformed by our investment and regeneration. Alongside this investment we know the South Wales Metro will open further opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economy of the valleys.

We will unlock the same potential for North Wales by starting work on the development of a North Wales Metro system too.

We will deliver a relief road for the M4, upgrades of the A55 across North Wales and improvements to other trunk roads across Wales.

WE HAVE DELIVERED

Heads of the Valleys road dualling and major improvements to the A55

Superfast Broadband to more than half a million premises

Agreement on the electrification of the Great Western mainline and the Valleys Lines, and spent more than £40m on improving the Wrexham to Chester rail line

Upgrading of railway stations across Wales

Active travel plans – safe, healthy travel for all

Record levels of participation in sport and cultural activities

Backing for EU membership, which supports 200,000 jobs in Wales

The Wales Coastal Path – a world leading visitor attraction

£14 million investment in our public libraries

World-class events, including the 2017 UEFA Champions League Final and brought a record number of tourists to Wales



CONNECTED

CONNECTED

Unity and connectivity are also dependent on cultural and democratic structures. We recognise the vital role of local government so we will seek to create stronger, larger local authorities, as well as stronger town and community councils, leading to the devolution of powers from Cardiff Bay.

We support votes at 16, will take action to maximise voter registration and explore how digital technology can enhance voter participation.

We will deliver a new, not-for-profit, rail franchise from 2018 to improve the frequency and quality of train services and press for the devolution of Air Passenger Duty, with a view to developing our airports. We will deliver seamless ticketing arrangements and improved marketing as part of the new travel arrangements for Wales.

We continue to call on the UK Government to either devolve, or scrap the tolls on the Severn Bridge.

We will seek to increase investment in the arts by introducing a Challenge Fund. Access to the new Wales Wellbeing Bond will be extended to groups and organisations which tackle poverty through harnessing the power of culture.

We will build on our record of hosting major events and we will determine the possibility of hosting an All-Wales Commonwealth Games in 2026, one that sees events taking place in the North and the South, and which celebrates a

journey to becoming a more united, connected, confident and active Wales.

With the Rugby World Cup, the European Football Championships, and many other sporting events– we will celebrate success in order to drive up participation, encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

We wish to see one million people speaking the Welsh language and will continue investing to encourage more people to use and speak Welsh.

We will amend the Welsh Language Measure so that business and others can invest more in encouraging the use of the Welsh language.

We will establish a Language Usage Fund and invite business to invest in the future of the language.

We recognise the importance of the media and will press for fair funding for both Welsh and English language broadcasting in Wales, as well as exploring options for supporting online and print media.

**Drive up participation,
encourage physical activity and
healthy lifestyles**





WE WILL DELIVER

Fast broadband to every property in Wales

Metro systems in the North and the South

An M4 relief road, A55 improvements, and improve the A40 in West Wales

Work to protect vital community assets at risk of closure

A Challenge Fund and a Wales Wellbeing Bond to increase investment and improve participation in the arts and in physical activity

A more efficient network of bus services once powers are devolved

Seamless ticketing arrangements and improved marketing as part of the new travel arrangements for Wales

By demanding 4G mobile reception for at least 95% of Welsh customers by the end of 2017

Practical steps to meet our target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050

Further action on the living wage and zero hour contracts



OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

HEALTHCARE



From birth and throughout life's journey Welsh Labour will provide the best quality health care through the NHS, free of private interests and integrated with social care. We will create a New Treatment Fund to make innovative new treatments available first in Wales. In order to keep healthy and secure we will provide more opportunities to be fit and active.

EDUCATION



In education we will offer paths of equal esteem for academic and vocational learning, equipping young people for the world of work. We will invest in the life chances of all our learners and inject £100m into schools to further drive up standards.

WORK



In entering work or starting a business we will protect your rights from Tory dogma. We will drive up skills, create at least 100,000 quality apprenticeships and support the roll-out of the living wage. We will accelerate the growth of those Welsh-based businesses that have global potential and give all small businesses a tax cut.

WORKING FAMILIES



As a working parent we will offer you the best deal in the UK on childcare, with 30 hours of free care and wrap-around school activities.

OLDER PEOPLE



In later life we will help you keep safe and secure by more than doubling the capital you can keep when entering residential care. We will retain free prescriptions, bus passes and other important benefits for people in retirement.

TOGETHER FOR WALES

Welsh Labour will show you the care and respect you deserve, give you new opportunities, and together we will continue to deliver for Wales.

TOGETHER FOR WALES

For more information about our Welsh Labour
Manifesto and our plans for a

 Prosperous and Secure

 Healthy and Active

 Ambitious and Learning

 United and Connected

Wales, go to:

www.togetherfor.wales

Welsh Labour  **Llafur Cymru**

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