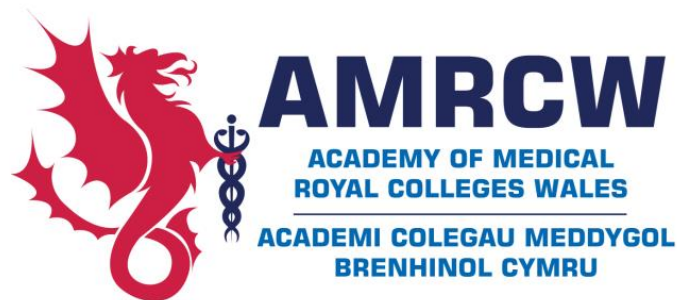




Senedd Election 2026 Manifesto

Ahead of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) election in May 2026, we present our collective recommendations for the next Welsh Government. Ensuring individuals can lead their healthiest lives and access care and treatment when needed should be a top priority.

Support the NHS workforce

The sustainability of the workforce is key to delivering a high-quality timely service. Currently the workforce is stretched and facing mounting pressures. This is impacting training, professional development and ultimately patient care. It is vital that alongside delivering clinical care, the workforce in Wales has time to train the future workforce and undertake critical clinical research, supervisory duties or quality improvement projects. Ensuring the expansion in speciality training places and enhancing medical leadership at every level could greatly improve the sustainability of the workforce, and ultimately patient care.

Recommendation: Value the workforce and take measures to ensure the sustainability of the health service by embracing opportunities for multidisciplinary training and professional development, supporting career progression and delivering a clear vision for workforce expansion and retention.

Invest in prevention

Health inequalities are widening, and the impact is being felt by the most vulnerable. In recent years the term 'firefighting' has been adopted with a focus on reducing the longest waits. However, evidence suggests that at most only 20% of a nation's health and wellbeing is dependent on healthcare services. Simply put, reducing pressures on the NHS through 'firefighting' is not a long-term solution to reducing demands or NHS efficiency. Prevention through early intervention and support, with an emphasis on childhood and supporting marginalised and vulnerable groups, is crucial for mitigating the wider determinants of health and reducing future demands on the NHS.

Recommendation: Safeguard and allocate dedicated funding for preventive measures in future Welsh Government budgets, focusing on addressing the wider determinants of ill health.

Connected care

Our health affects every part of our lives. Yet today, both adults and children can fall through gaps between services, referrals, and waiting lists. During this time, our health may worsen, frustration builds, and the consequences are felt across education, work, and social life. To address this, care must be people-centred, not organisation-centred. This means building stronger connections not only within the healthcare system, but also with education, social care, occupational health, and social justice.

Recommendation: Redesign healthcare systems and improve integration between services to improve patient experiences and outcomes.

Embrace data and digital innovation

Improvements in data and investing in digital innovations can transform health outcomes, empower people to manage their health and increase efficiency. This relies on good implementation and interoperability with new and existing systems. There are pockets of advancement and digital innovation within the NHS, but investment this has been disproportionate to the ambition: and service interconnectivity continues to suffer as a result. Some services and systems still rely on paper records, while others are exploring the best uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI). To ensure a smooth patient journey through services, equity of data, digital innovation and a focus on good implementation needs to be central to all Welsh Government data policy going forward. The benefits of data and digital innovation cannot be realised without involving clinicians and patients in the design, implementation and evaluation of these tools. Ensuring compatibility with IT systems elsewhere in the UK must be part of the focus on good implementation to deliver a truly patient, rather than system, focussed service.

Recommendation: Revolutionise healthcare by advancing digital transformation, prioritising effective implementation, investing in robust IT infrastructure and promoting data transparency.

About us

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) Wales provides an independent medical voice to promote college and faculty standards through influence, collaboration and advice. The Wales Academy is an independent committee accountable to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Board of Trustees. We aim to work collaboratively with the Academy representing Welsh perspectives while responding to the unique needs and systems of Wales. Our joint calls are supported by individual manifestos and priorities as outlined by each Royal College.

Endorsed by

Links to manifestos and relevant websites can be found under the College's endorsement.

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