

JUNE 2025

BUILDING A HEALTHIER WALES

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2023- 25



Adeiladu Cymru
Iachach
Building a Healthier
Wales

WHO WE ARE

We are a group of people who lead organisations across Wales. We come together as Building a Healthier Wales four times a year to unite around one shared goal: to increase our organisations collective impact by improving health and reducing inequality in health for everyone.

SUMMARY OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE 2023

The pandemic and rising living costs have hit people and communities hard. In response, the Building a Healthier Wales Coordination Group decided to focus on how we can support the work already happening across Wales to improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities. In Building a Healthier Wales, we want to stop health inequalities from growing wider and we needed help to understand how best to do this, so in March 2023 we held a national summit bringing together organisations to share ideas and solutions. The summit used a Public Health Wales report on the cost of living crisis [Cost of living crisis in Wales: A public health lens](#) as its starting point, which helped us to understand how the rising cost of living affects people's health and well-being. This report gives useful data, evidence and practical steps we can take to protect and promote the health and well-being of people in Wales.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT

- Short-term: in April 2024 we published a collection of case studies [Building a Healthier Wales Cost of Living Case Studies](#) to share what's working across organisations responding to the cost of living crisis
- Long-term: we are gathering views and insights to better understand what currently helps and what hinders organisations when they try to work together in collaboration around child poverty.

ACTION ON CHILD POVERTY



SEQUENCE OF KEY EVENTS

In October 2023, we identified child poverty as a top priority for the Building a Healthier Wales Group. It's one of the biggest barriers to good health and well-being and aligns with the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy 2024. We set up a dedicated task and finish group to shape the work on family finances and child poverty prevention.

WHAT THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP DID

- In January 2024 the group launched a discovery phase to understand the current situation and where the Building a Healthier Wales Group could add value
- In June 2024, the group developed an action plan with recommendations to improve how organisations work together for families and communities to reduce child poverty, and shared this with the Building a Healthier Wales Coordination Group

ACTIONS FOR THE BUILDING A HEALTHIER WALES COORDINATION GROUP

Alongside the recommendation from the task and finish group to improve how organisations work together for families and communities to reduce child poverty, Welsh Government also heard similar feedback when developing the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. People told Welsh Government that 'things are not joined up'. They said it can be difficult to grasp a good picture of what different organisations are doing in local areas and regions, and services often feel disconnected.

Building a Healthier Wales wants to use the information that people told Welsh Government, with the recommendation from the task and finish group to find out what can be done to make working together easier.

We are gathering insights through:

- Surveys and interviews with professionals to better understand what helps and what hinders organisations from working together.
- A review of existing research and literature on collaborative working

From this we will write a needs assessment that will help to identify what works well, what doesn't work well, what's missing and what people might need to succeed or feel supported when they work together.

Better join-up, better outcomes for child poverty - a Building a Healthier Wales Needs Assessment around Collaboration for Child Poverty (NACCP)

The final report, with practical recommendations will be published later in 2025.

SHARING WHAT WORKS

In April 2024, we published a Cost of Living Case Studies Report, showcasing nine real-world examples of how organisations are helping people with:

- Food, energy and housing
- Income and debt
- Mental health and well-being
- Health and care

These case studies come from across Wales and beyond – urban and rural – and showcases work from partners such as local authorities, the NHS, private business and the voluntary sector. The report helps others learn what works, what doesn't, and how to improve.

We are now evaluating the impact of this report to keep improving our approach.

IMPROVING HOW WE WORK

We've listened to members of the Building a Healthier Wales Group, and we are changing how our meetings are run. A new "audience with" format will bring together experts to discuss shared challenges and future opportunities, helping us act more effectively together.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025- 26 PRIORITIES

- We are reviewing the impact of our Cost of Living Case Studies to see if it helped anyone in their work with families and communities, and if there is anything we could do differently next time

JUNE 2025

- We will evaluate the impact of our advice to Welsh Government on the Universal Free School Meals policy Building a Healthier Wales Report to the Minister Universal Free School Meals. This will help us to know what type of advice is most useful and allows us to keep improving our work
- We will publish the Needs Assessment around Collaboration for Child Poverty and support organisations to understand the recommendations and what actions they need to take
- We will continue improving how we work together internally