

# THE CONTRACT WITH WALES WE MEAN BUSINESS

PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS



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# INTRODUCTION

*By Neil McEvoy, Propel Leader*

Welcome to *The Contract with Wales 2026*, Propel's policies for the 2026 Senedd Elections. This document lays out common-sense, people-powered policies rooted in our values: freedom, sovereignty, and accountability—for individuals, communities, and our nation.

Propel is a Welsh grassroots movement, born in 2021 to challenge corruption, waste, and centralised control in Wales. Under my leadership, as a former Senedd Member and whistleblower, we offer a genuine alternative to the entrenched Establishment parties.

We are the people's voice—a party built by and for communities across Wales. Our mission is simple: enable a vibrant Welsh economy, empower families, strengthen communities, and give Wales the freedom to shape its own future. Through practical, common-sense policies and real accountability enabled by direct democracy, we aim to put power back where it belongs: in the hands of the people.

Together, we can create a Wales that is fairer, freer, and truly in control of its own destiny.

Wales should belong to its people. Progressively over time, the state has taken over and is now being abused by people who are just not accountable. We propose a democratic revolution to change this, empowering individuals and communities.


In parts of Wales, we simply cannot move; either through traffic jams by design, or a complete absence of public transport. We propose innovative and truly progressive policies, such as free bus travel, to change how we look at transport.

Economically, our children are starved of a future. Many of the brightest leave and do not return. We want to reconnect Wales with its historic past of social entrepreneurialism. Cymru must not only be the land of our fathers, but the land of opportunity. Small businesses must be supported and given incentives to use cash.

More than anything else, politicians have forgotten that our most precious commodity in Wales is our people. Throughout our whole contract, we put people first.

The Contract with Wales 2026 is our promise: a Wales that is fairer, freer, and fearless in shaping its own destiny.

Propel: we mean business.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil McEvoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'N' and 'M'.

# DIRECT WELSH DEMOCRACY

Welsh democracy is not working.

Too much power is concentrated in a small political class in Cardiff Bay. Too little accountability exists for those appointed to serve the public.

Propel believes in a sovereign Wales made up of sovereign people.

We propose a peaceful, modern democratic revolution — one that restores transparency, strengthens accountability, and returns real power to the public.

Propel will introduce the following democratic reforms:

## POWER BACK TO THE PEOPLE

### **Directly Elected First Minister**

Strengthen accountability by:

- Introducing a directly elected Welsh First Minister, chosen by the people

### **Modern Direct Democracy**

Power belongs to the people — not party machines.

Propel will introduce the following mechanisms of direct democracy so citizens can shape the laws that govern them. This will include:

- The ability for citizens to introduce, amend, or repeal laws through national and local referenda
- Referenda triggered when verified signature thresholds are reached
- Binding results that politicians are legally required to implement

### **Recall of Politicians**

If elected representatives break the law or seriously betray the public trust, voters must have the power to act. Under Propel's proposals, citizens will be able to:

- Trigger a recall process
- Force a by-election to remove and replace the representative

Public office is a public trust — not a personal entitlement.

# FAIR AND SECURE ELECTIONS

## Fair Voting System

Every vote should count. Propel supports adopting a **Proportional Representation system (STV)** to ensure fairer outcomes in:

- Senedd elections
- Local government elections

## Electoral Integrity

Public confidence in elections must be protected. Propel would strengthen the integrity of the voting system by:

- Restricting postal voting to those genuinely unable to attend a polling station
- Holding elections over two days to make voting more accessible
- Increasing the number of polling stations and ensuring they are easier for people to access

# CLEANING UP PUBLIC LIFE

Accountability in Welsh public services is far too weak. Complaint systems are slow and often protect institutions rather than the public.

Propel will restore trust in public services by introducing real transparency and democratic oversight.

## Public Services Investigators (PSI)

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will be replaced with:

- Independently elected, non-party Public Services Investigators
- Full powers to investigate complaints across all Welsh public services
- Transparent public reporting of investigations and outcomes

## Structural Reform

To reduce bureaucracy and strengthen accountability, Propel will:

- Abolish Social Care Wales
- Abolish the Education Workforce Council
- Make the Head of Care Inspectorate Wales an elected position

## Mandatory Lobbying Register

Backroom politics must end. The public has the right to know who is influencing political decisions in Wales.

Propel will introduce a **mandatory public lobbying register** requiring all corporate lobbyists to declare:

- Who they are lobbying
- The purpose of the lobbying activity
- Who they are acting on behalf of
- The money or financial interests involved

Transparency builds trust — something badly needed in Welsh politics.

## Stop the Revolving Door

The movement of politicians into lobbying roles, and lobbyists into politics, undermines public confidence. Propel will prevent this abuse of power by introducing:

- A **5-year ban** on former Members of the Senedd becoming lobbyists
- A **5-year ban** on lobbyists standing as Members of the Senedd
- **Full public disclosure** of employment and lobbying history
- **An independent oversight body** with real enforcement powers

## SENEDD REFORM

Public confidence in politics depends on high standards, genuine independence and real accountability. The Senedd must lead by example.

Propel will modernise and strengthen democratic standards by introducing the following reforms:

- Abolish the Senedd Standards Commission
- Require the Presiding Officer (Y Llywydd) to be politically independent
- Introduce random drug testing for elected politicians, including hair testing
- Introduce random financial “dope testing” through proceeds of crime investigations

Politicians should meet the same standards of integrity and accountability expected of everyone else.

## STRONGER LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Too many decisions in Wales are made far away from the communities they affect. Propel believes power should be closer to the people.

We will strengthen local democracy by restoring historic county government and giving local areas real authority over their own affairs.

## Local Authority Reform

Propel will replace the current system of **22 local authorities** with **8 historic counties**, creating stronger and clearer local leadership. Each county will have:

- A recognised capital
- A directly elected **Governor**, accountable to local voters
- A **community co-operative bank** to support local businesses and investment

## County Sovereignty

Local government should not simply carry out instructions from Cardiff Bay. Counties will have responsibility for their own affairs unless powers are specifically reserved to the Welsh Parliament.

## Upper House Feasibility Study

To improve scrutiny and strengthen democratic balance, Propel will explore the creation of an **Upper House for the Welsh Parliament**, potentially located in **the north of Wales**.

# PUBLIC SPENDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being spent responsibly and delivering real results for the public.

Propel will strengthen financial accountability across Welsh public services by introducing the following measures:

- An **independent audit of Welsh Government spending** to identify waste, fraud and corruption
- **Redirecting savings to the NHS** and frontline services
- **Introducing maximum salary levels in local government** to ensure fairness and value for money

Propel first proposed an independent audit of Welsh Government spending in **2021**. It is now time to act.

# THIRD SECTOR GRANTS REVIEW

Public money should deliver real benefits for communities, not be lost in duplication, bureaucracy or excessive administration. Propel will carry out a full review of third sector grants in Wales to ensure funding is transparent, efficient and focused on outcomes.

This will include:

- A **national audit of grants** awarded by the Welsh Government, local authorities and other public bodies
- **Ending duplication** by merging or removing organisations and services that overlap
- **Salary caps** for senior staff in organisations heavily funded by public grants
- **Full transparency**, including a public register of grants, salaries and measurable outcomes

## CUT BUREAUCRACY – FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS

Propel would abolish the Older People’s Commissioner, the Children’s Commissioner, and the Future Generations Commissioner in Wales.

These roles are unnecessary layers of bureaucracy that cost taxpayers millions while delivering little real-world impact. Producing reports and strategies is no substitute for properly funded frontline services.

Children, families, and older people need action — better care, faster support, and accountable services — not more publicly funded offices.

We would redirect this spending into practical support where it is needed.

Propel would retain the Welsh Language Commissioner, recognising its specific role in safeguarding and promoting the Welsh language.

Our principle is simple: Fund services, not bureaucracy.

## ROBBIE’S LAW – A LEGAL, INDIVIDUAL DUTY OF CANDOUR

When public services fail, the truth must never be hidden. Families deserve honesty, accountability and justice.

Propel will introduce **Robbie’s Law**, creating a legal, individual duty of candour requiring individual public servants to be fully truthful when mistakes, failures or negligence occur.

**Those who deliberately conceal the truth will face legal consequences.**

Cover-ups must end. Honesty must become the law.

## WELSH SOVEREIGNTY

Wales must be a sovereign state answerable to its sovereign people.

In a sovereign Wales, the Welsh Government would exercise responsibility over the internal and external affairs of the nation, except where powers are clearly devolved to sovereign counties.

Propel will ensure that:

- Welsh decisions are made in Wales
- Democratic authority rests with the people
- Undue influence from unelected international bodies is resisted

The future of Wales must always be determined by the people of Wales.

## A FREE WALES - PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

A free society depends on protecting the everyday freedoms of its citizens. Propel will resist unnecessary state intrusion into people's daily lives and defend the right of people to make their own choices.

### No to Digital ID

No one should be required to hold a digital ID in order to access:

- Their **rights**
- Public **services**
- Economic or social **opportunities**

### Protect Privacy

Citizens must be free from excessive state surveillance.

Propel will:

- Oppose **mass data collection and intrusive digital monitoring** of citizens
- Protect the **right to privacy in everyday life**
- Ensure that any surveillance powers are **strictly limited and democratically accountable**

### Abolish Sugar and Alcohol Taxes

The Welsh state should not overreach into people's everyday lives.

Propel will:

- End punitive taxes on lawful consumer choices
- Stop policies that disproportionately hit low-income households
- Restore a proper balance between personal freedom and government power

A free Wales must trust its citizens.

## PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's rights must be protected.

Following the recent High Court judgment reaffirming the legal importance of sex-based rights, Propel has set out a clear policy to safeguard the rights of women and girls. We believe that **biological sex matters in law and in practice**, and that single-sex spaces, services and sport must be protected to ensure fairness, safety and dignity for women.

Propel therefore:

- **Will safeguard the rights of women and girls**
- **Supports the right of women to speak and organise freely**, without intimidation, harassment or violence
- **Supports the continued provision of single-sex spaces**
- **Supports the right of women to receive intimate services** — such as washing, dressing and counselling — delivered by women
- **Supports single-sex sport**, ensuring fairness and safety at all levels of competition
- **Supports the right of women to organise according to their sex** across cultural, leisure, educational and political activities

Propel also supports **all protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010** — age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and sex — while also recognising the importance of **political belief and language**, which currently fall outside the Act.

## A FREE & INDEPENDENT MEDIA

A healthy democracy depends on informed citizens and a media that is free to question those in power. Without strong and independent journalism, democratic accountability weakens.

Political scrutiny in Wales is too limited, and the institutions of government are too often insufficiently challenged. Propel will support citizen journalism and encourage a wider range of independent voices in public debate.

We will promote **accurate, transparent and accountable political reporting across Wales**, strengthening scrutiny of public institutions and ensuring those in power are properly held to account.

A sovereign democracy depends on informed citizens and a media that is free to speak truth to power.

## A WELSH CONSTITUTION & BILL OF RIGHTS

A sovereign people deserve a written settlement that protects their freedoms and defines the limits of power.

Propel will commission independent constitutional experts to draft:

- **A modern Welsh Constitution**
- **A Welsh Bill of Rights**

These documents will set out the democratic foundations of Wales, safeguard civil liberties and clearly define the limits of government power.

The final constitution will be approved directly by the people of Wales through a national referendum.

## A HEALTHY WALES

The NHS in Wales is under severe pressure. Long waiting lists, difficulty accessing GPs and dentists, and overstretched hospitals are leaving too many people without the care they need.

Propel believes Wales deserves a healthcare system that **puts patients and frontline staff first**.

Our health policy is built around four priorities:

- **Faster access to care** — reducing waiting times and improving access to GPs, dentists and emergency services
- **Modern hospitals and facilities** — ensuring healthcare infrastructure meets the needs of the population
- **Stronger community and preventative healthcare** — helping people stay healthy and identifying illness earlier
- **Supporting frontline healthcare professionals** — giving staff the resources, respect and working conditions they deserve

Healthcare should be available when people need it — not weeks or months later.

Prevention must also play a central role. By supporting healthier lifestyles, strengthening community-based care and identifying illness earlier, we can improve outcomes while reducing pressure on hospitals.

Propel supports **accountability, transparency and evidence-based healthcare**. Public services must be safe, ethical and focused on patients rather than bureaucracy.

By backing healthcare professionals, protecting key services such as midwifery, expanding public health initiatives and ensuring communities have life-saving resources close at hand, Propel will deliver a practical and forward-looking plan for a healthier Wales.

## FULL & INDEPENDENT COVID INQUIRY

The people of Wales deserve a full and honest account of the decisions made during the Covid pandemic.

Propel will establish a **fully independent public inquiry** to examine the impact of lockdowns, the rise in excess deaths, and the policies adopted around vaccination and other public health measures.

The inquiry will have the powers needed to **obtain evidence, hear expert testimony and publish its findings in full**. Its purpose will be to provide a clear and transparent assessment of what worked, what failed and what lessons must be learned.

If trust in public health and government is to be rebuilt, we must be willing to examine the evidence openly and be honest about the decisions that shaped people's lives.

## “DO NO HARM HEALTHCARE”

The first duty of healthcare is simple: **do no harm**.

Healthcare in Wales must be safe, ethical and firmly grounded in evidence, with patients always at the centre of decision-making. People deserve to know that the care they receive is based on what works, delivered with compassion and held to the highest professional standards.

This also requires genuine transparency and strong oversight, including clear and robust standards for mental health care. Trust in the system depends on openness, accountability and a consistent commitment to doing what is right for patients.

## AN END TO MEDICAL POLITICISATION

Healthcare should be guided by evidence and professional expertise — not political fashion.

Those responsible for leading the Welsh NHS should have real experience or qualifications in healthcare so they understand the pressures and realities of frontline care.

In exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate to appoint someone from a different professional background, but this should be the exception rather than the norm.

If we want better outcomes for patients and staff, the people leading our health service must have genuine insight into how healthcare works in practice.

## PREVENTION-FOCUSED HEALTHCARE

Propel believes it is always better to prevent illness than to deal with the consequences later. That means acting early, supporting healthier lifestyles and giving people the tools and confidence to take charge of their own wellbeing.

By focusing on prevention and early intervention, we can reduce long-term illness, help people live longer and healthier lives, and ease the growing pressure on our NHS — allowing it to focus on those who need care most.

## PREVENTION FIRST: INVEST IN HEALTH, NOT JUST ILLNESS

We must take obesity seriously and recognise that fitness is a vital part of healthcare, not an optional extra. This means properly funding gym passport schemes and investing in community sport, exercise and lifestyle medicine as part of preventing disease.

Regular physical activity can reduce long-term illness, lower healthcare costs, ease pressure on the NHS and significantly improve mental wellbeing. Personal trainers and fitness professionals also have an important role to play in helping people build healthier habits and stay motivated.

By investing in prevention now, we can reduce waiting lists, save NHS resources and help people live healthier lives.

**Prevention is the best medicine. A healthier Wales starts long before people enter a hospital.**

## A NATIONAL HEALTH “MOT” FOR WALES

Propel will introduce a **National Health MOT programme**, offering every person in Wales a free yearly health check to identify problems early, improve outcomes and help people stay healthier for longer — both physically and mentally.

By spotting issues sooner — whether heart disease, diabetes, cancer risks or mental health concerns — we can intervene earlier, save lives and prevent more serious illness later on. Early support and prevention are always better than crisis care.

Regular health checks will also help reduce pressure on hospitals by identifying risks before they develop into serious conditions requiring emergency treatment.

## ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT – “OWAIN’S LAW”

We support real, practical steps towards a truly patient-centred health system. **Owain’s Law** reflects what we’ve been saying for years: patients and families must come first.

Right now, too many people in Wales are missing out on potential life-extending treatment—not because it doesn’t exist, but because they’re simply not being told about it.

That isn’t good enough.

What Propel will do:

- **Make sure patients are properly informed** – everyone should be clearly told about all their options, including tumour preservation and new treatments
- **Offer fresh-frozen tumour preservation as standard** where appropriate, so patients have access to future personalised therapies
- **Put patients and families in control** of decisions about how tumour tissue is used
- **Introduce a clear legal duty on NHS Wales** so no one misses out because of poor communication or broken processes
- **Open the door to innovative treatments**, including personalised cancer vaccines
- **Listen to patients and families** and back campaigns like this to drive real change

No one should ever be left wondering if more could have been done—just because they weren’t told.

**Propel will back legislation, as proposed in Owain’s Law, to guarantee patients are informed, protected, and in control.**

## PROTECT THE GUT WITH EVERY ANTIBIOTIC

Antibiotics save lives, but they can also disrupt gut health. Propel will review antibiotic prescribing so that, where appropriate, patients are advised or supported with **probiotics or prebiotics** to help protect the gut and reduce unwanted side effects.

Other countries, including Spain, have explored more joined-up approaches like this. Where the evidence supports it, Wales should adopt practical measures that reduce harm, protect long-term health and contribute to tackling antibiotic resistance.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING WORKERS

As part of a **prevention-first approach to healthcare**, Propel will build a national network of **Community Health and Wellbeing Workers** focused on keeping people well, not just treating them when they become ill.

By helping people connect with the right support early — from healthcare services to community groups and local organisations — we can prevent illness, reduce health inequalities and make mental health support easier to access.

These workers will help bring local services together so that support is easier to find, no one falls through the cracks, and people know where to turn when they need help.

Strengthening community health support is one of the most effective ways to **improve wellbeing, prevent illness and reduce pressure on the NHS**.

## IMPROVING AFTERCARE & RECOVERY

Too many patients leave hospital without proper support, leading to complications, avoidable readmissions, and added pressure on the NHS.

Propel will deliver a **comprehensive aftercare system** so every patient is properly supported following surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or serious illness.

### Propel will:

- **Guarantee clear aftercare plans** for all patients after major treatment
- **Introduce recovery coordinators** so patients have a single point of contact
- **Expand community-based follow-up care** to reduce hospital visits
- **Improve coordination between hospitals, GPs, and social care**
- **Provide practical support at home**, including rehabilitation and wellbeing checks
- **Use digital monitoring** to identify problems early and prevent deterioration

### The result:

- Faster recovery
- Better patient wellbeing
- Fewer hospital readmissions
- A more efficient NHS

**Recovery doesn't stop at discharge — and neither should care.**

## LIFELONG BLUE BADGES FOR PERMANENT DISABILITIES

Propel will make the Blue Badge system simpler and fairer for people living with permanent disabilities.

No one with a lifelong condition should have to repeatedly complete paperwork or retell their story just to keep the support they already qualify for. Living with a long-term disability is challenging enough without unnecessary bureaucracy.

Where a disability is clearly permanent, Blue Badges should be issued on a **lifelong basis**, removing the need for repeated reassessments.

Our goal is to remove barriers, promote equal opportunity and ensure people receive the consistent and reliable support they need to live full and independent lives.

## A SUSTAINABLE & FAIR NHS

Propel will protect and strengthen an NHS that **puts patients first and supports the frontline staff who deliver care every day**.

This means protecting services that are **free at the point of use**, investing in modern hospitals, and developing properly resourced **GP hubs** so people can be seen quickly and close to home.

It also means treating **mental health with the same importance as physical health**, ensuring that both adults and children have access to comprehensive and timely support.

Healthcare should always be **accessible, compassionate and there when people need it**.

## PRIORITISE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS ALL SERVICES

Mental health must be treated with the same urgency and importance as physical health.

Propel will increase funding, expand access to services, and integrate mental health support across **GP hubs, emergency care, schools and community programmes**. We will also prioritise the wellbeing of healthcare staff, recognising the pressures they face every day.

Waiting years for mental health support is unacceptable. People must be able to access help when they need it.

## DENTAL REFORM: A NOT-FOR PROFIT NHS DENTAL SERVICE

Everyone in Wales should be able to see a dentist when they need one — without endless waiting lists or being told there are no NHS places available.

Across Wales, many dentists have been leaving the NHS because the current system is no longer working. This has left communities struggling to access even basic dental care.

Propel will improve funding, reduce waiting times and expand services so that access to dental care is fair wherever you live.

Dental services should put **patients before profit**. That is why we support a **not-for-profit NHS dental service**, focused on quality care and better outcomes rather than shareholder returns.

**This will include reforming NHS dental contracts so they reward prevention, quality treatment and patient care rather than targets and quotas.**

By learning from successful systems elsewhere, Wales can build a dental service that is **reliable, high-quality and genuinely accessible to everyone**.

## GP APPOINTMENT SYSTEM OVERHAUL

Too many people in Wales struggle to get a GP appointment, often facing long waits on the phone or competing for limited slots first thing in the morning.

Booking a GP appointment shouldn't feel like a race at 8am. Propel will introduce a modern, easy-to-use system that allows people to **book, change or cancel appointments online 24 hours a day**, at a time that suits them.

Making the system simpler and more efficient will help reduce waiting times, improve access to care and take pressure off reception staff.

Most importantly, it will make life easier for patients, giving people more control over when and how they see their GP.

## A&E TRIAGE HUBS TO FREE AMBULANCES

Propel will introduce **rapid-access triage hubs outside A&E departments**, using a model already seen in modern emergency care systems.

Patients will be assessed quickly on arrival rather than waiting for hours in the back of an ambulance. This allows paramedics to hand patients over faster and get back on the road to respond to the next emergency.

It also ensures that emergency resources are used properly — including **specialist mental health crisis teams** — so people in urgent need are seen promptly, safely and in the most appropriate setting.

## FULLY FUND THE WELSH AIR AMBULANCE

The Welsh Air Ambulance provides life-saving care and should be funded as a core public service, not rely on charity fundraising to operate.

Propel will integrate the Welsh Air Ambulance fully into the NHS emergency response system, providing stable government funding and long-term security for the service.

Funding must prioritise what matters most — **crews, aircraft and patient care** — with leadership pay reflecting the values of public service.

## CRITICAL BLEED KITS ACROSS WALES

Propel will ensure life-saving **critical bleed kits** are placed in public spaces across Wales. These kits will be properly maintained, clearly signposted and linked to emergency services so they can be accessed quickly when needed.

We will also support basic training so more people feel confident stepping in to help when every second counts.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDED DEFIBRILLATORS IN EVERY COMMUNITY

Every community should have access to a **Welsh Government-funded defibrillator**.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, and fast access to a working defibrillator can mean the difference between life and death. Expanding access to these devices is a simple, practical step that will save lives.

## A NATIONAL HOSPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME

Wales needs modern hospitals that are fit for today's healthcare — not endless patch-up work on ageing buildings. Propel will launch a **national hospital building programme** to renew and modernise NHS infrastructure across the country.

New facilities will mean **safer care for patients, better working environments for staff, and shorter waiting times across the NHS.**

If we are serious about improving healthcare in Wales, we must invest in the infrastructure that makes high-quality care possible.

A major hospital building programme will also **support skilled jobs, apprenticeships and local supply chains**, helping to strengthen the Welsh economy.

Building modern hospitals is not a luxury — **it is a national priority for the future of our NHS.**

## AN INTEGRATED DIGITAL HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM

Propel will introduce a fully integrated digital health record system so that a patient's medical information follows them wherever they receive care — from GP surgeries to A&E and across every level of the NHS.

All healthcare professionals involved in a person's treatment should be able to access the same up-to-date information. In an emergency, doctors and nurses must be able to see a patient's medical history immediately.

A modern health service cannot rely on fragmented systems and missing records. This reform will improve **patient safety, reduce delays, and allow healthcare professionals to make faster and better-informed decisions.**

Your care should never depend on which computer system happens to be open or whether paper notes can be found. The current **"information lottery" in healthcare must come to an end.**

Better information sharing will also help reduce duplication, avoid unnecessary appointments and **free up NHS capacity — helping to bring down waiting lists.**

## FUND WELSH-RESIDENT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Wales should grow and support its own healthcare workforce.

As part of a long-term **NHS workforce strategy**, Propel will sponsor young people who have completed their GCSEs in Wales, supporting them from school through university to train as **doctors, nurses, dentists and other essential healthcare professionals**.

In return, graduates would commit to working in the Welsh NHS for a fair, agreed period after qualifying.

This approach helps tackle the staffing crisis by building a stable, home-grown workforce — not just for the next few years, but for the next generation.

It will also help reduce the NHS's growing reliance on **expensive agency staff**, allowing more resources to be invested directly into patient care.

By investing in our young people, we can create real opportunities while strengthening the NHS for the future.

## SAFE MATERNITY CARE: PROTECTING MIDWIVES AND FAMILIES

Midwives play a vital role in keeping mothers and babies safe, and they must be properly supported in the work they do.

Propel will ensure that **safe working hours and proper rest breaks** are not just guidance but guaranteed in practice. When healthcare staff are exhausted, the risk of mistakes increases — putting both patients and professionals at risk.

Protecting midwives and other maternity staff from burnout is not a luxury. It is essential for **safe care, better clinical decisions and a healthier workforce**.

We will also ensure that lessons from **maternity safety reviews and investigations** are properly implemented so that standards continue to improve and avoidable harm is prevented.

Every family deserves the confidence that maternity services are safe, well staffed and focused on the wellbeing of both mother and baby.

## FIXING SOCIAL CARE IN WALES

Adult social care is an essential pillar of a healthy and compassionate society and must be treated as a national priority. Across Wales, families, care workers and providers are struggling within a system that is fragmented, underfunded and increasingly unsustainable. Propel believes Wales needs a fair and sustainable care system that supports people to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. This means properly funding care services, valuing and supporting the care workforce, strengthening community-based care, and ensuring health and social care work together effectively. By focusing on prevention and early support, we can improve quality of life, support families and carers, and reduce pressure on hospitals.

- Introduce a **National Care Workforce Plan**, including fair pay linked to NHS Band 3, funded training and career progression.
- Launch a **Community Care First Programme** to expand home-based care and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions.
- **Audit social care spending** and redirect bureaucracy and third-sector duplication into frontline care services.
- Establish **Local Care Accountability Boards** to improve coordination between health and social care services.

## DRUG AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE REFORM

### A National Recovery Strategy for Wales

Wales needs a new and more effective approach to tackling addiction and substance misuse. Too many people are being failed by a fragmented system that lacks leadership, clear standards and accountability.

Propel will introduce a **National Recovery Strategy for Wales** focused on prevention, treatment and long-term recovery, ensuring services work together to help people rebuild their lives.

Addiction should never mean writing someone off. With the right support, people can recover, rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

### Root and Branch Review

Conduct a full national review of all substance misuse services in Wales to identify failures, gaps and opportunities for reform.

### A Single Coordinated System

Replace the current fragmented structure by **bringing relevant agencies together into a single coordinated system**, improving cooperation between health, housing, social care and justice services.

### Democratic Accountability

Create a **National Head of Substance Misuse Services for Wales**, directly elected by the public and responsible for leadership, strategy and performance across the system.

### Clear Responsibilities

Define the roles of all services involved to ensure consistent, coordinated support for those in recovery.

## Trauma-Informed Approach

Recognise the link between trauma and addiction by making **trauma-informed training mandatory** for professionals and embedding a trauma-informed approach across all services.

## Better Records

Introduce **standardised record-keeping across Wales**, ensuring records recognise the reasons behind behaviour — not just the behaviour itself — to improve understanding, treatment and long-term recovery.

# EDUCATION: EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Wales was once one of the most literate nations in the world. Today, we can no longer hold our heads high in international comparisons.

For too long, education has not been treated as the national priority it should be. Funding pressures, weak family support, the betrayal of learners with Additional Learning Needs, and underinvestment in staff have left too many children facing limited opportunities.

Propel believes it is time to restore ambition and pride in Welsh education. Our vision is simple: **put learners first, support teachers, respect families, and ensure schools serve their communities**. Education must be an opportunity for every child — not a postcode lottery.

## BACKING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF

### Backing Teachers and School Staff

Strong schools depend on valued professionals. Propel will support teachers and school staff with practical reforms that strengthen the classroom and improve outcomes for learners.

### Reduce Class Sizes

Large classes make it harder for teachers to give pupils the attention they deserve.

- Introduce a **statutory maximum of 30 pupils** in all classes (Key Stages 1–4; Years 1–11).
- Reduce this to **25 pupils within five years**.

### Fair Pay for Supply Staff

Supply teachers and staff play a vital role in keeping schools running, but too often they are treated unfairly.

- Supply staff paid fairly **for 52 weeks of the year**, including holidays.
- Recruitment agencies used **only as a last resort**, with strict limits on commission fees.
- Welsh teachers should not be generating excessive profits for **London-based agencies**.

## Invest in Staff

Supporting the workforce means investing in the people who make education work.

- Fully fund **teacher pay rises**.
- Increase the number of **classroom assistants and specialist staff**.
- Strengthen **professional development** across the system.
- Carry out a **complete overhaul of teacher training** so that expertise in **Additional Learning Needs** is embedded from the start.

## Voluntary Teacher Exchange

- Create a **national voluntary subject teacher exchange programme** between schools and colleges across Wales to share expertise and strengthen subject knowledge.

## Democratic Leadership

Propel believes key education roles should be accountable to the people they serve.

- **Headteachers elected by school staff.**
- **Head of Education Tribunals elected by the public.**
- **Head of Estyn elected by the public.**

# A NEW DEAL FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

The current system for supporting children with Additional Learning Needs is failing too many families across Wales. Parents are forced to fight for support, services are inconsistent, and children are too often left without the help they need.

Propel believes the system requires **root-and-branch reform** to ensure every child receives the support they deserve.

## System Reform

- Introduce a **new Additional Learning Needs Act** to replace the failing system.
- Hold a **People's Inquiry into Additional Learning Needs** to expose failures and drive reform.
- Build **more specialist schools and therapeutic provision** across Wales.
- Develop **specialist units attached to larger mainstream schools**.
- Establish a **specialist college in every Local Authority area**.
- Reduce reliance on **expensive independent placements** by strengthening public provision.
- Provide **holiday activity provision** for children with additional learning needs

## Parental Rights and Accountability

Parents must be respected as partners in their child's education, and the system must be transparent and accountable.

- Establish a **clear parental right to choose placements**.
- Introduce a **parental right for a child to repeat a school year where appropriate**.
- Ensure **parents are fully involved in placement and support panel decisions**.
- **Ring-fence ALN budgets** to guarantee funding reaches learners who need it.
- Create a **one-stop information hub for parents**, including access to funded legal advice.
- **Publish the names of schools** that receive adverse tribunal findings.
- Allow **retrospective compensation following tribunal decisions**.
- Rewrite professional standards so **retrospective action can be taken where failings are identified**, including retraining or dismissal where appropriate.
- Require **all formal meetings relating to ALN decisions to be digitally recorded**.
- Ensure **CAMHS services are properly resourced** to support children with complex needs.
- Educational psychologists to be **funded by Local Authorities but independently chosen, with parental involvement**.

## FAMILIES FIRST

Parents are partners in education — not bystanders. Families know their children best and should be respected as central to decisions about their upbringing and education.

Propel believes the education system must work **with families, not against them**.

- Support **Home Education** and repeal the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act* (if passed).
- Protect the **parental right to withdraw children from lessons** where families have legitimate concerns.
- Restore a **full parental opt-out from sex education**.
- Allow children **meaningful term-time leave for enrichment experiences**, such as cultural trips, family events, or educational travel.
- **Abolish fines** for parents who take children on family holidays during term time.

Families should lead in raising children — **schools should support them**.

## SCHOOLS AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITIES

Schools should be more than places of learning during the day. They should serve as **community hubs**, bringing people together and strengthening neighbourhoods.

Propel will support schools to open their doors to their communities by providing:

- **Community meals and shared dining initiatives**
- **Youth centres and safe spaces for young people**
- **Meeting and social spaces for older residents, including those over 65**

- A **county-by-county programme to reverse the privatisation of out-of-school tuition**, bringing support back into the public system

Strong schools help build **strong communities**.

## LANGUAGE, CULTURE & INCLUSION

Education should reflect the richness and diversity of modern Wales. Our schools must promote the Welsh language, celebrate cultural heritage, and ensure every child feels included and supported.

- **Invest in Welsh immersion programmes** to help more learners access Welsh-medium education.
- Ensure **all new schools are Welsh-medium**, strengthening the future of the Welsh language.
- Teach **modern foreign languages from Year 1 through to Year 12**, building confidence and global skills from an early age.
- Provide **GCSE-level heritage language qualifications** — including Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Somali and Arabic — wherever there is sufficient demand.
- **Incorporate the British Sign Language Charter** and ensure deaf children receive the support and access they need to thrive in education.
- Provide **Halal, Kosher, or vegetarian meal options in schools wherever there is demand**, respecting cultural and religious needs.
- **Welsh Food on Welsh Plates:** School meals should support both children’s health and Wales’ economy. Food served in our schools should prioritise produce that is grown, reared and produced in Wales, strengthening local supply chains and supporting Welsh farmers, producers and food businesses. At the same time, schools must maintain the highest standards of nutrition and food quality, ensuring every child has access to healthy, balanced meals.

Education should prepare young people not only for work, but for life in a **confident, inclusive and outward-looking Wales**.

## FAIR FUNDING AND TRANSPARENCY

School funding must be fair, transparent and based on real need. Propel will introduce a funding system that reflects the challenges schools face and ensures resources reach the pupils who need them most.

- Introduce a **fair funding formula** based on pupil need, school size, local costs and socio-economic factors.
- Guarantee **minimum per-pupil funding**, with additional support where it is required most.
- Allow **local flexibility** so schools and communities can respond to their specific needs.
- **Publish school funding data annually** and review allocations with schools, unions and communities to ensure transparency and accountability.

## CHILDHOOD COMES FIRST

Every decision in education should prioritise **children’s safety, wellbeing, development and happiness**.

- Recognise that **learning happens beyond the classroom** — at home, through travel, and through involvement in community life.

## SOCIAL MOBILITY AND RETAINING WELSH TALENT

Wales must do more to nurture its brightest minds — and ensure they have opportunities to succeed here at home.

- Create a **Social Mobility Fund** to support high-achieving students from all backgrounds through A-Levels and further education.
- Establish a **Welsh Graduate Scheme**, working with local councils to retain talented graduates through structured employment and training programmes.
- **End the Seren Scheme**, which too often encourages Wales’ brightest students to leave for English universities, and instead invest in developing and retaining talent within Wales.

# PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Families First. Children Protected. Profit Removed from Care.

Too many families in Wales feel powerless when dealing with the child protection and care system. Trust has been damaged by secrecy, profit-driven practices and a lack of accountability.

Propel will introduce a **Children and People Before Profit Act** to place children’s wellbeing, family unity and community care at the centre of the system.

The Act will:

- End profit-driven practices in children’s services
- Strengthen early intervention and trauma-informed support
- Increase transparency and accountability
- Ensure families are supported rather than separated wherever it is safe to do so

Our goal is simple: **keep families together where possible, support parents early, protect children properly, and build a care system that works for people — not shareholders.**

## A PEOPLE'S INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Public confidence must be restored.

Propel will establish an **independent People's Inquiry into Children's Services in Wales** to examine systemic failures and recommend meaningful reform.

The inquiry will investigate:

- Failures in Additional Learning Needs and safeguarding systems
- The role of private profit in children's services
- The Letterbox Scandal
- Decision-making in care proceedings and family courts
- The treatment and rights of parents and families
- Long-term outcomes for adopted children and care-experienced young people

A **detailed national study into outcomes for adopted and care-experienced children** will be commissioned to ensure policy is guided by evidence and the real-life experiences of those who have lived through the system.

## KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

Strong families build strong communities. Where it is safe, children should remain with their families.

Propel will introduce a **Families First approach** that focuses on prevention, support and reunification.

- Children remain with their families wherever safely possible
- Services focused on family reunification
- Kinship care prioritised so children remain within their wider families
- Trauma-informed early intervention to prevent family breakdown
- Transparent, child-centred policies
- **Appropriate post-adoption contact with birth parents enabled where it is in the child's best interests**

### Empower Parents & Children

Families must have a real voice in the system.

- Introduce a **positive parenting course in Year 11**, preparing young people for family life
- Provide **independent child advocates**, government-funded but chosen by parents
- Introduce **post-proceedings support for parents** who have lost care of their children, helping them rebuild their lives and reduce the risk of repeated family breakdown

## Safeguarding & Protecting Children

When children are at risk, responses must be professional, coordinated and effective.

- School safeguarding teams
- Strong multi-agency collaboration between schools, social services, police and health services
- Dedicated Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) teams
- Greater community and family engagement

To ensure children and families receive proper attention and support:

- **Introduce a statutory maximum caseload for social workers** so professionals have the time to do their job properly and safely.

## STOP PROFIT FROM CARE

Propel will establish **council-owned child contact centres** to:

- Improve oversight and safeguarding
- Raise professional standards
- Ensure any income is reinvested in local services for children and families

## PUBLICLY OWNED CONTACT CENTRES

Propel will establish **council-owned child contact centres** to:

- Improve oversight and safeguarding
- Raise professional standards
- Ensure any income is **reinvested in local services for children and families**

## OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reform requires transparency and proper scrutiny.

- Welsh Inquiry into Children's Services
- Full investigation into the **Letterbox Scandal**
- Direct election of the **Head of CAF/CASS Cymru**
- Recognition and action on **parental alienation**
- **Body cameras for social workers**, with footage accessible to both professionals and families

# HOUSING JUSTICE

Housing in Wales should provide security and stability, yet for too many families it has become a source of stress, poor health and inequality. Damp homes, rising costs, homelessness and unfair treatment are increasingly common, while key decisions are often made without proper accountability.

Propel is committed to delivering real housing justice — safe homes, fair access, strong communities, and a system that works for people, not vested interests.

Housing should mean security, health and dignity. Propel's Housing Justice agenda is about restoring fairness, accountability and confidence in the housing system across Wales.

## BUILDING HOMES AND FIXING WHAT WE HAVE

### **Wet Zero Wales**

Damp and mould have reached epidemic levels across Wales, contributing to respiratory illness and poor living conditions. This situation cannot continue. Wales needs a national renovation and house-building programme to tackle the crisis.

Propel will:

- Launch a major housing renovation programme to eradicate damp and mould in existing homes.
- Build affordable council housing using local government pension funds — providing secure investment returns while expanding housing supply.
- Focus new development on brownfield land and convert empty retail and office spaces into homes.
- Bring long-term empty properties back into use through renovation loans for landlords or compulsory purchase where necessary.
- Create arm's-length development companies to build or purchase homes and help first-time buyers onto the property ladder.
- Revoke unpopular Local Development Plans so planning decisions reflect genuine local priorities.

## SOCIAL HOUSING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

- Strengthen the Housing First approach, with small-scale supported accommodation delivered directly by local authorities rather than relying primarily on charities.
- Restore the Right to Buy for social housing tenants, with every pound reinvested into building new, high-quality social homes.
- Tackle the cladding scandal head-on by blocking public contracts for developers who refuse to fix unsafe buildings and establishing a legal fighting fund to pursue those responsible.

## FAIR COSTS AND TENANT PROTECTION

- Introduce an annual service charge cap linked to CPI, protecting leaseholders and tenants from excessive increases.
- Establish a Tenants' Bill of Rights guaranteeing timely repairs, fair treatment and the right to democratic expression.

## REFORM HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Housing Associations must serve tenants — not executives.

Propel will:

- Enforce stronger public accountability and transparency.
- Require tenant-majority representation on housing association boards.
- Cap excessive executive pay.
- Guarantee stronger legal rights and protections for tenants.

## FAIRNESS AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- Ensure parents who care for children part-time are treated fairly in housing allocations, with proper recognition of care responsibilities and adjustments to Bedroom Tax rules.
- Prioritise military veterans who have served in active duty for housing and healthcare support, including specialist provision for PTSD.

- Protect Welsh culture by preventing the inappropriate renaming of Welsh-named properties or making such changes prohibitively costly.

## COUNCIL EVICTIONS

Propel will end the use of private bailiffs to collect council debts.

We will conduct a root-and-branch review of eviction policies to prevent unnecessary evictions and ensure fair treatment for residents facing financial difficulty.

## ABOLISH RENT SMART WALES

Rent Smart Wales has become an additional layer of bureaucracy and cost for landlords and tenants without delivering meaningful improvements in housing standards.

Propel will:

- Abolish Rent Smart Wales.
- Scrap unnecessary registration and licensing fees.
- Return responsibility to local authorities with clear democratic accountability.
- Focus enforcement on rogue landlords — not penalising the responsible majority.

Good landlords should be supported, tenants must be protected, and unnecessary red tape should be removed.

# A NEW WELSH ECONOMY

## BUILDING A WEALTH-CREATING WELSH ECONOMY

For too long, politics in Wales has been defined by blame and dependency — blaming London while holding out a begging bowl.

Propel believes Wales should be ambitious, confident and capable of standing on its own two feet. We want an economy where hard work, ideas and talent are the passport to success — and where Welsh wealth is created, retained and reinvested here at home.

# REBUILD WALES: A NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Propel will establish a new national economic body, modelled after the Welsh Development Agency, to drive investment, support businesses, and create jobs.

Wales lost a vital tool when the WDA was scrapped. We will bring it back — modern, accountable, and focused on results.

## What It Will Do

- Attract investment into Wales
- Support Welsh businesses and SMEs across all regions of Wales
- Deliver major economic and regeneration projects
- Strengthen Welsh supply chains
- Align skills with real job opportunities
- Based on business experience, not bureaucracy

Wales has the potential — but not the structure — to compete.

Propel will rebuild that structure and grow a stronger, wealthier, more self-reliant Wales.

# CREATING WELSH WEALTH

## Welsh-First Public Procurement

Target Welsh companies for public procurement wherever possible — creating jobs, reducing outsourcing and supporting up to **60,000 Welsh jobs**.

## Fair Use of Welsh Resources

Charge realistic fees for the use of Wales' natural resources, including water extraction, with revenue reinvested locally.

Work towards bringing **Welsh Water into public ownership**.

## Mineral Extraction — Done Right

Develop Wales' natural resources responsibly, ensuring the benefits flow to Welsh communities rather than multinational corporations.

## Reindustrialise Wales

Rebuild a high-tech, sustainable manufacturing base focused on exports, innovation and long-term skilled employment.

## A Legacy Welsh Whisky Industry

Develop eight or more whisky distilleries with government equity stakes, creating a globally recognised Welsh industry.

## Creative Wales & Cultural Industries

Establish Creative Regions and innovation hubs supporting AI, film, gaming, music and design — generating modern, high-value jobs.

### **Cultural & Industrial Heritage Regions**

Promote Welsh whisky, book towns, breweries, coal and slate heritage, and food and drink tourism to strengthen local economies.

## **WELSH CAPITAL FOR WELSH ENTERPRISE**

### **Welsh Sovereign Wealth Fund**

Establish a long-term national investment fund, governed under the **Santiago Principles**, to build lasting national wealth.

### **Eight Co-operative Community Banks**

Support SMEs, regenerate towns and introduce innovative local money systems.

### **Stock Exchange Cymru**

Enable Welsh companies to raise capital at home instead of relying on London markets.

### **Redirect Finance into Enterprise**

Expand equity investment into start-ups and hybrid social enterprises, directly backing Welsh entrepreneurs.

### **Digital Economy & Strategic Partnerships**

Grow Wales' data, blockchain and emerging technology sectors through strategic public-private partnerships.

## **WALES SUPPORTING WELSH BUSINESS AND HIGH STREETS**

### **Government-Backed Welsh Digital Marketplace**

Create a national online platform allowing Welsh businesses to sell, grow and compete digitally.

### **Local Digital Transport Platforms**

Support Welsh-owned ride-sharing and delivery platforms that keep profits circulating locally.

### **Revive High Streets & Fair Food Wales**

Support independent shops, ensure fair prices for farmers, promote Welsh produce and regenerate town centres.

### **Entrepreneurial Local Government**

Empower councils to generate income through services, investment and social enterprise rather than relying solely on grants.

### **Support Businesses that Accept Cash**

Protect cash payments and support businesses that continue to offer customers this choice.

## SKILLS, COMMUNITIES AND WORKFORCE

### **Community Regeneration & Skills**

Target investment in communities, create quality jobs and expand training opportunities for young people.

### **Veterans in the Welsh Economy**

No veteran should be left without purpose. Military skills can strengthen the Welsh economy — helping build infrastructure, regenerate communities and deliver social value.

Provide accredited qualifications, structured team-based employment and holistic support for wellbeing, housing and finances.

### **Rebuild Services to Support Growth**

Efficient healthcare, stronger education and modern transport infrastructure are essential foundations for long-term economic growth.

## TAX, INCENTIVES AND FAMILY SUPPORT

### **Competitive Tax Policy**

Abolish the 45% additional rate of income tax in Wales to attract higher earners, broaden the tax base and increase overall revenue.

### **100% Rateable Value Rebate for Hospitality**

Provide full business rate relief for restaurants, pubs and cafés to protect jobs and revive local economies.

### **Parental Care Allowance (PCA)**

Up to **£1,500 per month** for parents of children aged 0–2 who choose to care for their child at home. Part-time work would be permitted, with a reserved portion of the allowance for fathers.

# GROWING FOR WALES

## BACKING OUR FARMERS. FEEDING OUR NATION. PROTECTING OUR LAND.

Wales has been described by chef Bryn Williams as "*the greatest larder on Earth.*"

Our land, seas and communities have the ability to feed our nation properly. But that will only happen if Welsh farmers come first, rural life is respected, and our food system works for our people rather than global corporations.

Propel believes Wales should strive for **food independence** — producing more of what we eat and supporting the communities that make that possible.

## PROTECT WELSH FARMERS, LAND AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Our farmers are not the problem — they are the **guardians of Wales**.

### **Support Farmers, Don't Punish Them**

Reject unrealistic net-zero targets and global climate mandates that undermine Welsh agriculture and threaten family farms.

### **Strong Rural Communities**

Protect resilient, independent villages and working family farms that sustain rural Wales.

### **Respect Farmers' Knowledge**

Recognise farmers as stewards of our landscapes and partners in environmental improvement.

### **Protect Prime Farmland**

Ban large-scale solar farms on high-quality agricultural land.  
Solar should instead be prioritised on rooftops and brownfield sites.

### **Bee-Friendly Wales**

Make Wales bee-friendly county by county by protecting pollinators from habitat loss, disease, climate pressures and harmful pesticides.

### **Protect Community Green Spaces**

Safeguard parks, common land and natural areas so they remain accessible to local people.

### **Review Natural Resources Wales**

Conduct a root-and-branch review of Natural Resources Wales to ensure it works **with communities and farmers**, not against them. And elect the Head of NRW.

## GROW WELSH FOOD AND FARMING FUTURES

Wales must increase domestic food production to strengthen **food security, resilience and national pride**.

### **Food Security First**

Prioritise food that is grown, caught and consumed in Wales.

### **Agriculture and Fisheries Commission**

Establish a commission bringing farmers and fishers together to expand high-quality Welsh food production.

### **Environment Led by Farmers**

Design environmental improvements **with farmers**, not imposed on them from outside.

### **Farming as a Career**

Promote farming as a respected, long-term profession for the next generation.

### **Grow Cannabis in Wales**

Allow farmers the opportunity to cultivate cannabis for regulated industrial and medicinal markets.

### **Expand Urban Allotments**

Dramatically increase land available for food growing in towns and cities.

## **FAIRNESS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

Welsh producers deserve **fair treatment and fair prices**.

### **Buy Welsh First**

Prioritise Welsh food producers in public procurement for schools, hospitals and other public services.

### **Fair Deals for Farmers**

Ensure fair prices, stable contracts and prompt payments for agricultural producers.

### **Enable Direct Sales**

Make it easier for farmers to sell directly to Welsh consumers.

### **Reduce Supermarket Dependence**

Keep more wealth circulating in Wales instead of sending profits to multinational supermarket chains.

### **Food Cooperatives and Markets**

Support farmers' markets and community food co-operatives across Wales.

### **Invest in Local Processing**

Strengthen small abattoirs and develop shorter, local supply chains.

## **PROTECT FARM INCOME AND GENERATIONAL FARMING**

Farming must remain viable for future generations.

### **Family Farms Forever**

Support farm succession and generational transfer so family farms can continue.

### **Income Stability**

Reverse funding declines and strengthen local processing capacity to protect farm incomes.

### **Next-Generation Farming**

Provide grants, low-interest loans and training opportunities for farmers under 35.

## **PRACTICAL, FARMER-LED SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Practical, Farmer-Led Sustainability**

Propel supports **practical environmentalism rooted in Welsh realities.**

- Promote regenerative and seasonal food systems.
- Support decentralised, not-for-profit community recycling enterprises.
- Protect biodiversity through land stewardship rather than bureaucracy.
- Review and reform the Sustainable Farming Scheme in partnership with farmers.
- Balance food production, environmental resilience and economic strength.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE, MARKETS AND WELSH CULTURE**

If Welsh food is to thrive, we must build the systems that support it.

- Invest in abattoirs, storage, transport and local food branding.
- Improve rural broadband and logistics to support rural businesses.
- Protect farms as cultural anchors and strongholds of the Welsh language.
- Promote bilingual rural initiatives while safeguarding our landscapes.

# GET WALES MOVING

Wales deserves a transport system that works.

Right now, it doesn't. Roads are deteriorating, rail links have been lost, and public transport is inconsistent. Journeys take too long, and too many decisions are driven by ideology rather than common sense.

Transport isn't about left or right. It's about getting to work on time, getting home safely, connecting north and south, helping businesses grow, supporting tourism, and keeping communities alive.

A **Get Wales Moving Act** would modernise our roads, restore vital rail links, improve public transport, prioritise safety, and protect people's freedom to travel — without unnecessary restrictions.

## MODERN ROADS THAT KEEP WALES MOVING

Wales needs reliable national infrastructure.

### **Upgrade Strategic Roads**

Upgrade Wales' strategic road network to expressway standard, allowing consistent 60mph travel across the country.

Construct a **North–South National Expressway** — not a motorway, but a safe, modern road capable of averaging 60mph. At present, parts of our main national route are little more than country lanes.

### **Relief Road for the M4**

Construct an M4 relief road to reduce congestion, cut journey times and strengthen the Welsh economy.

### **Menai Strait Crossing**

Build a third crossing over the Menai Strait to improve resilience, reliability and regional connectivity.

### **Fix Wales' Roads**

Launch a long-term, fully funded programme to repair and resurface roads across Wales.

Prioritise safety, durability and value for money — reducing potholes, cutting vehicle damage, supporting local jobs and restoring public confidence.

## RECONNECTING WALES BY RAIL

We must rebuild key links that were lost.

### **Reinstate Key Railway Lines**

Reopen the **Aberystwyth–Carmarthen line**.

Reopen the **Afon Wen–Bangor line**.

These projects would reconnect communities, strengthen regional economies and provide genuine alternatives to driving.

## BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT – REAL CHOICE

Transport policy should expand options, not force people out of their cars.

### **Pro-Choice, Not Anti-Car**

Propel supports freedom of transport. People should have real choices — car, bus, rail, cycling or walking — based on convenience and practicality. The goal is choice, not punishment.

### **Free Bus Travel Pilot**

Pilot free bus travel in Cardiff to understand how it changes travel patterns. If successful, the scheme could be expanded across Wales.

### **Single Ticketing System**

Introduce one integrated ticket covering all public transport journeys across Wales.

### **Maximum Rail Fare Within Wales**

Introduce fair, capped rail fares for journeys within Wales.

## SAFER STREETS – ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Safety must come first.

### **Road Safety Initiatives**

Strengthen road safety measures, particularly around schools.

Provide a crossing patrol at every primary school and introduce additional protections in high-risk areas.

### **Speed Limit Adjustments**

Oppose blanket 20mph limits except around schools or where clear safety concerns exist.

Return non-school areas to the previous 30mph limit where appropriate.

## FAIRNESS, FREEDOM AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Transport policy should support people — not penalise them.

### Opposition to Restrictive Charges

Oppose congestion charges.

Oppose Low Emission Zones that restrict vehicle access.

Phase out controlled parking zones that damage local high streets and local economies.

## INNOVATION AND TOURISM

### Flying Boat Links

Explore the creation of a flying boat fleet linking Cardiff Bay with Wales' lake regions, aimed at boosting tourism and showcasing the country's natural beauty.

# WELSH ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Wales should control its own energy future. We produce vast amounts of power, yet Welsh households and businesses still face high bills and uncertainty. Propel believes in a self-reliant Wales — generating more of our own energy, keeping the profits here, and putting affordability and reliability first.

## A WELSH NATIONAL ENERGY COMPANY

Propel will establish a **Welsh National Energy Company**, majority-owned by the Welsh Government and local authorities.

Its purpose will be simple: ensure that Wales' natural resources are used for the benefit of the Welsh people.

- Focus on responsible, conventional extraction of Wales' known gas reserves in former coalfield areas.
- Ensure Welsh energy resources serve Welsh communities and businesses first.
- Keep profits in Wales instead of sending them overseas.

## AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE WELSH ENERGY

Energy policy must begin with security and affordability.

- Reduce reliance on imported gas by responsibly using domestic reserves.
- Strengthen Wales' energy security and independence.
- Deliver stable, affordable and reliable energy for homes and businesses.
- End the absurd situation where Welsh heritage railways import coal from abroad — by responsibly mining Welsh coal or reusing coal from historic mining waste tips.

## INVEST IN STORAGE AND SMART INFRASTRUCTURE

Wales often produces more electricity than it can use yet lacks the storage capacity to capture it.

- Invest in modern energy storage technologies.
- Reduce the costly waste of surplus electricity.
- Use stored energy to stabilise supply and help lower energy bills.

## BACK WELSH RENEWABLES

Wales has enormous natural advantages when it comes to renewable energy.

- Expand hydro-electric power where suitable.
- Invest in tidal and wave energy along Wales' extensive coastline.
- Harness the power of our rivers and seas to generate clean, dependable energy.

## PROTECT WELSH COMMUNITIES FROM INDUSTRIAL SCALE ENERGY

Wales needs reliable and affordable energy — but not at the expense of our communities, countryside or quality of life.

For too long, large onshore wind farms, major pylon corridors and grid infrastructure have been imposed on rural areas with little genuine consent. Rural Wales must not become a sacrifice zone for national energy infrastructure.

Propel will:

### **Put Community Consent First**

Require binding local referenda before approving large-scale onshore energy developments.

### **Protect Our Landscapes**

Oppose industrial wind farms in sensitive areas and reject new pylon super-corridors. Where infrastructure is necessary, prioritise underground cabling.

### **Back Smarter Alternatives**

Support rooftop solar, brownfield renewables, community-owned schemes and major investment in energy storage.

### **Ensure Fairness**

Energy infrastructure should be balanced across Wales — not concentrated in areas where resistance is weakest.

Energy policy must lower bills, strengthen resilience and respect communities — not industrialise our countryside.

## **A WELSH SOVEREIGN FUND**

Profits from Welsh energy production should benefit future generations.

Propel will establish a Welsh Sovereign Wealth Fund.

- Invest energy revenues for long-term national prosperity.
- Support renewable infrastructure and innovation.
- Build economic resilience for future generations.

## **NO NUCLEAR IN WALES**

- No new nuclear reactors in Wales.
- Veto the storage or dumping of nuclear material produced outside Wales.

## **PUT WALES FIRST ON CLIMATE POLICY**

Energy policy must be practical, evidence-based and focused on Welsh interests.

- Reject costly or unrealistic global targets that undermine affordability and economic growth.
- Prioritise reliable energy that supports Welsh jobs and industry.
- Focus on adaptation and resilience — protecting people, homes and infrastructure.
- Make rational, evidence-led decisions rather than following political ideology.

# SMARTER RECYCLING FOR WALES

Propel will replace the current cluttered kerbside system with **communal recycling hubs**, based on proven models in France and Spain.

No more multiple bags and boxes outside every home. Instead:

- **Local, shared recycling points**
- **Cleaner streets**
- **Lower costs**
- A system that is **far easier for refuse workers to operate safely and efficiently**

## Recycling That Pays You Back

We will introduce a **deposit return scheme**:

- Small deposit on bottles, cans, and glass
- Full refund when returned via local points or machines

Expanded over time, this will:

- **Boost recycling rates**
- **Cut litter and fly-tipping**
- Put **money back in people's pockets**

## Fixing Commercial Waste

For businesses:

- **Shared communal bins** for shops and premises
- **No more dumping bags on the street**
- Simpler, fairer collections

Backed by **Community Environmental Wardens** and proper enforcement, this is a system that is **simpler, cheaper, and works**.

# DISCOVER WALES: HERITAGE, HISTORY AND TOURISM

Wales is one of the most historic nations in Europe — yet we have never fully realised our tourism potential.

From Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way to Norway's National Tourist Routes, other small nations have created bold, nationally recognised journeys that attract visitors from across the world. Wales can do the same — and do it even better.

With its castles, coastlines, mountains, industrial heritage and vibrant communities, Wales has everything needed to become one of Europe's great cultural destinations.

## HERITAGE WALES

For too long, Wales' history has been managed from above — often underfunded, overly commercialised, and too disconnected from the communities who live alongside it.

Propel proposes a fresh start through the creation of **Heritage Wales / Treftadaeth Newydd Cymru** — a modern, transparent and community-driven body to replace Cadw.

Our historic monuments, castles and ancient sites should truly belong to the people of Wales.

### **Genuine Preservation**

Safeguard Wales' historic sites through proper conservation and long-term care — not neglect disguised as commercial management.

### **Community Voice**

Give local communities real influence over how their heritage is protected, restored and shared.

### **Access for All**

Provide open information, affordable or free entry where possible, and place education at the heart of every historic site.

### **Tell the Welsh Story**

Celebrate our castles, chapels, hillforts and industrial heritage as part of a living national story — not relics hidden behind ticket barriers.

It is time for an organisation that listens to the people of Wales and protects what is ours for future generations.

## INVESTING IN WALES' HISTORIC SITES

Wales has a rich and proud history, yet many of our most important historic sites have been neglected for far too long. Places that should inspire pride and attract visitors are often poorly maintained, under-promoted or difficult to access.

Sites such as **Sycharth**, associated with **Owain Glyndŵr**, should be centres of national pride. Instead, they have been allowed to fall into neglect.

### **Propel will end this neglect.**

Propel will invest in key historic sites across Wales to restore them, improve public access, and properly tell the story of our nation. This will include better signage, visitor facilities, and educational resources so that people can understand and experience Wales' history.

By bringing these sites to life, we will strengthen national pride, educate future generations, and support local economies through heritage tourism.

### **Wales' history deserves to be protected, celebrated and made accessible to all.**

## A WELSH NATIONAL TOURIST ROUTE

Wales should create a clearly defined, world-class national route linking our most important cultural and natural landmarks, including:

- Castles and hillforts
- Chapels and pilgrimage sites
- Industrial heritage landmarks
- Coastlines, mountains and market towns

A Welsh National Tourist Route would:

- Boost rural economies
- Support local businesses
- Encourage longer visitor stays
- Strengthen pride in Welsh identity

Tourism should not just be about visitor numbers — it should help tell the story of Wales.

## TALKING WALES

History should not be locked away in books — it should live in our streets.

**Talking Wales** would place simple QR plaques across towns and villages throughout the country. Scan the code and you hear a short, engaging audio story — in Welsh and English — explaining the history of the exact place where you are standing.

The stories could range from national figures such as Owain Glyndŵr to local miners, teachers, nurses and community heroes.

Chosen by local people.

Researched locally.

Voiced locally.

Turning every street into a living history lesson.

Wales has a remarkable story.

Let's make sure the world hears it.

# CYMRAEG FOR ALL: CELEBRATING WELSH CULTURE

Wales is not only a country — it is a language, a history and a living culture. The Welsh language is one of the foundations of our national identity, and strengthening it is part of building a confident and self-respecting Wales.

Propel will strengthen the Welsh language, heritage and national identity through practical action and meaningful national investment.

Our approach is built on three priorities:

## **Grow the Language**

Expand opportunities for people of all ages to learn and use Welsh.

## **Celebrate Our Culture**

Support heritage, arts, history and national celebrations that bring Welsh identity to life.

## **Strengthen Communities**

Invest in local initiatives that help Welsh thrive in everyday community life.

## **ST DAVID'S DAY BANK HOLIDAY**

Make 1 March a national bank holiday, with public sector recognition and support for private sector participation — a day the whole country can celebrate together.

## NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS FUND

Support parades, concerts and community events in every county — ensuring Welsh identity is celebrated from north to south and coast to coast.

## WELSH CULTURE PASSPORT

Create a national passport encouraging people to visit historic sites and cultural landmarks — earning recognition for exploring Wales' rich heritage.

## LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUMS SUPPORT

Protect and properly fund local museums and community heritage projects.

Safeguard Welsh place names and promote heritage trails that tell the story of our nation.

Increase recognition of historic figures such as **Owain Glyndŵr, Hywel Dda, William Morgan and Hedd Wyn**, ensuring their stories remain part of our national life.

## WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION ACT

Consolidate and strengthen legislation to secure the long-term growth, stability and expansion of Welsh-medium education.

## FREE WELSH LANGUAGE FOR ALL

Guarantee free access to Welsh language learning — through community classes, workplace schemes and digital provision — so anyone who wants to learn can do so.

## ALL STRENGTHENING THE MENTRAU IAITH NETWORK

Increase funding for **Mentrau Iaith organisations across Wales**, recognising their vital role in promoting the everyday use of Welsh within communities.

Strengthen collaboration between Mentrau Iaith, schools, local authorities and cultural organisations to expand Welsh-language opportunities.

## CROESO CYMRU: WELCOMING AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

Offer new arrivals free introductory Welsh language and heritage courses to support inclusion, understanding and shared identity.

## NATIONAL TWINNING WITHIN WALES

Link towns and schools across Wales to encourage cultural exchange, shared learning and stronger bonds between regions.



**THE CONTRACT WITH WALES 2026**