



ACT FOR GIRLS: WALES

Everything you need to know to influence decision makers in Wales!



WELCOME

Welcome to the Act For Girls: Wales Toolkit by Plan International UK – here to give you all the tools you need to campaign to make Wales a better place! The original Act for Girls toolkit has four components:



1 ACT FOR GIRLS: ORGANISE

Everything you need to know to plan your own campaign for change!



2 ACT FOR GIRLS: INFLUENCE

Everything you need to know to influence your decision maker!



3 ACT FOR GIRLS: CREATE

Everything you need to know to campaign creatively!



4 ACT FOR GIRLS: AMPLIFY

Everything you need to know to get the word out!

[Plan International UK](#) is a global children's charity, we strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls.






Around the world, including here in the Wales, girls still don't have equal rights – and that has to change. We believe that young people have the power to change this by taking action on the issues that matter to them most, such as tackling street harassment, ending period poverty and calling out discrimination.

That's why we have created this Act For Girls Toolkit – to empower and support you to become an activist for change.

You can find out more about Plan International's campaigning as well as find the other Act For Girls Toolkit guides [here](#).

Let's get started!

By using this guide to help, you will find out about:

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INFLUENCING IN WALES



This is a special add on guide for young people wanting to make a change in Wales. In this toolkit we look at the different decision makers in Wales from those in parliament, to your more local and community decision makers. We also look at the Welsh Parliament and how it differs from Westminster and the UK Government!

What is devolution?

The United Kingdom (UK) is split into 4 nations; England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

In 1997 a referendum was held in Wales to determine whether there was support for Wales to have its own national government, who would have the powers to make laws in Wales which would apply in Wales only. The majority of the people who voted said **yes!**, leading to the Government of Wales Act in 1998 and the opening of the National Assembly of Wales in 1999. The process of setting up bodies underneath the UK Parliament (Westminster) is called devolution. Politicians in Wales were originally known as Assembly Members (AM's) until May 2020 when the decision was made to change the National Assembly of Wales name to The Welsh Parliament or Senedd Cymru. We now call our Welsh politicians Members of the Senedd (MS). The Senedd (Welsh for Parliament) is based in Cardiff bay and is home to our politicians. This is where MS's meet to discuss and make laws for Wales.

Scotland and Northern Ireland also have their own parliaments and make laws for their countries.

Useful info!

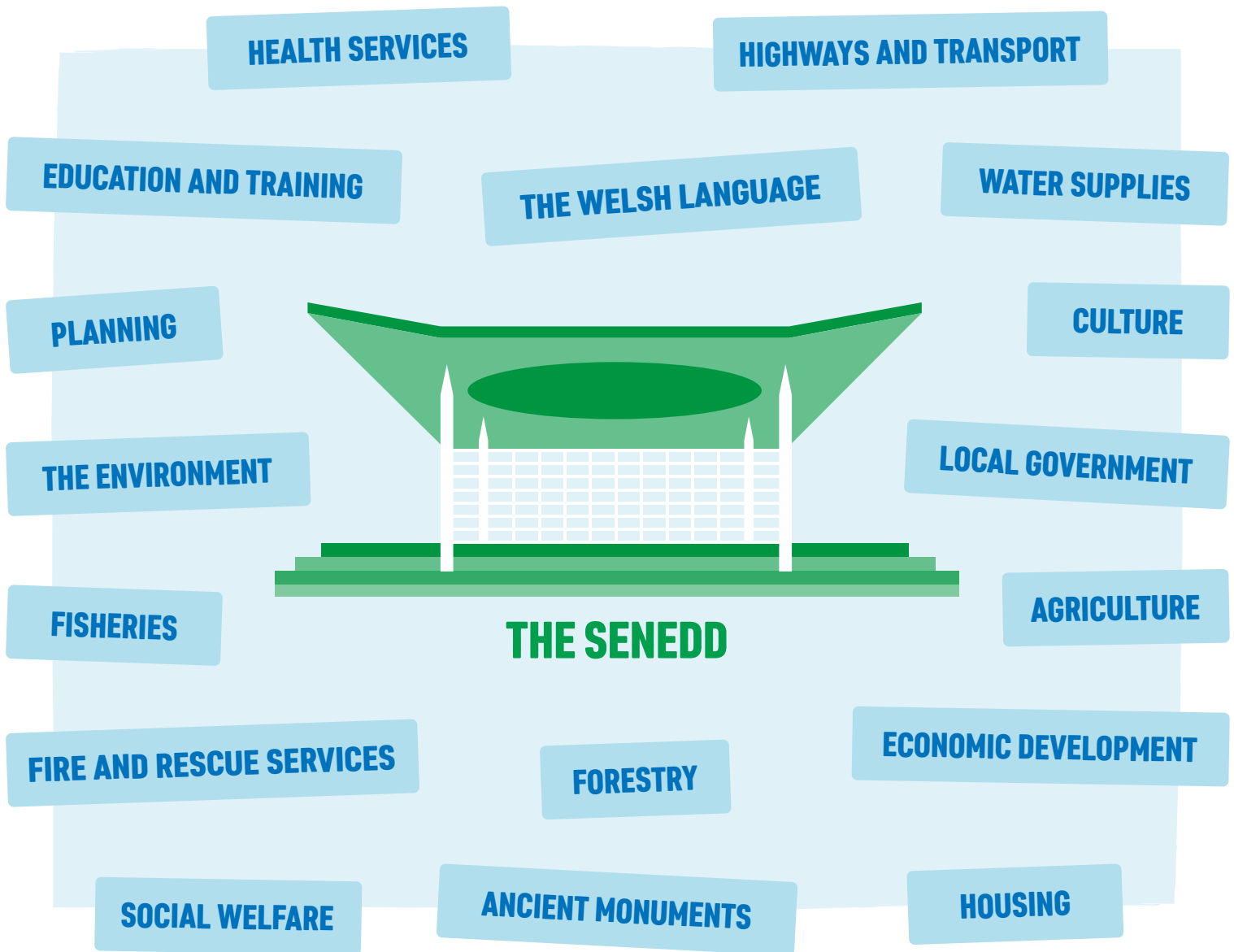
A bit more info about Welsh devolution

Devolution is not a single process, and since first being established in 1999, the Senedd has increased its law-making powers;

- In May 2011, enabling it to make laws in all 20 areas devolved to Wales as set out in Schedule 7 of Governance of Wales Act (GoWA).
- The Wales Act 2014 devolved financial powers to the National Assembly for Wales for the first time.
- In 2017 The Wales Act made further changes to the devolution settlement for Wales, including powers in areas such as elections, transport, energy, and the natural environment.



As a devolved nation, the Senedd has the ability to create laws and manage certain services in Wales. Here's some of the areas which the Senedd has power over:



Therefore, it's important to remember that because of devolution, in Wales and other devolved nations, the Westminster Parliament, the UK Prime Minister and your local MP (Member of Parliament) are not always the best decision maker to target your campaign at. For example, in Wales, education is devolved, which means that the Senedd makes all the decisions about education in Wales. This means, if you wanted to make changes to your education system you should go to your Welsh politician who sits in the Senedd rather than your Westminster MP. Remember this when you are identifying a campaign target in [Act for Girls: Organise](#).

Members of the Senedd work for us in Wales!





WHO RUNS WALES?

While the UK Prime Minister has some responsibilities for Wales, the main person responsible for Wales is the First Minister, who runs the Welsh Government from the Senedd.

The main political parties in Wales are:

- Welsh Labour
- Welsh Conservative
- Welsh Liberal Democrats
- Plaid Cymru – National Party of Wales
- UKIP/Brexit Party
- Independent
- The Welsh Green Party

Each political party in Wales has its own leader. The parties we have in Wales are almost the same as those in the rest of the UK, other than Plaid Cymru.

The Senedd has their elections every 5 years, and the party who get the most seats form the Welsh Government, made up of the First Minister and Cabinet Members. The cabinet are a group of politicians that have specific areas of responsibility, such as Education or Health. They are known as the Minister. There are 14 Ministers in the Welsh Government cabinet.

Check out who they are [here](#).



ACTIVITY 1

Devolution activity

Check out more about devolution and the powers Wales have in this activity!

Draw three symbols to represent Westminster, Welsh Parliament and Local Authority on big piece of paper or you can use the template on page 17 you can look up your local authority logo too.

On page 16 you will find a list of different powers. Where do you think these decisions are made? Cut out the logos and the powers and see if you can link them up. You could also write them out if you don't have a printer!

You will be able to find the answers on page 18 so don't look yet!

Once you have done this, have a think and discuss which area does your campaign come under? Which institution do you need to target?

Now turn to page 19 and check out more on devolution and the other powers Wales have! This might help you decide on your decision maker and your topic!

Look on page 16

WHO ARE THE DECISION MAKERS IN WALES?

Members of the Senedd

A constituency is area where people live, for example, Bridgend.

In Wales there are 40 constituencies, and each has their own Member of the Senedd to represent them. This means that there are 40 constituency Members of the Senedd. However, and here is where it gets a bit tricky – these 40 constituencies also fall into five regions of Wales, North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales West, South Wales Central or South Wales East. Within each of the five regions, there are also four elected Members of the Senedd meaning there are a further 20 regional MS's in the Senedd. Therefore, the total number of MS's in the Senedd is 60 (40 Constituency MS's + 20 Regional MS's).

For campaigning purposes there is no difference between your constituency MS or your regional MS. They all have equal powers. What it does mean though is that you have 5 MS's that represent you and you can speak to any of them. One from where you live, for example Bridgend, and four from the region of Wales that Bridgend falls in, which is in South Wales West.

You can find out more about your MS [here](#). You can also watch [this video](#) to help you understand more about how voting works in Wales.

Once you have decided on your campaign, using the advice from our [Act for Girls: Organise](#) toolkit you will need to establish who the best decision maker is to support your campaign. This could be your MP, one (or all) of your MSs, a local councillor, a leader within your school, or someone in your community.

In Wales, it is often easier and quicker to engage with your MS than it is to speak to your MP. This is for a few different reasons but mainly because you have 5 politicians who you can speak to and who can influence the Senedd. Wales is also a smaller country and our laws around democracy in the Senedd are slightly different.



If you were to present a petition to Westminster you would need over 100,000 signatures for it to go to the petition committee. For a petition to be considered at the Senedd you need only 50 signatures and if you get 5000 signatures your petition will be considered to go to the Senedd plenary for debate with MS's!

Useful info!

Local Councillors in Local Authorities

If you are looking to make a more local change then make sure that you are talking to your local decision maker, rather than your MS! **Remember Welsh Parliament give powers to local authorities too.** For example, if you want to campaign about lighting in a certain area because young people do not feel safe walking at night, then you would go to your local councillor. You can find a list of all local authorities in Wales and the links to their [websites here](#).

Top tip!

Who else is in Wales?

Politicians and decision makers are usually very friendly and want to support young people. In Wales we have some influential figures who work specifically for young people and could be useful stakeholders in your campaign



Comisiynydd Plant Cymru

Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

The Children's Commissioner for Wales

Their job is to tell people why children's rights are so important, and to look at how the decisions made by public bodies in Wales, including Welsh Government, affect children's rights.

They have a team of people who work with them to make this happen.

If you'd like to learn more about them, you can read more about their background and [the work they do here](#).

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

The Commissioner's role is to be the guardian of future generations. This means helping public bodies and those who make policy in Wales to think about the long-term impact their decisions have.

To find out more about their work visit [her website](#).



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol**
Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales

Community Decision Makers – It's not always about the big changes

It can be nerve racking to start up a campaign and engage with lots of decision makers. However, the person you might need to target could be someone in your local community, school, or even someone you might already know!

Campaigning isn't always about engaging with the decision makers who sit in Westminster or the Welsh Parliament. It may be someone closer to you that holds the power to be able to support you to make change on your issue.

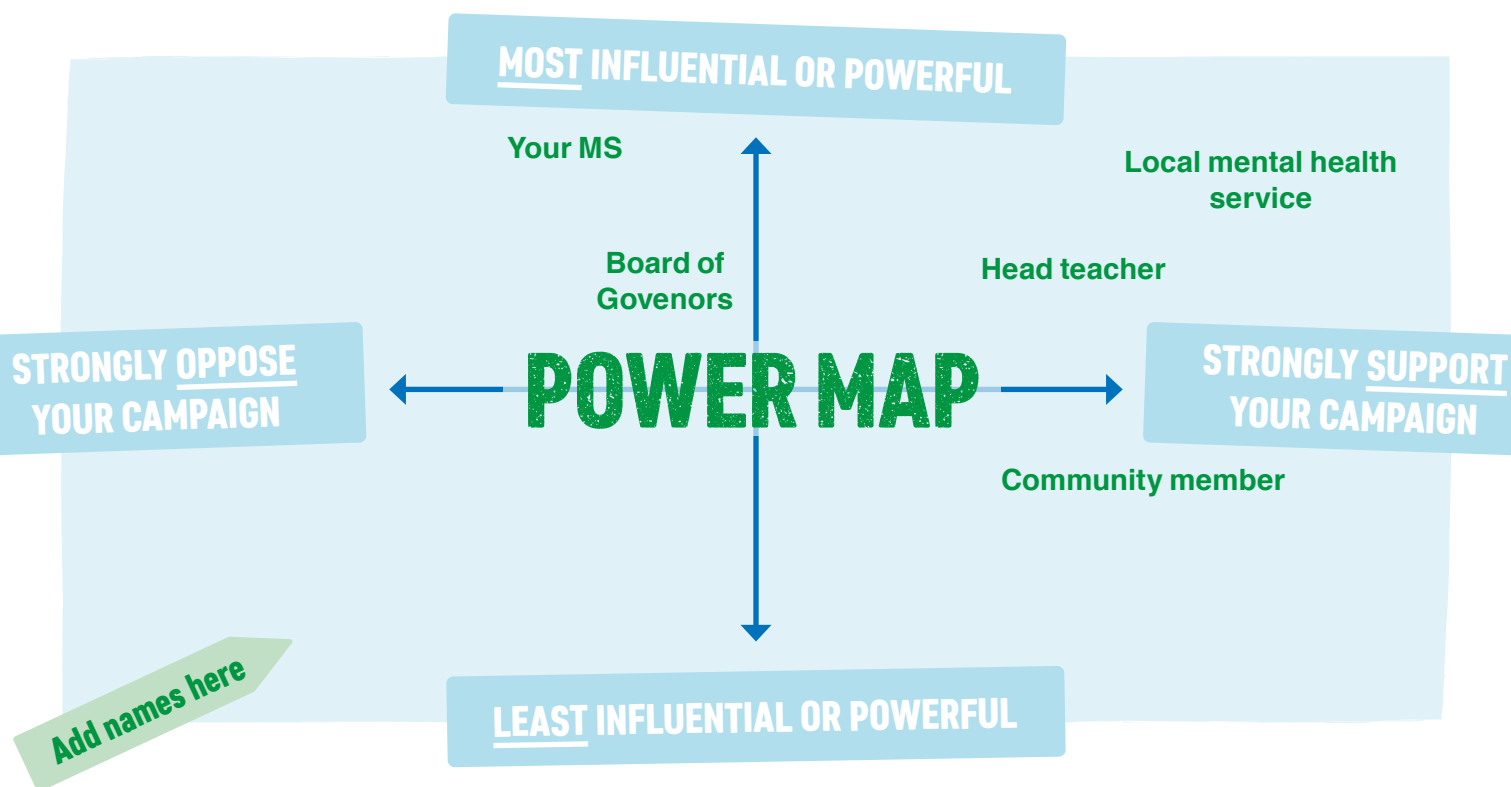
For example, is your campaign to change something in school? Do you want a girl's rugby team? Perhaps girls want to be able to wear trousers too? Is your campaign about girl's safety in school? In that case, your Head teacher, Deputy Head, Board of Governors and other senior teachers are the best people to talk to!

It could be that the decision maker is a community member of a group you attend, it could be a friend, it could be Head of a Service like your local Youth Service or Mental Health Service. Working with local decision makers like these can make huge changes!

Below is an example of a power-map, taken from [Act for Girls: Organise](#). It's a great way to brainstorm different decision makers, to help you work out who is best placed to support your campaign. Why don't you have a go at making your own map?

Have a go yourself

It may be useful to include your local councillor as a way of support, and maybe even local media outlets to raise awareness of your campaign.



MEMBERS OF THE SENEDD

This group have the most power in Wales.

How can your MS help?

Once you know who your MS is and have found out a little bit about them, it's great to have a think about what actions you might ask them to take in support of your campaign.

It might be that you your local MS is the direct campaign target. For example, if there is a vote on a new law relevant to your campaign in the Welsh Parliament. You can ask your local MS to vote in a way that helps support your campaign.

Remember you have 5 MS's so you can ask any or **all** of them!

Top tip!

As Wales is a smaller Nation with a smaller Parliament it can be a lot easier to gain support from your MS and raise awareness of your campaign. Below are some ways in which your MS might be able to help you. Don't forget – you can ask them for suggestions too.

Ways your MS could support your campaign:

Through the Senedd

- MS's vote on new laws in Wales. For a new law to pass it needs to win a series of votes in the Senedd. Therefore, if your campaign is related to a specific new law or a change to an additional law you can ask your MS to vote in a way that supports your campaign.
- MS's can ask the First Minister of Wales questions during plenary. This a meeting in the Senedd when all 60 members are in attendance. This can be a great way to get attention for your issue and see if the Welsh Government is acting on it, or ask them to support it, or look into it.
- MS's take part in specialist committees. These are cross party groups of MS's (MS's from different political parties) who have specific powers to scrutinise the work of the government on specific areas like education, children and young people and equality. It may well be the case that your MS is on some of these committees. If they are not on the committee you would like to talk to you can ask them to raise the issue with the chair. They have the most power.

Local Council

- MS's can raise issues with local council. However, it would be best for you to contact your council leader first and then ask for your MS's support. This works best if your campaign is targeted at local council too.

Influencing non-political audiences

- MS's can also help influence non-political audiences. This could be a local or private company, your school, newspaper or community organisation like your local rugby or youth club.
- You can ask your local MS's to contact these organisations, be that a phone call, meeting or letter in support of your campaign. MS's can have a lot influence within your local community and help affect change.

Creative Campaigning

- MS's can also get involved in your creative campaign tactics. Check out the [Act for Girls: Create](#) toolkit for ideas. For example, you could invite them to come along to a local campaign event, activity or stunt you are planning. They could even come with you to hand in a petition to your campaign target or be guest on a podcast or show you are creating!

You should contact your MS straight away with lots of notice as their calendars fill up very quickly. You should also give them a specific role, as this makes it more likely for them to attend. The best days are Mondays, Thursday and Fridays to invite your local MS to an event like this as these are constituency days. Tuesday and Wednesdays are plenary days meaning all 60 are in Cardiff for meetings and committees.

Amplifying your Campaign

- MS's can tweet about your campaign to help spread the word. This works well if they have a photo from an event or a meeting with you.
- MS's can also author a blog or opinion piece with you for National press.

Important info

How can Local Councillors help?

Councils have a lot of power in the local community and make decisions on things like planning permission for new houses, roads, parks and potholes and youth services.

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the council should carry out its various activities with money provided by Welsh Government. They represent public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected to serve a term of office.

They have regular contact with the general public through council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries take place regularly (both online and in person) and provide an opportunity for any resident to go and talk their councillor.

Councillors sit on committees and meetings so you can ask them to bring your issue up at these. It is useful to do some digging on which councillor is best to talk to as they may share your issues and want to support you.

Decisions in local authorities are made at different levels depending on the nature of the decision. The local authority will keep a record of what part of the council, or which individuals, have responsibility for particular types of decisions, or decisions relating to particular areas or functions. So make sure to do your research!

How can I influence those closer to me?

Check out the [Act for Girls: Create](#) toolkit for ideas. Most things can be adapted to influence other members of the community. For example, you could present a petition to your head teacher with lots of student signatures. Remember to be respectful, kind and clear when working with decision makers. That way your head teacher will see how mature and democratic you are being. Great skills!



How can I contact my MS?

Find out ways to contact them below. It also worth remembering that you can also contact your councillor and local community decision maker in similar ways.

Once you have identified your Members of the Senedd – remember you have 5 – and thought about ways in which you would like them to support your campaign, it's time to get in touch with them!

Firstly, do not be shy about getting in touch. Members of the Senedd/Councillors represent you and your local community! It is their job to listen!

To find your MS contact details you can check out the [Senedd website here](#). Most of them list their email address, postal address, phone number and social media handle. Think about which way you would like to contact them.

Why not give it a go

Writing a letter/email

- Address your letter/email to your MS and explain that you are a constituent/ or a constituent in their region, including your postal address. MS's only respond to their constituent/regional members so make sure your email the right MS or MS's if you are emailing more than one. If you are emailing more than one, ensure that you make them aware of this.
- You could consider getting a group of people to sign the email/letter. This just means that instead of just you are signing it, you would have a list of people who are supportive of your campaign. These could be people from your community. Make sure you get their permission and are very clear about what they are signing on to. You could even CC them into the email.
- Members of Senedd get lots of emails and letters everyday and you will most likely get a response from their staff. Please be patient on a reply, but if they have not made contact in a month, try again.



Engaging on Social Media

- Many MS's are on twitter so you could consider contacting them on there. Remember this is a public way of contacting them, which could be good as it may make them more likely to take action and for other to join in your call. However, it could also mean that you receive responses from people that disagree with you.
- Check the bio on their social media profile as they may indicate what is the best way to contact them.



Meetings

It can feel scary to consider meeting your MS in person, but it can be the most effective way to get your campaign across. MS hold regular opportunities to meet, known as surgeries. Often these are weekly in your local area and you can book a time slot. You just need to send an email to your MS office.

- Try to meet your MS in a small group if you can to show the strength of your issues. It can also be useful for the group to share roles, for example sharing different experiences, someone could take notes and you could each lead different sections of the conversation.
- If you do meet with your MS consider asking for a photo so that you can publicise the meeting. You could take a sign with you with your campaign name/slogan on it and ask your MS to hold it in the photo. Make sure to send the photo to your MS so they can share it too.



Calling on the phone

- If there is a phone number listed for your MS, then consider contacting them by phone. Don't worry, it is very unlikely your MS will answer. Instead it will likely be one of their staff who will be able to pass on a message or get any information you need.
- Calling on the phone can be a great way to get a quick response. For example, if you are chasing up for an answer on your invitation to an event etc.
- Consider writing down what you want to say before you call so you can read from it if you need to.



Make sure to follow up

It is important to make sure you follow up with your MS especially if you have met with them. Even if they didn't agree to everything you wanted it is still good practice to say thank you to them for being in contact. Make sure to summarise the interaction and replay this back to them. For example, by sending an email have you met them in person. It is crucial to remind them to act and what that action is. It's also a good idea to share any photos too.

Don't forget in Wales you have 5 Members of the Senedd so if one member does not support your campaign you can call on another four!

Make sure you do your research on all 5 members beforehand. Are any of them Ministers? What party do they belong to? What is their voting history on these issues? By doing your research you are likely to find the best person to contact and give your campaign the best chance of success.

Always ask them to do something. This can be big or small depending on your campaign objective and you can ask them to do more than one too.

Remember always be kind, honest and clear with your MS.

CAMPAIGN EXAMPLES

Whizz Kidz Get on Board Campaign

Whizz Kidz is an organisation in Wales that support young people who are wheelchair users. A group of young people from Whizz Kidz wanted to campaign to raise awareness and better the travel experiences of those who use wheelchairs.

They focused on training for public transport staff so that they can work better to support the needs of disabled travellers.



They petitioned the Welsh Parliament (then National Assembly for Wales) and were invited to meet with Members to present evidence.

Based on the evidence they presented, the Petitions Committee produced a report making key recommendations, all of which were adopted! **Amazing work! Da iwan pawb!**

Cardiff STAND with Girls Period poverty



A group of young women from Cardiff took part in Plan International UK's STAND with Girls Programme back in 2016.

During this programme they learnt more about the issues facing girls in Wales and decided to do some research

and launch a campaign. From their work they decided on a campaign in which raised awareness of periods for all young people from a young age. They created session plans for primary and secondary schools about how periods work and what happens when you have a period.

The girls delivered sessions to local schools in Cardiff with great results! They then emailed Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education to request a meeting. Kirsty agreed to meet with the girls and was so impressed with their video and session plans that she agreed to add them to Hwb. Hwb is an online resources centre for all teachers and young people in Wales to use. **Llongyfarchiadau!**

ACTIVITY 2

Young change makers activity

Take a look at page 20, you will find the faces of lots of young change makers from around the world.

Do you know these young people and what they did? On page 21 you will find some information about them. Have a go without looking at the answers and matching these young people to their description.

Look on page 21

Now think about what they did. Is this something you thought a young person could do?

Remember you can do it to, and the [Act For Girls Toolkit](#) is here to help!



Plan International

Girls from our Champions of Wales programme came together to identify the issues that stand in the way of girls' realising their rights.

Yes, you did it!

So now you know more about campaigning in Wales – over to you to make it happen!

Do make sure to check out the other guides in the Act For Girls Toolkit [here](#).

Please feel free to get in touch with us at Plan International UK on youthengagementteam@plan-uk.org with any questions, comments or for further information. And do let us know how you get on, we would love to hear all about your campaigning!

GLOSSARY

Here's some terms you'll have seen throughout this guide:

Devolution The transfer of power. In this case, UK Government transferred powers to the Welsh Parliament

Referendum A referendum is a direct vote in which country is invited to vote on a proposal. Referendums are usually questions for the country to answer, for example should Wales have its own Parliament – people vote yes or no.

Constituency A geographical area where people live that can vote for a political member.

Consultation When people are asked about a topic before a decision is made. For example, should Wales include sex education in the new curriculum? Welsh Government would put out a consultation which could look like a questionnaire to ask peoples opinions.

Petition A formal written request, typically signed by many people who support the request. It is then given to a decision maker to help inform their decision on the request. For example, if a youth centre was being knocked down lots of people could sign a petition against this and deliver it to the decision maker. This could help them to change their mind in support of their community.

Committee A group of politicians from different parties who sit to discuss certain issues. For example, an education committee. In some cases the committee may ask experts on the issue to attend and give evidence.

Minister A politician who sits in the Welsh Parliament who has a specific job and is responsible for the making laws and disseminating money to the sector. For example, Minister for Education.

Plenary When all 60 members of the Senedd sit to debate and make laws in Cardiff Bay. In Wales, plenary takes place on Tuesday and Wednesdays from 1pm.

Surgeries When politicians, both MS's and local councillors are in the local area they represent such as a community centre. During these times members of the public can go and meet with their decision maker to discuss any issues.

Local Authority In Wales there are 22 local authorities, this is the place in which you live. Welsh Government disseminates money and gives powers to local authorities. For example, local authorities fund youth services in the community.

Devolution settlement The contract on what powers Wales have from UK government.

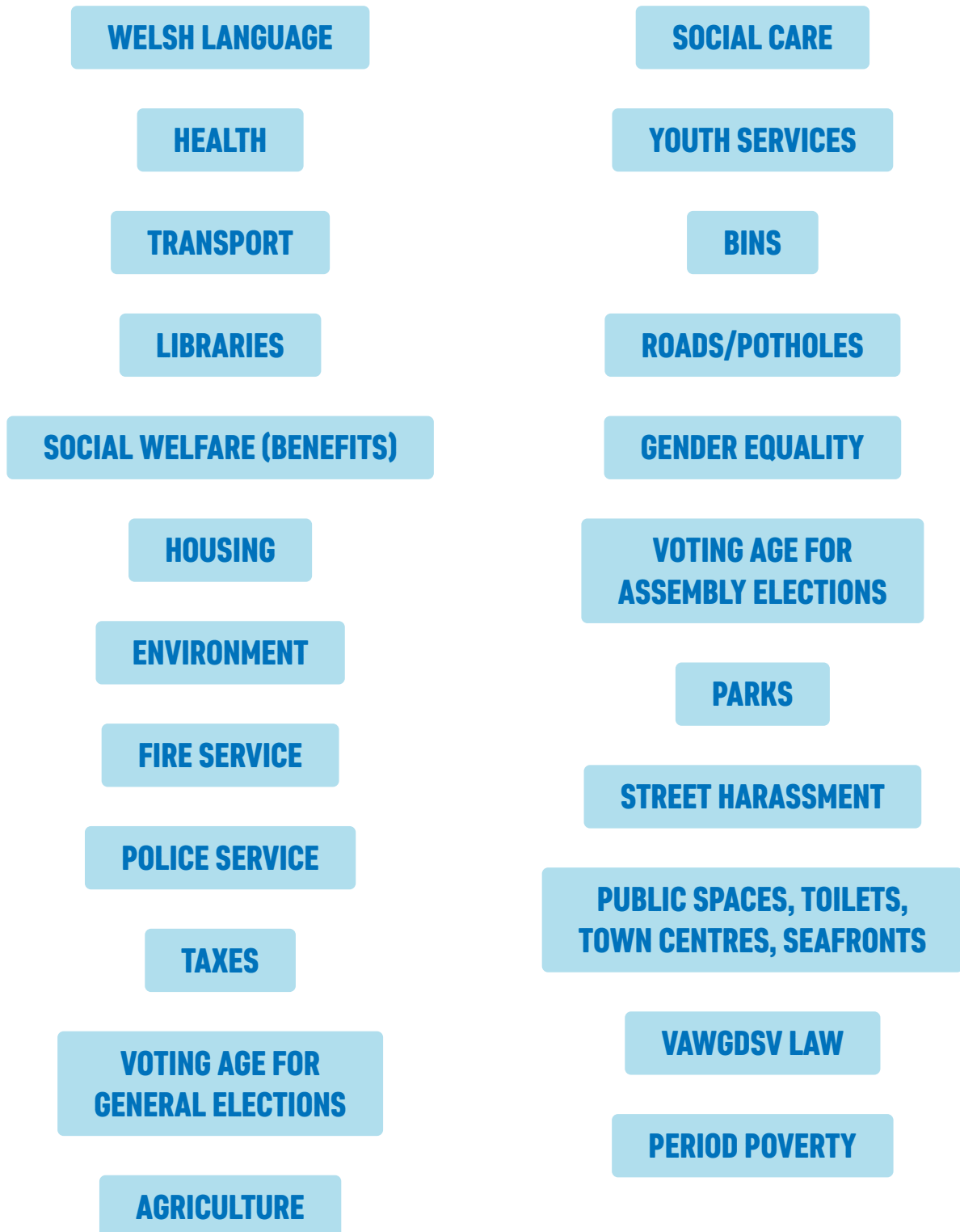
Public bodies Are organisation that are publically funded to deliver a public or government service, though not as a ministerial department.

Board of governors A group of people who examine the school and how it is doing. They have powers over decisions in the school and are kind of like the Head teachers' bosses.

ACTIVITY 1

Welsh devolution

Who is responsible for these powers?



ACTIVITY 1

Welsh devolution Activity sheet



**Local
Authority.**

*Don't turn the page until you're
ready for the answers!*

ACTIVITY 1

Welsh devolution Answers



**Local
Authority.**

**SOCIAL WELFARE
(BENEFITS)**

POLICE SERVICE

**VOTING AGE
GENERAL ELECTIONS**

WELSH LANGUAGE

HEALTH

TRANSPORT

HOUSING

ENVIRONMENT

FIRE SERVICE

TAXES

**VOTING AGE
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

AGRICULTURE

SOCIAL CARE

GENDER EQUALITY

STREET HARASSMENT

VAWGDSV LAW

PERIOD POVERTY

BINS

PARKS

YOUTH SERVICES

ROADS/ POTHoles

LIBRARIES

**PUBLIC SPACES,
TOILETS, TOWN
CENTRES, SEAFRONTS**

EXTRA RESOURCES ON DEVOLUTION

The Government of Wales Act 1998 first established the National Assembly for Wales. The Assembly acquired the executive functions of the former Welsh Office under that Act and subsequent executive functions via Acts of Parliament and transfer of functions orders. The Government of Wales Act (GoWA) 2006 led to the creation of a separate legislature (the National Assembly for Wales) and executive (the Welsh Assembly Government) following the May 2007 elections.

On 9 February 2010, Assembly Members voted in favour of a referendum on further law-making powers. The UK Government implemented legislation enabling the referendum to be held on 3 March 2011. Following the affirmative result, the Assembly assumed its new powers on 5 May 2011, enabling it to make laws in all 20 areas devolved to Wales as set out in Schedule 7 to GoWA.

The Wales Act 2014 devolved fiscal powers to the National Assembly for Wales for the first time, implementing the majority of the recommendations made in the Commission on Devolution in Wales' first report Empowerment and Responsibility: Fiscal Powers to Strengthen Wales. The 2014 Act included conferring legislative competence on the Assembly to replace stamp duty land tax and landfill tax in Wales, providing new capital borrowing powers for Welsh Ministers, and providing for the devolution of a portion of income tax.

The Wales Act 2017 made further changes to the devolution settlement for Wales, implementing the Government's commitments in the Command Paper Powers for a Purpose: Towards a Lasting Devolution Settlement for Wales (known as the St David's Day Agreement) that required legislative changes. This included putting in place a reserved powers model of devolution for Wales, and devolving further powers to the Assembly and Welsh Ministers in areas such as elections, transport, energy, and the natural environment.

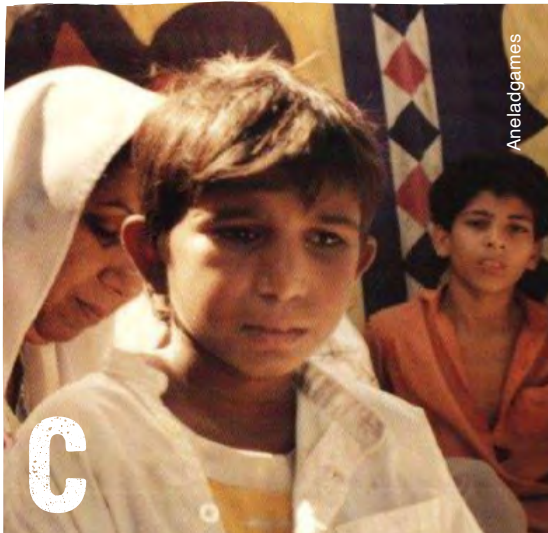
The Assembly's enhanced legislative competence is set out in Part 4 of, and Schedule 7 to, GoWA 2006, collectively known as the 'Assembly Act provisions'. These provisions enable the Assembly to legislate in relation to the subjects listed under the 20 headings in Schedule 7, as qualified by the exceptions and restrictions in that Schedule and in section 108 of GoWA.

The 20 areas in which the Assembly can legislate cover the delivery of local services – education and training, fire and rescue services, health services, highways and transport, housing, local government, social welfare, planning (except major energy infrastructure) and water supplies – agriculture, fisheries, forestry, culture, including the Welsh language and ancient monuments, economic development and the environment.

After much consultation with the people of Wales, as of the 6th May 2020 the National Assembly for Wales is now known as Welsh Parliament or Senedd Cymru. Assembly Members are now called Members of the Senedd or MS.

ACTIVITY 2

Young change makers Who's who?



ACTIVITY 2

Young change makers Match the photo to the description

Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a 17-year-old Swedish teenager who skipped school and inspired an international movement to fight climate change. She held a sign that read 'School Strike for Climate' and began regularly missing lessons to go on strike on Fridays, urging students around the world to join her. Her protests went viral on social media.

She was invited to the New York UN climate conference where she blasted politicians for relying on young people for answers to climate change. She said: "How dare you? I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean, yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?"

Gina Martin

25-year-old Gina Martin was at a music festival in Hyde Park, London, when she realised a man took a photo up her skirt of her. Gina was in disbelief that there was nothing security or police could do expect ask him to delete the photo. Gina decided to start a campaign to make up skirting illegal.

Gina's campaign took off after her posts on social media – showing the two men in the background of the photo – attracted a barrage of feedback, both positive and negative. Despite trolling, Gina decided to launch her fight to make up skirting a criminal offence so that perpetrators don't go unpunished. On January 14th, 2019, the House of Lords approved a law that makes up skirting illegal across the country, offenders now face up to two years in prison.

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani schoolgirl. She was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012 when she was only 15 years old because she was promoting the rights of girls to be educated. She survived and has become a global campaigner for human rights, women's rights and the right the right to education for all children and young people.

Malala set up the Malala Fund which helps girls in developing countries to go to school and to raise their profile in calling for the right to education.

Fahma Mohamed

Fahma Mohamed from Bristol led an inspirational campaign in the UK to get schools to tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). At the age of 17 she met with the Education Secretary to ask that every school should have guidance on how to keep girls safe from risk, and how to talk about FGM with school students. The Government agreed and sent information out to the head teachers of all secondary schools in England.

Fahma worked with the national newspaper and a Bristol youth project among others to raise awareness of FGM. The Campaign attracted over a quarter of a million signatures for one online petition making it one of the fastest growing ever.

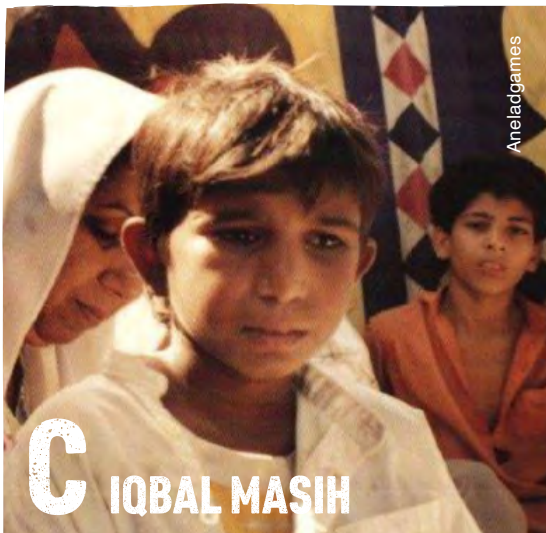
Iqbal Masih

Iqbal Masih was born in Pakistan in 1982 and was forced into bonded labour at age four. He was made to work as a carpet weaver to help pay off his family's debt. He was forced to work for the first year without any pay. The conditions in which he worked were horrendous. For six years he worked six days a week, at least 14 hours a day knotting threads to weave carpets.

Iqbal managed to get free from bonded labour at ten years old. He went to school and became an activist against child labour. His campaigning work helped to free thousands of children from forced labour. Iqbal was shot and killed at only aged 12 and many believe he was murdered because of his activism.

ACTIVITY 2

Young change makers Answers



Further reading:

ACT FOR GIRLS: ORGANISE Everything you need to know to plan your own campaign for change!

ACT FOR GIRLS: INFLUENCE Everything you need to know to influence your decision maker!

ACT FOR GIRLS: CREATE Everything you need to know to campaign creatively!

ACT FOR GIRLS: AMPLIFY Everything you need to know to get the word out!

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