

CENEDL



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Introduction

The vision for children in a devolved Wales is one in which they are no longer subject to the purview of the criminal justice system.

Overview:

Social Justice in Wales

Children who offend today

The vision



WELSH PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

This presentation is underpinned by the ideologies and policies –
historical or modern
from Wales.

Children and Social Justice

Cenedl

As citizens

Clutton (2007); Williams (2015); Williams & Daniel (2021a/b)

With rights

WG (2011)

With entitlements

WAG (2002); Drakeford (2007 and 2010)

Well-being

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Universality



Adults

Adult responsibility

Language

Criminal records

Multi-agency cooperation

Normal boundary testing

Risk taking is normal



+ WALES AND CHILDREN + • WHO OFFEND •

The ideas that should already apply to children who offend
in Wales.

Child First

Brain development

Social disadvantages

Exploitation and lack of agency

Punishment inappropriate

Use of custody





THE VISION

The long-term vision for children in Wales

They are no longer subject to the purview of the criminal justice system.

Why

International standards

Agency

Welsh Social Justice

well-being

Rights

Entitlements or real opportunities

Brain development

Popular support

Justice, Equality and Choice

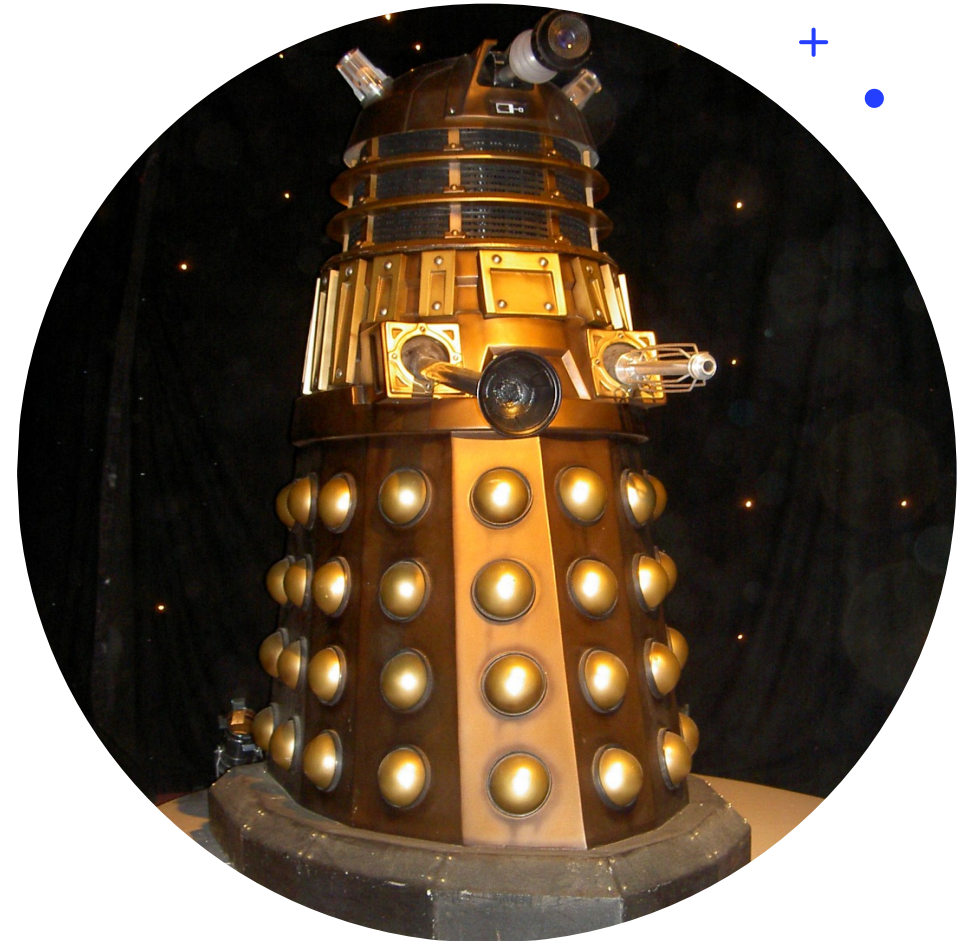


We need to avoid

The risk approach

Problems of risk (Haines and Case, 2015)

Blighting the lives of children



How

Child first

Agency

Real opportunities

Embracing children's need for risk

Trauma informed work and ECM

Full potential

The dangers of dependency



We Need

- Change in the Minimum age of criminal responsibility
- Children's Inspectorate
- Genuine support for children who are exploited
- Purpose of Youth Courts
- No Criminal record
- Move away from custody as punishment - therapeutic
- Clear up rates
- Treat children who offend as normal but needing support





Summary

Children should enjoy justice not punishment.

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Whilst it is not the core of this paper other changes are necessary:

Victims should be looked after separately.

Communities should be supported to become stronger leading to reduced offending behaviour and ensuring they are more resilient.

Both of these might be part of Community Safety.