

Putting children first: Prioritising Wales's future

RCPCH
Wales 2026
Election
Manifesto

Our calls for the next Welsh Government:

1 We need to:

Empower the child health workforce: Attract, support and retain a workforce able to care for current and future generations.



3 We need to:

Embrace data and digital innovation: Revolutionise child health through data transparency and digitalisation, investment in IT infrastructure and facilitating record sharing across sectors.



2 We need to:

Transform health services: Prioritise children's health, happiness and wellbeing within the planning, funding and delivery of the NHS.



4 We need to:

Deliver for all: Ensure every child has an opportunity for a healthy life by mitigating the wider determinants of health.



Read our
manifesto



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Leading the way in Children's Health

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Why act now?

29% of children are living in relative income poverty

25% of children aged 4-5 are overweight or obese

32% of children aged 5-6 were affected by tooth decay

50,000+ open patient pathways for under 18s

1 in 6 children and young people have a diagnosable mental health problem



What RCPCH members told us:

92% of members believe improved NHS IT systems would benefit the child health workforce

88% of members wanted the Welsh Government to deliver a long-term child health workforce plan

77% said the Government should prioritise fair funding for child health

69% said reducing the impact of poverty would be the most beneficial measure to improving child health.



Data taken from RCPCH Wales survey 2024

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