

Investment in health & wellbeing in the context of COVID-19: a Welsh perspective

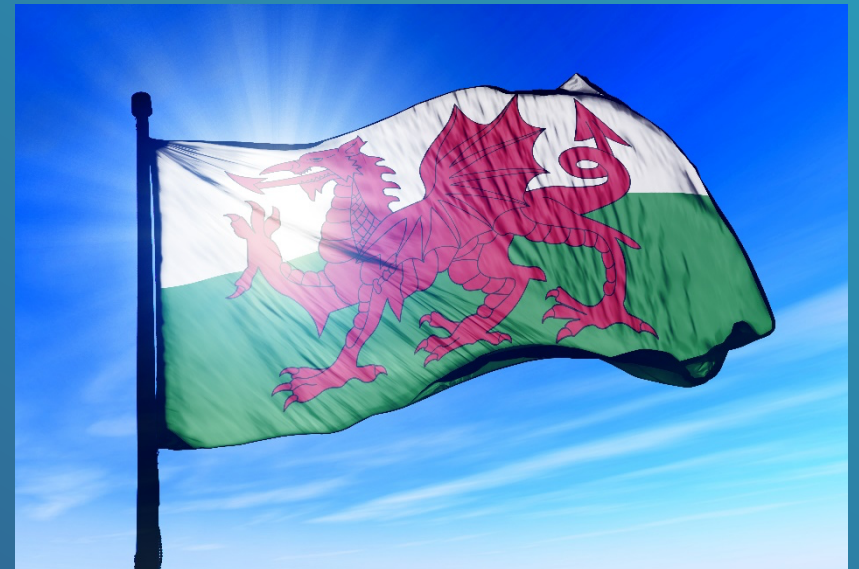
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Wellbeing and health equity

Welsh policy context

- Active Travel Act 2013
- Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015
- Environment Act 2016
- Public Health Act 2017
- Socio-economic duty



Advocating for investment in health and wellbeing

A policy window opens.....

Making a Difference:

Investing in Sustainable Health
and Well-being for the People of Wales

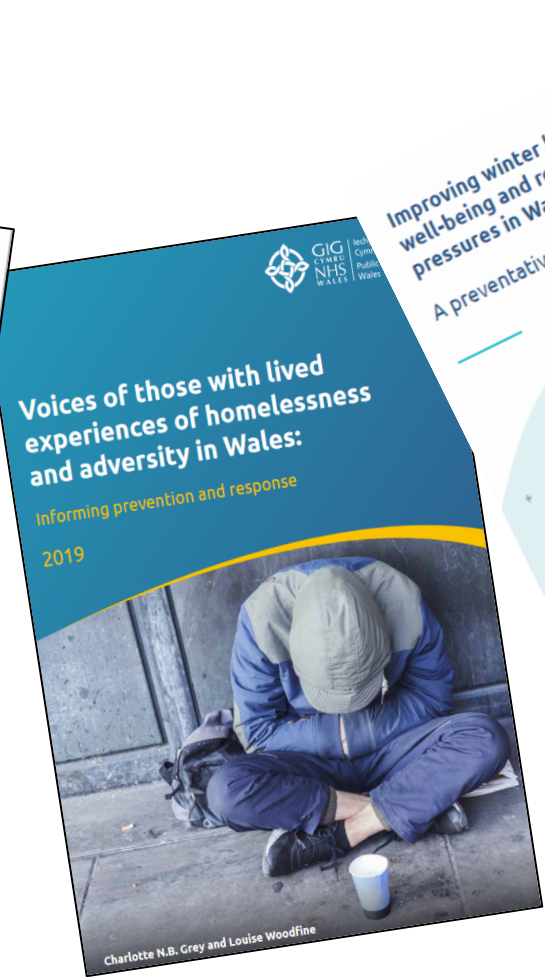
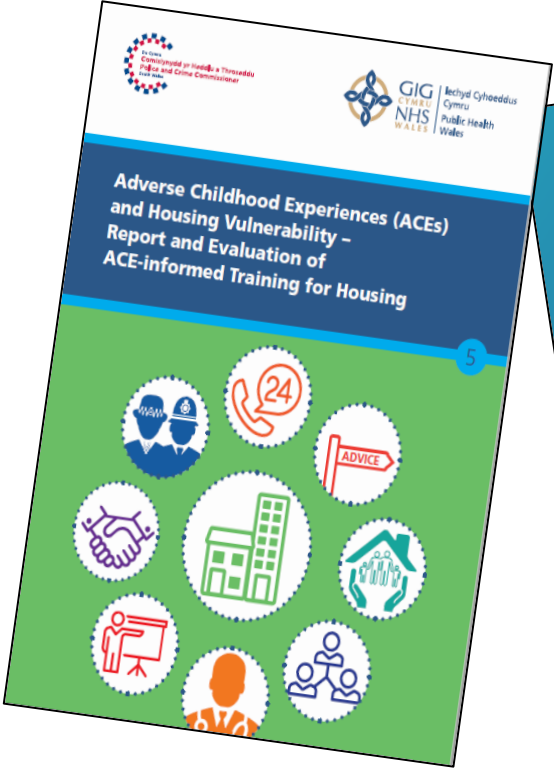
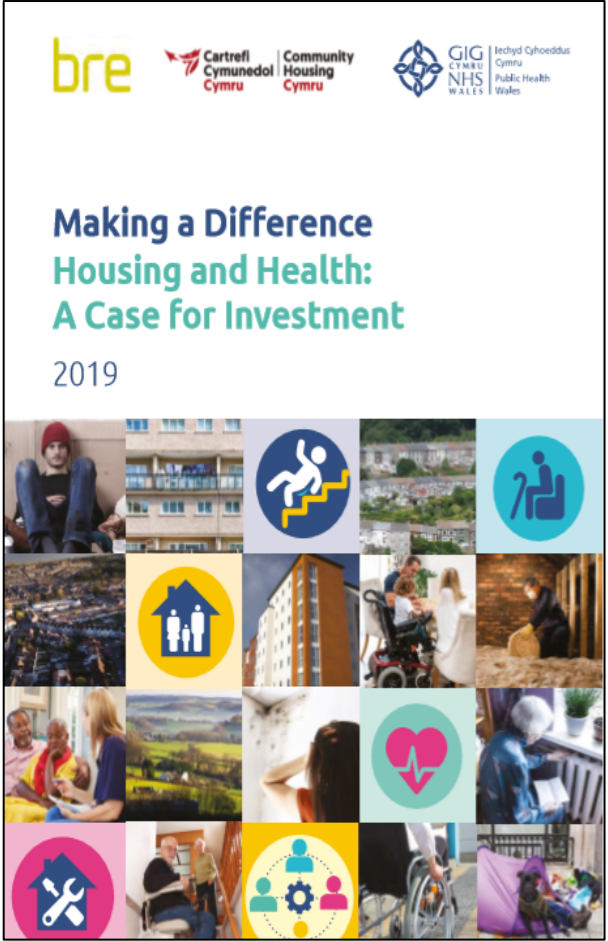
Executive Summary

2016



- *Investing in insulation and heating to address cold and damp housing could return savings of nearly £35m for the NHS in Wales*
- *Investing in housing improvements is a cost effective way of preventing ill health & reducing health inequalities*

Publications and collaborative working



Return on Investment



Housing Quality

£1 spent on central heating generates 42p in health benefits



3.9% reduction in GP visits for respiratory conditions in **Nest scheme** beneficiaries (compared to 9.8% increase in the control group)



£1 spent on insulation interventions provides a return of **£1.87¹**



Improving **heating and ventilation** improves asthma in children and is cost effective



£1 spent on improving warmth in vulnerable households results in **£4** of health benefits



39% fewer hospital admissions for cardiorespiratory conditions and injuries in those with **upgraded houses**



Unsuitable homes



Falls prevention results in pay back in less than 3 years

Adaptations to reduce falls pay back in 5-6 years in NHS costs.

Home modifications result in 26% fewer injuries requiring medical treatment (caused by falls) per year



Extra Care schemes reduce NHS health costs by **£1,786** per person per year

£1 spent on adaptations prior to hospital discharge generates **£7.50** of cost savings for Health and Social Care



Homelessness

Housing First models for homeless individuals with complex needs returns **£3.60** for every **£1** spent



Preventing homelessness results in savings of **~£9,266** per person compared to allowing homelessness to persist for 12 months

Every **£1 invested** in moving people out of homelessness generates **£2.80** in benefits



Improving winter health and well-being and reducing winter pressures in Wales

A preventative approach



Cold housing – causes 30% of Excess Winter Deaths

- Those living in the coldest quarter of homes have 20% greater risk of winter death compared with those living in the warmest quarter of homes

Interventions associated with improved outcomes

- Housing & energy efficiency improvements
- Financial help to keep warm
- Advice on energy and keeping warm

COVID-19

A transformed landscape.....



- Reassess meaning of “home”
- Positive or negative impacts, dependent on the type & quality of housing and access to space
 - Affordability
 - Overcrowding
 - Ability to self-isolate
- HIA on housing security
- HIA on home and agile working

Thinking broadly about investment in wellbeing in the context of COVID-19.....

- Basic income
- Covid and mental wellbeing
- Addressing other challenges e.g. Brexit, climate change

Discussion and reflections