Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Yma i bobl ifanc
Yma i gymunedau
Yma i chi

YMCA *MANIFESTO*

SENEDD ELECTION 2026

DELIVERING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITIES ACROSS WALES
NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

ABOUT YMCA

YMCA is the oldest and largest youth charity in the world, originally established in London in1844. In the 181 years since, YMCA has evolved into a global movement supporting more than 65 million people across 120 different countries today. We operate as a federated structure throughout England and Wales, with 80 local YMCAs supporting young people and communities in 168 local authority areas across both countries. We are present in 708 communities across England and Wales, creating supportive environments where young people can belong, contribute and thrive. The 402,501 young people we help each year are firmly at the heart of what we do, supported by more than 5,300 members of staff and more than 4,000 volunteers across 852 locations.

YMCA IN WALES

IN WALES,
YMCA SUPPORTS
19,645 PEOPLE
ACROSS **37 COMMUNITIES**.

Each year YMCA Cymru provides:

- A home to 976 people, where 325 residents learn budgeting skills, 199 develop their work skills and 310 receive mental health support.
- Training and education to 1,270 people, where 862 receive life skills support, including literacy and numeracy, ICT and employment support.
- Healthy living activities to 7,132 people, through exercise classes and community sports facilities, with 3,110 people using our gyms, pools and leisure centres.
- Youth and family work to 9,911 young people, with 1,326 engaging in youth work across an average of 20 sessions a week, and 6,812 pupils supported across 138 schools.
- Support and advice to 356 people across our foodbank, pantries and mental health support, with 2,902 people attending our community meals, cafes and gardens.

This is delivered by 130 staff, 67 trustees and 96 volunteers who deliver an average of 433 hours of work each week.

OUR VISION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN WALES

YMCA BELIEVES IN **FAIRNESS AND OPPORTUNITY** FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Our vision is one of a society in which everyone has a fair chance to discover who they are and what they can become.

YMCAs in Wales provide a safety net for young people when they need it most, supporting them to gain the essential building blocks for a full and rewarding life. Working in partnership with local authorities and various other organisations, YMCAs in Wales create communities which provide safe spaces; acceptance; guidance; friendship; physical and mental health; academic support; employment skills; and access to real opportunities.

OUR KEY ASKS

01 YOUTH *SERVICES*

In 2019, the Welsh Government published the Youth Work Strategy for Wales, setting out five aims to guide the future of youth work. This has led to plans for a new national body to strengthen the sector, support innovation and collaboration, and secure its long-term sustainability, alongside a new statutory framework to strengthen the legislative basis for youth work.

- Whoever forms the next Welsh Government should **continue the commitment to the National Youth Work Body** and work alongside the National Body Delivery Board to commit to a clear timeframe of when the Body will be officially established and commence work.
- The National Youth Work Body cannot take a top-down approach but instead **must take a true partnership approach** by continuously engaging and consulting the third sector and those on the ground.
- Professional requirements included in new statutory guidance must be backed up by **workforce development funding** to ensure volunteers and youth service organisations have access to professional youth work training.

Local Authority expenditure on Youth Services has been cut by 29% since 2010/11 in Wales, representing real terms cut of £16.6 million up to 2023/24. Revenue funding is needed to stabilise, maintain and grow our youth service offering, to provide safe spaces, trusted adults and opportunities to develop for young people across Wales.

- The Senedd should **increase investment into youth work** – which is long-term, revenue based and sustainable.

02 HOUSING SUPPLY *AND* AFFORDABILITY

The current Welsh Government housing grants are largely limited to housing associations, making it extremely challenging for registered charities to secure funding and resulting in some Welsh YMCAs being eligible for certain pots of funding while others are not.

- The Senedd should expand **eligibility for housing schemes** to charities and registered entities beyond housing associations.

The Welsh Government has supported decarbonisation efforts, backing net-zero developments and this year investing an extra £14.1 million for energy efficiency improvements to social homes, taking the Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) to £107.1 million. Decarbonisation not only leads to energy efficiency, lower costs, improved living conditions and economic growth, but also aligns with YMCA's 2030 vision for a sustainable planet.

- The Senedd should maintain a continued focus on **decarbonisation/green housing**.

1 in 5 people who are homeless in Wales are 16-24 years old. In 2022, the Welsh Government launched the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP), to fund and support local authorities and registered social landlords to increase housing capacity across Wales, through which more than £275 million has been invested so far.

- The next Welsh Government should **continue to invest more in the TACP** to increase affordable housing, alongside standard social housing pots for young people and youth homelessness, ensuring that **local charities like YMCAs are eligible for funding**.

03

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)**

In Wales 1 in 10 young people are NEET. We need to remove the barriers to apprenticeships and education – with a focus on future-proof skills - and secure the development of good jobs so that young people have opportunities in their own communities with pathways for entry.

The Senedd should:

- ▶ **Provide good careers for young people** – where they have the opportunity to learn and earn in their own local area and get a stable job where they can thrive.
- ▶ **Expand apprenticeships in key skill areas**, considering industries at risk of closure.
- ▶ Balance STEM apprenticeships with digital marketing, green energy, and other **future-proof skills**.
- ▶ **Support local initiatives**, for example councils repurposing disused buildings for vocational training.

04

MENTAL HEALTH *CRISIS*

1 in 10 16–24 year olds in Wales experience a general sense of emptiness. We need a national network of early support hubs, so that every young person can access early support for their mental health in their community and place of learning. We must bring down waiting times for people who are in crisis, and to ensure that young people can access timely support. This includes community-based support, not only clinical settings.

The Senedd should:

- ▶ **Increase funding for mental health** services – ensuring timely support is available when people need it most, and we work to prevent issues occurring in the first place.
- ▶ Fund and **support non-clinical community-based initiatives**, e.g. youth charities like YMCAs to continue to deliver mental health support to the young people accessing its services.

05 *ACCESS TO* **SPORT AND ACTIVITIES**

Wales has a good record on sport, with 39% of school aged children participating in organised sport three or more times a week. We need to ensure there is fair access and investment in community sport facilities so that all young people, regardless of where they live can access the benefits of sport. Facilities need to be put on a stable footing so that access to sport does not fall backwards. Too many community facilities have become run-down over the years and investment is needed to improve and maintain buildings.

The Senedd should:

- ► **Invest in grassroots sports** for young people and communities – making sure every young person is able to unlock the benefits of sports in their own local area.
- ► Support the **maintenance of community sports facilities** and ensure access to safe, indoor spaces.

06 *SUPPORTING THE* **CHARITY** *AND* **COMMUNITY SECTOR**

Many charities are struggling to survive, through issues such as access to long-term funding, having to deliver more with less, the costs caused by increased regulation and an inability to secure funding for core costs or existing projects that are not new. We need to see the charity sector supported to thrive, so that we can help more people across Wales to live their best life. The most effective way to achieve this is by taking a true partnership approach that allows charities to secure longer-term contracts. This provides charities with more security, allowing them to plan further ahead and deliver a more comprehensive service. Longer-term contracts can also maximise the impact of a programme, as more sustainable solutions for those in receipt of the service can be worked towards.

- ► The Senedd should focus on **longer-term contracts and true partnership** approaches, rather than commissioner-led models.

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YMCA *MANIFFESTO*

ETHOLIAD Y SENEDD 2026

CYFLAWNI AR GYFER POBL IFANC A CHYMUNEDAU LEDLED CYMRU NAWR AC YN Y DYFODOL

GAIR AM YMCA

YMCA yw'r elusen ieuenctid hynaf a mwyaf yn y byd, a gafodd ei sefydlu yn Llundain yn 1844. Yn y 181 o flynyddoedd ers hynny, mae YMCA wedi esblygu'n fudiad byd-eang sy'n cefnogi dros 65 miliwn o bobl mewn 120 o wahanol wledydd erbyn hyn. Rydym yn gweithredu fel strwythur ffederal ledled Cymru a Lloegr, gydag 80 o ganghennau lleol YMCA yn cefnogi pobl ifanc a chymunedau mewn 168 o ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol ar draws y ddwy wlad. Rydym yn bresennol mewn 708 o gymunedau ledled Cymru a Lloegr, gan greu amgylcheddau cefnogol lle gall pobl ifanc berthyn, cyfrannu a ffynnu. Mae'r 402,501 o bobl ifanc rydym yn eu helpu bob blwyddyn wrth galon yr hyn rydym yn ei wneud, gyda chefnogaeth dros 5,300 o aelodau o staff a dros 4,000 o wirfoddolwyr mewn 852 o leoliadau.

YMCA YNG NGHYMRU

YNG NGHYMRU, MAE YMCA YN CEFNOGI **19,645 O BOBL** MEWN **37 O GYMUNEDAU**.

Bob blwyddyn mae YMCA Cymru yn darparu:

- Cartref i 976 o bobl, lle mae 325 o drigolion yn dysgu sgiliau cyllidebu, 199 yn datblygu eu sgiliau gwaith a 310 yn cael cymorth iechyd meddwl.
- Hyfforddiant ac addysg i 1,270 o bobl, lle mae 862 yn cael cymorth sgiliau bywyd, gan gynnwys cymorth llythrennedd a rhifedd, TGCh a chyflogaeth.
- Gweithgareddau byw'n iach i 7,132 o bobl, drwy ddosbarthiadau ymarfer corff a chyfleusterau chwaraeon cymunedol, gyda 3,110 o bobl yn defnyddio ein campfeydd, ein pyllau nofio a'n canolfannau hamdden.
- Gwaith ieuenctid a theulu i 9,911 o bobl ifanc, gyda 1,326 yn cymryd rhan mewn gwaith ieuenctid ar draws 20 sesiwn yr wythnos ar gyfartaledd, a 6,812 o ddisgyblion yn cael eu cefnogi mewn 138 o ysgolion.
- Cefnogaeth a chyngor i 356 o bobl drwy ein banc bwyd, pantris a chymorth iechyd meddwl, gyda 2,902 o bobl yn dod i'n digwyddiadau prydau bwyd cymunedol, ein caffis a'n gerddi.

Mae hyn yn cael ei ddarparu gan 130 aelod o staff, 67 o ymddiriedolwyr a 96 o wirfoddolwyr sy'n darparu 433 awr o waith bob wythnos ar gyfartaledd.

EIN PRIF OFYNION

EIN GWELEDIGAETH

AR GYFER POBL IFANC A CHYMUNEDAU YNG NGHYMRU

Mae YMCA yn credu mewn tegwch a chyfle i genedlaethau'r dyfodol. Ein gweledigaeth yw cymdeithas lle mae gan bawb gyfle teg i ddarganfod pwy ydyn nhw a beth y gallan nhw fod.

Mae YMCA yng Nghymru yn darparu rhwyd ddiogelwch i bobl ifanc pan fydd ei hangen arnynt fwyaf, gan eu cefnogi i gael y pethau hanfodol ar gyfer byw bywyd llawn a gwerth chweil. Gan weithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol ac amrywiol sefydliadau eraill, mae YMCA yng Nghymru yn creu cymunedau sy'n darparu mannau diogel; ymdeimlad o dderbyn; arweiniad; cyfeillgarwch; cymorth gydag iechyd corfforol a meddyliol; cymorth academaidd; sgiliau cyflogaeth; a mynediad at gyfleoedd go iawn.

01 *GWASANAETHAU* IEUENCTID

Yn 2019, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru Strategaeth Gwaith Ieuenctid Cymru, sy'n nodi pum nod i lywio dyfodol gwaith ieuenctid. Mae hyn wedi arwain at gynlluniau ar gyfer corff cenedlaethol newydd i gryfhau'r sector, cefnogi arloesedd a chydweithio, a sicrhau ei gynaliadwyedd hirdymor, ochr yn ochr â fframwaith statudol newydd i gryfhau'r sail ddeddfwriaethol ar gyfer gwaith ieuenctid.

- ▶ Dylai pwy bynnag fydd yn ffurfio Llywodraeth nesaf Cymru **barhau â'r ymrwymiad i'r Corff Gwaith Ieuenctid Cenedlaethol** a gweithio ochr yn ochr â Bwrdd Cyflawni'r Corff Cenedlaethol i ymrwymo i amserlen glir o ran pryd y bydd y Corff yn cael ei sefydlu'n swyddogol ac yn dechrau gweithio.

- ▶ Ni all y Corff Gwaith Ieuenctid Cenedlaethol weithredu o'r brig i lawr – yn hytrach, **rhaid iddo fabwysiadu dull partneriaeth gwirioneddol** drwy ymgysylltu ac ymgynghori'n barhaus â'r trydydd sector a'r rheini sydd ar lawr gwlad.

- ▶ Rhaid i ofynion proffesiynol sydd wedi'u cynnwys mewn canllawiau statudol newydd gael eu hategu gan gyllid datblygu'r gweithlu i sicrhau bod gwirfoddolwyr a sefydliadau'r gwasanaeth ieuenctid yn gallu cael gafael ar hyfforddiant gwaith ieuenctid proffesiynol.

Mae gwariant Awdurdodau Lleol ar Wasanaethau Ieuenctid wedi cael ei dorri 29% ers 2010/11 yng Nghymru, sy'n cynrychioli toriad o £16.6 miliwn mewn termau real hyd at 2023/24. Mae angen cyllid refeniw i sefydlogi, cynnal a thyfu ein gwasanaeth ieuenctid, i ddarparu mannau diogel, oedolion dibynadwy a chyfleoedd i ddatblygu ar gyfer pobl ifanc ledled Cymru.

- ▶ Dylai'r Senedd **gynyddu'r buddsoddiad mewn gwaith ieuenctid** – sy'n hirdymor, yn seiliedig ar refeniw ac yn gynaliadwy.

02 CYFLENWAD TAI *A* FFORDDIADWYEDD

Mae grantiau tai presennol Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cyfyngu i raddau helaeth i gymdeithasau tai, sy'n ei gwneud yn anodd iawn i elusennau cofrestredig sicrhau cyllid ac sy'n golygu bod rhai YMCA yng Nghymru yn gymwys i gael rhai potiau o gyllid ac eraill ddim.

- ▶ Dylai'r Senedd **ehangu cymhwysedd ar gyfer cynlluniau tai** i elusennau ac endidau cofrestredig y tu hwnt i gymdeithasau tai.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cefnogi ymdrechion datgarboneiddio, gan gefnogi datblygiadau sero net ac eleni mae wedi buddsoddi £14.1 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer gwelliannau effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn cartrefi cymdeithasol, gan fynd â'r Rhaglen Ôl-osod er mwyn Optimeiddio (ORP) i £107.1 miliwn. Mae datgarboneiddio nid yn unig yn arwain at effeithlonrwydd ynni, costau is, amodau byw gwell a thwf economaidd, ond mae hefyd yn cyd-fynd â gweledigaeth 2030 YMCA ar gyfer planed gynaliadwy.

- ▶ Dylai'r Senedd barhau i ganolbwyntio ar **ddatgarboneiddio/tai gwyrdd**.

Mae 1 o bob 5 o bobl sy'n ddigartref yng Nghymru rhwng 16 a 24 oed. Yn 2022, lansiodd Llywodraeth Cymru y Rhaglen Gyfalaf Llety Trosiannol i ariannu a chefnogi awdurdodau lleol a landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig i gynyddu capasiti tai ledled Cymru, lle mae dros £275 miliwn wedi cael ei fuddsoddi hyd yma.

- ▶ Dylai Llywodraeth nesaf Cymru **barhau i fuddsoddi mwy yn y Rhaglen Gyfalaf Llety Trosiannol** i gynyddu tai fforddiadwy, ochr yn ochr â photiau tai cymdeithasol safonol ar gyfer pobl ifanc a digartrefedd ymysg pobl ifanc, gan sicrhau bod **elusennau lleol fel YMCA yn gymwys i gael cyllid**.

03

POBL IFANC NAD YDYNT MEWN **ADDYSG, CYFLOGAETH NA HYFFORDDIANT (NEET)**

Yng Nghymru, mae 1 o bob 10 person ifanc yn NEET. Mae angen i ni chwalu'r rhwystrau i brentisiaethau ac addysg – gan ganolbwyntio ar sgiliau sy'n addas ar gyfer y dyfodol – a sicrhau bod swyddi da'n cael eu datblygu er mwyn i bobl ifanc gael cyfleoedd yn eu cymunedau eu hunain gyda llwybrau mynediad.

Dylai'r Senedd wneud y canlynol:

- **Darparu gyrfaoedd da i bobl ifanc** – lle maen nhw'n cael cyfle i ddysgu ac ennill cyflog yn eu hardal leol eu hunain a chael swydd sefydlog lle maen nhw'n gallu ffynnu.
- **Ehangu prentisiaethau mewn meysydd sgiliau allweddol**, gan ystyried diwydiannau sydd mewn perygl o gau.
- Cydbwyso prentisiaethau STEM â marchnata digidol, ynni gwyrdd, a **sgiliau eraill sydd eu hangen ar gyfer y dyfodol**.
- **Cefnogi cynlluniau lleol**, er enghraifft, cynghorau yn addasu adeiladau segur ar gyfer hyfforddiant galwedigaethol.

04

ARGYFWNG **IECHYD MEDDWL**

Mae 1 o bob 10 person ifanc rhwng 16 a 24 oed yng Nghymru yn profi ymdeimlad cyffredinol o wacter. Mae angen rhwydwaith cenedlaethol o ganolfannau cymorth cynnar arnom, er mwyn i bob person ifanc allu cael gafael ar gymorth cynnar ar gyfer ei iechyd meddwl yn ei gymuned a'i fan dysgu. Rhaid i ni leihau amseroedd aros i bobl sydd mewn argyfwng, a sicrhau bod pobl ifanc yn gallu cael cymorth amserol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cymorth yn y gymuned, nid dim ond mewn lleoliadau clinigol.

Dylai'r Senedd wneud y canlynol:

- **Cynyddu cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl** – sicrhau bod cymorth amserol ar gael pan fydd ei angen fwyaf ar bobl, a gweithio i atal problemau rhag codi yn y lle cyntaf.
- **Ariannu a chefnogi mentrau anghlinigol yn y gymuned**, e.e. elusennau ieuenctid fel YMCA i barhau i ddarparu cymorth iechyd meddwl i'r bobl ifanc sy'n defnyddio ei wasanaethau.

05 *MYNEDIAD AT* **CHWARAEON A GWEITHGAREDDAU**

Mae gan Gymru record dda o ran chwaraeon, gyda 39% o blant oed ysgol yn cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon dair gwaith yr wythnos neu fwy. Mae angen i ni sicrhau mynediad a buddsoddiad teg mewn cyfleusterau chwaraeon cymunedol fel y gall pob person ifanc, ble bynnag y maent yn byw, fanteisio ar fuddion chwaraeon. Mae angen i gyfleusterau gael sylfaen gadarn fel nad yw mynediad at chwaraeon yn gwaethygu. Mae gormod o gyfleusterau cymunedol wedi dirywio dros y blynyddoedd ac mae angen buddsoddi i wella a chynnal adeiladau.

Dylai'r Senedd wneud y canlynol:

- **Buddsoddi mewn chwaraeon ar lawr gwlad** ar gyfer pobl ifanc a chymunedau – gan wneud yn siŵr bod pob person ifanc yn gallu manteisio ar chwaraeon yn ei ardal leol ei hun.
- Cefnogi'r **gwaith o gynnal a chadw cyfleusterau chwaraeon cymunedol** a sicrhau mynediad at fannau diogel dan do.

06 *CEFNOGI'R* **SECTOR ELUSENNOL** *A* **CHYMUNEDOL**

Mae llawer o elusennau'n ei chael hi'n anodd goroesi, drwy faterion fel mynediad at gyllid tymor hir, gorfod cyflawni mwy gyda llai, y costau a achosir gan fwy o reoleiddio ac anallu i sicrhau cyllid ar gyfer costau craidd neu brosiectau presennol nad ydynt yn newydd. Mae angen i ni weld y sector elusennol yn cael cefnogaeth i ffynnu, er mwyn i ni allu helpu mwy o bobl ledled Cymru i fyw'n dda. Y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o gyflawni hyn yw drwy weithio mewn partneriaeth wirioneddol sy'n caniatáu i elusennau gael contractau tymor hwy. Mae hyn yn rhoi mwy o sicrwydd i elusennau, gan ganiatáu iddynt gynllunio ymhellach ymlaen llaw a darparu gwasanaeth mwy cynhwysfawr. Gall contractau tymor hwy hefyd gynyddu effaith rhaglen i'r eithaf, gan y gellir gweithio tuag at atebion mwy cynaliadwy i'r rhai sy'n derbyn y gwasanaeth.

- Dylai'r Senedd ganolbwyntio ar **gontractau tymor hwy a dulliau partneriaeth gwirioneddol**, yn hytrach na modelau sy'n cael eu harwain gan gomisiynwyr.