



**Amicus  
working with Labour  
Building a better Wales**

**100 Welsh  
Labour Gains**

*Together we're Stronger*

**[www.amicustheunion.org](http://www.amicustheunion.org)**



## Foreword



The Labour Welsh Assembly has made a real difference to the people of Wales. All prescriptions are free of charge, schoolchildren receive free breakfasts and for the first time students in further education receive maintenance grants. These are just a few of the policies that have made Wales a stronger, fairer society.

With Labour everyone has the right to join a trade union, the right to a minimum wage and the right to paid holidays. Maternity pay and family friendly laws have vastly improved and for the first time dads now have a right to paid paternity leave.

Amicus is proud of its strong links with Welsh Labour. The Labour Party was created over 100 years ago to promote the values of trade union members. 100 years on and we recognise the importance of the strong relationship we have in Wales.

The only alternative to Labour in Wales is a Tory led coalition and it would be disastrous for Wales to turn the clock back to the years of Thatcher and Major misrule.

Labour can and should do more and Amicus will be pressing for this, however it is important to recognise what has been achieved by Labour in Wales and that only together will we be able to do more.



Derek Simpson

## More Jobs and a Stronger Economy

1. Before the Assembly, unemployment was 30% higher than in the UK as a whole - now it's nearly 5% lower.
2. Unemployment has fallen from 7.7% to 5.2%
3. There are 130,000 more people in work than at the time of devolution.
4. More than 100,000 people have been helped into work through the New Deal, including more than 40,000 young people.
5. Secured European Union aid for West Wales, the Valleys and most of North Wales. More than £3 billion has been invested in more than 1,700 projects.
6. As a result employment is up 40,000 in West Wales and the Valleys.
7. Negotiated a further round of £3 billion of European Investment for West Wales, the Valleys and most of North Wales.
8. Economic inactivity rates have fallen faster in Wales than across the UK as a whole.
9. The number of people on incapacity benefit has fallen by 15,000 since 1999.
10. Average Welsh earnings are up 23 per cent since 2001 – compared to a 21 per cent increase for the whole of the UK.
11. More than £700m of support to businesses since 1999 through Regional Selective Assistance and the Assembly Investment Grant, helping to lever in more than £3 billion in private investment.
12. Welsh exports are up by 44 per cent since 1999, compared to 41 per cent for the UK.

13. Launched the Knowledge Bank for Business providing tailored and focused support for 80 high growth companies.
14. Set up Finance Wales which has made more than 1,000 investments in businesses
15. With just 5% of the UK population, Wales accounts for nearly 15% of the UK's number of graduate business start-ups.
16. Set up the Knowledge Exploitation Fund.
17. Welsh Labour secured the Defence Training Academy at St. Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, creating 5,000 jobs.
18. Launched Mon a Menai programme to boost prosperity and jobs in North West Wales.
19. Delivered a £25million regeneration plan in Cardigan, South Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire following the Dewhirst factory closures.
20. Started the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road, with Dowlais to Tredegar completed and Abergavenny to Gilwern under construction
21. The first ever Wales and Borders rail franchise, leading to the first ever frequent and direct north-south Wales rail service.
22. Re-opening the Ebbw Valley rail line providing hourly passenger services between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff.
23. The Vale of Glamorgan rail line re-opened to improve links to Cardiff Airport.
24. A £50 million investment in the capacity and rolling stock of the Valley lines.
25. Concessionary travel on the Conwy Valley Rail line and the Heart of the Wales Line for pensioners and the disabled.

26. Free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled benefiting more than half a million people in Wales.
27. A pilot scheme for free bus passes for half price travel for young people in Bridgend, Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire.
28. More than 330 20mph speed limit zones have been created outside schools reducing accidents by more than 86%.
29. £22 million has been invested in Safe Routes to Schools, creating more than 100 safe routes to schools schemes.

## A Healthier Wales

30. Welsh Labour has delivered record increases in health expenditure – it has doubled since Labour came to power.
31. Investment in new buildings and equipment is being trebled.
32. Seven new hospitals have either been built or are on the way.
33. 8,000 more nurses working for the Welsh NHS.
34. 500 more consultants working for the Welsh NHS
35. The annual medical student intake has doubled since 1999.
36. Nearly 1,000 senior doctors in training for consultant posts.
37. 1,000 more nurse training places in Wales since 1999.
38. Opened a North Wales Clinical School to train more doctors and nurses.
39. Labour has allocated £2m of core funding to support the work of voluntary hospices
40. From April 2007 smoking in public places will be banned.

41. All prescriptions will be free of charge from April 2007
42. Waiting times are down. No one waits more than 12 months for hospital treatment.
43. The majority of patients in Wales are now waiting less than 3 months for treatment;
44. 8 out of 10 inpatients and 9 out of 10 outpatients, wait less than six months.
45. More than 21,500 patients have been treated through the second offer scheme.
46. In 93% of practices, patients can see a doctor or nurse within 24 hours.
47. 112 more dentists in Wales than in 1999.
48. In the last 2 years, 12 new dental practices have opened and 50 practices have expanded.
49. Free dental examinations for people in Wales under 25 or over 60.
50. Hospital acquired bugs such as MRSA are falling and Welsh hospitals have a better record than other hospitals in the UK.
51. Established a Children's Commissioner for Wales and a Commissioner for Older People.
52. Extra support for respite services to give carers a break.
53. Introduced free nursing care in nursing homes.
54. Extra investment of £76 million to reduce charges and improve home care services for older and disabled people.
55. £600,000 extra to reduce the waiting time for those who need motorised wheelchairs.

56. Capital funding of £9m to support around 10,000 people with Telecare in their own homes, along with £12.5 million to improve community equipment.

## A Smarter Wales

57. Introduced the Foundation Phase for 3 to 7 year olds, which emphasises learning through play.
58. 23,000 more childcare places in Wales since 1999.
59. Free part-time early years provision for all three year olds.
60. Free part-time childcare for two year olds in our poorest communities. Nearly 16,000 children to benefit from the Flying Start initiative of free, part-time high quality childcare for 2 year olds.
61. 45 Integrated Children's Centres either opened or on the way.
62. 1,700 more teachers than in 1998.
63. 5,700 more classroom assistants than in 1998.
64. Class sizes are down. Virtually all infant and junior classes are now 30 or under.
65. Increased funding for schools now means that the average class size is 25.
66. In the last 3 years more than £630 million has been invested in 1,400 school buildings.
67. Free breakfasts for primary school children – with over 500 schemes up and running.
68. The Welsh Baccalaureate provides a new, broader qualification for 16 year olds.

69. The Educational Maintenance Allowance helping 25,000 young people stay on at school after the age of 16.
70. The School Uniform Grant is providing £750,000 to help low income families.
71. Extending the number of school nurses across Wales.
72. Seven more Welsh medium primary schools than just two years ago.
73. A 23% increase in the number of pupils achieving expected grades in the basic subjects in primary schools.
74. A 20% increase in the number of pupils gaining 5 higher grades at GCSE.
75. 52% of all pupils achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C – up 4% on 1999.
76. Over 75% of schools are rated as having good or very good quality of teaching.
77. Since 2002, modern apprenticeships in Wales have increased by 4,000 – taking the total to 14,500.
78. Launched the Wales Union Learning Fund to boost workplace learning. Since 1999, £4 million has been invested in 97 projects.
79. No top-up fees for Welsh students studying in Wales.
80. Introduced Assembly Learning Grant benefiting students in both further and higher education.
81. Investment and support to make Merthyr Tydfil and Ebbw Vale university towns.

## Stronger and Safer Communities

82. The Assembly's New Small Business Rate Relief scheme will help 49,000 businesses across Wales, with enhanced relief for small Post Offices from April 2007.
83. Established a Post Office Development Fund. £4m has been awarded to 106 post offices in deprived and rural areas.
84. The £125 million Communities First programme is helping regenerate the poorest 130 communities in Wales.
85. With Labour, Wales has the lowest council tax levels in the UK.
86. The chances of being a victim of a crime are at their lowest since 1981.
87. 1,000 more police officers in Wales.
88. Over 600 more Police Community Support Officers in Wales.
89. New powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, more than 400 ASBOs have been issued.
90. Home Energy Efficiency Scheme has provided central heating, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation for 64,000 elderly, disabled and low income families.
91. Set up the HomeBuy scheme to help first-time buyers get onto the housing ladder.
92. Launched the Rapid Response Adaptations Programme for older people returning home from hospital.
93. Ending the use of bed and breakfast for vulnerable homeless people.
94. Homelessness has fallen by 35% since 2005. Use of temporary accommodation has fallen by 15% and use of B&B accommodation has dropped by 30%.



## A Better Quality of Life

95. An extra £93million funding from Welsh Labour to boost recycling across Wales.
96. A record 43 beaches have the prestigious blue flag status.
97. Increased investment in flood defences to £32m a year.
98. Introduced free entry to museums and galleries in Wales.
99. Introduced free swimming for pensioners in all local council swimming pools.
100. Free swimming in council pools during school holidays for school children.

## To build a better Wales Labour has pledged

- More high quality modern apprenticeships for young people in Wales.
- Organise specialist Skills Academies which allow people in employment to upgrade their skills.
- Provide new courses that relate directly to employment for young people aged over 14.
- Introduce a £200m Single Flexible Investment Fund for businesses in Wales.
- Provide £100 million for safer roads including safe routes to schools and 20mph zones.
- Ensure that all people who want one can have access to an NHS Dentist.
- Ensure all children have an opportunity to use a swimming pool or leisure facility free of charge on the weekends.
- Free parking at NHS Hospitals for Chemotherapy, Renal Therapy and Dialysis patients.
- A tidy towns initiative; extra funding to keep our villages and towns free of litter and graffiti.

**Together we're Stronger - Vote Labour**

Amicus has over a million members in both public and private sector and is growing. Our recent merger with the T&G to form Unite will make us the largest and most effective union in Britain. As a modern union we are dedicated to serving the needs and best interests of our members who are currently experiencing life in the modern workplace.

Unite will be dedicated to improving members standard of living and quality of lives through effective relationships with employers and government. We represent every industrial, occupational and professional sector of the economy.

Our vision is of a prosperous society in which employers and employees work together to build successful businesses with safe, healthy working environments and where all those who contribute receive the rewards, respect and recognition they deserve.

As a trade union, we protect your rights, health, safety and wellbeing at work. We negotiate on your behalf with employers and work with the Welsh Assembly Government, the UK Government and the European Union to get you a fair deal at work.

Our members receive representation and advice at work and legal protection for cases such as unfair dismissal, insolvency, discrimination and harassment. In addition to the massive financial, legal and industrial back up provided by the union, members are able to take advantage of a range of specially negotiated benefits and services.

To Contact Amicus - Call 0800 587 1222

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