

Changing young people's lives through sport

**STREET
GAMES**



YOUTH MANIFESTO

STREETGAMES YOUTH VOICES





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 Senedd elections in Wales provide a pivotal opportunity in Welsh politics for young people and local communities to help shape public policy to better support their needs and aspirations.

StreetGames exists to support young people living in underserved communities to have more equitable access to the benefits that a full sporting and physically active life can bring to their life chances. Alongside our network of over 250 locally trusted Welsh organisations we try and amplify the voices of young people from these communities to be heard and empowered.

StreetGames has supported a team of Young Advisors to develop a Young Person's Manifesto to raise awareness of issues that were important to them. They used extensive information captured from young people ahead of the 2024 general election. They then added additional information from Welsh young people to understand the key issues they are facing today in Wales.

We would like to thank all the young people who helped us with this work, and in particular the office of the Future Generation's Commissioner, Derek Walker for their support.

Summary of the key asks of political parties from young people living in underserved communities in Wales:

SAFE PLACES

Please make sure local community assets – such as youth centres and outdoor spaces – are open and maintained so young people have a place where they feel safe to go to with their friends outside of school times.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers make sure activity happens. We need policies that promote volunteering and strengthen the links between local employers, the education system and community organisations and clubs. Opportunities need to be poverty-proofed and accessible to all.

MENTAL WELLBEING

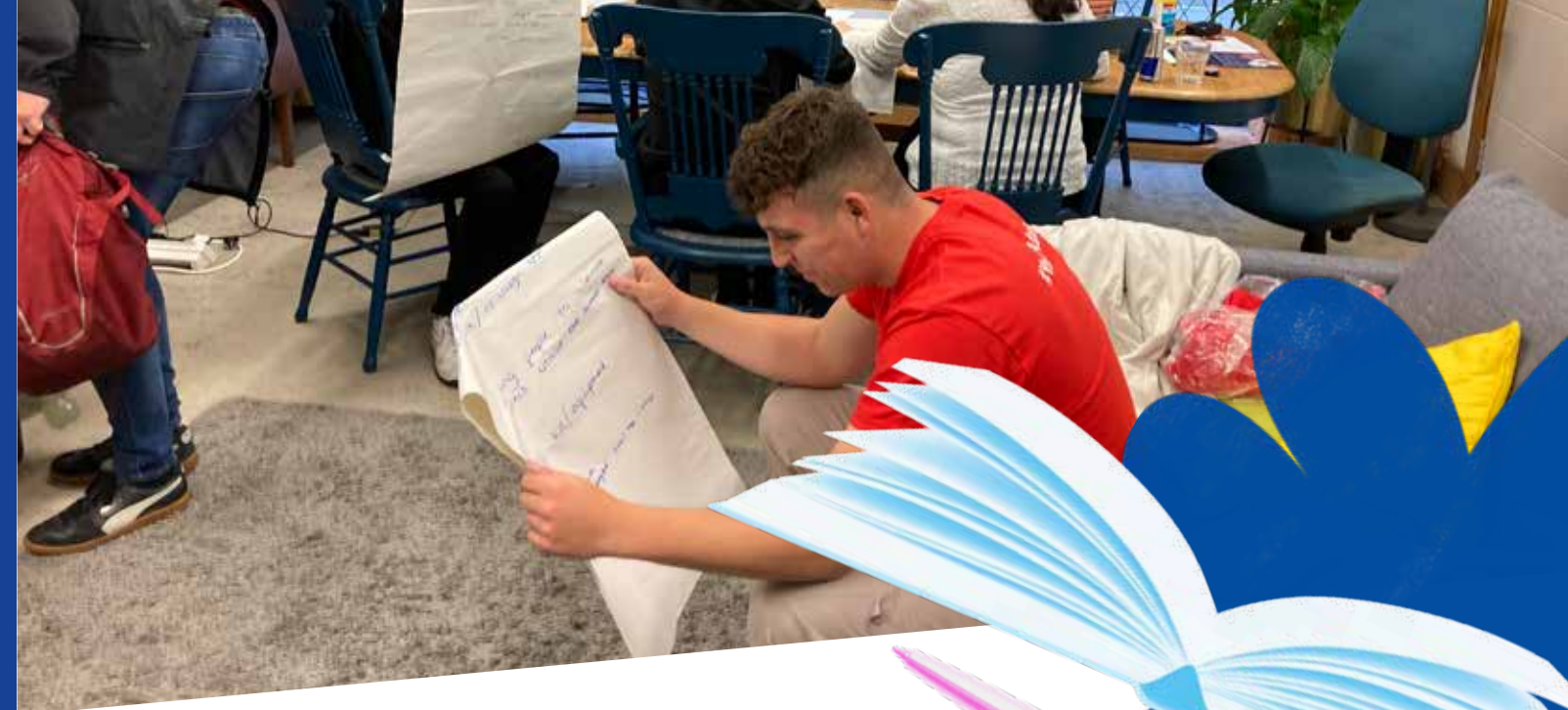
As well as improved services, this is also about a wider understanding of what can help, such as providing more safe spaces for young people to attend, and making sure there are regular affordable activities for young people to take part in across all communities.

ACCESS TO SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

We know sport and physical activity has huge benefits to young people and communities, and access in many communities can be very poor. We need a focus from government on this as a priority, and to provide support for basics such as kit and equipment, coaching sessions, and open safe spaces beyond the school day.

TRANSPORT

Transport should be free for young people – especially Monday to Friday – you shouldn't have to pay to get to school or Sixth Form. This would also reduce the financial barrier facing young people and families to accessing many sports and physical activities.



HOW THE MANIFESTO WAS COMPILED

Firstly the information used in 2024 for the UK general election was considered, as the content of this had clear links to policy areas devolved to the Welsh Government. It was felt that whilst it would be unnecessary to discard all of this information, we needed to check and challenge the findings to a) ensure it was up to date, and b) have a clear focus on what matters to Welsh young people.

A short online survey was shared with community organisations in the StreetGames network in Wales, with the aim to get as many young people's voices heard as possible. This short survey consisted of three open questions linked to young people's concerns, aspirations and asks from government. Focus groups, using a semi-structured topic guide, were conducted as part of this process and enabled community organisations to engage and explore issues with their young people at a deeper level. StreetGames also facilitated a number of additional focus groups with young people from across Wales.

StreetGames then recruited five young people from the network to become Young Advisors¹ and supported them to analyse the survey and focus group data to identify key themes and turn these into 'key asks' to the political parties, in the lead up to the Welsh election.

The Young Advisors then came together for a day in Cardiff, where they presented the key findings to the Future Generation's Commissioner, who is advocating for young people in underserved communities.

The results from the consultation showed that young people in Wales face similar challenges to their peers in the rest of the UK – the themes that were most prevalent from the findings spanning issues related to: a lack of access to sport, safe places and volunteering opportunities, increased mental wellbeing support and a need to improve / make more accessible local transport.

¹Young advisors are young people that we have recruited to support and advise us in decision making, especially on topics and themes that affect them.

DEMOGRAPHICS & DATA

3000
YOUNG
PEOPLE

Combined with the 212 survey responses



10 FOCUS GROUPS = 88 YOUNG PEOPLE

FOCUS GROUP DEMOGRAPHICS

Throughout the focus groups, a range of young people were consulted with. These ages ranged from 11–24 years old.

GENDER

53%
MALE

44%
FEMALE

3%
NON-BINARY

DISABILITY

56%
YES

42%
NO

1%
UNSURE

ETHNICITY

95%
White

2%
Asian or
Asian
British

2%
Black,
Black British,
Caribbean
or African

1%
Somali
Bangladeshi/
Pakistani/
British

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS



10% 8–11
YEAR OLDS

51% 12–14
YEAR OLDS

32% 15–18
YEAR OLDS

8% 18–24
YEAR OLDS

GENDER

51%
MALE

48%
FEMALE

1%
NON-BINARY

DISABILITY

17%
YES

74%
NO

9%
UNSURE

ETHNICITY

94%
White

1%
Asian or
Asian
British

1%
Black,
Black British,
Caribbean
or African

2%
Mixed or
multiple
ethnic
groups



QUOTES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

WHY SAFE PLACES

I FEEL UNSAFE BEING OUTSIDE BECAUSE OF DRUG DEALERS AND TAKERS.

I WANT TO SOCIALISE WITH FRIENDS, IN A SAFE INDOOR ENVIRONMENT.

A SAFE PLACE GIVES ME SOMEWHERE TO GO WITH MY FRIENDS. I CAN ENJOY MYSELF AND IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO RELAX AND NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON.

IT KEEPS ME OFF THE STREETS - I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.

WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO - A SAFE PLACE HELPS US SEE OUR FRIENDS AND FEEL SAFE AT THE SAME TIME. WHO ELSE IS GOING TO LOOK AFTER US IF WE ARE NOT TOGETHER.

SAFE PLACES ALLOW WOMEN & GIRLS TO BE FREE.

HELPS MORE YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES.

WHY VOLUNTEERING

IT WILL HELP US GET JOBS IN THE FUTURE.

IMPROVES CONFIDENCE AND IT'S GOOD TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SKILLS FOR JOBS.

TO HELP COMMUNITIES PROVIDE BETTER EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

WE WOULD LOVE TO VOLUNTEER, BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES.

IT GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY IF SCHOOL ISN'T FOR US.

PREVENTS US GOING DOWN THE WRONG PATH.

IT IS AN OUTLET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES WE ARE UNAWARE OF.



WHY ACCESS TO SPORT

THERE ARE LESS PLACES TO GO AND JUST HANG WITH MY FRIENDS. IF IT WASN'T FOR HERE (YOUTH CLUB) WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING.

ALL OUR TRIPS ARE WITH OUR YOUTH CLUB - I ALSO LOVE PLAYING TABLE TENNIS AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE I CAN GO TO PLAY IT.

WE DON'T USE THE LEISURE CENTRE BECAUSE... IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE, IT'S TOO FAR AWAY, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT KIT/EQUIPMENT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE, I AM NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH AND THERE'S NOTHING ON THERE THAT INTERESTS ME.

TRANSPORT

MY FRIENDS CAN'T AFFORD THE SCHOOL BUS, SO NO LONGER GO TO SIXTH FORM.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS TOO EXPENSIVE.

WE HAVE TO LEAVE YOUTH CLUB EARLY TO MAKE SURE WE GET THE BUS HOME - IT TAKES 2 HOURS.

BUSES ARE IRREGULAR - WE DON'T WANT TO STAND & WAIT IN THE DARK.



MENTAL WELLBEING

WE NEED MORE PEOPLE COMING INTO SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CLUBS TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE WE CAN GO.

NEED MORE PLACES TO DO ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT OUR MENTAL HEALTH, RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT IT.

WE WANT A PLACE TO GO WHERE WE DON'T FEEL JUDGED.

WE WANT A SAFE SPACE TO GO.

MORE PLACES WHERE WE CAN SPEAK TO. PEOPLE.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO US.

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR SUPPORT - WHY IS IT STILL A TABOO TOPIC.



KEY ASKS TO GOVERNMENT

SAFE PLACES

Make sure local community assets – such as youth centres and outdoor spaces – are open and maintained so people have a place where they feel safe to go to with their friends outside of school times.

Having the right people to support sessions makes young people feel safe – see *Doorstep Sport Ingredients* related to the 'Five Rights' for more information.

VOLUNTEERING

More support in understanding the benefits of volunteering for young people.

Local employers and organisations to support schools/youth clubs/Doorstep sport sessions to provide experiences that support young people with routes and skills into employment.

Provide more inclusive work experiences that are meaningful and are poverty proofed. E.g. supporting young people with upfront costs, such as travel, kit, equipment, food, rather than a reimbursement system.

Provide universal benefits for young people who volunteer, e.g. gym passes, free transport, meal vouchers.

SAFE PLACES

Provide more safe spaces for young people to attend, this could include places such as community settings, local parks, youth clubs, indoor spaces with a trusted adult/community leader.

Increase provision of training to upskill more of the workforce outside of school settings, such as youth centres to support young people so that they can better support and sign-post young people in relation to mental wellbeing.

Ensure mental health messaging and support services is delivered in a way that young people will receive, including utilising social media via short sharp messaging e.g. Tik Tok, Instagram, YouTube reels etc.

ACCESS TO SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Increase funding into underserved communities to support access to local sports provision BUT utilising the voices of young people to co design attractive offers.

Take more sport to young people in local communities – e.g. utilising school facilities more and taking sport to them as this reduces transport and food costs for young people if they are already there.

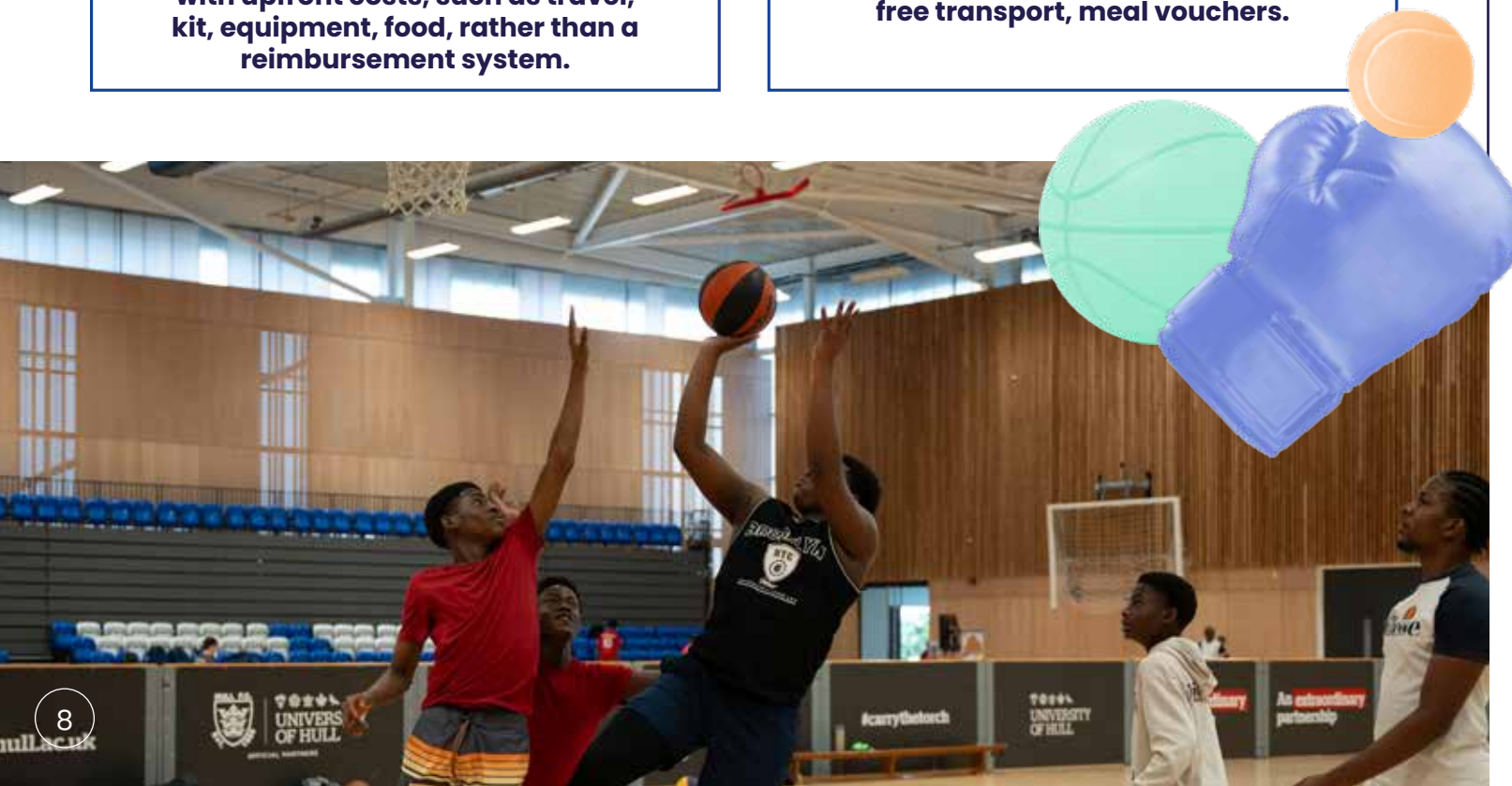
Provide funding for kit/ equipment. Support local initiatives such as the kit room in Blaenau Gwent, where people donate kit and anyone has access to it.

Embed pilots such as active education beyond the school day – stop doing one off stuff! This is more detrimental to young people.

TRANSPORT

Provide free transport for young people Monday – Friday to support them to go to school/work/volunteering/youth clubs/sport etc

Transport should be free for young people – you shouldn't have to pay to get to school, with some young people not being able to carry on their studies into Sixth Form as funded buses have been stopped.



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