



# Annual Report and Accounts

2004/5

Children in Wales/Plant yng Nghymru

# Children in Wales

is the national umbrella children's organisation in Wales. We bring organisations and individuals together to:



- Make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality in Wales
- Fight for sustainable quality services and fair shares for all children and young people
- Ensure special attention and treatment for children in need and those who are marginalized
- Give children and young people a voice

As the national umbrella body, Children in Wales is a membership organisation and provides a range of services designed to keep members up to date with new developments and to facilitate joint responses. The work of Children in Wales includes:

- disseminating information on policy and practice,
- organising conferences, seminars and training,
- advising, supporting and representing members, and
- promoting children's issues to both the public and professionals.

## **The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

This convention is one of the most widely accepted human rights agreements adopted by the United Nations. It sets out rights, which should be enjoyed by all children throughout the world. The Convention recognises the child as an individual and acknowledges that the child's needs change as they mature. Almost every country in the world has signed up to the Convention and the UK ratified the Convention in 1991. The Welsh Assembly Government formally has adopted the Convention as a foundation of principles for dealings with children. The Convention was adopted during this term of office in January 2004. This means that all of the Assembly's work in relation to children must follow the principles of the Convention.

The Convention is a series of rights outlined in "Articles". The four guiding principles are Article 2 (non discrimination); Article 3 (best interests of the child); Article 6 (survival & development); and Article 12 (participation).

These articles state that:

- The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from
- All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.
- Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily
- Children have a right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account

The following pages will demonstrate a range of ways in which Children in Wales works to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Wales.

## **THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

### **Articles 2 7, 8, 10, 20, 22, 23, 39**

*The Convention states that every child must be protected from all forms of discrimination irrespective of who the child's parents are and where they live;*

## **Asylum and Refugee Issues**

### **Accompanied and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Networks**

Children in Wales coordinates this network whose aims are:

- To allow workers in this field to network and share good practice
- To contribute to the development of policy in this area
- To share practice dilemmas and to support each other in problem-solving
- To update their knowledge especially as it relates to the ever-changing legal framework.

The network is made up of a range of professionals who work with and for this group of children. Membership currently stands at 65 members, which includes policy makers from the Welsh Assembly Government. The network holds quarterly meetings and also offers regular E-Briefings.

Work this year has included

- Providing training for foster carers in Newport on the needs of unaccompanied asylum seekers;
- A response has been submitted to the National Service Framework consultation on the specific issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.
- A paper has been produced on trafficking, summarising current literature.
- A law seminar was organised on 'Unaccompanied Law' and a briefing session by the Home office on the 'Unaccompanied Register'.
- Children in Wales were represented at meetings with the Minister for Children for which we prepared a briefing Paper and the launch of the Welsh Assembly Government's Race Equality Scheme.

We continue to advise a range of agencies on issues to do with asylum seeking children

## **Looked After Children**

*Article 20 of the UN Convention states that children who cannot be looked after by their own family should be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.*

### **The Children in Wales Looking After Health Network**

This 2-year project was developed to support good practice in health work for children looked after in Wales. The Project included a combination of partnership work with local agencies, consultation with children and young people themselves, a national conference and newsletters and contributing to national consultations.

For example, in Denbighshire, we worked with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), where the specialist worker for children looked after was piloting a model of mental and emotional assessment. Meanwhile, in Torfaen, we set up a partnership to address concerns of practitioners that children looked after were vulnerable to sex-related risks, including teenage pregnancy and sexual exploitation. These are well-

documented risks for all young people looked after throughout the UK, rather than a particular local problem.

Consultation comments were submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government on a wide range of documents, including the drafts of the NSF for Children's Services, the National Public Health Services documents on holistic health assessments.

## **THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION IF DISABLED**

**Article 23** of the Convention relates to work with disabled children which states that: *every disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community and should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.*



Children in Wales continues to work with members to campaign for an equitable provision of services across Wales for disabled children and young people. We work to support members in developing services to help meet the needs of disabled children in Wales.

Examples of this work include:

- Liaison with Managers of Social Services' Disabled Children's Teams, to look at how support for disabled children and their families is organised, and how the objectives of the Children First programme have impacted on local service provision.
- Organised meetings to formulate a response to relevant consultation documents, such as - *National Service Framework for Children Young People and Maternity Services in Wales*.
- Representation on the Care Coordination Steering Group, which is aiming to develop the concept of care coordination throughout Wales. This concept identifies a key worker who will support disabled children and their families and negotiate with agencies on their behalf.
- Assisted The Wales Youth Agency and CWVYS in their preparations for a conference entitled '*Managing Change Removing Barriers - The principles and practice of implementing the Disability Discrimination Act for the voluntary youth sector*'
- Convenes a number of forums and networks to bring organisations together to share information and good practice and lobby for issues relating to disabled children and young people.

### **The Forum on Issues for Disabled Children**

This forum is a multi-agency group that shares information and good practice, and lobbies for issues relating to disabled children and young people. The Forum holds a programme of meetings across Wales - an All Wales Forum, and a series of regular regional meetings in North, South West and South East Wales. The aim of the sub fora is to explore issues in more depth than is possible in the main Forum meetings and to encourage more inter-agency working with a small group of county boroughs.

### **The Disabled Children Policy group**

This group brings together those with a policy brief on disability to work together to highlight issues and concerns about services to disabled children, and develop an ongoing dialogue with the Welsh Assembly Government. This group meets three times a year, and

links closely to the Disability Forum to reflect the views of forum members, and also links in to the Young Disabled Persons' Network to ensure young people's voices are included. The group will also work in partnership with the All Wales Managers' Group, which WAG facilitates.

### **Rights into Action**

Children in Wales was a major partner with the planning and delivery of Rights into Action 2003 - the 1st International Congress of Young Disabled People held in Swansea in July 2003. The coalition included the Welsh Assembly Government, the City and County of Swansea, the Disability Rights Commission, and the British Council.

The event brought together 95 young disabled people as delegates from over 35 different countries around the world to learn about their rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Social Model of Disability. The delegates discussed issues pertinent to their lives as young disabled people and presented these concerns to a panel of international decision makers. They also drew up a charter of action to be taken forward at local, national and international level.

The report of the Congress was published and disseminated and Children In Wales have continued to develop international contacts to ensure that young disabled people will be fully represented in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the rights of disabled people.

In March 2004 Children In Wales submitted a proposal to the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) to fund the Rights into Action network for the next two years. Members of 'Rights into Action' were invited to attend a Commissioners' Meeting of the DRC to give a presentation of their plans for the network. As a result of this the DRC agreed to fund the network to be hosted initially by Children In Wales.

A meeting was held between young disabled people from Wales and the Children's Commissioner, Peter Clark. The key issues discussed were around access to further education and support in work-based training. This will become an annual event and will be another important step in maintaining the momentum of Rights into Action's work. A meeting was also held with the Director of the European Disability Forum, to develop European contacts and discuss how Rights into Action and EDF might work together,

A group of young disabled people were supported in participation in the 'Talk Back' event at the Labour party conference in March 2004, where the questions were put to Jane Hutt and Jane Davidson. The event was a joint venture organised by the Policy Officers group.

### **Young disabled persons network in Wales**

Children in Wales were awarded a three-year grant from Comic Relief to develop a network of Young Disabled People in Wales. This funding has been matched with funding from the Disability Rights Commission, who funds the worker to coordinate the network. This work has been developed in partnership with Funky Dragon.

The network held two residential meetings during the October half term at Bala and Pembroke, which were attended by young disabled people. The young people assisted in devising the programme, contributed to discussions on how the network should develop and volunteered to assist with the development of a newsletter and a website.

## **PROMOTING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD**

### **Article 3**

*The convention states that all organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child*

Promoting the best interest of the child is at the heart of all of Children in Wales work.

### **Policy**

Children In Wales facilitated consultation events on “Rights to Action”, the “Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children” and the Children’s National Service Framework. We have increased contact with members by organising regular policy briefings/information events and they have been an opportunity for members to be part of a co-ordinated response to consultation documents.

During the debates on the Children Act in the House of Lords, excellent contributions from Welsh Peers were made following briefings from Children In Wales in relation to the Amendments we placed on abolishing the physical chastisement of children, play, the UNCRC and on extending the powers of the Children’s Commissioner into non-devolved areas

An Analysis of the Framework, Cymorth and Children’s Plans was completed for Welsh Assembly Government and a presentation was given in December 2004.



### **4 Nations Child Policy Network**

The Four Nations Child Policy Network is a partnership between Children in Wales, and the children’s umbrella organisations in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland (namely the National Children’s Bureau, Children in Northern Ireland, and Children in Scotland respectively). The service provides up-to-date information about policy affecting children and young people for those working in the children’s sector. Information provided includes:

-

The Latest News; Current Consultations; Policy Documents; Legislation; Proceedings from each Assembly and Parliament

The 4 Nations Child Policy Network successfully completed Phase I of its development with the support of the Community Fund during 2004-5.

### **Voluntary Sector Representation**

Children in Wales’ Chief Executive is the representative of the children’s voluntary organisations on the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council (VSPC). Information about the VSPC and a synopsis of the latest minutes is available on the websites of the 4 Nations Child Policy Network and Children in Wales.

A discussion forum has been set up on Children in Wales’ website to enable members of the network to put forward issues they wish to be addressed at future meetings of the VSPC as well as discussing issues on line with other members.

A consultation session was set up with the Russell Commission on consulting young people, run by the Dept for Work & Pensions.

Ministerial meetings have been attended with Alun Pugh AM, Jane Hutt AM, Jane Davidson AM, Sue Essex AM and Edwina Hart AM.

The North Wales Voluntary Organisations support group meets on a regular basis and has held meetings with the Welsh Assembly Government regarding Cymorth and to raise issues of concern. Following these meetings Framework co-ordinators were invited to discuss issues for the voluntary sector

## **THE RIGHT TO HOME AND FAMILY**

### **Articles 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19, 27, 42**

*The Convention states that each child has a right to a home and a family. It places emphasis on both parents taking responsibility for the raising and development of each child. It requires parents to:*



*Provide for the basis needs of the child; Give each child plenty of love and attention; Guide each child towards making wise choices; protect each child from unnecessary risks.*

## **Parenting**

### **Fforwm Magu Plant**

Children in Wales facilitates a multi agency network of parenting organisations, established in response to calls from organizations involved in family support. The Forum promotes the sharing of good practice, the dissemination of relevant information, training and quality standards. Views of parents, carers and children are communicated to policy makers in Wales.

### **Parenting Action Plan**

Children in Wales published “Raising Children Confidently” in 2004. This document sets out a vision for creating new services and structures to support parents in the task of raising children in Wales.

Children in Wales presented this document to the Cabinet Sub Committee for Children and as a result a Welsh Assembly Government working group was established to develop the ideas set out for supporting people with parenting in Wales. Children in Wales co-chaired this working group and both Fforwm Magu Plant and Fatherhood Wales Forum were represented on the group.

As a result “The Parenting Action Plan” was published by the Children and Families division of the Welsh Assembly Government in March 2005, for consultation. The Plan outlines a number of goals and actions for the next three years. Children in Wales facilitated meetings to consult with members and prepare a response to the consultation.

### **Parental Separation Green Paper**

Children in Wales held a Wales wide consultation event to develop a member’s response to the Green Paper. The event included the Children’s Deputy Commissioner for Wales, CAF/CASS Cymru, NCH Mediation Service and a representative from the Association of Lawyers for Children.

Children In Wales produced an evaluation report on the universal distribution of the public education booklets “**Raising Children Confidently**” which was shared at the forum’s annual conference in December 2004 and is available to view on our website.

### **North Wales Parenting practice exchange**

An event was held for workers running parenting groups. This was arranged jointly with Ynys Mon and Gwynedd YOTS in response to a need that they had identified. This group of staff meet periodically, as there is little support for group workers in the North beyond that offered by specific programmes (i.e. Incredible Years) and workers have identified the need for sharing practice across different programmes and an email group will be set up.

## **Fatherhood Wales Group**

9,18,19,31

*Article 9 of the UN Convention states that children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might harm the child.*

## Articles



Fatherhood Wales is a multi-agency network established in response to the increasing recognition of the important role father's play in raising their children today. The Group works in partnership with Fathers Direct, and has close links with the Equal Opportunities Commission and The Children' Commissioner for Wales.

A Fatherhood Development Officer started work in September 2004 and has been active in promoting fathers work across Wales. The work of Fatherhood Wales has involved

- Being represented on the Parenting Action Plan group
- Organised a consultation event to discuss the Parental Separation Green paper. The event was attended by the Children's Commissioner, Peter Clarke, which led to joint working with the Commissioner's office to try and establish some alternative solutions to the problems, which the Green Paper raised.
- Met with the Minister, Edwina Hart, to discuss the proposals arising from these discussions.

## **Fatherhood Forum**

The Forum meets four times a year to provide practice exchange, and provides an opportunity for members to respond to any consultation events, and to promote the importance of fathers in the lives of their children.

## **Fatherhood Policy group**

The Policy Group is made up of key individuals and concentrates on specific policy issues to set the agenda for the work in Wales.

Firm connections have also been established with other groups throughout the UK via our involvement in the UK Fatherhood Forum. This provides an opportunity to stay abreast of the latest developments on a UK level.

## **THE RIGHT TO SURVIVAL**

### **Articles 6,18,19,26,27,31**

*The Convention states that every child has the right to survive. The right is recognised as the most basic of all human rights. It includes the provision of: Food, clothing, shelter and a flying start to life with opportunities to grow and develop; love, care, nurture*

### **Early Years**

The Early Years work within Children in Wales concentrates specifically on the needs of the under eights and their families, and works with a wide range of organisations in all sectors.

Children in Wales's networks across Wales with local authorities, sharing information on partnership working and policy developments with:

- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
- Sure Start Partnerships;
- Early Years Forums and County Voluntary Councils;
- Children's partnerships, and task groups, such as training, quality assurance, special educational needs
- Under Eights Coordinators/Registration and Inspection Officers
- Early Years Advisers;
- Voluntary Organisations such as Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Wales PPA, National Childminding Association, Home Start Wales, SNAP Cymru,
- Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales



### **Early Years and Childcare Advisory group**

The Children in Wales Early Years and Childcare Advisory group was re-established this year, with membership is drawn from across the sectors. The aims of the group include:

- To raise public awareness of the needs and entitlement of all young children and their families;
- To influence public policy and bring about change;
- To develop and promote a coherent national strategy to support the development of children from birth to eight;

Children in Wales are represented on the Early Childhood Forum in London and were represented on the Child Care Task Group, until its completion in December 2004.

### **Sure Start Network**

Children in Wales supports a Sure Start Network within Wales and has facilitated regular meetings of Sure Start coordinators, held in mid Wales. Topics of discussion have include the development of Integrated Children's Centres; Cymorth funding; methods of highlighting and promoting good practice; a questionnaire to map Sure Start developments across Wales; and a focus on work with fathers within Sure Start programmes. .

Sure Start in Wales was amalgamated with the Children and Youth Partnership Fund and the Childcare Strategy to form a new unified fund "Cymorth - the Children and Youth Support Fund" in April 2003.

## **Cymorth Conference**

Children in Wales were commissioned by the Assembly to deliver a two-day all Wales event that profiled a range of innovative projects delivered under the Cymorth Funding stream. The conference, entitled "Cymorth in Practice" was held in September 2004 and included keynote speeches by Jane Hutt, Jayne Davidson and Peter Clark, over 30 workshop presentations and a semi formal dinner. Over 200 delegates attended the event. The conference was to facilitate networking and the sharing of best practice amongst those engaged with the Framework Partnerships across Wales, voluntary organisations in receipt of Cymorth funding and those with an interest in the area. A conference report was produced on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

## **Young Carers Network**

Children in Wales is represented on the Young Carers Advisory Panel and also the Carers Strategy review Panel. Children in Wales have also taken over the co-ordination of the Young Carers Network, previously undertaken by Carers Wales. The network meets quarterly and we are working closely with the Chair of the Young Carers Workers Network to develop proposals to increase the participation of young carers into both the young carers advisory panel and the carers' strategy review panel. These proposals will be discussed by young carers at their summer festival 2005.

## **THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

### **Article 19**

*Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child upholds children's rights to human dignity and respect and states that every child should be protected from all forms of physical or mental abuse and neglect or violence from their parents or anyone else who is caring for them.*

## **Child Protection**

Children in Wales is a member of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures Group and is represented on the Welsh Assembly Government working group on Child Protection and Ethnicity and the South Wales Child Protection Forum.

Presentations have been made at the All Wales Child Protection conference on Children's Rights in Child Protection and a workshop was facilitated on Child Protection and Asylum,

Publications produced are: 'Good Practice Guidelines For Children & Young People Involved In The Child Protection Process' for the All Wales Area Child Protection Committee and the additional report which gave examples and suggestions from which leaflets and booklets could be produced locally, as well as an example of a leaflet for young people,



## **Ending Physical Punishment**

'Sdim Curo Plant! Children are Unbeatable! Cymru ('SCP!/CAU! Cymru) was launched in September 2000 to co-ordinate and promote the campaign in Wales. The Strategy Group has representatives from Children in Wales, Save the Children, NSPCC, NCH, Barnardo's, the National Childminding Association, the National Family & Parenting Institute and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Children in Wales coordinates the network, whose aims are:

- To change the law so that children and young people have the same protection from being hit as adults;
- To run a public education campaign about why 'smacking' children is not acceptable;
- For parents to have information and practical advice and support about alternatives to 'smacking' and using a positive approach to bringing up children.

The Welsh Assembly Government is strongly committed to upholding the UN Convention and supports the aims of 'Sdim Curo Plant! Children are Unbeatable!

Work this year has been very much dominated by lobbying for support from MPs and members of the House of Lords for an amendment to the Children Act 2004 to remove the 'reasonable chastisement' defence. 'SCP! CAU! launched a postcard campaign and colleagues in England produced a briefing pack which was adapted and translated for use in Wales.

A Briefing Event, sponsored by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children in Wales/APPG UK and organised by Julie Morgan MP, was held at the House of Commons, London in June 2004. Speakers included representatives from the Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (a German Child Protection NGO), who spoke about the effect of the law in Germany that prohibits physical punishment of children and from Save the Children Sweden, who spoke about the Swedish law and experience.

The work came to an end when the amendment was defeated in the House of Commons in November 2004, despite a revolt by 47 Labour MPs. The government backed a compromise (Section 58 of the Children Act 2004), allowing parents to inflict "reasonable chastisement" as long as it did not leave visible marks.

Section 58 came into effect for England and Wales from 15 January 2005. It leaves the defence of reasonable punishment available for charges of common assault, removing it for the more serious charges of actual and grievous bodily harm and ill treatment.

The Government have committed to review Section 58, and this review is expected in the autumn of 2006, SCP-CAU be gathering evidence to inform the review, as well as continuing to campaign for a complete ban on hitting children.

'Sdim Curo Plant! Children are Unbeatable! Cymru held a series of successful training and presentation events around Wales. The presentation has also been adapted to meet the needs of children and young people so that they could be given a voice in the campaign. An example of this was a session with a group of nine to eleven year old children in a school on Anglesey, who visited their MP to share their views.

## **THE RIGHT TO THE ENJOYMENT OF THE BEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF HEALTH.**

### **Article 24**

*The article recognizes the right of the child to the good quality health care and that no child is deprived of their right of access to such health care services.*

### **Health**

Children in Wales were actively involved in the development of the National Service framework for Children, through representation on the External Working groups. When the document was published for consultation, Children in Wales worked with members to prepare a response.

Children In Wales:

- facilitated a seminar for members in Cardiff to gather their views for the response.
- coordinated a response to the issues for disabled children that have been gathered from discussions with policy colleagues and from the Children in Wales Forum on Disabled Children and Young People.
- Coordinated a parenting and fatherhood response with Fforwm Magu Plant members

The Looked After Health Project Development Officer supported discussions and presentations by three young people's forums to the series of WAG Consultation Conferences on the NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.

## **RIGHT TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING**

### **Articles 26 & 27**

*Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.*

### **Child Poverty**

#### **End Child Poverty Network Cymru.**

Children in Wales hosts a coordinator to run the End Child Poverty Network Cymru, which is a coalition of concern focused on child poverty whose Steering Group Members include Barnardo's Cymru, Children in Wales, Save the Children Cymru, NCH Cymru, NSPCC Cymru, ChildLine Cymru/Wales, Communities that Care, Child Poverty Action Group, National Public Health Service for Wales, Fairbridge Cymru, Citizens Advice Cymru, the Frank Buttle Trust, Shelter Cymru, and the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.



The network has a growing number of Supporter Members who support the vision that no child in Wales should be living in poverty by 2020. Members come from a broad cross-section of the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Network was set up in November 2001 and works to achieve:

- Increased public and professional understanding of child poverty in Wales
- Public and professional support for measures to end child poverty
- Policies in place at all levels of government, which contribute to ending child poverty in Wales.

Children in Wales chairs the Network and has also been involved with work undertaken by Eurochild on input from anti-poverty networks throughout Europe, and the participation of children and young people to the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion.

The network was represented at the Eurochild conference on poverty in Brussels in October 2004 and at the Child Poverty Action Group's AGM and debate in December. The Network is also a member of the All Party Group on Healthy Living, Chaired by Jeff Cuthbert AM.

The network has: -

- successfully lobbied the Welsh Assembly Government for a child poverty strategy in Wales
- lobbied for and participated in the Child Poverty Task Group
- given evidence to Welsh Affairs Select Committee inquiry on child poverty
- made responses to Welsh Assembly and UK Government consultations, such as the Parenting Action Plan, the Welsh Assembly Government School Uniform Financial Assistance Scheme and the National Service Framework for Children.

In January 2005 members of the End Child Poverty Network Cymru attended a meeting with Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown who visited Cardiff to launch an awareness campaign about the Child Trust Fund. First Minister Rhodri Morgan, and former Minister for Health and Social Services, Jane Hutt also attended the meeting. Members of the Network asked a range of questions and subsequently wrote a letter to the Chancellor highlighting areas of concern over aspects of the Child Trust Fund.

Network members attended the All Party Group on Healthy Living and represented the Network at a 'Healthy Living' event in February 2005, where a presentation was given attended to AMs and Ministers.

Publications produced have included:

- Briefing papers on child poverty
- the Child Poverty Task Group report for the Assembly subject Committees
- Newsletters and e-briefings regarding the latest policy developments, statistics and research around child poverty

A scoping and mapping exercise has been undertaken on poverty networks in Wales and the rest of the UK, to identify potential links that could be established with them.

An End Child Poverty website: [www.endchildpovertycymru.org.uk](http://www.endchildpovertycymru.org.uk) (English language) and [www.dileutlodiplantcymru.org.uk](http://www.dileutlodiplantcymru.org.uk) (Welsh language) is hosted within the Children in Wales website.

## **THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

### **Articles 12**

*Article 12 of the UN Convention states that every child should have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions affecting them and should have their opinions taken into account.*

### **Children's Rights**

Children in Wales are involved in a number of initiatives aimed at promoting children's rights in Wales. These include:

#### **The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Monitoring Group –**

Children in Wales are represented on the UNCRC Monitoring Group, which works together to ensure the effective co-ordination of the monitoring of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Wales.

#### **Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales – Funky Dragon**

Children in Wales supports Funky Dragon by serving on their Trustee and Management Committee and are involved in supporting Funky Dragon in its policy work which has included briefing them on the new European Youth Policy paper and proposals in the Children Act 2004, which affect Funky Dragon.

#### **Children's Rights Unit (Neath Port Talbot) –**

Children in Wales support the Neath Port Talbot Children's Rights Unit. The vision of the service is to provide a centre dedicated to children's rights for all children and young people living in the local authority of Neath Port Talbot.

#### **The Children's Rights Practice Exchange Groups**

These groups, established and supported by Children in Wales, have held regular meetings since September 1997. Children in Wales facilitate meetings in north and south Wales for practitioners to exchange expertise and information. An e-briefing service for the network continues to be utilised by way of circulating information and enabling communication between quarterly events.

#### **Training**

Children in Wales runs children's rights training events for a range of external partners and has held a training event for the National Public Health Service on children's rights.

#### **A Children's Rights Training Pack**

Children In Wales has produced a Children's Rights Training Pack to provide the framework for all future training events delivered by the team and its associates. This guide will become an on-going source of development and a version of the final copy has been completed on behalf of the Bridgend Area Child Protection Committee. A "Training the Trainers" course was held for Bridgend County Borough Council around this training pack, which was run with a co-trainer from Voices from Care.



## **Inspection**

Children in Wales has worked with the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales on improving the way in which they involve children and young people in the Inspection process.

## **Young People's Citizen's Jury**

Children in Wales co-facilitated the first young people's Citizen's Jury event on the topic of "Designer Babies" which took place in September 2004, and were represented on both the Steering Committee and sub-planning group. We were involved, alongside young people, in presenting the final report to the Welsh Assembly Government Health Committee in October 2004 and involved in on-going discussions around disseminating the results more widely

## **Young People's Views sought at the National Eisteddfod**

One of the aims of the Children in Wales stand at the 2004 Eisteddfod in Newport was to engage with children and young people on a range of key issues and topics and seek to capture their thoughts and feelings in the process. We presented children and young people a range of questions on with 7 different subjects and invited them to provide responses to the questions posed at a voting booth.

The subjects included:

- Improving health
- Lowering the voting age to 16
- Play and leisure
- Education
- Physical punishment
- Transport
- Genetics

More than 700 young people, aged between 5 and 18, voted on the issues casting over 1200 votes

A detailed breakdown in relation to the age and gender of respondents is available within a report of the event.

## **Participation Consortium**

Children in Wales attends the participation consortium meetings, and has represented the Consortium at a Carnegie funded meeting in London to explore the ways in which participation activity can be disseminated across the UK.

## **Advocacy**

Children in Wales facilitates a network of providers in Wales chaired by one of our trustees. The aims of the Network are

- To promote partnership work and developmental strategies between organisations.
- To facilitate problem solving and resolve potential conflicts of interest.
- To promote the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and 'Children's Rights'.
- To link this group to broader issues of children and young people's participation in Wales.

It is hoped that as the Network grows it will contribute to the development of effective advocacy in Wales. Children in Wales has also attended meetings of the Welsh Assembly Task & Finish Group on Advocacy.

## **Family Group Meeting Network**

Articles 9, 12,18,19,20,25,26

Family Group Conferences/Meetings are a mechanism which place the child/young person and the wider family network at the centre of the decision making process, and have been present in Wales since 1992. The Network seeks to support the development of Family Group Conferences throughout Wales and holds quarterly meetings at which Children in Wales is represented.

Children in Wales supports the network in the following ways:

- hosts and updates the Network's website which lists each FGC service provider linked by local authority region across Wales
- represented the Network at the All Wales meeting, the UK network meeting in London and the European Network 2 day event in Belgium which attracted delegates from over 12 countries
- provided a response to the Dept for Education & Skills consultation 'Parental Separation: Children's Needs and Parents Responsibilities' on behalf of the All-Wales network;
- provides an e-briefing service to the Group in terms of events, consultations and developments across Wales as appropriate
- attend the sub-group of the Network which is planning the European FGC Network event scheduled for November 2005,

## **Other Work undertaken by Children in Wales**

### **International Work**

**Europe** - a new European organisation has been registered as an official international Non Governmental Organisation – Eurochild AISBL, the successor organisation to the European Forum for Child Welfare. The remit of the organisation has been widened to include organisations from the statutory sector. It is therefore identical to Children in Wales, National Children's Bureau and Children in Scotland in membership. Children In Wales, through Eurochild AISBL, has been able to working with the umbrella bodies from a range of other countries in Europe. The Chief Executive of Children in Wales is the President and the organisation is at the centre of the Social Inclusion work in the EU as the only funded organisation dealing with children.

The Eurochild AISBL General Assembly and first Conference were held in Brussels in October 2004 on the issue of combating Social Exclusion and Child Poverty. In recognition of the crucial role that the Welsh Assembly Government played in the development of this organisation, Jane Hutt AM came to address the conference on the work in Wales. Other presentations were given by the Director of the European Anti Poverty Network; the Head of the work on Social Exclusion in the European Commission; Professor Jonathan Bradshaw; Dr Petra Hoelscher and the Acting Secretary General of Eurochild. There was also good representation from both the WAG office in Brussels and the Wales European Centre. The UK National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Exclusion from a child rights perspective for Eurochild AISBL was presented in a workshop at the conference.

It was extremely heartening to hear the European Commission state publicly that they regarded Eurochild as their key partner in relation to their Social Exclusion agenda and greatly appreciated the contribution that Eurochild made to the Round Table on Social Exclusion held in Rotterdam. Eurochild believes it has been key to getting children's rights

considered within this vast agenda.

Following the Eurochild Conference the Chief Executive as President was invited to the Ministerial Meeting at the end of the Dutch Presidency on Social Policy. She has also successfully encouraged the Luxembourg Presidency to hear directly from children and young people about poverty (a very new departure for them). Children from across Europe will give their views both to an Members of the European Parliament reception and also to the People Experiencing Poverty conference organised by the European anti poverty network.

Children in Wales were represented at the European Family Group Conference Network 2-day event in Belgium, which attracted delegates from over 12 countries.

Meetings were held with the Wales European Centre and the Welsh Local Government Association Offices in Brussels.

The Chief Executive is part of the planning group for a young people's conference being organised by the UK government and the European Commission in Wales during the UK Presidency.

**International Forum for Child Welfare.**

As Secretary of the International Forum for Child Welfare, the Chief Executive attended the General Assembly of the International Forum for Child Welfare.

# Management Committee 2004/5

## *Honorary Officers*

**Chair** Chris Walby Individual Member

**Treasurer** Tim Brown Individual member

## *Voluntary Sector*

**General** Rita Jones Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin  
Roger Bishop Tros Gynnal  
Mary Romaine British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering  
Ray Ciborowski Barnardos Cymru  
Catrin Fletcher Home Start Wales  
Mike Greenaway Play Wales

## *Professional Associations*

Gareth Morgan Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health  
Joe Howsam Association of Directors of Social Services

## *Statutory Sector*

Richard Parry Swansea County Council  
Maria Michael Cardiff County Council  
Carys Graham National Public Health Service  
Janet Williams National Public Health Service  
Celia Bryan

## *Academic*

Nigel Thomas University of Wales Swansea

## *Private Agencies*

*Vacant*

## ***Individual Members***

Professor Jo Sibert

## ***Observers***

Chris Burdett  
Jonathan Corbett  
Linda Bransbury

National Assembly for Wales  
National Assembly for Wales  
Wales Local Government Association

## ***National Children's Bureau***

Sally Whitaker

NCB

## ***Organisational Members of Children in Wales, 31 March 2005***

ABCD	
ACE	
Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol	
Ceredigion	
Afasic Cymru	
Angela Ash Associates	
ATL Wales	
BAAF Cymru	
Barnardo's Cymru	
BBC Children in Need	
Big Lottery Fund	
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales	
Boys & Girls Welfare Society	
Bridgend College	
Bridgend County Borough Council	
Bridgend Resource for Children with Disabilities	
Bright Beginnings Playgroup, Creigiau	
British Association of Social Workers	
Bryn Melyn Group	
Caerphilly Children's Centre	
Caerphilly County Borough Council	
CAFCASS Cymru	
Caia Park Early Years Forum	
CAIR	
Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust	
Cardiff County Council	
Cardiff Women's Aid	
Carmarthenshire County Council	
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	
Cartref Bontnewydd	
Childhood Studies, University of Swansea	
Ceredigion County Council	
Conwy Framework Partnership	
Children's Information Bureau, Wrexham	
City & County of Swansea	
Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs	
Coleg Glan Hafren	
Coleg Morgannwg	
Communities That Care	
Contact a Family Wales	
Conwy County Borough Council	
Council for Mission & Ministry, Church in Wales	
CWVYS	
CYCA, Llanelli	
Cyfle Cyntaf/First Opportunity	
	Cymdeithas Tai Hafan
	Deeside College
	DEWIS Ltd
	Diabetes UK Cymru
	Discovery - Student Volunteering Swansea
	Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru
	ESIS, Education and School Improvement Service
	Fairbridge De Cymru
	Family Fund
	Family Planning Association
	Fostering Network Wales
	Glan Clwyd Hospital
	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
	Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust
	Gwynedd Council
	GYL Project, Bridgend
	Home Start Bridgend
	Home Start Wales
	Interlink
	Isle of Anglesey County Council
	Law yn Llaw
	Llandough Hospital NHS Trust
	M C Consultancy
	MENCAP Cymru
	Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
	National Association of Toy & Leisure Libraries
	National Childminding Association
	National Day Nurseries Association
	National Deaf Children's Society
	National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)
	NCH Cymru
	Neath & Port Talbot County Vol Service
	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
	Neath Women's Aid
	Newport City Council
	Newport Local Health Board
	North East Wales NHS Trust
	NSPCC Cymru
	Offa Playschemes Association
	Pembrokeshire & Derwen NHS Trust
	Pembrokeshire County Council

Penrhys Primary School  
Plant Dewi  
Play Wales  
Powys Carers Service  
Powys Children & Families Forum  
Prospects for Young People  
Pyramid Trust Cymru  
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough  
Council  
Royal College of Paediatrics & Child  
Health  
Save the Children Wales  
Scope Cwmpas Cymru  
SCOVO  
Shared Care Network Cymru  
Sheila Booth Social Work Consultancy  
SNAP Cymru  
Social Interface  
Spark Blaenymaes Ltd  
Swansea College  
Swansea Council for Voluntary Services  
Swansea University College Library  
TACT Cymru  
The Family Centre  
The Frank Buttle Trust Cymru  
Ysgol Glanrafon  
Ysgol Gymraeg Abercynon  
Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones  
Ysgol y Gwendraeth  
Ystrad Mynach College

The Parent Network of Caerphilly  
Thomas Coram Research Unit  
TOGS Centre  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Torfaen Framework for Partnership  
Trinity College/Coleg y Drindod  
Trinity Fields School & Resource Centre  
Tros Gynnal  
Ty Hafan Children's Hospice  
Dept of Applied Social Studies, University  
of Wales Swansea  
Tir na Nog Daycare Centre, University of  
Wales, Bangor  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Victoria Primary School  
Voices from Care (Cymru)  
Voluntary Action, Cardiff  
Voluntary Action, Merthyr Tydfil  
Wales Pre School Playgroups  
Association  
Welsh Women's Aid  
Wrexham Early Years Forum  
Wrexham Play Association  
Y Ganolfan Feithrin, Llanfair Caereinion  
Youthlink Wales

# Children In Wales

**Head Office:** 25 Windsor Place, Cardiff CF10 3BZ.  
Tel: 029 20 342434 Fax: 029 20 343134



**North Wales Office:** 24-26 High St, Caernarfon LL55 1RH  
Tel: 01286 677570 Fax: 01286 676095



email: [info@childreninwales.org.uk](mailto:info@childreninwales.org.uk) website: [www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk)

Registered charity No: 1020313

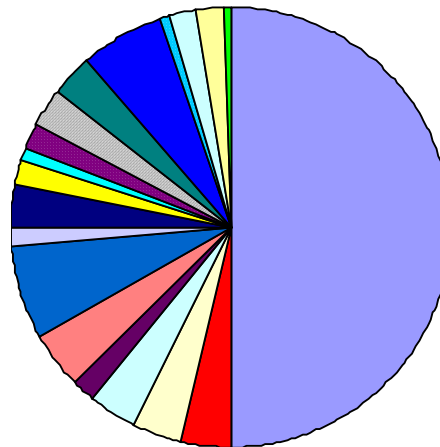
A company limited by guarantee registered in Wales No: 28059

# Children in Wales Accounts

## Income 2004/5 £

WAG Core grant	421295
WAG Fatherhood	30000
WAG End Child Poverty	30000
WAG Public Education	30063
4 Nations Child Policy Network Grant	13321
Children are Unbeatable	35411
WAG Review of Framework & Cymorth plans	58386
WAG Word Grant	13000
NFPI Parenting project	25425
Donations	296
WCVA	14867
WAG (LAC) Health Exchange	7068
DRC Rights into Action Project	16779
Comic Relief Disabled & YP Forum	24500
Membership Subscriptions	24305
Conference/seminar Fees	52616
Other Income	5166
Rent and Service Charges	16485
Publications	1728
Consultancy Fees	14579
Deposit acct interest	5694

## Income 2004/5



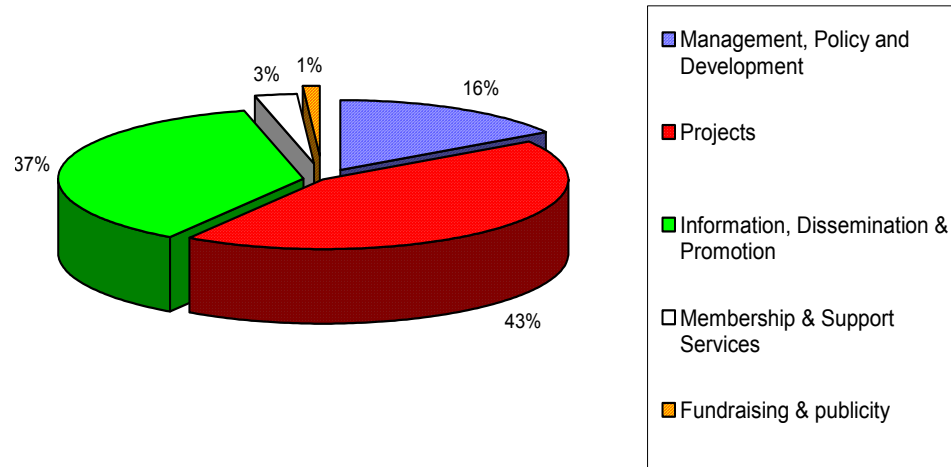
- WAG Core grant
- WAG Fatherhood
- WAG End Child Poverty
- WAG Public Education
- 4 Nations Child Policy Network Grant
- Children are Unbeatable
- WAG Review of Framework & Cymorth plans
- WAG Word Grant
- NFPI Parenting project
- Donations
- WCVA
- WAG (LAC) Health Exchange
- DRC Rights into Action Project
- Comic Relief Disabled & YP Forum
- Membership Subscriptions
- Conference/seminar Fees
- Other Income
- Rent and Service Charges
- Publications
- Consultancy Fees
- Deposit acct interest

## Charitable Expenditure 2004/5

### Direct Charitable Expenditure

Management, Policy and Development	106066
Projects	288242
Information, Dissemination & Promotion	246662
Membership & Support Services	19513
Fundraising & publicity	6629
	667,112.00

### Charitable Expenditure 2004/5



### Management & Administration of the Charity

### Management & Administration of the Charity

Salaries & Training	49946
Other Support Costs	19773
Audit & Accountancy	5554
Legal & Professional Fees	4540
Bank Charges	373
Depreciation	13840
	94,026.00
Total Resources Expended	761,138.00
Net Incoming Resources/expenses for year	49,783.00
Funds Brought Forward	279,603.00
Funds Carried Forward	329,386.00

