



Manifesto for the Senedd Election

2026



TGP Cymru
Cardiff University Social Science Research Park (SPARK),
Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ

TGP Cymru is the working name of Tros Gynnal Plant. Registered Charity No. 1099878.
Registered as a company limited by guarantee No. 04422485 (England and Wales).
Registered Office: SPARK, Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ

www.tgpcymru.org.uk



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ABOUT US

TGP Cymru is a leading independent Welsh charity working with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised children, young people and families in Wales. We provide independent and confidential support through advocacy, participation, family group meetings, restorative approaches and conflict resolution. We work to give children, young people and their families a voice, to have a say in their future and ensure that their rights are upheld.

TGP Cymru is made up of services that are spread across Wales. Statutory Advocacy services in Mid and West Wales, North Wales and Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Residential Visiting Advocacy, Independent Visiting Services, Travelling Ahead project for Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities, Refugee and Asylum Programme, Team around the Tenancy service for young people aged 18-25 who are having difficulties in relation to their accommodation/tenancy, Restorative Approaches Veterans and Families service, a Restorative Approaches Family Group Meeting Service for families experiencing conflict and needing support to find solutions, Parental Advocacy in Mid and West Wales, North Wales and Cwm Taf Morgannwg and Communication Passports across North Wales for children and young people with communication difficulties. We also have a new project offering Advocacy to children and young people who are living in North Wales who are not in receipt of support from social services or CAMHS.

Working with and talking to children, young people and families about what they would like to see in our manifesto has identified the following asks from TGP Cymru of the Senedd to enable them to overcome difficulties and build their own autonomous futures.

TGP Cymru asks that all political parties and candidates commit to prioritising children, young people and families in Wales by:

1. Widening Access to Advocacy for Children and Young People including Residential Visiting Advocacy
2. Increasing the Parent's Voice
3. Establishing Standards for Temporary Accommodation for Care Leavers
4. Increasing Availability of Communication Passports for Children and Young People with Communication Needs



WIDENING ACCESS TO ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

TGP Cymru has been working with children and young people to give them a voice through advocacy since 2002 and is a registered provider of statutory advocacy services.

In 2025 TGP Cymru's North Wales Advocacy service ran a survey with a wide variety of individuals and services in the voluntary sector, to see if young people who are not currently eligible for statutory

advocacy services or receiving a service from CAMHS, would like to be able to access advocacy services. From the responses, the top issues were mental health and wellbeing, closely followed by family issues and school issues. Overall, the response was positive with several young people indicating they would like support straight away if available.

What young people have told us:

"I need help in school, and I need help with my Mum and what's she going through."
"I need help with my mental health self-harm and suicidal thoughts"
"I would use this service it would help with my struggling mental health and just someone to speak to about any family problems. It would help teenagers and some young adults"

TGP Cymru are concerned that not all children and young people living in private residential homes are able to access advocacy services. In 2019 TGP Cymru facilitated an independent review entitled 'Out of Sight, Out of Rights?' which identified that many young people living in private residential homes across Wales did not have access to advocacy services. In 2025 this is still the case.

As the Eliminate Profit from the Care of Children Looked After programme progresses, we are presented with opportunities to widen the access to advocacy by:

- Ensuring the Service Specification and Range and Level Tool, against which statutory advocacy services are commissioned are updated to reflect the increased number of children's homes in need of a monthly residential advocacy visit

What young people have told us:

"I like the visiting advocacy service as I can talk to them about issues with my home or issues with my social worker and they help get things done"
"I find the visiting advocate really helpful"
"I don't always talk to the visiting advocate, but I know when she visits and know that I can talk to her if I need"

TGP Cymru asks:

- i. Widen the opportunity for all young people to access advocacy throughout Wales, so they can have their thoughts and feelings heard and their voices amplified across our nation.
- ii. Establish a right for all young people in private residential homes to have access to advocacy services and to make it a requirement of registration for all residential homes that advocacy is provided.

INCREASING PARENTS VOICE

TGP Cymru has a history of achieving positive outcomes for families by providing good quality Family Group Meeting services since 2000. We were one of the first providers of Family Group Meetings in Wales and support families to come together and make plans that help their family move forward, creating a safe and nurturing environment for the children within their family support networks. Outcomes include repairing family relationships, increasing contact for children with their parents, reunification of children to their families and keeping babies within the family support network. The Family Group Meeting service has seen families step down from Child Protection Orders to Care and Support Plans to Resilient Families Services and in some cases closing to Children Services altogether.

In 2023 TGP Cymru started the Parent Advocacy Service to help reduce the numbers of children entering the care system and to keep families together. It provided a voice and choice to parents, by supporting parents to navigate the child protection system, and to be fully involved in the decision-making processes. Parents have expressed that they feel much more informed about their rights and entitlements and feel more able to challenge local authorities and being more able to self-advocate. Local authorities are telling us that there are fewer children and young people coming into care due to Parent Advocacy involvement and the relationships between Social Workers and parents have improved.

What Parents, Family Members and Professionals have told us:

“It was emotional but thank you so much, I was feeling like I was written off and now have a plan” - Family

“This platform gave the family and professionals time to come together in a safe and welcoming environment with an experienced professional outside of those professionals that are visiting the home, to explore ways of moving forward. There was a window for reflective listening and the opportunity for parents to communicate that was contained and guided by another professional” - Professional

“The parent advocacy service was so helpful. I felt it made a difference to my situation and gave me reassurance that I was going to be listened to. I now know a lot more about my rights and feel more confident since having advocacy support. I felt more included in decisions and heard. I can’t thank you enough for all her help and support, thanks”.

“I couldn’t have coped without advocacy support, and I felt more emotionally able to cope with support”.

“You were there to support me. It was a real comfort knowing someone was in my corner to help me”.

TGP Cymru asks:

Prioritise services for parents and families including Family Group Meetings and Parental Advocacy as a way of enhancing the rights of the child. More parents and families will be able to identify wider support networks and address issues and conflicts. This promotes accountability and ensures parents and family members are heard and involved in the process and genuinely empowers families to help their own situations and the lives of their children and young people.

ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Sometimes young people need to live in temporary accommodation and this is not always suitable for their needs. TGP Cymru’s Team Around the Tenancy Service helps young people who have left care or have experienced family / relationship / home breakdown to overcome the difficulties they are experiencing and help them stay in their home and/or secure a place to call home.

In the spring of 2025 Team Around the Tenancy facilitated a focus group with young people to look at the barriers they face when trying to find suitable accommodation, and what matters most to them when finding a place to live. From these discussions the main issue that emerged was that there weren’t any clear

standards for temporary accommodation. Young people felt that a lack of standards meant that on accommodation was unsuitable in terms of décor, upkeep, facilities, safety and the enforcement of rules. For example some young people experienced very poor standards of accommodation – eg no heating, no running water, inadequate locks on doors and poor décor / damp. Some young people had access to a full kitchen while some only had kettles, some accommodation included meals and laundry facilities while other did not supply anything and some young people were subject to arbitrary rules such as being prevented from spending a night away from their accommodation whilst others were not.

What Young People have told us:

“Ideally, there would be emergency housing options available that meet certain requirements regarding their living standards and undergo regular checks. The service should be non-discriminatory and able/willing to accommodate varying needs. Different people have different needs because we are all individuals. A one size fits all approach does not work. There should be something in place that ensures housing does not go to tourists/students before those in the county/region are found housing first.”

“Empathy, more affordable housing that also accepts benefits, guidance on how bills, budgeting etc work, a consistent worker to prevent having to repeat explanations of the situation and to build rapport which can go a long way.”

“Same standards across the homeless prevention teams.”

“That it is in a safe location.”

“Access for people with disabilities.”

“Price, allowing benefits, appropriate type of housing. It is not much to ask for.”

“Properties (emergency accommodation) should be made available where young person lives. Council working with more landlords and B&Bs to support young people into tenancies.”

TGP Cymru asks:

Establish standards for temporary accommodation so all young people have positive experiences that help them in their time of need to find a place that is safe and secure.

INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNICATION PASSPORTS

TGP Cymru has delivered a Communication Passport service since 2010. The service works to provide communication passports to children and young people with communication issues across North Wales.

A Communication Passport is a book that belongs to the child or young person, which is fun and easy to read, and helps others to quickly learn important information about the child or young person and how best to communicate with them. It allows professionals such as teachers, teaching assistants, social workers, doctors, nurses, sports coaches etc to hear the voice of the child and quickly understand how life is for them. A communication passport can help break down some of the barriers children and young people with communication issues face and it can help give them confidence to interact. It is also a useful tool for parents

as they often have to remember lots of important information to pass it on to those working with their child or young person.

The Communication Passport delivers on UNCRC Article 23: ‘a child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to disabled children and their families’. TGP Cymru believes there should be funding so that every child with communication needs can have a Communication Passport and have launched a digital campaign called “Give Every Child a Voice” so that a Communication Passport would be their right not just something nice to have.

What Young People, Parents and Professionals have told us:

“It is part of me, it comes with me when I go out. I'm so glad I have it.”

“There has been situations where my child hasn't been able to verbalise and has used her passport to help herself.”

“The communication passports have been amazing for our pupils. They have been used between transitions throughout the school day. We have used them when we have had supply staff in school and with new taxi escorts. Pupils have enjoyed sharing their books with their peers, being able to share things they have not been able to share before. The communication passport helps give our pupils a voice. We cannot thank you enough and cannot wait to have more communication passports for more of our pupils.”

“We have found the service brilliant and really useful. The fact that you link with both parents and us is a real positive. The passports look professional and are user friendly.”

“He gives it to new people when he first meets them, and it gives them a starting point for how to speak with him. He also enjoys looking through the pictures.”

“It saves a lot of families and children having to constantly repeat their needs to services It has proven to be a valuable tool across settings for families.”

“It is a very valuable resource that has a far-reaching effect on the child's well-being. Thank you very much.”

TGP Cymru asks:

Increase the availability of Communication Passports across Wales so we can give every child a voice Including those with communication needs.

THANKS

TGP Cymru are keen to meet with political parties in Wales to discuss our priorities and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you so much for taking time to read this manifesto, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact TGP Cymru CEO Rhiannon Beaumont-Walker.

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