Comisiynydd Plant Cymru
Children's Commissioner for Wales



Annual Report 2025-26

Young People's Version

www.childcomwales.org.uk

Welcome

Who we are



Rocio Cifuentes,
Children's Commissioner for Wales



The Children's Commissioner for Wales stands up for the rights of children and young people across Wales. We listen to what young people say, help solve problems and challenge decision-makers when things need to change.

Comisiynydd Plant Cymru
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We listened to young people

Across Wales, your views helped shape our work

We visited schools, youth groups, community organisations and events.

We spoke with young carers, disabled children, faith groups, Scouts, Guides and many others.





54
visits across Wales

4,500+
children and young people met

11,600+
young people shared their views

Views were gathered through surveys, online activities and in-person conversations.

We helped children and young people understand their rights

We delivered children's rights training in schools, colleges and youth groups.

We worked with over 1,000 Super Ambassadors and more than 2,500 children online.

We also created new resources to help young people learn about their rights.



Knowing your rights can help you speak up

1. Listen
2. Explain rights
3. Explore options
4. Advise or intervene
5. Make a difference

How we helped children and young people

Confidential, independent advice when rights may not be respected

Our Advice and Assistance Team helps children and young people, parents and carers when rights may not be respected.



634 cases

607 new enquiries

1. Listen
2. Explain rights
3. Explore options
4. Advise
5. Make a difference

We work to protect children's rights to

- Be heard
- Be treated fairly
- Be safe
- Be supported

Examples of how we helped

- Supported children when excluded from school.
- Helped young people get the support they need.
- Advocated for children in care planning.

We supported children and families in all 22 local authority areas in Wales.

We spoke up about issues that matter

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Children and young people told us what needs attention

We raised awareness of issues affecting children and young people across Wales and used what we heard to challenge decision-makers.

- Mental health
- Bullying and discrimination
- Racism
- Housing and homelessness
- Child poverty
- Social media and screen time
- Safety and protection
- The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people





WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

We are calling on the Welsh Government to do more for children and young people.

1. Poverty

Too many children and young people are living in poverty.

We want:

- More support for families struggling with money.
- Better access to free school meals in secondary schools.
- More help for children experiencing housing problems or homelessness.

2. Education

We want:

- Better support for learners with Additional Learning Needs.
- Easier ways for children and families to raise concerns.
- Schools where everyone feels included, respected and supported.

3. Bullying and Discrimination

Young people told us that bullying, racism and other forms of discrimination are still happening.

We want:

- Schools to record and respond to bullying properly.
- Better support for young people who experience discrimination.
- More learning about equality, inclusion and respect.

4. Mental Health

Mental health remains one of the biggest concerns for young people.

We want:

- Faster access to support.
- Services that are available when young people need them.
- More investment in mental health support.

5. Transport

Young people told us travel can be expensive and difficult.

We want:

- Safer journeys.
- Work towards making public transport free for children and young people.
- Better access to education, work and activities.

6. Social Care

We want care-experienced young people to:

- Be involved in decisions about their lives.
- Have access to work experience and career opportunities.

OUR BIG MESSAGE

We want to make children's rights the law in Wales so that everyone has to make children's rights real. This means putting babies, children and young people at the heart of decisions. Leaders should listen to children and young people's experiences, respect their rights and take action to make life better for every child.

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Your voice matters.

The changes we call for are based on what children and young people across Wales told us.