



Llais Cenedlaethol
Pobl ag Anableddau Dysgu yng Nghymru



All Wales People First **Manifesto** 2026

www.allwalespeople1st.co.uk



Introduction

All Wales People First is the united voice of self-advocates with learning disabilities and self-advocacy groups across Wales. It is the only national organisation in Wales led by people with learning disabilities.

Self-advocacy is about speaking up for yourself, understanding your rights, making your own decisions and working together to make better policy to achieve equality for people with learning disabilities.



It is the key to making sure that people with learning disabilities are valued and included as active and equal citizens in Wales. We believe that self-advocacy is the best form of advocacy and is the ultimate preventative service.



Our mission

All Wales People First strives to make sure that all people with learning disabilities can access self-advocacy support so that they can have a voice, choice and control over the decisions that affect their lives. We aim to achieve equal rights and a positive image of learning disability.



This Manifesto

We want the Welsh Government and decision makers to understand what is important to us as people with learning disabilities in Wales.

The most important things for us are...



1. Self-advocacy

We have the right to speak for ourselves.

We need support to help us build our skills to exercise voice choice and control.

Facilitated self-advocacy helps us to know our rights, to speak up for ourselves, and to take up our place as active and equal citizens in society.



Self-advocacy is under threat. That is because of local authority cuts. There are no compulsory rules and laws which say local authorities must fund it.

Without self-advocacy, people will be forced to rely on others to speak for them. This can leave them vulnerable to abuse and will reduce their independence.



We call on the Welsh Government:

- To make sure that self-advocacy is funded across Wales.
- To make sure that providing self-advocacy is compulsory in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.



We call on Local Authorities:

- To recognise the important role that self-advocacy plays in empowering people with learning disabilities to live as active and equal citizens in Wales.
- To provide enough funding for self-advocacy groups for people with learning disabilities in Wales.



2. Housing & Support

Many people with learning disabilities live with services that restrict our freedom and human rights. Some which cause physical and emotional harm. Many of us have no choice about where we live and who we live with.

These harms include being held in secure hospitals when hospital is not the best place. Some of us have been held in hospitals because the services we are entitled to cannot be provided.



We call on the Welsh Government and Local Authorities:

- To Increase the availability of social and supported housing for people with learning disabilities.
- Give people with learning disabilities the services they need to live their best lives in a way they choose for themselves.
- Make sure that people with learning disabilities are not housed in secure units and hospitals when they do not need to be.
- Support and resource transitioning to more appropriate services for people with learning disabilities to live in their local communities.





3. Employment

There are too many barriers to paid employment for people with learning disabilities.

We need better opportunities, support and reasonable adjustments such as: support to find and get jobs; support to learn the skills we need to do those jobs; job coaches; support to access benefits; accessible information.



This is especially important right now, when people with learning disabilities are being pressured into finding work. The opportunities for work and getting the right support to stay in work are not there.

We call on the Welsh Government:

- To support more opportunities for paid work and support to stay in work.
- To support and implement recommendations set out in the report by the Engage to Change Employment Project. *'Employing people with learning disabilities and/or autism: a feedback report from Engage to Change employers'*.
- For the Cabinet Secretary of Social Justice to continue talking to the UK Government about the barriers to employment for people with learning disabilities in Wales.





4. Transport

An accessible, safe, reliable, affordable public transport system is vital for us. We rely on it for work, to see friends, being part of our communities and beyond.

For many of us our Disabled People's Travel Passes are a lifeline to affordable transport.



We call on the Welsh Government to:

- Make sure that the rules for getting a Disabled People's Travel Passes align with Welsh Government laws such as the Future Generations of (Wales) Act 2015, rather than the PIP criteria.

We call on Local Authorities to:

- Make sure that we have accessible information about changes to bus services.
- Work with us in co-production when making changes to services or transport policy.
- Only contract with bus companies who will provide and make sure their staff are well trained about learning disability.
- Make sure that bus services provide well-trained staff who understand the needs of people with learning disabilities.





5. Health

Many people with learning disabilities find it hard to access the essential services they need to feel well and to stay healthy.

This is often because we do not have access to the right information and support. We often do not have access to professionals who understand our learning disabilities. Some of us do not get Annual Health Checks at all. Some health checks are not carried out as thoroughly as they should be.



We call on the Welsh Government to:

- Remove the health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities by: Investing in more training on learning disability for those working in the health profession.
- Make sure that training for health professionals is co-produced and delivered by people with learning disabilities.
- Make sure that all people with learning disabilities can access good quality Annual Health Checks and appointments with GPs when they need them.
- Make sure that all health related information and letters for people with learning disabilities are produced in Easy Read.





6. Equality

Being treated as equals is important to us.

Inequality affects all areas of our lives – education, relationships, employment, where we live, community participation and accessible information.

We need accessible information to make our own choices about the things which affect our lives.



We call on Welsh Government and Local Authorities to:

- Include what it says in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCPRD) in Welsh laws.
- Make sure the right resources are available to deliver the recommendations in the Disabled People's action plan.
- To make sure that government departments which support learning disability policy are given the resources they need to remove social inequalities and barriers to inclusion.

