



OXFAM CYMRU

A LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE



OXFAM

Today in Wales, 23% of people are living in poverty.

Over half of these people are in work, and women face a number of additional challenges.

We want local councils to deliver a decent quality of life for all.

WE WON'T LIVE WITH POVERTY

WE WANT

A WALES WHERE EVERYONE IS PAID AT LEAST THE LIVING WAGE

700,000 people, or 23% of people, in Wales are living in poverty. This problem exists in every council area. We know that work is the best way to lift people out of poverty, but in-work poverty is on the rise.

Councils must do more to increase the number of people earning the Living Wage – through procurement, local initiatives, and promoting the benefits to business. The Living Wage is £8.45 an hour.

WE WANT

A WALES WHERE LOCAL SERVICES ARE DESIGNED WITH PEOPLE AT THEIR HEART, HELPING PEOPLE BREAK FREE FROM POVERTY

Given the uncertain future following the Communities First programme, councils need to put people at the heart of their services, and understand that people's situations are unique. Poverty is not static – people can move in and out of poverty as their circumstances change. Too many programmes and services have been set up to look at what people don't have.

It is time for councils to change their thinking and look at what people do have, and give them opportunities to build on this and shape their own futures. A 'one size fits all' approach does not work. Oxfam's approach secures an average return on investment of £4.39 for every £1 spent in Wales.



WE WANT

A WALES FIT FOR TODAY AND FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Our communities in Wales are facing significant challenges – rising in-work poverty, increasing inequality, a lack of decent work, and a changing climate.

Councils must shift their thinking to ensure they are taking a long-term view in decision making. The introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act means councils now need to consider their role in contributing to a globally responsible Wales, whilst getting maximum value for the community in local decision making. Hearing the voices of children and young people is central to this, including supporting their development in schools as informed, ethical citizens of Wales and the world.

WE WANT

A WALES THAT OFFERS A WARM WELCOME TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The world is facing the greatest refugee crisis of our time, with the number of refugees now higher than at the end of World War II.

Councils need to continue the positive work begun in welcoming refugees into Wales. Councils need to be ready and prepared to respond to welcome people fleeing conflict, persecution, or the effects of climate change, welcoming our fair share to Wales.