



Special 2016 Welsh Assembly Election Edition



Cardiff Youth Council -
Cyngor Ieuenctid Caerdydd

Active Involvement Team
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Welsh Assembly Election
May 2016

With the Welsh Assembly Election looming on 5th May and our politicians ever in the spotlight, what better time for Cardiff Youth Council to bring politics to the young people of Cardiff! Thousands of young, first-time voters will line up at the ballot box next week to take part in the democratic process and have their voice heard on issues that affect them.

After the enormous success of last year's General Election Shout-out, we at CYC decided to hold another hustings event through a special edition shout-out to question the Welsh Assembly candidates of Cardiff on issues raised by you.

Using these issues highlighted by young people, we devised a series of questions for each of Cardiff's 28 Assembly Candidates representing 7 different parties, across four different constituencies, to record their responses in this Special 2016 Welsh Assembly Election Edition Shout-out.

We understand this is a very busy and stressful period for the candidates and we would like to thank them for taking the time to respond to the issues raised by the young people of Cardiff.

CYC is not a political organisation so we have made sure to contact all the candidates standing in the four

Cardiff constituencies fairly and without bias. We have no party affiliations and have been very clear in putting forward our agenda; to promote the rights and voices of young people in Cardiff.

Dear Candidate,

Cardiff Youth Council is the official network for young people aged 11-25. We advocate for positive change in Cardiff to make the city a better place to live, work and play.

Cardiff Youth Council have worked with young people across the city to highlight the following priorities in 2016:

- A curriculum which prepares us for life
- High quality mental health services
- Tackling racism & religious discrimination
- The Living Wage for all
- A reduced voting age to 16

In no more than 500 words, please explain how you intend to address these issues if elected.

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**We've heard their voices,
now it's time to hear yours!**

Contact Details: Phone: 07976056135 E-



@CardiffYC



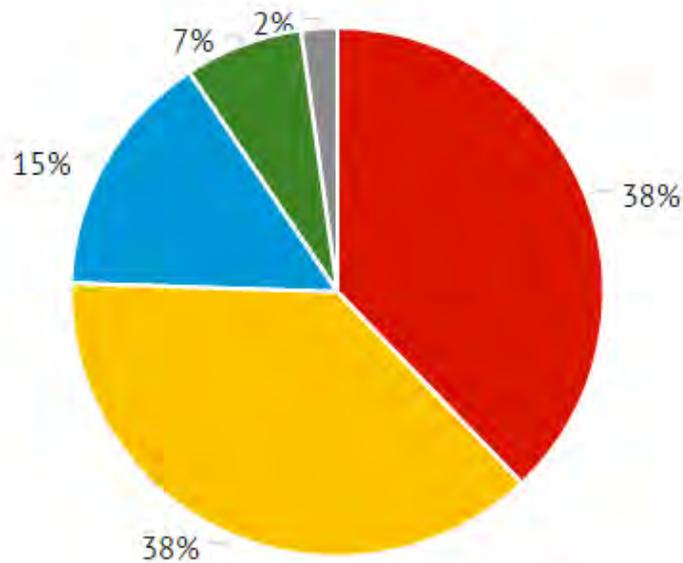
CardiffYouthCouncil



CARDIFF CENTRAL

Jenny Rathbone (Labour) is the current AM

The result four years ago



● Labour ● Lib Dems ● Conservatives ● Plaid Cymru ● Independent

2011 National Assembly election



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CYC CIC



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CARDIFF CENTRAL



GLYN WISE



My name is Glyn Wise the Cardiff Central candidate for Plaid Cymru. I'm 28 which is relatively young in the world of politics, but I thoroughly believe in bringing the voting age down to 16, if you can pay taxes, get married, have children and fight for your country Plaid Cymru believes you should have a say in the matter.

We want to establish a national youth parliament in Wales as the SNP have done in Scotland. We believe the future of Wales is in the hands of the youth and Wales is the only country in Europe that does not have a national youth parliament in place. This follows Labour's decision to cut funding for Wales' national youth parliament, the Funky Dragon, in 2014.

A youth parliament could inform policies and legislation in Wales and could also help increase young people's participation in democracy. Young people are less likely to be registered to vote and less likely to go out and vote than older people. However, the amount of young people who registered and turned out to vote in the Scottish independence referendum shows that many are interested and can be engaged in politics. 16 and 17 year olds were allowed to vote for the first time in Scottish referendum and 110,000 of the 130,000 young people of that age registered to vote.

The Scottish experience shows that it's right for plaid Cymru to call for young people's voices to be heard through lowering the voting age to 16.

We have welcomed Donaldson's review of the National Curriculum and his recommendations for developing young people as "ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world" and "healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society." This means that citizenship education in schools will need to be improved.

For young people we will guarantee employment, education or training guarantee for every person under the age of 25. We will guarantee a world class education and a wide range of learning pathways. We will guarantee 50,000 apprenticeships schemes which will be full time or part time, depends on what suits you.

Plaid Cymru will fight for a living wage for all. This will guarantee everyone's general wellbeing. Nobody deserves to be on the bread line.

Plaid Cymru is the party of equality. We welcome everyone here in Wales. We tackle racism and religious discrimination. We also believe in acceptance without question for all LGBT people. We want to end the twelve month blood donation for all gay men. We will work with schools to end homophobia, racism and discrimination.

We recognise that health starts with mental health. We will tackle the unacceptable long waiting times to access mental health services. Improve access to mental health services in our communities. Increase spending on mental health services by £68m each year of the next Assembly term. We will support the 'time to change' campaign against prejudice towards those with mental health services.





CARDIFF CENTRAL



JANE CROAD

INDEPENDENT

A curriculum which prepares us for life

Class sizes will be reduced to a teach- pupil ration of 1: 12, this will allow teachers to adapt their teaching better to each pupil and give more direction as to what the students should be focussing on and more support in making the best of their skills and talent.

The only way Wales is going to succeed is to have young people who are interested in improving their skills and who have confidence that they can achieve their ambitions and that the help is there for them to do that.

Funding will be prioritised for schools , colleges for vocational skills and Universities to give young people confidence in the educational system and have confidence that path they choose will be supported with enough funds to allow them to focus on studying and practicing in whatever area they choose.

High quality mental health services

The mental health services will be funded so they are as easy to access as if you have a physical health problem. In school, college and University mental health services will be available for all ages to access without intervention from anyone other than the young person who seeks help.

There will be specialist units for young people if they need residential care, that can adapt to what they need and supplement the care with other services, such as education, careers advice and general life skills if they need support .

Tackling racism & religious discrimination

This can only be taught through education from an early age, so children and young people can a good understanding of the different races and religions and respect for the differences. Also understanding the destructive results of racism and discrimination on individuals and groups.

The Living Wage for all

A living wage for anyone working should be introduced so there is fairness and young people are not unvalued or exploited. Lower wages for young people would only be allowed in circumstances when the work was part of a training scheme such as an apprenticeship and this would only be allowable if the completion of the training scheme would guarantee a job with a higher than average wage as the end of the training.

A reduced voting age to 16

16 year old should be given the vote. Political training should be part of the school curriculum and should include who is eligible to stand for election and guidance and encouragement for young people to get involved in politics and stand for election.





CARDIFF CENTRAL



JENNY RATHBONE



Welsh Labour's extra £100 million for schools is to implement the Donaldson proposals for a world class 21st century curriculum, concentrating on giving every learner the core communication, numeracy and digital competency skills and how to apply them to real life situations. Teachers will be liberated from teaching to a test to use their imagination and their pedagogy to support pupils' learning. This will give future generations in Wales the skills needed to compete in our global economy rather than cramming their heads with facts.

I am very proud of what the revolutionary Mental Health Measure has already achieved in the last 5 years. We need to keep going. There's some wonderful work been done in some Cardiff Central schools to give young people emotional intelligence and resilience; the Roots of Empathy programme or similar need to be rolled out across all schools. Self-referral to counselling in schools is important and must continue.

It is well established that increased inequality increases mental illness, so it is no surprise that there has been a spike in people suffering mental illness in line with the rich getting richer and ordinary people seeing cuts in their wages and benefits, particularly since the UK Coalition Government decided to implement public sector cuts in response to the bankers blowout of 2008 rather than re-regulating the banks to prevent them repeating their criminal speculative behaviour.

Admitting people to hospital should be a last resort for a patient's safety or the safety of others. There need to be more talking therapists available at an earlier stage of people's distress.

The causes of eating disorders are complex and are an expression of the disordered world we live in where the food industry spends billions on promoting harmful processed food, full of fat, sugar and salt and one third of all food is thrown away before it reaches the plate.

I celebrate the multi-faith work going on in Cardiff Central to get people talking to and understanding each other, e.g. the "Women and Religion" discussion at Dar Ul Isra mosque between Christians, Jews, Muslims and people of no particular faith. It is essential that all public services apply the law equitably and we deal with racism and sexism in the police and other services. It should not have taken 27 years to get justice for the 96 who died at Hillsborough. Tackling anti-Semitism should not be used as an excuse for turning a blind eye to the apartheid regime in Israel and some wonderful work has been done by Jews across the world in the run up to Passover.

A Living Wage for all is essential to improve mental well-being across the UK. The Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 provides Wales with the framework for action to meet our global responsibilities.

There was a majority for Votes at 16 in the 4th Assembly and I expect that to be the case in the 5th Assembly. We just need the powers to implement Votes at 16.



CARDIFF CENTRAL



JOEL WILLIAMS



Thank you for your email on behalf of Cardiff Youth Council.

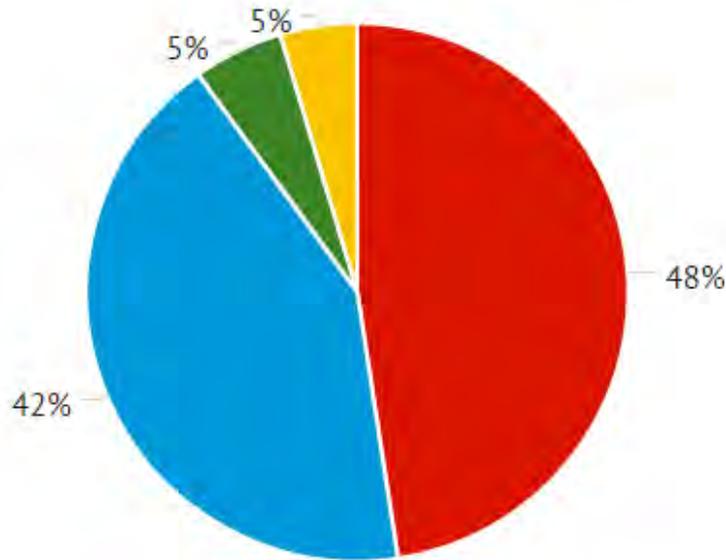
Please find below the Welsh Conservative position on the points you raise. A curriculum which prepares us for life. We agree that learning life skills are an important part of education. Therefore, a Welsh Conservative Government will work with schools to focus on the importance of skills such as financial education and the study of home economics, helping students to prepare for life once they leave home. Furthermore, we would introduce emergency lifesaving skills and public health education into the curriculum. High Quality Mental Health Services. Mental health support for children and young people has long been ineffective in Wales. Many young people are left without any support at all, which has major repercussions. We also have concerns that, when transferring between services as children come into adulthood, young people often get lost in the system and lose out on essential support. Therefore, a Welsh Conservative Government would increase the capacity of mental health services for children and young people, so that they are fully supported throughout their treatment. Tackling racism and religious discrimination. Wales needs strong, resilient and harmonious communities that can respond effectively to the increasing pace and scale of economic, social and cultural change in the 21st Century. Therefore, Welsh Conservatives will adopt a zero tolerance policy to hate crimes and bullying. Furthermore, we will work with faith communities to support community cohesion and tackle extremism. This approach includes empowering local communities to tackle extremist ideologies and working with communities to reduce barriers to cohesion and integration. The Living Wage for all. The introduction of the National Living Wage and the increase in tax free personal allowance are essential parts of the UK Government's plan to move towards a higher wage, lower tax, and lower welfare society and we support this aim. On extending this to people between the ages of 16-25, the Low Pay Commission has recommended that the National Minimum Wage is the highest possible level it can be without starting to cost young people their jobs. This is because unemployment is higher among those aged 16-24 compared with those who are 25 and over. Therefore, we could not support its extension at present. A reduced voting age to 16. In the run up to the 2015 General Election, a survey of 16-25 year olds and found that, if they were able to, 83% would have voted in the General Election. Clearly this shows a lot of young people are interested in politics and we should ensure that they continue to be engaged. Welsh Conservatives do not agree with reducing the voting age to 16, as we do not think that this alone will help increase political engagement. Instead, we want to introduce a Localism & Citizenship Bill, which would extend the duty of paying due regard to children's rights to all public bodies. Furthermore, we would ensure that Ministers in the Welsh Assembly receive a 10% pay cut, and the money saved would be fund a National Children and Young People's Assembly, which would involve young people more in the political process. I hope this is of assistance and thank you again for taking the time to write to me.



CARDIFF NORTH

Julie Morgan (Labour) is the current AM

The result four years ago



● Labour ● Conservatives ● Plaid Cymru ● Lib Dems

2011 National Assembly election



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Cardiff Youth Council



CARDIFF NORTH



CHRIS VON RUHLAND



Thank you for asking me how I would address the issues that young people in Cardiff have raised. My responses are as follows:

Education

Education should be free for all, for life. It is a civil right and I would oppose any attempt to privatise state-funded schools; education should not be for profit. Wherever you study, be it on an apprenticeship scheme, at university, or further education, it should equip you not just for the workplace, but for all aspects of life. It should include comprehensive sex education, first aid, how the legal system works, politics, personal finance, and mental healthcare to name but a few.

Mental health

Mental and emotional health should be given equal status to physical health in the planning, provision and monitoring of services. These must be fully funded, be available throughout Wales, including rural areas, and also be available through Welsh if people should so wish.

Delivery of mental health services should be integrated around the patient so that any other health issues are addressed at the same time.

Most importantly, the root causes of mental ill health needs to be addressed at source; we need to prevent both mental and physical ill health in the first place

Racism and religious discrimination

Racism and religious intolerance have no place in a civilised society.

They usually stem from ignorance, so critical thinking and, more importantly, self-critical thinking should be an important aspect of everybody's broader education; we should all be able to freely express our opinions, but we should also be required to defend them should they be challenged, and be prepared to change them when they are found wanting.

Employment

Wales Green Party wishes to introduce a universal basic income scheme to replace the unfair and bureaucratic benefits system that we have at present, to provide everybody with a financial foundation upon which to build their lives. We support a minimum wage, with no age restrictions, at £8.25 per hour and a living wage of 60% on average national earnings.

We would provide more support for younger people to start their own businesses and become self-employed.

Voting at 16

Young people should be encouraged to engage in the processes that affect their lives and one of the simplest ways to do this is to reduce the voting age to 16 and teach all students politics in schools. Politicians are more likely to engage with young people when they exercise this democratic right. Voting also engenders citizenship, social inclusion and education on key social issues.

The Wales Green Party is the only party in this election to publish a specific Youth Manifesto, as well as an LGBTIQ+ manifesto. These are manifestos written by the younger members of the party; written by the youth of Wales, for the youth of Wales with a view to encouraging young people to engage in the workings of our country and give them a better chance at life.



CARDIFF NORTH



**ELIN WALKER
JONES**



A native American proverb states that "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Our children are our future. Our nation's future. Our planet's future.

Plaid Cymru has an ambitious set of plans for the future of Wales. Plaid Cymru is committed to the principle of treating everyone equitably, fairness of opportunity, what ever their colour, race, gender, age, language, sexual orientation and religion. Our vision for Wales has no place for discrimination on the basis of religion or race.

Plaid Cymru wants to build a well Wales, a well-educated Wales, a wealthy Wales. We have policies to improve education, involving teachers in the process of educational reform. We want to ensure that academic and vocational qualifications are equally valued.

However, education is not just about academic or vocational skills. I would like to see a Wales where we work to create a society where emotional health is promoted as a key aspect of growing up, and maintaining healthy relationships is valued in equal measure, if not more than academic or financial success. It amazes me that we can send people to the moon yet we still have wars and social strife! We should aim to create communities where people are supported to talk, supported to deal with their problems, and don't feel ashamed to share their feelings. We need to strengthen pastoral education, highlight the importance of emotional health skills, expand the schools support and counselling services, and encourage older pupils to support younger pupils. I am a school governor in a school where they operate an open door policy that allows older pupils to provide informal support for younger pupils. I'd like to see that practice developed. These provisions help young people to develop a good sense of self esteem, and good mental health habits. Plaid Cymru has pledged to increase funding to CAMHS services and also increase mental health awareness and tackling stigma by including such issues as aspects of the educational curriculum. We need to champion the needs of children and young people's mental health needs so that all politicians understand these issues better. We know that it's crucial it is to support young people in creating and maintaining healthy relationships with other people, for long term personal health and happiness, as well as harmonious communities. Plaid Cymru will set up a Youth Parliament, to make sure that the voices of young people are heard, and a Youth Forum in every local authority. We also want to ensure that the Welsh Baccalaureate is fit for purpose for the 21st century, supporting young people to develop citizenship skills especially with regards to the Welsh democratic process. Plaid Cymru is fully committed to legislating in favour of votes at 16 years. Plaid Cymru is also absolutely committed to a Living Wage.



CARDIFF NORTH



FIONA BURT

INDEPENDENT

Thanks for your roles in promoting the youth council and engaging them in the election.

Education should equip young people for both citizenship and the workplace, but this learning does not all have to be done in a classroom. For instance, our youth are vital to the democratic process and need to be informed about the issues, understand the systems and be prepared to play their part as voters, lobbyists, and future politicians. I am delighted that the Youth Council is engaging its members in these Assembly elections and my teenagers are involved in my own campaign. For me, this is actually a far more important issue than lowering the voting age by two years.

Another part of education which is best tackled beyond the school gates is that of respect and consideration for others. All forms of discrimination, including racism and religious discrimination, need to be tackled. Attitudes are formed early in life and parents must instil the right values into their children. Integration is key because diversity needs to be seen as normal. This is a long-term plan, but one which we must adhere to if we are to live in a peaceful, multicultural society.

I'm concerned that constant changes to the curriculum, a focus on artificial targets and an overly-complex exam system have impacted the quality of education in our schools. The latest PISA results which rank Wales 40th out of 68 countries (below the rest of the UK) are not good enough. We need a curriculum that prepares our young people for life, but since that requirement is individual, I'd like to see it become more flexible and interesting for both teachers and pupils. In particular, I'd like pupils to have more choice over what they study at GCSE by removing the compulsory RE and Welsh exams.

1 in 10 young people suffer mental health problems. I've been involved with various projects to identify and treat teenagers who are likely to develop depression. A computerized cognitive behaviour therapy (cCBT) programme is being developed and I'd like to see it available to all young people as part of PSE lessons to raise awareness of mental health and provide support for those who are subsyndromal. We also need to increase the funding for CAMHS to reduce the waiting times for specialist treatment. I believe that mental health and well-being should be given the same consideration as physical health.

I support the living wage for all, including under-25's, as I believe that a worker should be paid for the job that they are doing. I'm against all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination. However, the minimum wage currently offers a big incentive to employers to take on young people, so we would need to ensure that removing it does not make it more difficult to get that all-important first job. Also, we'd need to look carefully at alternative employment methods, for example, paper-rounds where you are paid per item, as well as apprenticeships, internships and 'volunteer' roles where you are paid little or nothing for the benefit of the experience.



CARDIFF NORTH



JAYNE COWAN



It's an enormous privilege to be able to take part in this Cardiff Youth Council digital hustings. Social media plays a crucial part of my role as both a Councillor, and Assembly candidate, and events such as these are an important way to improve engagement.

To ensure a curriculum which provides opportunities appropriate to all, we would explore establishing university technical colleges, improving the status of vocational qualifications and bringing learners, institutions and businesses closer together.

We would also ensure teachers have more say over the development of the curriculum.

We'd empower the profession, placing a greater emphasis on funding schools directly and recognising the central role they should play in delivering a curriculum which prepares people for life. Access to education at all levels would be enhanced, both through investment into school transport and with University living costs; and we would seek to deliver broader opportunities for study - including on financial education, home economics and mandatory emergency life-saving skills.

Clearly, the next Welsh Government must ensure the importance of improving mental health and wellbeing is given greater prominence. We will increase spending on mental health services in real terms, and establish a new 28-day target for access to talking therapies by 2021. Welsh Conservatives would also promote mindfulness as a means of preventing poor mental health and supporting recovery, and will take action to tackle stigma, which still too often exists in relation to mental health. Additionally, the availability of 24/7 crisis teams at all major emergency departments in Wales is an important policy commitment.

Racism and religious discrimination are completely unacceptable and the next Welsh Government must act to stamp out this menace from our society. We will adopt a zero tolerance approach to hate crime and bullying, and take steps to introduce a more inclusive appointments policy. Broadly, we will utilise devolved levers to support, and aid, the integration of asylum seekers and refugees seeking sanctuary.

I'm so proud that the Conservatives in UK Government have delivered a National Living Wage, which people across Wales have been benefitting from (from this April) for those over the age of 25, which will benefit 150,000 working people in Wales by 2020. We need to build on this, and our proposals for scrapping business rates for all small businesses, enhancing employment opportunities via employee incentive grants, and strengthening ties between the education, employment and local business sectors, will provide vital economic opportunities for all. The Conservative-inspired Cardiff City Deal also promises huge potential opportunities for young people across our capital city, and in the surrounding areas.

Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly have long endorsed a free vote on the issue of whether 16 and 17-year-olds should be able to vote. It is positive that this decision will soon be made for Assembly elections by the Assembly itself, but my own view currently is that the current voting age of 18 should be retained.



CARDIFF NORTH



JULIE MORGAN



"Thank you for seeking my views on the very important issues below. If elected, I would tackle them in the way that I always do, with a determination to fight for fairness and to make sure the voices of young people are heard loud and clear."

A curriculum which prepares young people for life

I think it's really important to teach young people the practicalities of budgeting for themselves, and also the value of saving and pensions. A new curriculum for Wales is being developed and there is an opportunity to make sure this is included. I'd also like to see education focus on bullying in schools including homophobic bullying. I'm pleased digital and coding skills for children is in the Labour manifesto. We'll also create Business Clubs to bring work experience into schools and re-shape careers support, and a Music Endowment Fund to help young people access music services and instruments.

High-quality mental health services

In my years as a politician - and before that as a social worker - I've always been prepared to act to help constituents with mental health problems.

The fact that more young people appear to be suffering from mental health problems than ever before is very worrying, and I think we need to do more to reduce the stigma around mental health issues through education. I'd like to see Welsh Labour continue to ring-fence the mental health budget and I support the recurrent funding of £1.9m announced this year to deliver psychological therapies - and the further £1.1m to improve access for children and young people.

The Living Wage for all

The UK Government's Living Wage goes some way towards improving incomes for people in low-paid jobs but I think it's terribly ageist that it only applies the over 25s. I will campaign to make sure it applies to young people too who are often starting out in jobs at the very bottom of the ladder and so are already among the least well-off in society. It is great that Labour in Wales has introduced a Living Wage for health service workers.

Tackling racism and religious discrimination

I'm proud to be an ambassador for UpRising Cymru which provides positive role models and mentoring for young people from black and ethnic minority communities, and from under-privileged backgrounds, to help them achieve their full potential. Britain is, sadly, one of the least socially mobile societies in the developed world - and this is reflected in the unrepresentative backgrounds of many of our leaders, including politicians of course. I've worked hard in my career to fight racism and champion equality and have a long-standing commitment to promoting rights for gypsies and travellers, children and women. I'm also a founder member of the Welsh Refugee Council.

A reduced voting age to 16

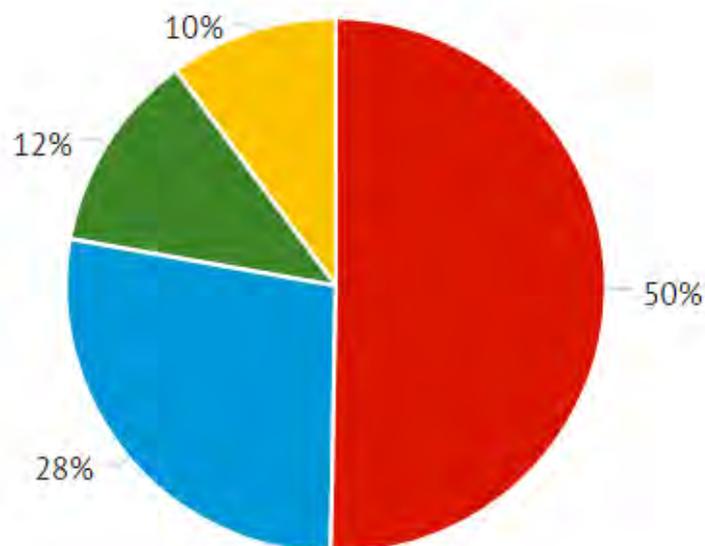
I've been a supporter of votes at 16 since I was MP for Cardiff North and I presented the Voting Age Reduction Bill in 2007. Sadly it did not reach the final stage of becoming law. I've campaigned for votes at 16 ever since and it was great to see so many passionate young adults at the Assembly's [Votes@16](#) conference last summer. It is my hope that the delayed Wales Bill will give the Assembly powers to lower the voting age which I would support wholeheartedly.



CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH

Vaughan Gething (Labour) is the current AM

The result four years ago



● Labour ● Conservatives ● Plaid Cymru ● Lib Dems

2011 National Assembly election



@CardiffYC

CYC CIC



CardiffYouthCouncil



CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH



ANTHONY SLAUGHTER



Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our policies.

Wales Green Party is the only party in this election to publish a specific Youth Manifesto, as well as an LGBTIQ+ manifesto. We have a rapidly growing membership here in Wales with many new younger members and this vital document was written by our young members to specifically address issues important to young people. This manifesto covers a wide range of policies including votes at 16, free higher education, more apprenticeships, free bus passes for the under 21s, better LGBTIQ+ education in schools amongst others. On education and the curriculum; we believe that everyone should have access to a full education for free, for life. Throughout your education, wherever you study the curriculum must equip you to live a full and rewarding life and should include health and wellbeing, mental health issues and managing personal finances. On mental health; we need to see an end to the stigmatisation of mental health issues and we need to see parity of access and resources with those that are available to those with physical health issues. Diagnoses, support and care must be equally funded and available throughout Wales and should be available in Welsh if required.

Racism and religious discrimination have no place in our society and should never be tolerated. We must tackle bullying in all forms and fight against racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexual harassment and all other discriminatory behaviour based on intolerance. We need to provide better education and more support and advice around these issues in schools.

We believe that the minimum wage should be a genuine living wage and should apply equally to all with no age related discrimination. We also oppose any compulsory application of zero hours contracts.

Votes at 16 has long been Green Party policy and should be a fundamental right. It would help create a healthier democracy, enhance social inclusion and empower active participation by all in our society. We also believe there is a need for better education in schools on the political process and how we are governed to help enable genuine democratic participation.



CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH



BEN GRAY



Thank you for your email on behalf of Cardiff Youth Council.

A curriculum which prepares us for life. We agree that learning life skills are an important part of education. Therefore, a Welsh Conservative Government will work with schools to focus on the importance of skills such as financial education and the study of home economics, helping students to prepare for life once they leave home. Furthermore, we would introduce emergency lifesaving skills and public health education into the curriculum.

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The Living Wage for all. The introduction of the National Living Wage and the increase in tax free personal allowance are essential parts of the UK Government's plan to move towards a higher wage, lower tax, and lower welfare society and we support this aim. On extending this to people between the ages of 16-25, the Low Pay Commission has recommended that the National Minimum Wage is the highest possible level it can be without starting to cost young people their jobs. This is because unemployment is higher among those aged 16-24 compared with those who are 25 and over. Therefore, we could not support its extension at present.

A reduced voting age to 16. In the run up to the 2015 General Election, a survey of 16-25 year olds and found that, if they were able to, 83% would have voted in the General Election. Clearly this shows a lot of young people are interested in politics and we should ensure that they continue to be engaged. Welsh Conservatives do not agree with reducing the voting age to 16, as we do not think that this alone will help increase political engagement. Instead, we want to introduce a Localism & Citizenship Bill, which would extend the duty of paying due regard to children's rights to all public bodies. Furthermore, we would ensure that Ministers in the Welsh Assembly receive a 10% pay cut, and the money saved would be fund a National Children and Young People's Assembly, which would involve young people more in the political process.

I hope this is of assistance and thank you again for taking the time to write to me.



CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH



**DAFYDD TRYSTAN
DAVIES**



**Plaid
Cymru** | **Party of
Wales**

A curriculum which prepares us for life

Plaid Cymru wants to improve the quality of education for young people. In the early years we will emphasise the value of play and creative learning. We want young people to leave school with two or three languages to open up new opportunities. In the school environment we want support for the development of a respect and inclusion culture to tackle racism, bullying, homophobia and sexual harassment. We will ensure that financial education is incorporated into the school curriculum so that children learn about budgeting, consumer rights, and the importance of financial planning.

Opportunities for vocational and academic skills are equally important. Finally we will make sure that students have the opportunity to study in college and university with financial support.

High quality mental health services

Plaid Cymru will increase spending on Mental Health services and improve access to trained counsellors and therapists.

We will ensure there are sufficient emergency mental health care beds and no police cell should be used for this purpose.

We will tackle the unacceptably long waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, and ensure that transition to Adult services is improved.

Plaid Cymru will aim to ensure that Wales becomes a world leader in the rehabilitation and treatment of those with eating disorders, by establishing a specialist residential centre for people with eating disorders.

Tackling racism & religious discrimination

We declare everyone who lives in Wales, whatever their language, the colour of their skin, their religion, their roots, their gender or sexual orientation, as a full and equal citizen of Wales.

Plaid Cymru will fight for a Wales in which everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, and diversity is embraced and respected. Everyone should be able to feel safe and respected within their communities. We will work with Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that all hate crime, including homophobic, racist and anti-disability hate crime, is treated as a serious offence by Welsh police forces.

The Living Wage for all

Plaid Cymru will ensure that all public sector workers in Wales and those in the private sector, who work for business in receipt of public money, earn a real living wage.

We will use the freedoms provided under the new Public Contracts Directive to achieve maximum social and environmental benefits, including payment of the Welsh Living Wage for all employees. We will also seek to expand and extend the role of the social sector in the provision of public services and goods.

Those looking after our frail and vulnerable are too often the most underpaid and undervalued in our health and care system. This will change. Care workers will be registered, will be given the time to care and will be paid the Living Wage for doing so. Zero hour contracts will be banned and home care visits will be no shorter than 30 minutes for primary visits.

A reduced voting age to 16

Plaid Cymru will pass a law for voting at 16 for National Assembly and local government elections. We will also establish a National Youth Parliament and work with voluntary organisations to improve the representation of women and ethnic minorities in politics, and also any other underrepresented groups or communities.



CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH



NIGEL HOWELLS

Welsh Liberal
Democrats

Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru



A curriculum which prepares us for life

Teachers can teach at their best when they have the freedom to innovate. Teachers and experts know better than politicians what should be included in the school curriculum, and where they need flexibility. We will establish an Educational Standards Authority ('ESA') to set the curriculum content in Wales, independent of government interference and run by experts in the field. We would set direction for the ESA to develop a 'curriculum for life' covering issues such as financial literacy; physical and mental first aid; political education and citizenship; coding; and age-appropriate sex and relationship education, tackling issues of gender identity, sexuality, consent and healthy relationships.

High quality mental health services

One in four people experience a mental health problem in any given year. For too long, mental health has been stigmatised and ignored. We strongly believe mental health should be taken as seriously as physical health and are determined to give it the equal attention it deserves and commit to ending mental health discrimination. We will:

- * Legislate for parity of esteem between mental and physical health.
- * Seek to increase the relative size of mental health spending to match the needs of the population.
- * Set waiting time targets and invest in access to therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Counselling, and Interpersonal Psychotherapy.
- * Reduce waiting times for children waiting for an appointment with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Tackling racism & religious discrimination

Opportunities are not equally distributed in modern Wales. Your ethnicity, health, sexuality and gender still too often affect your chances in life, educational attainments, work prospects, how you are treated by the police and the justice system, and even how long you will live. That must change. There is a need for further legislative, regulatory and educational measures to keep moving towards a fairer Wales that works for everyone. It is also vital that in an inclusive modern economy, all of our citizens have the opportunity to get on in life regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or disability. We will:

- * Introduce a presumption that every public appointment shortlist should include non-white and BAME candidates, and establish an independent committee to monitor public appointments and verify the independence of the appointment process.
- * Challenge discrimination in the justice system by promoting representation within the police from BAME groups.
- * Support schools in tackling discrimination against refugees and asylum seekers.

The Living Wage for all

We would move towards the Welsh public sector becoming a Living Wage employer. and use procurement tools to drive up wages elsewhere.

A reduced voting age to 16

Our voting system needs to change, to deliver maximum power to voters. We will lower the voting age in Wales to 16, strengthen citizenship education, establish a National Youth Assembly for Wales and introduce a fair voting system.

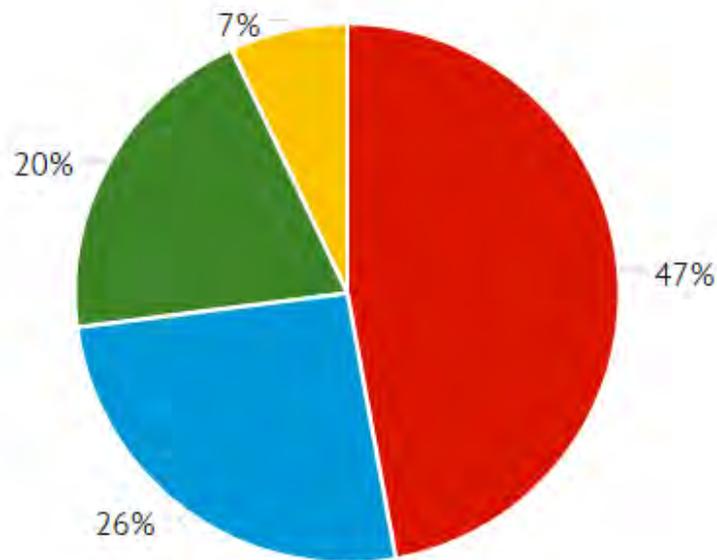
In 2001, we were the first party in the UK to publically support extending the franchise to all 16 and 17 year olds in all public elections.



CARDIFF WEST

Mark Drakeford (Labour) is the current AM

The result four years ago



● Labour

● Conservatives

● Plaid Cymru

● Lib Dems

2011 National Assembly election



@CardiffYC

CYC CIC



Cardiff Youth Council



CARDIFF WEST



**CADAN AP
TOMOS**

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**
**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



As a young person who grew up in Wales and who now lives and works in Cardiff, I know better than most just how much we need to do to ensure every young person in our city and nation can thrive. That's why I'm standing to become the youngest ever Welsh Assembly Member - to put the voice of youth at the heart of our decision-making, and fight so every young person can reach their full potential.

From my own experience, and talking to my brother currently at school, I know that the education system doesn't always prepare us for the life ahead. That's why I'm pleased the Welsh Liberal Democrats are committed to introducing a Curriculum for Life - one which will teach practical skills like cookery, financial management and political awareness, as well as vastly improve sex and relationships education to properly deal with issues like sexuality, gender and consent.

I'm frustrated at the way mental health is too often treated as an afterthought in our NHS, and while we've seen some improvements in waiting time targets, the current Labour Government doesn't seem to think children and young people should be treated as quickly as adults. Welsh Lib Dems will make it law that mental health has to be treated equally with physical health, reform targets so young people aren't discriminated against, and ensure the mental health system has the resources it needs so we can take these illnesses seriously.

I love the diversity of our city. Being surrounded by different cultures and beliefs helps make Cardiff great. But where we see discrimination of any kind, we must work to stamp it out. I'm pleased to be fighting with Judith Woodman, our local Police and Crime Commissioner candidate, to ensure young and BME people aren't unfairly targeted for stop and search.

The principle of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work is something my party and I are committed to. Welsh Lib Dems will ensure the Welsh Government and other parts of the public sector move towards becoming a Living Wage employer, and we'll use procurement tools to drive up wages elsewhere. We'll focus particularly on the care sector, to ensure that staff are paid for travelling, promote the living wage, and end the use of zero hour contracts.

As a 16 year old, I was frustrated that I couldn't vote, and I know many across our city feel the same way. When these powers are given to the Assembly, Welsh Lib Dems will fight to lower the voting age to 16 for all elections and combine this with improved political education to create an engaged young electorate.

From securing extra money to help our poorest pupils thrive, to lowering the cost of bus travel for 16-18 year olds, Welsh Liberal Democrats have a strong record of standing up for young people. Please support me on 5th May so I can be the voice of youth in the Senedd.



CARDIFF WEST



GARETH BENNETT



Wales | Cymru

A curriculum which prepares us for life

Ukip aims to promote better literacy and numeracy at primary school level. There should be regular access to maths and science specialists from colleges and other schools.

At secondary level, Ukip believes that education should reflect the fact that different students have different abilities, interests and skills. We want to introduce grammar schools for the academically minded, and university technical colleges (UTCs) for those students who are more inclined to follow a vocational path.

UTCs, which are already operational in England, will work with employers and a local university to help deliver their curriculum. It is important that the UTCs are held in equal esteem with grammar schools. After all, everyone who works for a living should be treated with equal respect - I speak as someone who has done both clerical and manual jobs, and who isn't afraid to get muck on his hands. We have to get rid of the snobbish idea that everyone has to go to university, and everyone who doesn't has in some way 'failed'. Everyone must follow their own path in life, and nobody 'fails' if they end up doing what they choose to do. The UTCs will play an important practical role in easing the difficult path from the education system into salaried employment. It will also address skills shortages in the UK (for instance, construction workers), and will counteract the growing problem of gingoism - graduates (of which we have far too many) in non-graduate occupations. It should be acknowledged that skilled construction workers can earn more, in many cases, than university graduates.

Physical activities are also important. Ukip opposes the sale of school playing fields, and recognises the role of schools in promoting physical fitness. This idea, if applied practically, will also ease the burden on the NHS.

High quality mental health services

Ukip wants one member of every health board in Wales to champion mental health issues. We oppose cuts in mental health services, and want to ring-fence funding for these at a higher level than is currently provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Tackling racism and religious discrimination

Ukip opposes racism and religious discrimination. I am particularly concerned at growing discrimination against practising Christians and Jewish people.

The Living Wage for all

Ukip wants better wages for those at the lower end of the pay scale, and has called for all minimum wage earners to be taken out of paying tax. Broadly speaking, wage levels are dependent on supply and demand. Controlling immigration to the UK would reduce the amount of workers entering our job market, allowing wages to rise naturally.

A reduced voting age to 16

Ukip has not previously championed this change. Personally, I have no fixed view on this. We need to have to have some form of political education in schools - but this would be controversial. Who would teach it? How would it be impartial? I am sure this will be an interesting debate in the coming years.



CARDIFF WEST



HANNAH PUDNER



The Wales Green Party is the only party in this election to publish a specific Youth Manifesto, as well as an LGBTIQ+ manifesto. We are a party for the youth of Wales. This is a manifesto written by the younger members of the party - written by the youth of Wales, for the youth of Wales. With policies such as votes at 16, free higher education, more apprenticeships, free bus passes, better LGBTIQ+ education in schools, we want to make the youth of Wales more involved within the works of our country and give them a better chance at life.

The key areas are:

Education: a full and complete education, throughout life for free. Whether its apprenticeships, university or further education colleges, wherever you study the curriculum must equip you to succeed. So you don't just learn your subject areas, you also learn other important things, such a mental healthcare, first aid and personal finance. And the price of it should never be a barrier, education should be free.

Employment: a minimum wage of £8.25 - a minimum wage that is a living wage, with no age restrictions. And far more support provided for younger people to start their own businesses and become self-employed.

Tackling bullying: we must fight homophobia, transphobia, religious intolerance, sexual harassment and all forms of bullying - providing more support services and advice for people in schools, including anti-bullying policies in schools, colleges and universities.

Democracy: votes at 16 for all. This is a fundamental right, but also supports citizenship, social inclusion and education on key social issues.

Transport: free bus passes for all young people up to 21 years old.

Mental health: mental health needs to be given parity to that of physical health. Diagnosis, support and care services must be funded, be available throughout Wales, including rural areas - and also available through Welsh if people wish.



CARDIFF WEST



LEE WOOLLS



I'd like to preface my response by stating that we are running as a vaping party and have only one official stance: To ensure that smokers are given access to the scientific information about vaping and not the biased and non-scientific misinformation given by politicians attempting celebrity. Our view is that vaping is a gateway away from tobacco and every party should have a policy regarding vaping and that vaping should not be confused with smoking.

In order to answer your questions I must do so from a purely personal view and emphasize that my responses are in no way a party view.

- A curriculum which prepares us for life A curriculum which is relevant to the real lives of school leavers is important, but so are the traditional subjects. "Life" changes so quickly, a curriculum to prepare for one would be out-of-date by the time a student left school. Schools should best prepare you to be resourceful, adaptable and open-minded.

It is likely that you will have many different jobs, it is likely you may have to start again, more than once. The most important thing a school can give you is confidence in knowing that you will be able to thrive whatever life throws at you - and that is less about curriculum than attitude.

- High quality mental health services

Mental Health is something that affects 1 in 4 people, regardless of age or gender, annually. It is often not diagnosed as sufferers are unaware that they're affected. A robust mental-health service within the NHS is key but equally it is important that patients are aware of the symptoms and that services and centres that offer advice and assistance are easily found and sign-posted.

- Tackling racism & religious discrimination There is no place for discrimination of any form in our society, including gender, race, religion or sexual-bias. I believe integration is key to solving many issues and that much of discrimination is fed through fear or poor education.

- The Living Wage for all

My thoughts on this are very personal. As a businessman I would choose experience over qualifications every day of the week. With age comes experience and although we now employ many people under 25, this was not always the case. The lack of experience that a young person brings to a role is offset by a lower wage statutory requirement. This enables employers to make jobs available, where younger people can gain experience, where they may not otherwise have hired.

- A reduced voting age to 16

At 16 you cannot buy alcohol, you cannot purchase tobacco or vaping products and you cannot buy fireworks. I think that if politics is included in a school environment at a younger age (10+) and that the responsibility of voting is understood, there should be no issue for 16 to be the minimum age for voting.





CARDIFF WEST



MARK DRAKEFORD



The Foundation Phase is a uniquely Welsh approach to early years' education which aims to lay down a love of learning from the start of schooling. The Welsh Government has introduced the Welsh BaccaLaureate in schools, aimed at providing Welsh students with added breadth to their learning and offers the skills which both employers and universities are looking for, including digital literacy. It offers students a chance to develop real life skills, and also prepare them for either Further or Higher Education should they wish to continue studying. The Welsh BaccaLaureate has been welcomed by most Welsh institutions, with many making a formal statement in their prospectuses and on their websites. We will also provide 100,000 new apprenticeships in the next Assembly Term.

High quality mental health services for young people must begin with a social model of mental health. Growing up can be a challenging experience, but everyday stress and strains are not best served by specialist mental health services. Labour will continue to invest in improving the skills of mainstream services in education and the youth service, for example to respond positively to the needs of young people. Where mental illness itself is concerned, we invested an extra £7.65 million last year to create crisis mental health services for young people across Wales and to ensure that more young people with a serious mental health condition have these issues identified and addressed early, and treated here in Wales.

Welsh Labour has always been prepared to challenge racial, sexual and religious discrimination. We wholeheartedly support the 2010 Equality Act which aims to ensure that no person may be discriminated against because of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/ civil partnership, pregnancy/ maternity, race, religion/belief or sex/ sexual orientation in the workplace. The Act covers goods, services and facilities, public functions, premises, work/ training, education, and political parties. We must do more, but our work in this area is a positive start. Welsh Labour produced a 'twinning constituency' policy for candidates, ensuring that Labour would field male and female candidates equally across Wales for the Assembly Elections, something which directly promotes the participation of more women in politics.

Welsh Labour has shown that it takes the Living Wage very seriously. The Welsh Labour Government introduced the Living Wage for NHS workers in 2014. This means that all NHS workers in Wales now earn at least the Living Wage. Showing our commitment to tackling low pay, we will also tackle zero-hour contracts in the social care field in the next Assembly. As a party, we are fully committed to upholding workers' rights.

The Labour Party in Wales is committed to reducing the voting age to 16. We will use new powers then they are devolved from Westminster to introduce other reforms to the voting system, to make it easier for people of all ages to participate in our democracy. Labour is clear that young people should have the right to have a say in their futures.



CARDIFF WEST



NEIL McEVOY



A child born in Wales today will have less spent on its education than in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The child will have to wait longer for medical treatment. When the child grows up and goes to work, they will earn less than anywhere else in the UK.

It does not have to be this way.

On May 5th, we can all vote for positive change to live in Wales where we all have a place. Plaid believes that 16 year olds should have the right to vote in a proportional system, where the amount of Assembly Members elected reflects the size of your vote.

We want to create 50,000 apprenticeships as a bridge between education and quality employment. We want a debt write off scheme of up to £18,000 for students who choose to work in Wales.

We need to get Wales working and a simple way to create jobs is to ensure that Government contracts are awarded to Welsh companies. For every 1% more of government contract money spent in Wales, 2,000 jobs are created.

In South Wales Central Plaid is campaigning to save our green field sites. We want to change local development plans, so that we protect our woodland, fields and natural habitats. We vigorously oppose Labour's plans to concrete most of the City's green field sites; this is nothing short of environmental vandalism. When I published Labour's plans to concrete Cardiff in 2012, I was said to be lying. It was said by the Cardiff West Labour AM that my scaremongering was "disgraceful." Time has shown that i was telling the truth all along.

Plaid has a vision of a green, clean Wales with open spaces and good quality housing for all, with a transport networks which allows us to travel without a problem.

The Welsh NHS is important to us all. We need to invest in health, so we can introduce a Cancer Contract. We want to offer a guarantee of diagnosis or all clear within 28 days and a guarantee of treatment with 45 days. WE propose to end the postcode lottery with an alternative treatment fund, so everyone can get the treatments they need. We will beat bed blocking by opening convalescent homes. We will abolish fees for elderly care and bring back dignity for those nearing the end of their lives.

Vote for a wealthier, healthier more educated country. We need change and Plaid is the change Wales needs.



CARDIFF WEST



SEAN DRISCOLL



**Ceidwadwyr
Cymreig**

**Welsh
Conservatives**

A curriculum which prepares us for life. We agree that learning life skills are an important part of education. Therefore, a Welsh Conservative Government will work with schools to focus on the importance of skills such as financial education and the study of home economics, helping students to prepare for life once they leave home. Furthermore, we would introduce emergency lifesaving skills and public health education into the curriculum.

High Quality Mental Health Services. Mental health support for children and young people has long been ineffective in Wales. Many young people are left without any support at all, which has major repercussions. We also have concerns that, when transferring between services as children come into adulthood, young people often get lost in the system and lose out on essential support. Therefore, a Welsh Conservative Government would increase the capacity of mental health services for children and young people, so that they are fully supported throughout their treatment.

Tackling racism and religious discrimination. Wales needs strong, resilient and harmonious communities that can respond effectively to the increasing pace and scale of economic, social and cultural change in the 21st Century. Therefore, Welsh Conservatives will adopt a zero tolerance policy to hate crimes and bullying. Furthermore, we will work with faith communities to support community cohesion and tackle extremism. This approach includes empowering local communities to tackle extremist ideologies and working with communities to reduce barriers to cohesion and integration.

The Living Wage for all. The introduction of the National Living Wage and the increase in tax free personal allowance are essential parts of the UK Government's plan to move towards a higher wage, lower tax, and lower welfare society and we support this aim. On extending this to people between the ages of 16-25, the Low Pay Commission has recommended that the National Minimum Wage is the highest possible level it can be without starting to cost young people their jobs. This is because unemployment is higher among those aged 16-24 compared with those who are 25 and over. Therefore, we could not support its extension at present.

A reduced voting age to 16. In the run up to the 2015 General Election, a survey of 16-25 year olds and found that, if they were able to, 83% would have voted in the General Election. Clearly this shows a lot of young people are interested in politics and we should ensure that they continue to be engaged. Welsh Conservatives do not agree with reducing the voting age to 16, as we do not think that this alone will help increase political engagement. Instead, we want to introduce a Localism & Citizenship Bill, which would extend the duty of paying due regard to children's rights to all public bodies. Furthermore, we would ensure that Ministers in the Welsh Assembly receive a 10% pay cut, and the money saved would be fund a National Children and Young People's Assembly, which would involve young people more in the political process.

I hope this is of assistance and thank you again for taking the time to write to me.





Non-responders:

Elliot Freedman	Cardiff West	Independent
John Dixon	Cardiff North	Liberal Democrat
Haydn Matthew Rushworth	Cardiff North	UKIP
Vaughan Gething	Cardiff South & Penarth	Labour
Hugh Moelwyn Hughes	Cardiff South & Penarth	UKIP
Mohammed Sarul Islam	Cardiff Central	UKIP
Eluned Parrott	Cardiff Central	Liberal Democrat
Amelia Womack	Cardiff Central	Green

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tweeting
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