

'Parents Voice Across the Four Nations'

23rd October 2024

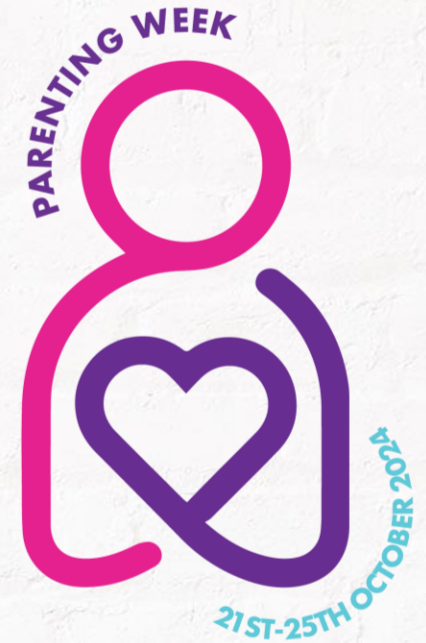
10.00- 11.30am

Format:

Presentation followed by Question and Answer discussion

Chair: Koulla Yiasouma

Parenting Focus, Northern Ireland



Parentikind



Housekeeping



- **Your camera and microphone will not be active**
- **Use the Q&A function and the chat to submit questions for presenters**
- **The webinar will be recorded and available to view on the 'Children in Wales' website shortly after the event.**



Outline of Webinar



PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Outline of Webinar

- Introduction from Chair
- Emma Hitchen, Parenting Focus, Northern Ireland
- Amy Woodhouse, Parenting across Scotland
- Kirsty Yates, Parentkind, England
- Fatiha Ali, Parents Connect Wales
- 'Parents Connect Wales', Photo competition
- Questions and Answers
- Ways Forward



Parentkind



Introduction

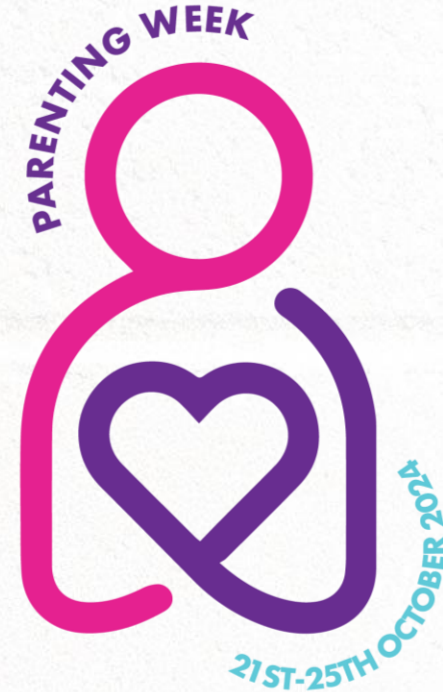
Koulla Yiasouma

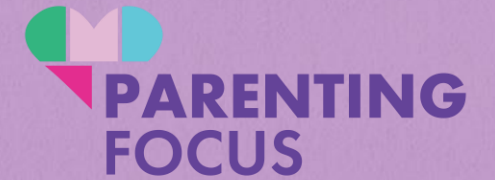


PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Introduction

- This webinar is in celebration of 'Parenting Week'.
- Theme of 'Parenting Week' this year is 'For every Family'.
- Celebrates and recognises all the different types of families and parents.
- The importance of parent's voice





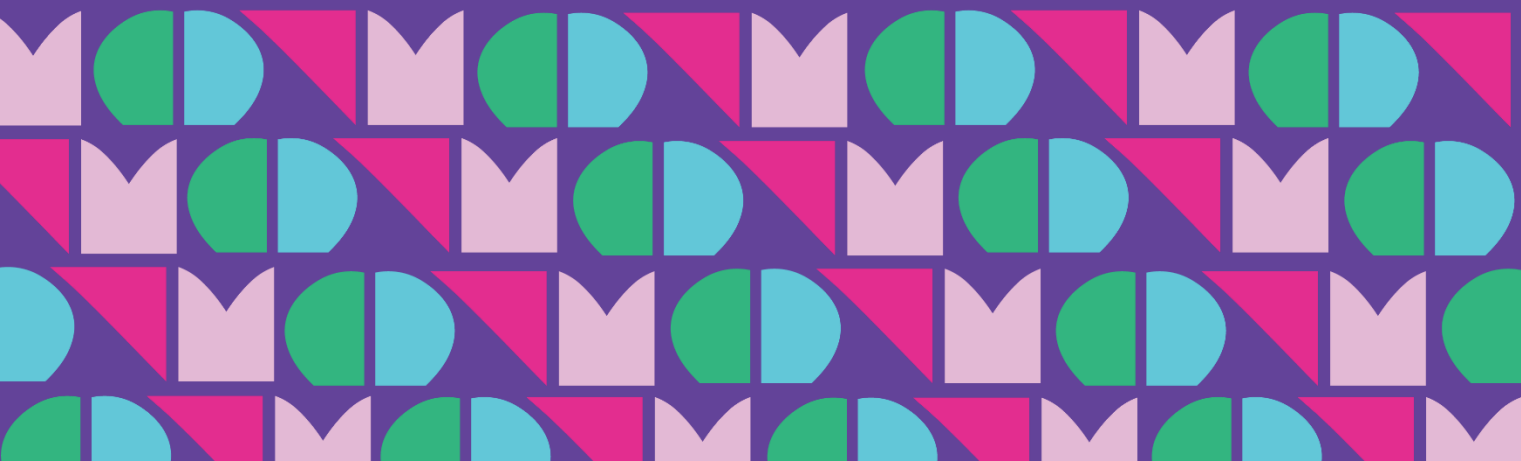
Emma Hitchen

Parenting Focus, Northern Ireland





FOUR NATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND



ESTABLISHED: 1979

SERVICES:

- Parenting programmes
- Support line
- Education
- Employee Wellbeing
- Parental Engagement



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT: OUR MODEL

- **Parent Reference Group**
- **Trauma Informed**
- **The Lundy Model**
- **Parent Support Model**



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT: THE BIG PARENTING SURVEY

The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 found that...



14%
of parents reported a low level of emotional health

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at: www.parentingfocus.org

The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 found that...



49%
of parents said their biggest concern was their children's behaviour (primary school)

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at: www.parentingfocus.org

The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 found that...



Parents main concerns for post primary school children:



- PEER PRESSURE
- TECHNOLOGY
- MENTAL HEALTH

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at: www.parentingfocus.org

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT: THE BIG PARENTING SURVEY

The **BIG Parenting Survey 2024** found that...



Parents' top concerns were:



Financial issues



NI political situation



Child's education

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at:
www.parentingfocus.org



The **BIG Parenting Survey 2024** found that...



86%
of parents
feel that
they do not
get enough
support

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at:
www.parentingfocus.org



The **BIG Parenting Survey 2024** found that...



68%
of parents
were more
worried than
hopeful for
the future

Download 'The BIG Parenting Survey 2024 report at:
www.parentingfocus.org

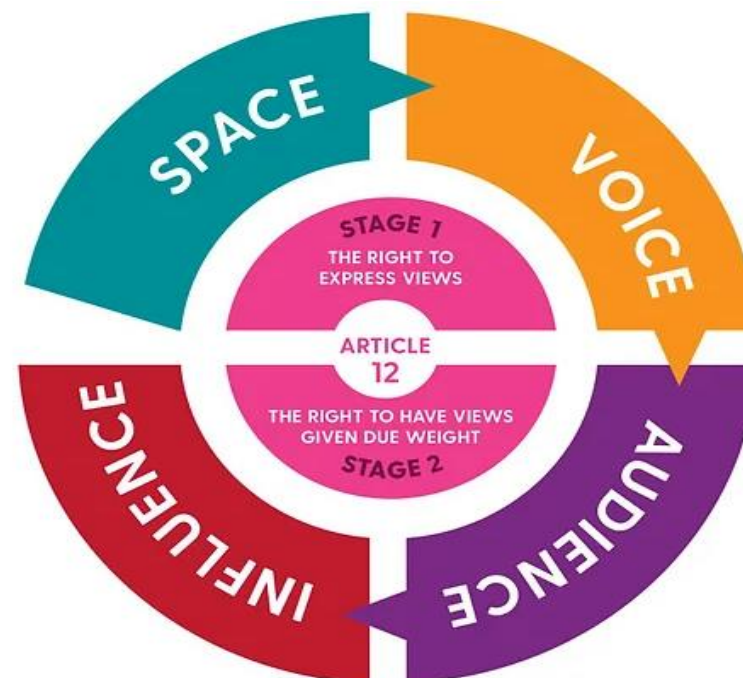
PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT: RAISE PROGRAMME



Every CHILD

Department
of Education's
Corporate Plan
2023-28

*"Every child and
young person is
happy, learning
and succeeding"*



PRIORITIES: FOR OUR ORGANISATION AND OUR FAMILIES

- **Poverty**
- **SEN**
- **HSC Waiting lists**
- **Childcare**
- **School absence**



PARENTINGFOCUS.ORG

SUPPORT LINE

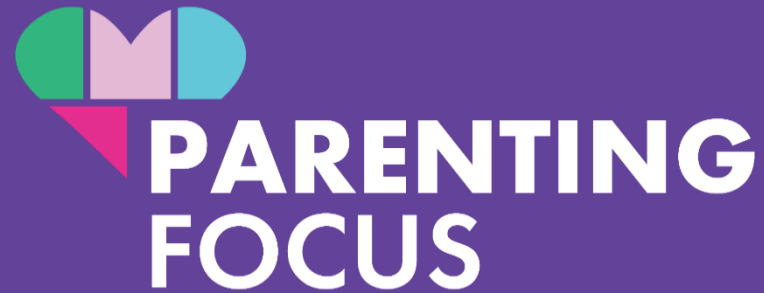
0808 8010 722

Twitter: @ParentingFocus_

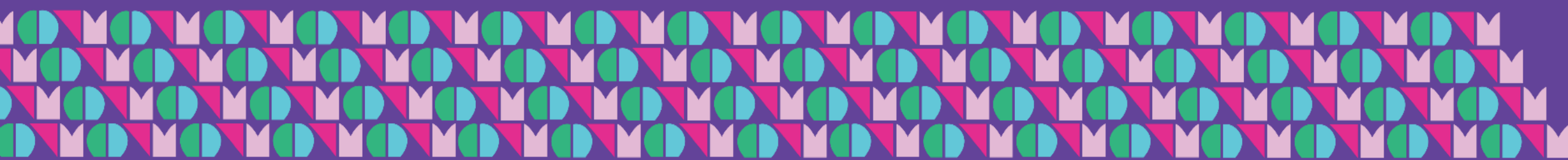
Instagram: parentingfocus_org

Facebook & LinkedIn:

Search 'Parenting Focus'



Parenting NI is registered with the Charity Commission NI.
Northern Ireland Charity Number: NIC103613



Amy Woodhouse Parenting Across Scotland



About Parenting across Scotland (PAS)

- Our vision:
- *'A Scotland where all parents and carers are valued and supported to give children the best start in life.'*
- Listening to parents and carers to understand their priorities.
- Using the evidence we gather to influence legislation and national policy
- Share good practice through our newsletter and run themed webinars and events.
- Develop our own projects to gather our own evidence of what works for families.



PAS Members



Some policy and legislation context

Devolved powers to Scottish Parliament include education, health and social services, housing, justice and policing, sport and the arts, benefits (some aspects)

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017
- Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019
- The Promise
- UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

Parenting Evidence Review 2024

Parenting Evidence Review Scotland

Published June 2024


Parenting
across Scotland

The  Lines
Between

- 28 qualitative research studies published in 2023
- 4000+ parent participants
- At least 26 /32 local authorities represented
- single parents, black and minority ethnic parents, disabled parents and parents with disabled children, refugees and parents seeking asylum, carers, care experienced parents, parent of children in the care system and adoptive parents.
- Key themes include poverty, mental health and physical health, education and childcare

Evidence Review - Poverty



"People are being forced to choose between feeding their children or paying the rent." (parent)

"Universal Credit is too unpredictable to rely on and does not provide for basic day-to-day costs. I live rurally and rely on local, more expensive food shops... I am spending three times what the cost would be in the city"
(parent)

"Our house has dampness and the landlord gave us a dehumidifier which cost a lot to run, and it is really bad in the winter. So I have to move my daughter out her room as this is the worst room in the house, and myself

Evidence Review - Health



"I want Stevie to be able to go to something he wants to go to. You know, I want them to go to help at the theatre or ... cinema ... you know, as a volunteer ... something that he wants to do." (parent)

"Parent and carers reported having to take on an increasing role in advocating for, and coordinating, their children's support. Transitioning to adulthood also led to the emergence of issues which hadn't been seen during childhood." (service)

"Don't only listen but hear us also." (parent)

Evidence Review - Education



"We cannot currently afford any extra childcare costs; I have had to decline extra working hours because childcare would not be covered by the extra pay" (parent)

Working from home with flexi time ... allows me to get the boys out to school and be here for them coming home. I feel I'm getting to see my boys grow up which I don't feel my dad did." (parent)

"whenever I want to ask about my son's behaviour daily, I do not know how [to ask in English], so I just walk away [literal translation: carry myself and walk away] without telling them." (parent)

few key points

- Power of first person testimony
- Doing justice to what parents and carers tell us
- Interconnectedness of challenges families face
- Opportunity provided by UNCRC Incorporation
- How can we work across the UK on shared concerns?



Contact us



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Kirsty Yates Parentkind, England

Parentkind



PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES



Parent Voice in England

Kirsty Yates, Research Manager

Parentkind

Who we are

- Established in 1956 by a group of pioneer parents who were passionate about parent involvement in their child's learning but felt that they needed a voice at national as well as local level.
- Parentkind exists to: Empower all with parental or educational responsibility to improve the life chances of children, young people and their communities.



Parentkind

What we do

- We give those with a parenting role a voice in education. We invest substantial resources in representing parent views on their child's learning to government, charities, unions and other organisations.
- Parentkind is the network of PTA fundraisers in the UK. We bring specialist fundraising support and advice to parent volunteers so that every school can benefit from a successful PTA.
- Our schools programme includes parental engagement training and our 'Blueprint for Parent-Friendly Schools'.



Parentkind

Our work around parent voice

- We are evidence-led; we have undertaken research amongst parents on a range of issues related to education for a number of years.
- Flagship piece of research is our National Parent Survey – formally our Annual Parent Survey. Includes topics such as parental participation, accountability, mental health, curriculum, cost of living and others.
- Undertake other ad hoc surveys with parents on a wide range of topics including financial education, RSE, assessment, tutoring, smartphones, school attendance, and behaviour.
- Parentkind supported and contributed to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Parental Participation in Education which met regularly to hear evidence and discuss solutions to the barriers for parents involvement and engagement in school life and education. Currently establishing a new APPG for Parents.

Current work – research & policy

- Regular meetings with Department for Education, Ofsted, Ofqual, NEU, NAHT, Chartered College of Teaching
- Recent involvement in Ofsted's The Big Listen and DfE's review of Curriculum & Assessment
- 'Dear Secretary of State' – Parentkind's 6 point plan for parents:
 1. Don't be afraid to say children should enjoy school.
 2. Commit to listening to parents when decisions are made.
 3. The cost of school must be part of a national approach to poverty.
 4. Support new Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) in our poorest areas.
 5. Ofsted needs to report back on parent engagement.
 6. Announce a National Parent Participation Strategy.

National Parent Survey 2024

- **Parents' biggest challenges:**
 - **Pressures on parents' time**
 - **Being a good parent and raising well-rounded children**
 - **Financial pressures**
 - **Health, happiness and safety of children (and sometimes parents)**
 - **Children's screen time and access to social media**
 - **Children's experience at school**

National Parent Survey 2024 - England

More than a quarter of parents are worried about affording their rent or mortgage

More than half of parents would like to spend more time doing learning activities as a family

22% of parents rate their mental health as poor or very poor

15% of parents say their child feels unsafe at school

More than half of parents have or would consider their child missing school for a holiday

15% of parents say their child spends 7+ hours on screens on a typical weekday

The National Parent Survey



2024

Parentkind

www.nationalparentsurvey.com

www.parentkind.org.uk

Kirsty.yates@parentkind.org

Parentkind

Fatiha Ali

Parents Connect Wales



Who we are

“Building a Wales where all children and young people
have all their rights fulfilled”

Children in Wales – Plant yng Nghymru is a national representative membership organisation for individuals and organisations from all sectors who work with children, young people and families in Wales.



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CHILDREN IN WALES

WALES: Key Milestones

2001
Children's
Commissioner
for Wales post is
created

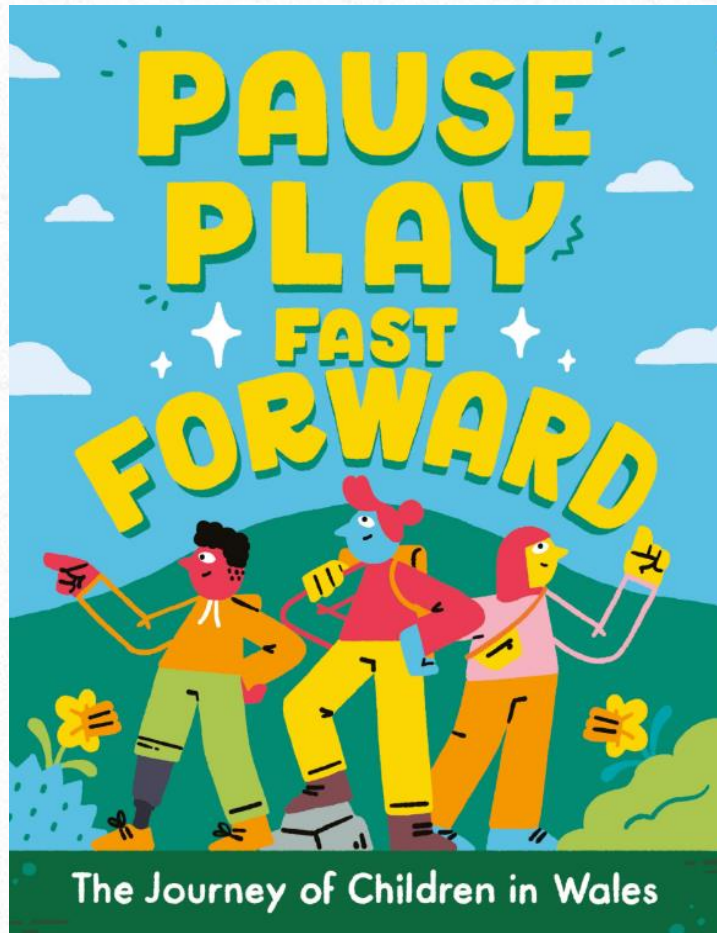
2011
The Rights of
Children and
Young Persons
(Wales)
Measure

2020
The Children
(Abolition of
Defence of
Reasonable
Punishment)
(Wales) Act

2022
Free universal
school meals for
all primary
school aged
children since
September
2022.

2024
Minister for
Children
and Social Care
appointed

The Story of Children in Wales



What is 'Parents Connect Wales'?



A project to give parents the chance to share their views, ideas and opinions with those who can make a change.

"We want to have a voice and be heard"

The PCW project supports parents/carers and professionals to understand children's rights and to ensure their children have their rights met.

**“To really get to know a child,
instead of assuming”**

**“We represent
our children’s
voices”**

**“To get the
right support
and help”**

**“Decisions made
can impact on
their home life”**

**“We are raising the
adults of the future”**

Parents should have a voice because



Welsh Government

Parent Participation Co-ordinator

Wales -wide Professional Forum

Local Authority Representatives

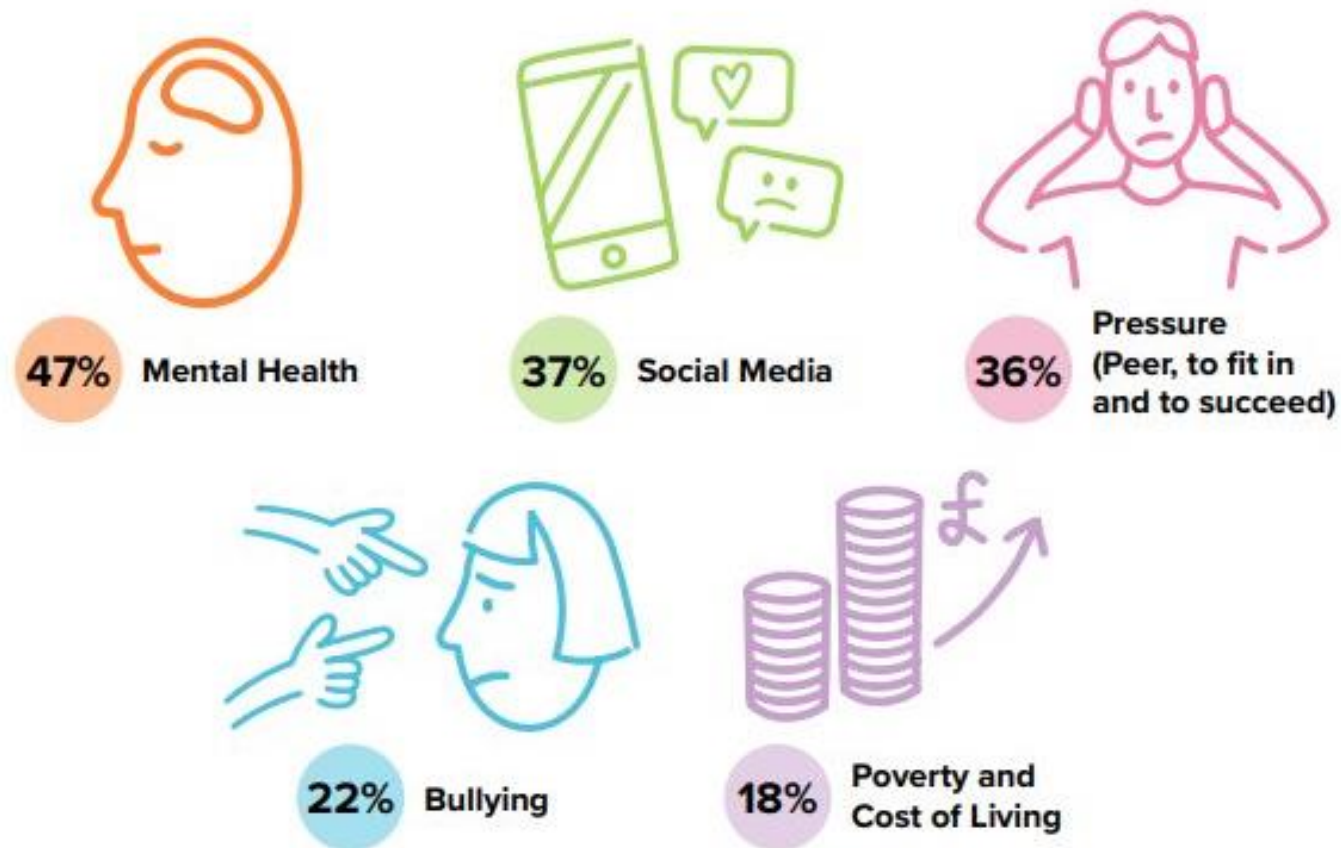
Parents in community



Parents across Wales have shared their views on what are the main issues facing children today.

As part of the Parents Connect Wales project **166 parents** shared **over 400 issues** that they felt were impacting their children.

The top 5 included:



Top issues facing children today

A Parents view

What help, support and advice do you need?

(Responses in order of popularity)



1. Parenting and family support

- Behaviour management • Positive parenting strategies
- Child development • Money and finance • Breastfeeding
- Weaning • Nutrition



2. Health and wellbeing

- Illnesses • Mental health and additional learning needs (ALN)
- Mentoring • Peer support



3. Childcare

- Help with financial costs of childcare • Better availability of childcare
- More provision of after-school and holiday childcare



4. Universal support

- Help with 'everything' in the parenting journey • Centralised information hubs or gateways for accessing resources where parents can get help with all aspects of family life



5. Education

- Understanding the school curriculum and system • Accessing help for children with ALN and SEN • Accessing mental health support for children experiencing anxiety

Supporting Parents in Wales



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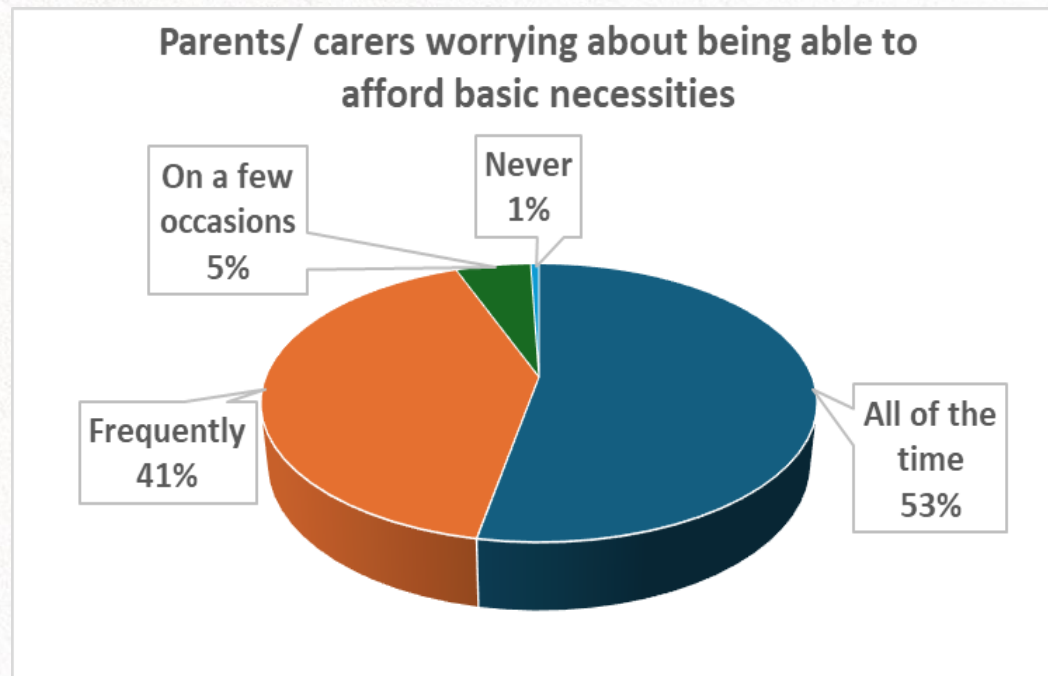
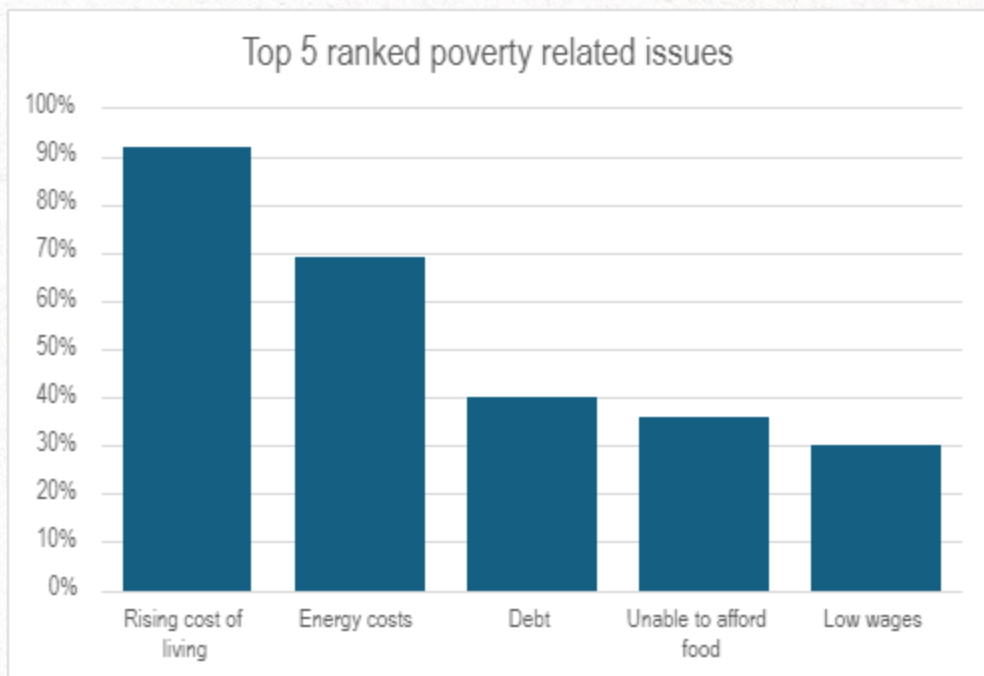
Parent Poverty Survey



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**522 Parents and carers shared their views
this represented 1084 children**

94% of respondents feel that parents/carers are worrying about being about to afford necessities.



Impact of Poverty

Family Life *'With our busy schedules, there's little time for family bonding.'*

Working families *'Poverty isn't just hitting low-income families, working families who receive little financial support in terms of benefits are also struggling.'*

Life as a parent *'I feel ashamed that I can't provide for my child as I would like to, I feel that I have failed my children'*

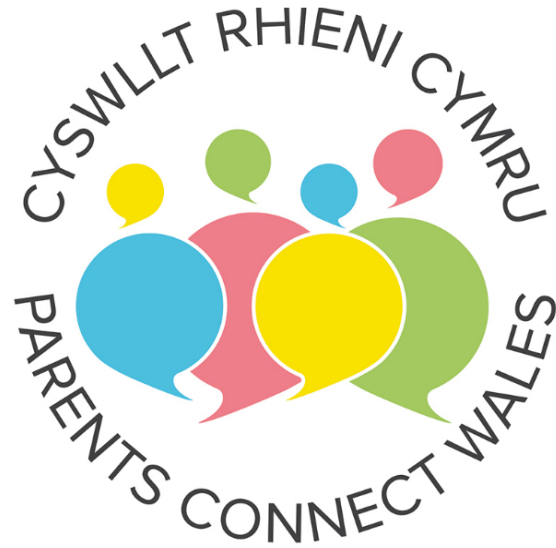
Poverty Stigma *'I don't want to ask for help...it is a matter of pride.... people look down on us because we are not able to provide. It makes me feel like less of a mum'*

Hidden poverty of parents *'I find the money somehow even if it means having a basic meal instead of a full proper meal.'*

Welcome to Parents Connect Wales

Parents Connect Wales is a project that is about empowering the voices of parents and carers to promote children's rights.

[Learn more about this project](#)



What are the main issues facing children in Wales?

Take part in our quick survey to have your say on important matters for children in Wales.

[Have your say](#)

Use this QR code to visit our
Online Hub



Parents Connect Wales Development Officers

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Anna Westall

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parentsconnect@childreninwales.org.uk



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Parents Connect Wales National Parenting Week

Photo Competition Results



Photo Consultation



Would you like to win a £50 Amazon voucher?

All you have to do is take a photo showing us **'Special Moments'** with a short caption or title and send in to parentsconnect@childreninwales.org.uk.

You will then be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 Amazon voucher.

Closing date: Friday October 4th

Entries from any parent/carer of a child under 18 years old living in the UK.



Photo consultation allows you to gather a visual understanding or insight on a specific topic.

- Simple to do
- Capture unique insight
- Accessible
- Fun, creative, engaging
- Low cost
- Exhibition

For Every Family – Special Moments



Every new stage with you is joyous, exciting and a chaotic learning curve, and it is just so amazing to watch you grow



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Connection

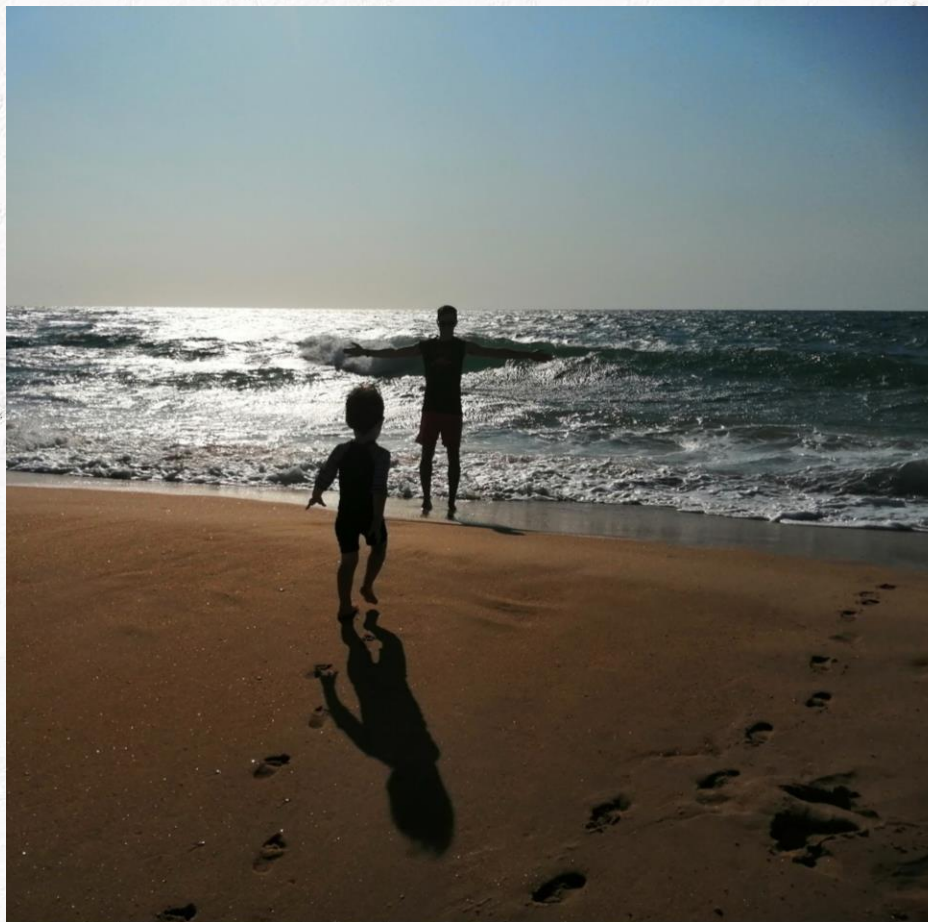


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Outdoors



Our greatest connections are in the outdoors



Running to the waves!

Young Carers

Max makes my family special and unique!



Sisters best friends. Lifelong supporters. Acceptance. Setting the standard for caring for those we love at 3 years old

Families come in all shapes and sizes



Extended Family



Embracing family life – special moments



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CHILDREN IN WALES

Capturing Family Portraits



My little family means everything to me.



A sort of family portrait!

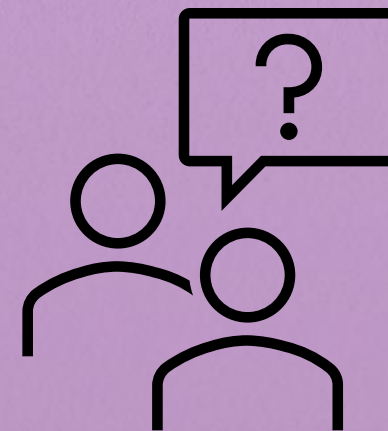
Evaluation

We really value your feedback to help us improve future webinars

Therefore, we would really appreciate you completing our short evaluation form that you can access using this QR code

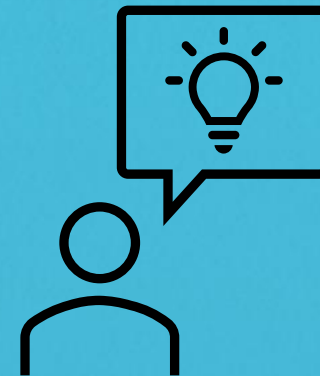


Questions and Answers



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Common Themes and Reflections



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