

# Achieving Wellbeing

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# Safeguarding and Protecting

## Context in Wales:

Under 18 Population - 637,000

Children & Family Referrals to  
Social Services in 07/08 - 43,411

## Child Protection Registers (Wales)

31 March 2008	-	2320
(31 March 2007	-	2325)

Rate of 36 children per 10,000 population

1195	-	Boys
1120	-	Girls
5	-	Unborn

30% aged one to four

## Child Protection Registers (Wales) 07/08

2,960 Children added to registers  
2,965 Children removed from registers

Categories of Abuse:

- Neglect
- Emotional
- Physical
- Sexual

Lowest category of registrations Sexual Abuse at 8%

Highest category of registrations Neglect at 50%

## Key Issues in Child Protection Data

- Not inclusive of the numbers of children subject to, or at risk of significant harm
- Not every case is reported
- Many Child Protection referrals resolved without need for registration
- Cases registered because of continuing risk and requirement for inter-agency help through formal Child Protection Plan

## Looked After Children - Wales

31 March 2008	-	4635
(31 March 2007)	-	4640)
Children started to be Looked After	-	1445
Children finishing being Looked After	-	1450

## Society Changes

- In 2006 there were 236,980 marriages – the lowest since 1895
- One in ten families are step families
- One in four families are lone parents
- Nearly 200,000 children do not live with their parents

## Teenage Pregnancy

- Britain has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Western Europe
- Twice the rate of Germany
- Three times the rate of France
- Six times the rate of the Netherlands



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## Alcohol Misuse

- The World Health Organisation survey of Europe and North America puts Wales at the top of 40 countries followed by England
- Wales has the highest binge drinking rate in Europe

## Smoking / Drugs

- Approximately 10% of young people aged 11 – 15 are smoking at least 1 cigarette per week
- The ONS report one fifth of 15/16 year olds in Wales report trying drugs at some time

(ONS – Office of National Statistics)



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## National Consumer Council – A survey of 9 – 13 year olds

- Children who spend more time in front of the television or computer are more materialistic
- They tend to have lower self esteem
- They tend to have a lower opinion of their parents
- Children who have a poor opinion of their parents also argue with them more
- They will also have a poor opinion of themselves

## Poverty

- 3.8 million children are living in poverty in the UK today
- Since 1999, 600,000 children have been lifted out of poverty
- In 2005/06 child poverty rose by 100,000 – the first rise since 1999

## The cost to the child:-

- Children from the 5% most disadvantaged households are more than 50 times likely to have multiple problems at age 30 than those from the top 50% of households
  - 63% of boys whose fathers go to prison are eventually convicted themselves
  - 61% of workless couples households live in poverty
  - 60% of children in the lowest reading attainment group at age 10 had parents with low literacy scores
- Children who experience parental conflict and domestic violence are most likely to be delinquent and to commit violence and property offences

(Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

# The role of Children and Young Peoples Partnerships and the Children's Plan



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## Key priorities identified from Children's Plans in Wales:

- Tackling Child Poverty
- Improving educational opportunity
- Tackling Emotional and behaviour problems
- Domestic Violence
- Smoking
- Alcohol / Drug Misuse
- Low Birth Weight
- Diet and Exercise

*a better place to live and work*

## Children's Partnerships - the delivery mechanism for improvement:-

- Poverty blights children's lives is not just about low income
  
- Access to high quality:
  - health care
  - child care – enabler of parental employment
  - family support
  - decent housing
  - Leisure facilities
  - Cultural activities
  - Social Services

## **Children's Partnerships to take strategic approach to tackling these issues through links with:-**

- Economic development
- Job creation – particularly for the hard to reach
- Sufficient childcare for working parents
- Skills and Training development
- Regeneration
- Community Safety



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirai

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## What we can do:-

- Every Children's Services professional to take a family approach
- Every Children's Services professional to be alert to the signs of distress
- Every Children's Services professional to take a child focussed approach
- Promotion of healthy living – diet, activity
- Major function and responsibility in signposting/directing to support
- Accessing Benefits and Helping families use their funds effectively

## The Vision:-

- Personalised and integrated services need to be available to every child
- Ensure a strong understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Organisations and the workforce achieve more with individual children through working together than working on their own
- Participation of Children and Young People in shaping services and intervention
- Achieving a “Team around the Child” Approach

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.”

(Mother Teresa)