

## Testing the fix

Universal Basic Income (UBI) pays everyone a fixed sum, regardless of their circumstances. Earlier this year Mark Drakeford announced he would pilot a basic income, potentially involving people leaving care.

In an open letter to the First Minister signatories, including the future generations commissioner, said it needed to cover geographical areas for it to be an effective test.

The letter highlights that the welfare system is "not fit for purpose".

They said specific geographical areas, such as council wards, should be used alongside the proposals for those leaving care.

In that way, they argue, the potential benefits and pitfalls could be assessed.

A Welsh government spokeswoman said it would listen to key stakeholders and was already working with the office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. "We have closely followed the progress of [other pilot projects] around the world with interest and believe there is an opportunity to test a version in Wales," she said. "We understand the excitement and the interest around this policy, however, it is important that we get it right - there is more work to be done in this area but we are interested in developing a version, potentially first involving people leaving care."

The UK government said it has no plans to follow suit.

"It would not incentivise work, target those most in need in society, or work for those who need more support, such as disabled people and those with caring responsibilities," a spokesman said about UBI in May.