



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 9 Gorffennaf 2008
Wednesday, 9 July 2008**

Cynnwys
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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynnddi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad o'r areithiau hynny.

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In the right-hand column, a translation of those speeches has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 12.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 12.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Emergency Care

Q1 Joyce Watson: Will the Minister give a progress report on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to improve emergency care? OAQ(3)0623(HSS)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I refer you to my letter of 6 June to all Assembly Members, which provided an update on progress with the implementation of the delivering emergency care strategy. My statement of 24 June set out my expectations for improvements in emergency ambulance services within the next six months.

Joyce Watson: On Saturday, I was privileged to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the NHS with staff at the Breconshire War Memorial Hospital. Such hospitals have an important part to play in delivering local, unscheduled emergency care to people in rural or isolated communities. The DECS strategy that you mentioned includes a commitment to explore the feasibility of developing links with minor injury units in accident and emergency departments, using video-conferencing technology. Could you tell me what progress has been made so far?

Edwina Hart: There are issues around there being more working together, as you have outlined. On the implementation of DECS, we are waiting for proposals for the better integration of service provision in some of the main areas of Wales. We are well on track, and just this morning I was discussing with officials the proposals that are due to come in, particularly from Cardiff and

Gofal Brys

C1 Joyce Watson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd am fentrau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella gofal brys? OAQ(3)0623(HSS)

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Fe'ch cyfeiraf at fy llythyr dyddiedig 6 Mehefin at bob Aelod Cynulliad, a oedd yn rhoi diweddariad am y cynnydd o ran gweithredu'r strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys. Yr oedd fy natganiad dyddiedig 24 Mehefin yn gosod allan fy nisgwyliadau ar gyfer gwelliannau mewn gwasanaethau ambiwlans brys yn y chwe mis nesaf.

Joyce Watson: Ddydd Sadwrn, cefais y fraint o ddathlu pen-blwydd y GIG yn chwe deg oed, a hynny gyda staff Ysbyty Coffa Rhyfel Sir Frycheiniog. Mae gan ysbytai o'r fath rôl bwysig o ran cyflenwi gofal brys heb ei drefnu, yn lleol, i bobl mewn cymunedau gwledig neu ynysig. Mae'r strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys y soniasoch amdani yn cynnwys ymrwymiad i edrych ar ddichonoldeb datblygu cysylltiadau gydag unedau mân anafiadau mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, drwy ddefnyddio technoleg fideo-gynadledda. A allech ddweud wrthyf pa gynnydd a wnaethpwyd hyd yma?

Edwina Hart: Ceir materion sy'n ymwneud â chael mwy o gydweithio, fel yr ydych wedi'i amlinellu. O ran gweithredu'r strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys, yr ydym yn aros am gynigion ar gyfer gwella'r modd y caiff darpariaeth gwasanaeth ei hintegreiddio yn rhai o brif ardaloedd Cymru. Yr ydym ar ben ffordd, ac y bore yma yr oeddwn yn trafod gyda swyddogion y

Newport, but also from further west. They will deal with some of these issues, and they will indicate the kind of resources that we need to put in to get the strategy working effectively.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): I want to ask the Minister about the air ambulance service. Will she join me in congratulating Aberystwyth Rugby Football Club, which has just raised £28,000 towards the air ambulance service in memory of Aled Evans, a player who died recently? I know that the Minister is very supportive of the air ambulance, and it is hard to imagine Wales without this service now. It has undertaken 9,000 operational services since it was set up on St David's Day 2001, but it has ongoing revenue costs. The Minister has committed, I think, £337,000 to the air ambulance for the current year, but could she outline any plans that she might have to ensure that we continue to benefit from this excellent service?

Edwina Hart: I join the congratulations to Aberystwyth rugby club—it is a marvellous feat to raise that amount of money, and it shows the high esteem in which the air ambulance service is held across Wales, and how generous the public is in giving to that charity.

I hope to write to Members later this week about the future arrangements for the air ambulance service. I have looked at the arrangements for this year, and we now want to have further discussions about a service level agreement, among other things, to give the service certainty about its funding. I hope that that letter will be sent to Members tomorrow or on Thursday, and I thank the leader of the opposition for being on the ball in the context of this question.

Chris Franks: I welcome the news that rapid response vehicles have helped to improve ambulance response times, but I understand that some Welsh paramedics have refused to use these vehicles. As you know, some

cynigion sydd i fod i gael eu cyflwyno inni, yn arbennig y cynigion o Gaerdydd a Chasnewydd, ond hefyd rhai a ddaw o'r gorllewin. Byddant yn ymdrin â rhai o'r materion hyn, a byddant yn dweud pa fathau o adnoddau y mae eu hangen arnom er mwyn gweithredu'r strategaeth yn effeithiol.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Hoffwn holi'r Gweinidog am y gwasanaeth ambiwlans awyr. A wnaiff ymuno â mi i longyfarch Clwb Rygbi Aberystwyth, sydd newydd godi £28,000 ar gyfer y gwasanaeth ambiwlans awyr er cof am Aled Evans, chwaraewr a fu farw'n ddiweddar? Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn gefnogol iawn i'r ambiwlans awyr, ac mae'n anodd dychmygu Cymru heb y gwasanaeth hwn yn awr. Mae wedi cyflawni 9,000 o wasanaethau gweithredol ers ei sefydlu ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi 2001, ond mae ganddo gostau refeniw parhaus. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi ymrwymo £337,000, yr wyf yn meddwl, i'r ambiwlans awyr ar gyfer y flwyddyn hon, ond a allai amlinellu unrhyw gynlluniau sydd ganddi o bosibl i sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i elwa o'r gwasanaeth rhagorol hwn?

Edwina Hart: Ymunaf â chi i longyfarch clwb rygbi Aberystwyth—mae'n gamp anhygoel codi swm fel hwnnw, ac mae'n dangos mor uchel yw parch pobl at y gwasanaeth ambiwlans awyr ym mhob cwr o Gymru, a pha mor hael yw'r cyhoedd wrth roi i'r elusen honno.

Gobeithiaf ysgrifennu at Aelodau yn ddiweddarach yr wythnos hon ynghylch y trefniadau ar gyfer y gwasanaeth ambiwlans awyr yn y dyfodol. Yr wyf wedi edrych ar y trefniadau ar gyfer y flwyddyn hon, ac yr ydym yn awr yn dymuno cael rhagor o drafodaethau am y cytundeb lefel gwasanaeth, ymhlith pethau eraill, i sicrhau'r gwasanaeth hwn am ei gyllid. Gobeithiaf y bydd y llythyr hwnnw'n cael ei anfon at Aelodau yfory neu ddydd Iau, a diolchaf i arweinydd yr wrthblaid am fod o gwmpas ei bethau yng nghyd-destun y cwestiwn hwn.

Chris Franks: Croesawaf y newyddion bod cerbydau ymateb brys wedi helpu i wella amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys, ond deallaf fod rhai o barafeddygon Cymru wedi gwrthod defnyddio'r cerbydau hyn. Fel y

patients, unfortunately, vent their frustration on paramedics because they have had to wait for an ambulance. How is the One Wales Government helping to protect medical staff when faced with such unfortunate circumstances? Can you tell us how many prosecutions have resulted since the new laws offering protection for paramedics were enacted?

Edwina Hart: Obviously, I do not have those statistics to hand, but I will ask my officials whether a note can be sent to Assembly Members on that. Our taskforce on violence and aggression reported earlier this year, and we are now in the process of implementing that report. Recently, ambulance staff have approached me about the fact that they go out on their own. They are concerned about some of the situations that might arise when they are out on their own and the violence that that can attract.

Rapid response vehicles have a useful role and purpose in the service, but we must ensure that that is balanced against some of the staff safety issues. We are looking at this issue as we implement the violence and aggression taskforce's recommendations. I would be more than happy to take this matter up with Stuart Fletcher, chair of the trust, when we meet in the next few weeks.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 2, OAQ(3)0671(HSS), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Strôc

C3 David Lloyd: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i ddarparu cefnogaeth i bobl gydag anabledd cyfathrebu ar ôl dioddef strôc? OAQ(3)0644(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I have published a programme of work for 2008-11, setting out clear actions to improve stroke services, for the national health service and social services to implement. That includes referral to community-based rehabilitation, such as

gwyddoch, bydd y parafeddygon, yn anffodus, yn gorfod goddef rhwystredigaeth rhai cleifion am iddynt orfod aros am ambiwlans. Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn helpu i amddiffyn staff meddygol pan fyddant yn wynebu amgylchiadau mor anffodus? A allwch ddweud wrthym faint o erlyniadau a fu ers i'r cyfreithiau newydd sy'n cynnig amddiffyniad i barafeddygon ddod i rym?

Edwina Hart: Yn amlwg, nid yw'r ystadegau hynny gennyf wrth law, ond gofynnaf i'm swyddogion a ellir anfon nodyn at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ynghylch hynny. Adroddodd ein tasglu trais ac ymddygiad ymosodol yn gynharach eleni, ac yr ydym yn awr wrthi'n rhoi'r adroddiad hwnnw ar waith. Yn ddiweddar, mae staff ambiwlansys wedi sôn wrthyf am y ffaith eu bod yn mynd allan ar eu pen eu hunain. Maent yn bryderus am rai o'r sefyllfaoedd a all godi pan fyddant allan ar eu pen eu hunain ac am yr ymddygiad ymosodol y gall hynny ei ddenu.

Mae gan gerbydau ymateb brys rôl a phwrpas defnyddiol yn y gwasanaeth, ond rhaid inni sicrhau bod hynny'n cael ei gydbwyso yn erbyn rhai o'r problemau sy'n ymwneud â diogelwch staff. Yr ydym yn edrych ar y mater hwn wrth inni wireddu argymhellion y tasglu trais ac ymddygiad ymosodol. Byddwn yn dra pharod i godi'r mater hwn gyda Stuart Fletcher, cadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth, pan fyddwn yn cyfarfod yn yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2, OAQ(3)0671(HSS), has been transferred for written answer.

Stroke

Q3 David Lloyd: What steps is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to provide support for people with a communication disability following a stroke? OAQ(3)0644(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi cyhoeddi rhaglen waith ar gyfer 2008-11, sy'n gosod allan camau clir i wella gwasanaethau strôc, i'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol a'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol eu gweithredu. Mae hynny'n cynnwys cyfeirio at adsefydlu yn y gymuned,

speech and language therapy, and communication support designed to meet the needs of stroke patients.

Before we continue, Presiding Officer, my translation equipment is not working. I would be grateful to Members if they could ask their supplementary questions in English.

The Presiding Officer: We will have that attended to, and we will provide you with new equipment immediately, Minister.

David Lloyd: A professional colleague of mine is in Singleton Hospital as we speak, having suffered a stroke that has left him unable to speak. I have discovered that, in Wales, only 29 per cent of stroke survivors with a communication disability have access to a speech therapist or support service. Bearing that in mind, will you lend your support to the Stroke Association's Lost without Words campaign and instigate an audit of the incidence of stroke-related disability in Wales in order to provide support according to need?

Edwina Hart: I support the Lost without Words campaign. When I attended the stroke conference in Newport in June, I was struck by the statistics that you have outlined.

We are asking for regional action spending plans to come in to the stroke partnerships, to be examined by an expert panel on 24 June, and the issues that you raised are among those that will look at. The informal feedback on these regional plans is disappointing, and we have had to ask for further work to be done so that we can ensure that some of the extra resources are properly in place to help services.

William Graham: Building on what the questioner asked you, Minister, might I, through you, encourage people to become trained communications support volunteers to assist professionals? There are already difficulties when people are impaired through stroke, and it is valid and important that volunteers help. It would only mean a few

megis therapi lleferydd ac iaith, a chefnogaeth cyfathrebu sydd wedi'i chynllunio i ddiwallu anghenion cleifion sydd wedi dioddef strôc.

Cyn inni barhau, Lywydd, nid yw fy offer cyfieithu yn gweithio. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Aelodau ofyn eu cwestiynau atodol yn Saesneg.

Y Llywydd: Cawn drefn ar hynny a darparwn offer newydd ichi ar unwaith, Weinidog.

David Lloyd: Mae un o'm cydweithwyr proffesiynol yn Ysbyty Singleton yr eiliad hon, ar ôl dioddef strôc sy'n golygu nad yw'n gallu siarad. Yr wyf wedi canfod, yng Nghymru, mai dim ond 29 y cant o'r rhai sydd ag anabledd cyfathrebu ar ôl goroesi strôc sydd â mynediad at therapydd lleferydd neu wasanaeth cefnogi. A chofio hynny, a roddwch eich cefnogaeth i ymgyrch y Gymdeithas Strôc, sef Ar Goll Heb Eiriau, a dechrau archwiliad o faint o bobl sydd ag anabledd yn sgil strôc yng Nghymru er mwyn darparu cefnogaeth yn ôl yr angen?

Edwina Hart: Cefnogaf yr ymgyrch Ar Goll Heb Eiriau. Pan euthum i'r gynhadledd strôc yng Nghasnewydd fis Mehefin, fe'm synnwyd gan yr ystadegau a amlinellwyd gennych.

Yr ydym yn gofyn i gynlluniau gweithredu rhanbarthol ar gyfer gwariant ddod i mewn i'r partneriaethau strôc, i'w harchwilio gan banel o arbenigwyr ar 24 Mehefin, ac mae'r materion a godwyd gennych ymhlith y rheini y bydd y panel yn edrych arnynt. Mae'r adborth answyddogol ar y cynlluniau rhanbarthol hyn yn siomedig, ac yr ydym wedi gorfod gofyn am i fwy o waith gael ei wneud er mwyn inni allu sicrhau bod rhai o'r adnoddau ychwanegol ar waith yn briodol i helpu gwasanaethau.

William Graham: Ac ategu'r hyn a ofynnwyd ichi gan yr holwr, Weinidog, a gaf, drwoch chi, annog pobl i gael hyfforddiant ym maes cyfathrebu fel y gallant roi cymorth cyfathrebu gwirfoddol er mwyn cynorthwyo gweithwyr proffesiynol? Ceir eisoes anawsterau pan fydd pobl yn cael nam yn dilyn strôc, ac mae'n ddilys ac yn bwysig bod

hours a week, but it makes an immense difference to stroke sufferers.

Edwina Hart: I concur with your comments, William. If people have the time to volunteer, let us hope that they do so. That was a worthwhile question; let us hope that people who read the Record appreciate what you said.

Kirsty Williams: In my constituency, we are unable to transfer stroke patients out of district general hospitals in your area back to Ystradgynlais Community Hospital, because of the lack of a speech therapist and access to speech therapist services there. It means that patients remain in beds that they no longer require in Swansea's hospitals, and it also means that they are further away from their communities, their friends and their relatives. Powys Local Health Board has submitted a bid for money, which you have made available to improve stroke services, to beef up its community-based rehabilitation services, which will allow patients to come back to our hospitals and receive services in the community. Do you agree that, in a rural setting, it is even more important to have proper, community-based rehabilitation services if we are to give stroke patients a better chance of recovery?

Edwina Hart: The answer to your question is 'yes'.

Janice Gregory: Minister, you visited Maesteg Golf Club with me, not for a social event, but to see the work that the Stroke Association is doing there under the guidance of Karyl Carter and her team. Karyl also runs a dysphasia group on Thursday mornings in Evergreen Hall in Bridgend. When you visited, you will have heard for yourself from the people whom the volunteers work with on a weekly basis how vital that service is to them and to their carers. What support is there for groups like this from local health boards, and will you continue to monitor closely the money that local health boards spend on this service?

gwirfoddolwyr yn helpu. Dim ond ychydig oriau'r wythnos y byddai'n ei olygu, ond mae'n gwneud gwahaniaeth aruthrol i bobl sydd wedi dioddef strôc.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â'ch sylwadau, William. Os oes gan bobl amser i wirfoddoli, gadewch inni obeithio y gwnânt hynny. Yr oedd hwnnw'n gwestiwn gwerth chweil; gadewch inni obeithio y bydd pobl sy'n darllen y Cofnod yn gwerthfawrogi'r hyn a ddywedaso.

Kirsty Williams: Yn fy etholaeth, ni allwn symud cleifion sydd wedi cael strôc o ysbytai dosbarth cyffredinol yn eich ardal yn ôl i Ysbyty Cymunedol Ystradgynlais, oherwydd y prinder therapyddion lleferydd a mynediad at wasanaethau therapydd lleferydd yn y fan honno. Mae'n golygu bod cleifion yn aros mewn gwelyau nad oes eu hangen arnynt mwyach yn ysbytai Abertawe, ac mae hefyd yn golygu eu bod yn bellach oddi wrth eu cymunedau, eu cyfeillion a'u perthnasau. Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Powys wedi cyflwyno cais am arian, arian yr ydych wedi sicrhau ei fod ar gael i wella gwasanaethau strôc, i roi hwb i'w wasanaethau adsefydlu yn y gymuned, a fydd yn caniatáu i gleifion ddychwelyd i'n hysbytai ac i gael gwasanaethau yn y gymuned. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod hyd yn oed yn bwysicach cael gwasanaethau adsefydlu priodol yn y gymuned yng nghefn gwlad os ydym am roi gwell siawns i gleifion strôc wella?

Edwina Hart: Yr ateb i'ch cwestiwn yw 'ydw'.

Janice Gregory: Weinidog, ymwelsoch â Chlwb Golff Maesteg gyda mi, nid ar gyfer achlysur cymdeithasol, ond i weld y gwaith y mae'r Gymdeithas Strôc yn ei wneud yno dan gyfarwyddyd Karyl Carter a'i thîm. Mae Karyl hefyd yn cynnal grŵp dysffasia ar fore Iau yn Neuadd Evergreen ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ar eich ymweliad, byddwch wedi clywed drosoch eich hun gan y bobl y mae'r gwirfoddolwyr yn gweithio gyda hwy o wythnos i wythnos pa mor hanfodol yw'r gwasanaeth hwnnw iddynt hwy ac i'w gofalwyr. Pa gymorth sydd ar gael gan fyrdau iechyd lleol i grwpiau fel y rhain, ac a wnewch barhau i fonitro'n fanwl yr arian y mae byrdau iechyd lleol yn ei wario ar y

gwasanaeth hwn?

12.40 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I have been extremely irritated by the fact that local health boards in some areas have not given the financial support that they should have given to stroke services. We have asked them to come together regionally to look at what services are required. As I indicated in my response to Dai Lloyd, I am disappointed that the plans that have come in are not strategic and do not look at the issues in terms of stroke victims. I understand from my expert group that, therefore, few of the plans were supported by any rationale about what is required in terms of services and future service delivery. There is money out there, and I will ensure that the plans that come in, if they are approved, take into account many of the points that you have raised. Some of the services that are provided by the voluntary sector are first class and absolutely necessary to help stroke victims to be able to get out of the house, to have something to do and to start to reintegrate into the community and have a normal life.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r ffaith nad yw byrddau iechyd lleol mewn rhai ardaloedd wedi rhoi'r cymorth ariannol y dylent fod wedi'i rhoi i wasanaethau strôc wedi fy nghythraddo yn arw. Yr ydym wedi gofyn iddynt ddod at ei gilydd fesul rhanbarth i weld pa wasanaethau y mae'n rhaid eu cael. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Dai Lloyd, yr wyf yn siomedig nad yw'r cynlluniau a gyflwynwyd yn strategol ac nad ydynt yn edrych ar y materion o safbwynt pobl sydd wedi dioddef strôc. Caf ar ddeall gan fy ngrŵp arbenigol mai ychydig o'r cynlluniau, felly, a oedd yn cael eu cefnogi gan unrhyw sail resymegol ynghylch beth sy'n ofynnol o ran gwasanaethau a chyflenwi gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol. Mae arian ar gael, a sicrhaf fod y cynlluniau a gyflwynir, os cânt eu cymeradwyo, yn ystyried llawer o'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennych. Mae rhai o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan y sector gwirfoddol yn wasanaethau o'r radd flaenaf ac yn gwbl hanfodol er mwyn helpu pobl sydd wedi dioddef strôc i allu mynd o'r tŷ, i gael rhywbeth i'w wneud ac i ddechrau bod yn rhan o'r gymuned unwaith eto a chael bywyd arferol.

Spending

Q4 Darren Millar: Will the Minister make a statement on spending within her department? OAQ(3)0620(HSS)

Edwina Hart: My department's budget allocation for the next three years is £5.7 billion for 2008-09, £5.9 billion for 2009-10, and £6.1 billion for 2010-11.

Darren Millar: Thank you for that answer, Minister. The NHS, in common with other parts of the public sector, is facing huge cost pressures due to rising energy prices. What action are you taking to ensure that rising energy costs in the Welsh health service do not result in funds being diverted from critical services, and can you assure us that meeting these rising costs will not have an adverse impact on patient care?

Gwariant

C4 Darren Millar: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wariant yn ei hadran? OAQ(3)0620(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Y dyraniad a roddwyd ar gyfer cyllideb fy adran ar gyfer y tair blynedd nesaf yw £5.7 biliwn ar gyfer 2008-09, £5.9 biliwn ar gyfer 2009-10, a £6.1 biliwn ar gyfer 2010-11

Darren Millar: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Mae'r GIG, ynghyd â rhannau eraill o'r sector cyhoeddus, yn wynebu pwysau enfawr o ran costau yn sgil y cynnydd mewn prisiau ynni. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau nad yw costau cynyddol ynni yng ngwasanaeth iechyd Cymru yn arwain at ailgyfeirio arian o wasanaethau allweddol, ac a allwch ein sicrhau na fydd cwrdd â'r costau cynyddol hyn yn effeithio'n andwyol ar ofal cleifion?

Edwina Hart: We have been good in looking at energy efficiency issues in the national health service, and my ministerial colleague will agree that the NHS has done a tremendous amount of work in that area, and it will have to continue to do that. However, this is an issue that we are monitoring closely in line with the rising fuel costs, because I would not want the balance between keeping hospitals running and warm and the level of service that we have to give to change. It is an ongoing issue for me, and I am seriously concerned about it.

Alun Ffred Jones: A yw'r offer cyfieithu'n gweithio?

Y Llywydd: Ydy.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae trafodaeth yn y gogledd-orllewin ar hyn o bryd ynglŷn â sefydlu uned ddialysis arenau y tu allan i Ysbyty Gwynedd. A ydych yn gefnogol i'r syniad o sefydlu gwasanaethau yn y gymuned, y tu allan i ysbytai sefydledig?

Edwina Hart: I have asked the renal network to look in some detail at how this can work, because we must look at how we can develop renal services that are fit for purpose. This is one of the issues on which it is currently developing proposals for me.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 5, OAQ(3)0651(HSS), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Local Health Boards

Q6 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister make a statement on the use of budgets allocated to local health boards? OAQ(3)0629(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Local health boards, trusts and Health Commission Wales are expected to achieve and deliver my annual priorities for 2008-09, as outlined in the annual operating framework, from within their allocations.

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym wedi gwneud gwaith da o ran edrych ar faterion effeithlonrwydd ynni yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, a bydd fy nghyd-Weinidog yn cytuno bod y GIG wedi gwneud gwaith aruthrol yn y maes hwnnw, ac y bydd yn rhaid iddo barhau i wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae hwn yn fater yr ydym yn ei fonitro'n ofalus ochr yn ochr â'r cynnydd mewn costau tanwydd, oherwydd ni fyddwn am weld newid yn y cydbwysedd rhwng cynnal ysbytai a'u cadw'n gynnes, a lefel y gwasanaeth y mae'n rhaid inni ei roi. Mae hwn yn fater parhaus i mi, ac yr wyf yn wirioneddol bryderus yn ei gylch.

Alun Ffred Jones: Is the translation equipment working?

The Presiding Officer: Yes.

Alun Ffred Jones: There is discussion in the north-west at the moment around establishing a renal dialysis unit outwith Ysbyty Gwynedd. Are you supportive of this idea of establishing services in the community, outside the established hospitals?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'r rhwydwaith arenol edrych yn fanwl ar sut y gall hyn weithio, oherwydd rhaid inni edrych ar sut y gallwn ddatblygu gwasanaethau arenol sy'n addas at y diben. Mae hwn yn un o'r materion y mae'n datblygu cynigion imi ar ei gyfer ar hyn o bryd.

The Presiding Officer: Question 5, OAQ(3)0651(HSS), has been transferred for written answer.

Byrddau Iechyd Lleol

C6 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y defnyddir cyllidebau sydd wedi'u neilltuo i'r byrddau iechyd lleol? OAQ(3)0629(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Disgwylir i fyrddau iechyd lleol, ymddiriedolaethau a Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru gyflawni a chyflenwi fy mlaenoriaethau blynyddol ar gyfer 2008-09, fel y'u hamlinellir yn y fframwaith gweithredu blynyddol, o'r cyllidebau a neilltuwyd iddynt.

Sandy Mewies: I would like to raise my concerns over the £34 million that is alleged to have been underspent by local health boards on their drugs budgets in Wales. That includes a total of more than £1.5 million over two financial years in Flintshire. I understand that there may be perfectly good reasons for this—money is often vired from one heading to another. Are your officials looking into this to see what the money has been used for, if it has not been used for prescription drugs, and whether any different systems or procedures could be introduced that would mean that the money could be better used in the future?

Edwina Hart: This is something that we closely monitor. We encourage LHBs to achieve what they can in terms of the cost-effective use of any money that is allocated in that area. This is one of the issues that we regularly look at—in fact, we undertake monthly checks. If Members want any particular details concerning their LHBs or anything else in their area, I ask them to write to me.

David Melding: You will know that local health boards often commission services from the voluntary sector. I think that you have already had the opportunity of visiting the Bobath Cymru stand in the Neuadd. Bobath Cymru is celebrating its sixteenth anniversary. It has established a world-class centre to give therapy services to children with cerebral palsy. As you have visited the exhibition, will you now take the opportunity to commend it on its work?

Edwina Hart: Yes, I very much commend its work, and I understand some of the difficulties that it is currently going through, including that of dealing with 22 local health boards, and maintaining the balance between what it receives from the statutory sector and what its services for children cost. I have also been lobbied by my constituents about the excellent work that Bobath does. I was interested to hear its thoughts on the future of any new health structures, and I will bear those in mind before I make my comments

Sandy Mewies: Hoffwn fynegi fy mhryderon ynghylch y £34 miliwn yr honnir ei fod wedi'i danwario gan fyrddau iechyd lleol ar eu cyllidebau cyffuriau yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n cynnwys mwy na £1.5 miliwn dros ddwy flwyddyn ariannol yn sir y Fflint. Deallaf ei bod yn bosibl bod rhesymau da dros hyn—bydd arian yn cael ei drosglwyddo o'r naill bennawd i'r llall yn aml. A yw'ch swyddogion yn edrych ar hyn i weld ar gyfer beth y defnyddiwyd yr arian, os nad yw wedi cael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer cyffuriau presgripsiwn, ac a ellid cyflwyno unrhyw systemau neu weithdrefnau gwahanol a fyddai'n golygu y gellid defnyddio'r arian yn well yn y dyfodol?

Edwina Hart: Mae hyn yn rhywbeth y byddwn yn ei fonitro'n ofalus. Byddwn yn annog BILlau i gyflawni'r hyn a allant o ran defnyddio unrhyw arian a ddyrannir yn y maes hwnnw mewn dull cost effeithiol. Mae hwn yn fater y byddwn yn edrych arno'n rheolaidd—yn wir, byddwn yn edrych arno'n fisol. Os hoffai Aelodau gael unrhyw fanylion penodol am eu BILlau neu am unrhyw beth arall yn eu hardal, gofynnaf iddynt ysgrifennu ataf.

David Melding: Byddwch yn gwybod bod byrddau iechyd lleol yn aml yn comisiynu gwasanaethau o'r sector gwirfoddol. Credaf eich bod eisoes wedi cael cyfle i ymweld â stonidin Bobath Cymru yn y Neuadd. Mae elusen Bobath Cymru yn dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn un ar bymtheg. Mae wedi sefydlu canolfan o'r radd flaenaf i roi gwasanaethau therapi i blant gyda pharlys yr ymennydd. Gan eich bod wedi ymweld â'r arddangosfa, a wnewch yn awr fanteisio ar y cyfle i gymeradwyo ei gwaith?

Edwina Hart: Gwnaf, yr wyf yn sicr yn cymeradwyo ei gwaith, a deallaf rai o'r anawsterau y mae'n eu hwynebu ar hyn o bryd, gan gynnwys delio â 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol, a chynnal y cydbwysedd rhwng yr arian y mae'n ei gael gan y sector statudol a faint y mae'i gwasanaethau ar gyfer plant yn ei gostio. Yr wyf hefyd wedi cael fy lobio gan fy etholwyr am y gwaith ardderchog y mae Bobath yn ei wneud. Yr oedd gennyf ddiddordeb mewn clywed ei safbwyntiau am ddyfodol unrhyw strwythurau iechyd

next week on the reorganisation.

newydd, a byddaf yn ystyried y rheini cyn rhoi fy sylwadau ar yr ad-drefnu yr wythnos nesaf.

David Melding: Minister, I thank you for discussing these issues with Bobath and for going to the heart of the problem. You are a most accessible Minister when it comes to hearing what people have to say about the development of the health service. However, you have hit the nail on the head in that the issue is how we commission these services. Therapy services are sometimes difficult to provide in the normal NHS structures, but the intensity of therapy that Bobath provides is a great attraction to parents. They come to see their children develop, and they do really well over a two to four-week period, and then they go away with the skills to give this therapy themselves to their children, as they develop and cope with their condition. In any future commissioning arrangement that succeeds the current 22 local health boards, will you ensure that commissioning all-Wales and regional services such as those provided by Bobath Cymru are at the top of the agenda?

David Melding: Weinidog, diolchaf ichi am drafod y materion hyn gyda Bobath ac am fynd at wraidd y broblem. Chi yw'r Gweinidog mwyaf hygyrch o ran gwranddo ar yr hyn sydd gan bobl i'w ddweud am ddatblygiad y gwasanaeth iechyd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych wedi taro'r hoelen ar ei phen pan ddywedsoch mai'r broblem yw sut yr ydym yn comisiynu'r gwasanaethau hyn. Weithiau mae'n anodd darparu gwasanaethau therapi yn strwythurau arferol y GIG, ond mae dwysedd y therapi y mae Bobath yn ei ddarparu yn atyniadol iawn i rieni. Maent yn dod i weld eu plant yn datblygu, ac maent yn gwneud yn dda iawn dros y cyfnod o bythefnos i bedair wythnos, ac yna maent yn gadael gyda'r sgiliau i roi'r therapi hwn eu hunain i'w plant, wrth iddynt ddatblygu ac ymdopi â'u cyflwr. Mewn unrhyw gytundeb comisiynu yn y dyfodol sy'n dilyn y 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol presennol, a wnewch sicrhau bod comisiynu gwasanaethau rhanbarthol a Chymru gyfan fel y rheini a ddarperir gan Bobath Cymru ar frig yr agenda?

Edwina Hart: I can assure you that the commissioning arrangements and how they are dealt with will be at the top of the agenda after we have made the decisions on the future reorganisation of the health service. As I told Bobath Cymru, the world has moved on a lot with regard to survival rates, and perhaps the NHS has not caught up with it. You cannot do an accountant's cost/benefit analysis of the services provided by the voluntary sector, because only the parents and the carers know what the benefit to the child is. It is also important that we recognise that.

Edwina Hart: Gallaf eich sicrhau y bydd y trefniadau comisiynu a sut yr ymdrinnir â hwy ar frig yr agenda ar ôl inni wneud y penderfyniadau ar ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn y dyfodol. Fel y dywedais wrth Bobath Cymru, mae'r byd wedi symud ymlaen cryn dipyn yng nghyswllt cyfraddau goroesi, ac efallai nad yw'r GIG wedi ymateb yn yr un modd. Ni allwch wneud dadansoddiad cost/budd cyfrifydd o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan y sector gwirfoddol, oherwydd dim ond y rhieni a'r gofalwyr sy'n gwybod pa mor fuddiol yw'r gwasanaeth i'r plentyn. Mae'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn cydnabod hynny.

Gareth Jones: Weinidog, croesewir eich cyhoeddiad parthed y £2 miliwn o gyllid sydd i'w ddyrannu i'r byrddau iechyd lleol yn 2008-09 ac a neilltuwyd ar gyfer adferiad cardiaidd. Fodd bynnag, a ydych mewn sefyllfa i wneud datganiad am sut y caiff yr £1.3 miliwn ychwanegol sy'n rhan o'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau mewn iechyd ei

Gareth Jones: Minister, your announcement regarding the £2 million investment to be distributed to local health boards in 2008-09, which is earmarked for cardiac rehabilitation, is to be welcomed. However, are you in a situation to make a statement on how the additional £1.3 million, which is part of the inequalities in health fund, is to be

ddyranu? O gofio ei fod bellach yn fis Gorffennaf, pryd gaiff yr arian ei ddyranu? Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi y bydd her yn wynebu'r timoedd sy'n gyfrifol am adferiad cardiaidd o ran defnyddio'r arian hwn i wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i ofal cleifion.

Edwina Hart: Thank you very much. The programmes that we are running are very successful. I know that people are eagerly looking at the finances for the future, and I will try to ensure that any decision on this issue is made as soon as possible.

Jenny Randerson: Minister, I want to return to the drugs budget. The pattern is consistent: last year, 12 local health boards underspent on their prescribing budget; the year before, it was 15 local health boards, and the same boards cropped up in both years. For example, Swansea has a 12 per cent underspend. You say that you are monitoring the situation. If so, what does that monitoring reveal to you? Can you work out whether those local health boards are spending their drugs budget on other things because they face pressures that are forcing them to make difficult decisions? Have you also looked at those LHBs that consistently overspend, such as Powys? It could be that the whole allocation for the drugs budget is incorrect.

Edwina Hart: I have some sympathy for the point that you make that perhaps the overall allocation is not correct, and I am looking at that. Some LHBs have spent less because they have administered their drugs budget quite well, and we must acknowledge that. However, it is interesting that it is the same LHBs that emerge with those spending patterns, and it is one issue that officials are looking at for me.

12.50 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: I am pleased to hear that you are looking at that in detail. Will you also be monitoring the number of prescriptions issued per year and the average

distributed? Given that it is already July, when will that funding be distributed? I appreciate that there will be a challenge facing those teams that are responsible for cardiac rehabilitation in relation to spending this money in such a way as to make a genuine difference to patient care.

Edwina Hart: Diolch yn fawr iawn. Mae'r rhaglenni yr ydym yn eu rhoi ar waith yn llwyddiannus iawn. Gwn fod pobl yn edrych ar yr arian ar gyfer y dyfodol yn frwd, a cheisiaf sicrhau y gwneir unrhyw benderfyniad ar hyn cyn gynted â phosibl.

Jenny Randerson: Weinidog, hoffwn ddychwelyd at y gyllideb gyffuriau. Mae'r patrwm yn gyson: y llynedd, tanwariodd 12 o fyrddau iechyd lleol eu cyllideb bresgripsiynau; y flwyddyn cyn hynny, yr oedd yr un fath yn wir am 15 o fyrddau iechyd lleol, ac yr un byrddau a ddaeth i'r wyneb yn ystod y ddwy flynedd. Er enghraifft, mae gan Abertawe danwariant o 12 y cant. Yr ydych yn dweud eich bod yn monitro'r sefyllfa. Os felly, beth mae'r monitro hwnnw'n ei ddangos ichi? A allwch benderfynu a yw'r byrddau iechyd lleol hyn yn gwario eu cyllideb gyffuriau ar bethau eraill gan eu bod dan bwysau sy'n eu gorfodi i wneud penderfyniadau anodd? A ydych hefyd wedi ystyried y BILlau hynny sy'n gorwario'n gyson, megis Powys? Mae'n bosibl bod yr holl ddyraniad ar gyfer y gyllideb gyffuriau yn anghywir.

Edwina Hart: Mae gennyf rywffaint o gydymdeimlad gyda'r pwynt a wnewch drwy ddweud nad yw'r dyraniad cyffredinol yn gywir efallai, ac yr wyf yn ystyried hynny. Mae rhai BILlau wedi gwario llai oherwydd eu bod wedi gweinyddu eu cyllideb gyffuriau'n eithaf llwyddiannus, ac mae'n rhaid inni gydnabod hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ddiddorol mai'r un BILlau sy'n dod i'r amlwg gyda'r patrymau gwario hynny, ac mae'n broblem y mae fy swyddogion yn edrych arni ar fy rhan.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich bod yn edrych ar hynny'n fanwl. A fyddwch hefyd yn monitro nifer y presgripsiynau a gyhoeddir bob blwyddyn a

cost of drugs prescribed? Previous history has shown that, in Wales, on average, we are issued more prescriptions per head but the average cost of the items is lower. That suggests that we are being given the older drugs, which are possibly less effective. I acknowledge that that is not always the case, and we have to be very cautious about money spent on prescriptions. However, Minister, you need to find out much more, not least about the rest of the drugs budget, which the prescriptions budget does not apply to because it applies to GPs. The monitoring in secondary and tertiary services is equally important. Will you undertake a wholesale review of how we prescribe in Wales?

Edwina Hart: I do not necessarily accept what you say in the broader sense, Jenny, but I am certainly happy to consider the points that you have raised to consider how they apply to prescriptions budget issues.

Social Services for Children

Q7 Angela Burns: What steps is the Minister taking to improve the provision of social services for children across Wales? OAQ(3)0668(HSS)

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): I am taking steps to raise the quality of the children's social care workforce and practice through legislation and guidance. I will shortly consult on a strategy for vulnerable children, using clauses in the Children and Young Persons Bill and the increased powers that I am pursuing through a legislative competence Order on vulnerable children.

Angela Burns: Given the current economic climate and the tight settlement that we had, I am concerned that you will be unable to secure significant additional resources to back up your recent policy developments on disabled children and young persons. I understand that Disabled Children Matter Wales has submitted a number of proposals

chost gyfartalog y cyffuriau a ragnodir? Dengys hanes blaenorol ein bod, ar gyfartaledd yng Nghymru, yn cael mwy o bresgripsiynau y pen ond bod cost gyfartalog yr eitemau'n is. Mae hynny'n awgrymu ein bod yn cael y cyffuriau hŷn, a all fod yn llai effeithiol o bosibl. Yr wyf yn cydnabod nad yw hyn yn wir bob amser, a'i bod yn rhaid inni fod yn ofalus iawn o ran yr arian a gaiff ei wario ar bresgripsiynau. Fodd bynnag, Weinidog, mae angen ichi gael gwybod mwy, nid yn unig am weddill y gyllideb gyffuriau, lle nad yw'r gyllideb bresgripsiynau'n berthnasol iddi oherwydd ei bod yn berthnasol i feddygon teulu. Mae'r broses o fonitro mewn gwasanaethau eilaidd a thrydyddol cyn bwysiced â hyn. A wnewch gyflawni adolygiad cynhwysfawr ar sut yr ydym yn rhagnodi yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf o reidrwydd yn derbyn yr hyn a ddywedech yn yr ystyr ehangach, Jenny, ond yr wyf yn sicr yn fwy na pharod i ystyried y pwyntiau yr ydych wedi'u codi er mwyn ystyried sut y maent yn berthnasol i broblemau'r gyllideb bresgripsiynau.

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant

C7 Angela Burns: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i wella darpariaeth gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i blant ledled Cymru? OAQ(3)0668(HSS)

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Yr wyf yn cymryd camau i wella ansawdd gweithlu ac arfer gofal cymdeithasol i blant drwy ddeddfu ac arweiniad. Byddaf yn ymgynghori ar strategaeth ar gyfer plant sy'n agored i niwed maes o law, gan ddefnyddio cymalau o'r Ddeddf Plant a Phobl Ifanc a'r cynnydd mewn pwerau yr wyf yn eu ceisio drwy Orchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar blant agored i niwed.

Angela Burns: Ac ystyried yr hinsawdd economaidd bresennol a'r setliad tynn yr ydym wedi'i gael, yr wyf yn bryderus na fyddwch yn gallu sicrhau digon o adnoddau ychwanegol i ategu eich datblygiadau polisi diweddar ar blant a phobl ifanc anabl. Caf ar ddeall fod Plant Anabl yn Cyfri Cymru wedi cyflwyno nifer o gynigion ichi'n ddiweddar,

to you recently, and I am anxious to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government responds positively to those. Can you share with us your thoughts on those proposals and on your way forward for disabled children?

Gwenda Thomas: I understand that there will be a meeting later today to discuss disabled children, and I have had representations about disabled children and the various disabilities that children can encounter. On resources, I am committed to reviewing the costs of social services in the next decade. I will shortly consult on the specifications for that. I know that I have already said that a few times in the Chamber, but we are moving towards commencing that consultation on the specifications.

On budgetary measures, we all know that we have a tight settlement at the moment, but I am working closely with the Minister to discuss the needs of social services and to prioritise those needs as best we can.

Helen Mary Jones: Un peth mae'r Llywodraeth am ei wneud, wedi pasio Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol plant bregus, yw ymestyn terfyn oedran y plant mewn gofal mae llywodraeth leol yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Deallaf mai 21 oed yw ar hyn o bryd, ond caiff ei ymestyn i fod yn 25 oed. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o'r croeso a gafodd y cynnig hwn gan fudiadau sy'n cynrychioli pobl ifanc a phlant mewn gofal. A oes gennych unrhyw amcan pryd y bydd yn bosibl symud yr agenda gyfreithiol honno yn ei blaen?

Gwenda Thomas: Gobeithiaf ddod â chynnig gerbron y Cynulliad yn fuan—yr wythnos nesaf, o bosibl. Mae'r Gorchymyn wedi cael hwyl yn San Steffan yr wythnos hon, ac felly byddwn yn ei drafod yn fuan.

On extending the age limit for children in care to 25, credaf fod hwnnw'n bositif, a bydd y pŵer ar gael i ni unwaith y caiff y Mesur y Cydsyniad Brenhinol.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 8, OAQ(3)0652(HSS), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

ac yr wyf yn awyddus i sicrhau y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r rheini. A allwch rannu eich barn gyda ni am y cynigion hynny ac am eich ffordd ymlaen i blant anabl?

Gwenda Thomas: Caf ar ddeall y bydd cyfarfod yn nes ymlaen heddiw i drafod plant anabl, ac yr wyf wedi cael sylwadau am blant anabl a'r amrywiol anabledau y gall plant eu hwynebu. O ran adnoddau, yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i adolygu costau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn ystod y degawd nesaf. Byddaf yn ymgynghori ar y manylion hynny maes o law. Gwn fy mod eisoes wedi dweud hyn droeon yn y Siambr, ond yr ydym yn symud at ddechrau ar yr ymgynghoriad hwnnw ynghylch y manylebau.

O ran mesurau'r gyllideb, gwyddom oll fod gennym setliad tynn ar hyn o bryd, ond yr wyf yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Gweinidog i drafod anghenion gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ac i flaenoriaethu'r anghenion hynny gorau y gallwn.

Helen Mary Jones: One thing that the Government will do having passed the vulnerable children legislative competence Order is extend the age limit for children in care for whom local government is responsible. I understand that the limit is 21 years of age at the moment, but that it will be extended to 25. You are aware of the welcome given to this proposal by organisations representing children and young people in care. Do you have any idea when it will be possible to move that legal agenda forward?

Gwenda Thomas: I hope to bring a motion before the Assembly before long—next week, possibly. Things have gone well for the Order in Westminster this week, so we will discuss it before long.

On extending the age limit for children in care to 25, I believe that that is positive, and the power will be available to us once the Bill gains Royal Assent.

The Presiding Officer: Question 8, OAQ(3)0652(HSS), is transferred for written answer.

Specialist Wheelchair Assessors

Q9 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of specialist wheelchair assessors in Wales? OAQ(3)0660(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I am committed to ensuring that we develop a first-class service for wheelchair users in Wales. I have asked my officials to establish a task and finish group to develop a strategy for wheelchair services in Wales, and I expect that work to be complete by January 2009.

Kirsty Williams: In Powys, the waiting list for a wheelchair assessment is between six and nine months. I am sure that you agree that that is not acceptable for people young and old who are waiting for appropriate wheelchairs. Will you ensure that your task and finish group looks at setting targets on what constitutes a reasonable time for people to wait for an assessment?

Edwina Hart: You can be assured that it will look at that, because the group will be chaired by Bob Hudson, who is the director of strategy and planning. It will involve officials from health and social care, commissioners, providers, and service users, and will get at the key points. I find that length of time unacceptable, and I am also particularly concerned that young people who use wheelchairs have the most modern and up-to-date wheelchairs that are appropriate for them within the shortest timescales. Those are among the issues that the group will look at, as well as how we commission these services in the future, and how we get this in line with lower waiting times.

Darren Millar: Thank you for that answer, Minister. I was going to raise the particular issue of paediatric assessments. I know of cases of individuals being assessed for a piece of equipment, but who have been kept waiting so long for it to be adjusted that it is no longer suitable for their needs by the time it arrives. In addition, what are you doing to ensure that there is equality of access to

Aseswyr Cadeiriau Olwyn Arbenigol

C9 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am argaeledd aseswyr cadeiriau olwyn arbenigol yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0660(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi fy ymrwymo i sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu gwasanaeth o'r radd flaenaf ar gyfer pobl mewn cadair olwyn yng Nghymru. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen er mwyn datblygu strategaeth ar gyfer gwasanaethau cadeiriau olwyn yng Nghymru, a disgwyliaf y bydd y gwaith hwnnw wedi'i gwblhau erbyn mis Ionawr 2009.

Kirsty Williams: Ym Mhowys, mae'r rhestr aros ar gyfer asesiad cadair olwyn rhwng chwe a naw mis. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cytuno nad yw hyn yn dderbyniol i bobl ifanc na hen bobl sy'n aros am gadeiriau olwyn addas. A wnewch sicrhau bod eich grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen yn ystyried pennu targedau ar yr hyn sy'n amser rhesymol i bobl aros am asesiad?

Edwina Hart: Gallaf eich sicrhau y bydd yn edrych ar hynny, oherwydd Bob Hudson yw cadeirydd y grŵp, sef cyfarwyddwr strategaeth a chynllunio. Bydd yn cynnwys swyddogion o wasanaethau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, comisiynwyr, darparwyr, a defnyddwyr gwasanaeth, a bydd yn ystyried y pwyntiau allweddol. Gwelaf nad yw'r cyfnod hwnnw'n dderbyniol, ac yr wyf hefyd yn arbennig o awyddus bod pobl ifanc sy'n defnyddio cadeiriau olwyn yn cael y cadeiriau olwyn mwyaf modern a diweddaraf sy'n briodol iddynt o fewn cyfnodau byr. Mae'r rhain ymysg y materion y bydd y grŵp yn eu hystyried, yn ogystal â sut yr ydym yn comisiynu'r gwasanaethau hyn yn y dyfodol, a sut y gallwn gyflawni hyn yn unol ag amseroedd aros byrrach.

Darren Millar: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Yr oeddwn am godi'r mater penodol o asesiadau pediatrig. Gwn am achosion unigolion yn cael eu hasesu am gyfarpar, ond eu bod wedi gorfod aros mor hir iddo gael ei addasu fel nad yw bellach yn addas ar gyfer eu hanghenion erbyn iddo gyrraedd. Hefyd, beth ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod cydraddoldeb o ran mynediad i

assessment services across the area of the newly formed NHS trust in north Wales?

wasanaethau asesu ledled ardal ymddiriedolaeth newydd y GIG yng ngogledd Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Equality of access to all services is the key, which this working group will have to look at. There have been significant delays in delivering assessments and funding problems in meeting the demand for specialist services; we have to get that balance right. Therefore, I think that we can be assured that the group, which includes the former Disability Rights Commissioner for Wales, Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick, will identify some of the key issues about the development of the service, to ensure that it is delivered equitably across Wales.

Edwina Hart: Mae cydraddoldeb o ran mynediad i bob gwasanaeth yn hanfodol, a bydd y gweithgor hwn yn ystyried hyn. Mae oedi sylweddol wedi bod o ran cyflawni asesiadau yn ogystal â phroblemau ariannol o ran bodloni'r galw am wasanaethau arbenigol; mae'n rhaid inni gael y cydbwysedd hwnnw'n iawn. Felly, credaf y gallwn sicrhau y bydd y grŵp, sy'n cynnwys cyn Gomisiynydd Hawliau Anabledd Cymru, Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick, yn nodi rhai o'r materion allweddol am y broses o ddatblygu'r gwasanaeth, er mwyn sicrhau y caiff ei gyflwyno'n deg ledled Cymru.

Deep Brain Stimulation

Ysgogi Dwfn yr Ymennydd

Q10 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government policy on deep brain stimulation? OAQ(3)0658(HSS)

C10 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar ysgogi yn nwfn yr ymennydd? OAQ(3)0658(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to my letter to all Assembly Members, dated 2 June.

Edwina Hart: Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at y llythyr a anfonais at bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad, dyddiedig 2 Mehefin.

Mark Isherwood: That announcement was well received. It announced the reinstatement of DBS services for patients in Wales and funding of £400,000 for 2008-09. Unfortunately, it came too late for my Flintshire-based constituent, who is now moving 8 miles across the border to get the urgent treatment that, even now, his consultant has said will not be available until spring 2009 at the earliest. What assurances can you provide that funding will be continued in 2009-10 and beyond that, to support future demand as identified by bodies such as the Parkinson's Disease Society?

Mark Isherwood: Cafodd y cyhoeddiad hwnnw dderbyniad gwresog. Cyhoeddodd y bwriad o ailsefydlu gwasanaethau ysgogi yn nwfn yn yr ymennydd ar gyfer cleifion yng Nghymru a chyllid o £400,000 ar gyfer 2008-09. Yn anffodus, yr oedd hyn yn rhy hwyr i'm hetholwr yn sir y Fflint, sydd bellach yn symud 8 milltir dros y ffin i gael y driniaeth frys y mae ei ymgynghorydd eisoes wedi dweud wrtho na fydd ar gael tan wanwyn 2009 o leiaf. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi y bydd y cyllid yn parhau yn 2009-10 a thu hwnt, er mwyn cefnogi'r galw yn y dyfodol fel y nodir gan gyrff megis y Gymdeithas Clefyd Parkinson?

Edwina Hart: As you are probably aware, I have requested that the cost of DBS services in future years be revisited in the summer to take account of a medical trial evaluation and emerging demand. I will then report back to the Assembly.

Edwina Hart: Fel yr ydych yn ymwybodol fwy na thebyg, yr wyf wedi gofyn i gostau gwasanaethau ysgogi yn nwfn yr ymennydd yn y dyfodol gael eu hailystyried dros yr haf er mwyn ystyried gwerthusiad treial meddygol a'r galw sy'n deillio o hwnnw. Ar ôl hynny, byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad.

Janet Ryder: May I take you back to the statement that you made to Plenary on this? In that, you said that treatment would be provided through the Walton centre and Bristol. That alarmed some of my constituents who receive their treatment in Birmingham. Can you confirm, Minister, that the statement is not related to where patients receive treatment now, and that the fact that they live in Wales means that the treatment will be made available and they will be considered regardless of where they are receiving treatment and wherever that treatment is eventually offered?

Edwina Hart: Yes, of course, as long as they fulfil the criteria.

Malnutrition

Q11 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on tackling malnutrition among older people? OAQ(3)0639(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: Malnutrition among older people falls within the remit of the dignity in care co-ordinating group, and is a consideration in the developing public health strategic framework. The action plan, resulting from the 2007 Welsh food debate, will contain specific actions extending current work on malnutrition in hospitals into community settings.

Eleanor Burnham: I am sure that you are well aware of the concerns of the Royal College of Nursing about this grave issue. I believe that it has estimated the cost to the NHS to be around £7 billion a year, which I presume is a UK-wide figure. It says that six out of 10 people are put at risk of becoming malnourished and apparently 40 per cent of older people are malnourished when they enter hospital. What can you do about ensuring that nurses provide basic tender loving care, as I would call it? For example, food trays are placed at the end of beds where people, because of their illness and frailty, are unable to reach them. There was a discussion on Radio Cymru a couple of days ago about this grave concern. It is such a basic need of elderly people requiring

Janet Ryder: A gaf eich atgoffa am y datganiad a wnaethoch gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn ynglŷn â hyn? Bryd hynny, dywedasoich y byddai triniaeth yn cael ei darparu drwy ganolfan Walton a Bryste. Cododd hynny ofn ymysg rhai o'm hetholwyr sy'n cael eu triniaeth yn Birmingham. A allwch gadarnhau, Weinidog, nad yw'r datganiad yn gysylltiedig â ble mae cleifion yn cael triniaeth ar hyn o bryd, a bod y ffaith eu bod yn byw yng Nghymru yn golygu y bydd y driniaeth ar gael ac y cânt eu hystyried ble bynnag y maent yn cael triniaeth a ble bynnag y cynigir y driniaeth yn y pen draw?

Edwina Hart: Gallaf, wrth gwrs, cyhyd â'u bod yn bodloni'r meini prawf.

Diffyg Maeth

C11 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fynd i'r afael â diffyg maeth ymysg pobl hŷn? OAQ(3)0639(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: Mae diffyg maeth ymysg pobl hŷn yn rhan o gylch gwaith y grŵp cydgysylltu urddas mewn gofal, a chaiff ei ystyried yn y fframwaith strategol ar gyfer iechyd y cyhoedd sy'n cael ei ddatblygu. Bydd y cynllun gweithredu sy'n deillio o'r drafodaeth am fwyd Cymru yn 2007 yn cynnwys camau gweithredu penodol er mwyn ymestyn y gwaith presennol ar ddiffyg maeth mewn ysbytai i leoliadau cymunedol.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwbl ymwybodol o bryderon Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys ynghylch y mater difrifol hwn. Credaf ei fod wedi amcangyfrif y bydd hyn yn costio tua £7 biliwn y flwyddyn i'r GIG, a thybiaf fod hyn yn ffigur ar gyfer y DU gyfan. Dywed fod chwech unigolyn o bob 10 mewn perygl o ddiodeff o ddiffyg maeth ac mae'n debyg bod 40 y cant o bobl hŷn yn diodeff diffyg maeth pan fyddant yn cyrraedd yr ysbyty. Beth allwch ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod nyrsys yn darparu gofal cariadus sylfaenol, fel y byddwn yn ei ddisgrifio? Er enghraifft, caiff hambyrddau bwyd eu gosod ar ben pellaf y gwelyau lle nad yw pobl, o ganlyniad i'w salwch a'u llesgedd, yn gallu eu cyrraedd. Cafwyd trafodaeth ar Radio Cymru ddau ddiwrnod yn

nursing, so how can you assure us that something concrete is being done about it throughout Wales?

ôl ar y pryder difrifol hwn. Mae'n angen mor sylfaenol i'r henoed y mae angen gofal arnynt, felly sut y gallwch ein sicrhau bod rhywbeth diriaethol yn cael ei wneud ynghylch hyn ledled Cymru?

1.00 p.m.

Gwenda Thomas: I share your concerns. We need to move forwards with this. We have a food in hospital task and finish group, and the malnutrition campaign sub-group of that is developing and implementing a national nutrition campaign that promotes the message. It is important for all of us that the provision of food and water is given the same importance as the provision of medication, and we need to extend that into the community setting. The British Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition conducted a survey in 2007 that identified that malnutrition in adults on admission to hospital and care homes affects almost one in three patients, which is a sobering fact. We are working on this issue, and, as I say, we also need to extend it from the hospital or residential care setting into the community.

Gwenda Thomas: Rhannaf eich pryderon. Mae angen inni fwrw ymlaen â hyn. Mae gennym grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar fwyd mewn ysbytai, ac mae is-grŵp yr ymgyrch diffyg maeth yn datblygu ac yn gweithredu ymgyrch genedlaethol ar faeth sy'n hyrwyddo'r neges. Mae'n bwysig i bob un ohonom bod darpariaeth bwyd a dŵr yn cael yr un pwys â darpariaeth meddyginiaeth, ac mae angen inni ehangu hynny i'r gymuned. Cynhaliodd Cymdeithas Brydeinig Maeth drwy'r Gwythiennau a'r Ymysgaroedd arolwg yn 2007 a chafwyd bod bron un oedolyn o bob tri a gafodd eu derbyn i ysbytai a chartrefi gofal yn dioddef diffyg maeth, sy'n ffaith ddigalon. Yr ydym yn gweithio ar y mater hwn, ac, fel y dywedaf, mae angen inni hefyd ei ehangu o'r ysbyty neu leoliad gofal preswyl i'r gymuned.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 12, OAQ(3)0634(HSS), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 12, OAQ(3)0634(HSS), has been transferred for written answer.

Supporting Carers

Q13 Christine Chapman: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support carers in Wales? OAQ(3)0631(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: As part of our carers' strategy, we provide £4 million a year in grants to local authorities and to our mental health carers' grants scheme. That is in addition to the £5.9 million in resources from our previous carers' grant that transferred into the local authority settlement from 2006-07.

Christine Chapman: I recently met a group of carers who volunteer for New Horizons, a centre in my constituency that aims to support people experiencing mental health problems. It does this by challenging discrimination by way of outreach work and information support services. Members of

Cefnogi Gofalwyr

C13 Christine Chapman: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ei wneud i gefnogi gofalwyr yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0631(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: Fel rhan o'n strategaeth ar gyfer gofalwyr, darparwn £4 miliwn y flwyddyn mewn grantiau i awdurdodau lleol ac i'n cynlluniau grantiau gofalwyr iechyd meddwl. Mae hynny'n ychwanegol at y £5.9 miliwn o adnoddau o'n grant gofalwyr blaenorol a drosglwyddwyd i setliad awdurdodau lleol o 2006-07.

Christine Chapman: Cyfarfûm yn ddiweddar â grŵp o ofalwyr sy'n gwirfoddoli gyda New Horizons, sef canolfan yn fy etholaeth sy'n cefnogi pobl â phroblemau iechyd meddwl. Mae'n gwneud hyn drwy herio gwahaniaethu drwy waith allgymorth a gwasanaethau cefnogi gwybodaeth. Mae

this group, along with the other 90,000 carers in Wales, provide care services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and often put their own lives and careers on hold to do so. If even a small proportion of these carers were unable to provide care for family members and others, then the Government would need to invest millions of pounds to plug that gap. Minister, do you agree that the contribution made by carers is vital and will you ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government provides practical support for carers by developing new and improved care services across Wales?

Gwenda Thomas: You will know that we have had the review of the UK strategy, which was published recently, and we are now ready to review our own strategy in light of the findings of that UK strategy review. I know that there are issues with regard to resources, and the First Minister was asked a question about this earlier this week. In the meantime, we will continue to implement our 2007 carers' action plan and we will seek to sustain and support existing groups in the voluntary sector that are providing such valuable support to carers. We need to support carers and we are aware of that, and I look forward to introducing a legislative competence Order on this, possibly in the autumn, because there is a frustration that we cannot currently bring forward Measures on this in Wales. We are looking forward to doing that, and we are well prepared, due to the Wales Carers' Alliance, which we are corresponding with consistently and which is contributing to that process.

Direct Payments

Q14 The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Will the Minister make a statement on the uptake of direct payments for social care services? OAQ(3)0635(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: We remain committed to

aelodau'r grŵp hwn, yn ogystal â'r 90,000 o ofalwyr eraill yng Nghymru, yn darparu gwasanaethau gofal 24 awr y dydd, saith niwrnod yr wythnos, ac yn aml, maent yn rhoi eu bywyd a'u gyrfa i'r naill ochr er mwyn gwneud hynny. Petai cyfran fach yn unig o'r gofalwyr hyn yn methu darparu gofal ar gyfer aelodau o'r teulu ac eraill, yna byddai angen i'r Llywodraeth fuddsoddi miliynau o bunnoedd i lenwi'r bwlch hwnnw. Weinidog, a ydych yn cytuno bod y cyfraniad a wneir gan ofalwyr yn hanfodol ac a wnewch sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n darparu cefnogaeth ymarferol i ofalwyr drwy ddatblygu gwasanaethau gofal newydd a gwell ledled Cymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Byddwch yn gwybod ein bod wedi cael adolygiad o'r strategaeth ar gyfer y DU, a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, ac yr ydym yn awr yn barod i adolygu ein strategaeth yng ngoleuni canfyddiadau'r adolygiad hwnnw o'r strategaeth ar gyfer y DU. Gwn fod materion yn ymwneud ag adnoddau, a gofynnwyd cwestiwn i'r Prif Weinidog am hyn yn gynharach yr wythnos hon. Yn y cyfamser, byddwn yn parhau i weithredu ein cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer gofalwyr 2007 a byddwn yn ceisio cynnal a chefnogi'r grwpiau sydd eisoes yn bodoli yn y sector gwirfoddol sy'n darparu cefnogaeth sydd mor werthfawr i ofalwyr. Mae angen inni gefnogi gofalwyr ac yr ydym yn ymwybodol o hynny, ac edrychaf ymlaen at gyflwyno Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar hyn, yn yr hydref o bosibl, gan fod rhwystredigaeth yn bodoli oherwydd na allwn gyflwyno Mesurau ar y mater hwn yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen at wneud hynny, ac yr ydym wedi paratoi'n dda, diolch i Gynghrair Cynhalwyr Cymru, wrth inni ohebu gydag aelodau'n gyson ac wrth iddynt gyfrannu at y broses honno.

Taliadau Uniongyrchol

C14 Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio taliadau uniongyrchol ar gyfer gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol? OAQ(3)0635(HSS)

Gwenda Thomas: Yr ydym yn parhau'n

the direct payment scheme for the 12 months to the end of March. In those 12 months, we have seen a doubling of the number of people who have opted for direct payments, which is a positive sign. The National Assembly and the Minister are committed to promoting the direct payment scheme.

Michael German: It is a good way of promoting people's independence to enable them to appoint and to manage their own carers, but it has had a very slow start in Wales. You say that the numbers have doubled, but can you give us the precise figures for now and the previous year?

Gwenda Thomas: Up until the end of March 2007, 1,639 people were benefiting from direct payments. Those are the most recent figures.

It needs to be considered that we have taken positive steps in that we have placed a legal requirement on local authorities to offer direct payment. However, direct payments do not suit everyone. The Health and Social Care Bill that is currently before Parliament will enable us to make secondary legislation that will extend direct payments to people who lack mental capacity, which cannot be done at the moment.

Patients' Views

Q15 Paul Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on how patients' views are represented within the health service? OAQ(3)0666(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Patients' views are represented through many channels, including through direct conversations with NHS staff, community health councils, and advocacy and voluntary groups. Patients also engage in public consultations and through the local public and patient involvement schemes that every NHS trust has put in place. We also aim to build on that.

ymrwymedig i'r cynllun taliadau uniongyrchol am y 12 mis hyd at ddiwedd mis Mawrth. Yn y 12 mis hynny, mae nifer y bobl sydd wedi dewis derbyn taliadau uniongyrchol wedi dyblu, sy'n arwydd cadarnhaol. Mae'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a'r Gweinidog yn ymrwymedig i hyrwyddo'r cynllun taliadau uniongyrchol.

Michael German: Mae galluogi pobl i benodi a rheoli eu gofalwyr eu hunain yn ffordd dda o hyrwyddo annibyniaeth pobl, ond dechrau araf iawn y mae hwn wedi'i gael yng Nghymru. Dywedwch fod y niferoedd wedi dyblu, ond a allwch roi'r union ffigurau ar gyfer y sefyllfa bresennol ac ar gyfer y llynedd?

Gwenda Thomas: Hyd at ddiwedd mis Mawrth 2007, yr oedd 1,639 o bobl yn manteisio ar daliadau uniongyrchol. Dyna'r ffigurau mwyaf diweddar.

Mae angen cadw mewn cof ein bod wedi cymryd camau cadarnhaol gan ein bod wedi rhoi gofyniad cyfreithiol ar awdurdodau lleol i gynnig taliadau uniongyrchol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw taliadau uniongyrchol yn addas i bawb. Mae'r Mesur Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol sydd gerbron y Senedd ar hyn o bryd yn ein galluogi i lunio is-ddeddfwriaeth a fydd yn ehangu taliadau uniongyrchol i gynnwys pobl nad yw'r gallu meddyliol ganddynt, oherwydd ni ellir gwneud hynny ar hyn o bryd.

Safbwyntiau Cleifion

C15 Paul Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y caiff safbwyntiau cleifion eu cynrychioli yn y gwasanaeth iechyd? OAQ(3)0666(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Caiff safbwyntiau cleifion eu cynrychioli drwy nifer o sianeli, gan gynnwys drwy sgysiau uniongyrchol gyda staff y GIG, cynghorau iechyd cymuned, a grwpiau gwirfoddol ac eirioli. Mae cleifion hefyd yn cymryd rhan mewn ymgynghoriadau cyhoeddus a drwy gynlluniau lleol i gynnwys cleifion a'r cyhoedd y mae pob ymddiriedolaeth GIG wedi eu rhoi ar waith. Yr ydym hefyd yn anelu at adeiladu ar hynny.

Paul Davies: Community health councils play an important role in representing people who have health problems. The councils also play a crucial role in raising awareness of health issues. Given that some trusts have disappeared, the role of community health councils has become even more important. For instance, it would be irresponsible to get rid of Pembrokeshire Community Health Council.

Paul Davies: Mae cyngorau iechyd cymuned yn chwarae rôl bwysig wrth gynrychioli pobl sydd â phroblemau iechyd. Mae'r cyngorau hefyd yn chwarae rôl hanfodol drwy godi ymwybyddiaeth o faterion iechyd. A chofio bod rhai ymddiriedolaethau wedi diflannu, mae rôl cyngorau iechyd cymuned wedi tyfu yn ei phwysigrwydd. Er enghraifft, byddai cael gwared ar Gyngor Iechyd Cymuned Sir Benfro yn anghyfrifol.

The First Minister told me some weeks ago in the Chamber that no discussion had taken place regarding the future of community health councils. Will the Minister tell us whether discussions have since taken place and whether she favours merging community health councils at the same level as trusts?

Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog wrthyf rai wythnosau'n ôl yn y Siambr nad oedd trafodaethau wedi'u cynnal ynghylch dyfodol cyngorau iechyd cymuned. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym a oes trafodaethau wedi'u cynnal ers hynny ac a yw hi'n ffafrio uno cyngorau iechyd cymuned i'r un graddau â'r ymddiriedolaethau?

Edwina Hart: There is no question of merging community health councils. I have had discussions in recent weeks and I would be looking, in any changes I make in terms of the reorganisation of the health service, to strengthen the role of community health councils. Wales has 19 community health councils, and perhaps they should better reflect local authority boundaries. We should look at their role and function and their link into local government and other communities. If we have larger NHS structures in the future, which we possibly could have, that localism would have to be enhanced.

Edwina Hart: Nid oes bwriad uno cyngorau iechyd cymuned. Yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, ac mewn unrhyw newidiadau a wnaif o ran ad-drefnu'r gwasanaeth iechyd, byddwn yn ceisio cryfhau rôl y cyngorau iechyd cymuned. Mae gan Gymru 19 cyngor iechyd cymuned, ac efallai y dylent adlewyrchu ffiniau awdurdodau lleol yn well. Dylem edrych ar eu rôl a'u swyddogaeth a'u cysylltiad gyda llywodraeth leol a gyda chymunedau eraill. Os bydd gennym strwythurau GIG mwy yn y dyfodol, ac mae'n bosibl mai hynny a fydd, yna byddai'n rhaid cryfhau'r agwedd leol honno.

Cwestiynau i Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Bioscience Sector

Q1 David Melding: What measures are in place to promote the bioscience sector in Wales? OAQ(3)0612(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): My recent Plenary statement on the ministerial advisory group recommendations highlighted bioscience as a

Sector Biowyddoniaeth

C1 David Melding: Pa fesurau sydd ar waith i hybu'r sector biowyddoniaeth yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0612(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yn fy natganiad diweddar i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar argymhellion y grŵp cyngori gweinidogol, dywedais fod

strategically important sector. Current sector support measures include the annual hosting of the BioWales conference, promoting Wales as a base for bioscience, and funding for research and development and collaboration between industry and academia.

David Melding: The Deputy First Minister will know that according to the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, the relevant sector skills council, there is a higher level of skills shortage in this sector than in others, and the number of higher education institutions that offer biosciences is declining. There has been a 27 per cent drop in the number of bioscience degrees since 2007. Does he agree that we need to encourage young people to take degrees in the biosciences and to promote the study of subjects such as biology and other scientific and technical subjects in school, in order that more people go on to study biosciences as undergraduates?

The Deputy First Minister: I agree with your sentiments. However, Wales is developing an excellent reputation in the bioscience sector. In particular, I am sure that you will know, David, of the work that is currently being done at Cardiff University. Other universities in Wales are also developing this sector. Our drive is to encourage greater collaboration between universities in the bioscience sector. In recent years, we have had some interesting investments in Wales. We want to see that continue. A way of doing that, as David pointed out, is through greater collaboration between universities so that young people come to regard the sector as an important career path.

1.10 p.m.

David Melding: I am relatively encouraged by what the Deputy First Minister has said, but we need to take on board that we must encourage young people to study bioscience subjects. However, it is not only the shortage of skilled people that we need to address. I agree that in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector we have clusters of

biowyddoniaeth yn sector o bwys strategol. Ymhlith y mesurau cyfredol i gefnogi'r sector mae cynnal cynhadledd flynyddol BioCymru, hyrwyddo Cymru fel canolfan ar gyfer biowyddoniaeth, ac ariannu gwaith ymchwil a datblygu a chydweithredu rhwng diwydiant a'r byd academiaidd.

David Melding: Bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwybod, yn ôl y Cyngor Sgiliau Sector ar gyfer Gwyddoniaeth, Peirianeg a Thechnolegau Gweithgynhyrchu, sef y cyngor sgiliau sector perthnasol, bod lefel uwch o brinder sgiliau yn y sector hwn nag mewn sectorau eraill, ac mae nifer y sefydliadau addysg uwch sy'n cynnig biowyddorau yn lleihau. Cafwyd gostyngiad o 27 y cant yn nifer y graddau biowyddoniaeth er 2007. A yw'n cytuno bod angen inni annog pobl ifanc i ddilyn graddau mewn biowyddorau a hyrwyddo astudio pynciau megis bioleg a phynciau gwyddonol a thechnegol eraill mewn ysgolion, er mwyn i fwy o bobl fynd ymlaen i astudio biowyddoniaeth fel israddedigion?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Cytunaf â'ch safbwyntiau. Fodd bynnag, mae Cymru'n datblygu enw da rhagorol yn y sector biowyddoniaeth. Yn benodol, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod, David, am waith a wneir ar hyn o bryd ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd. Mae prifysgolion eraill yng Nghymru hefyd yn datblygu'r sector hwn. Yr ydym yn ceisio annog mwy o gydweithio rhwng prifysgolion yn y sector biowyddoniaeth. Dros y blynyddoedd diweddaraf, yr ydym wedi cael rhai buddsoddiadau diddorol yng Nghymru. Yr ydym am weld hynny'n parhau. Un ffordd o wneud hynny, fel y nododd David, yw drwy gael prifysgolion i gydweithio fwy fel y gall pobl ifanc ystyried y sector fel llwybr gyrfa pwysig.

David Melding: Mae geiriau'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi fy nghalonogi i raddau, ond mae angen inni gofio ei bod yn rhaid inni annog pobl ifanc i astudio pynciau biowyddoniaeth. Fodd bynnag, nid prinder pobl fedrus yw'r unig beth y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael ag ef. Cytunaf fod gennym glystyrau o gwmnïau a rhywfaint o arfer da

companies and some good practice, but overall, as the Welsh Assembly Government noted in response to the Treasury in 2006, there is a shortage of major pharmaceutical and biotech companies in Wales, and it is at the higher end, perhaps, that we need to do more. If we do that, as a result many small and medium-sized enterprises will be generated. We should ask questions about this. Given the skills base in Cardiff, which has one of the largest university hospitals in Europe, an excellent medical school, and an outstanding reputation in many sciences, including pharmacy, at Cardiff University, we are perhaps not quite packing the punch that one would expect from all of those centres of excellence.

The Deputy First Minister: I think that we are making progress here. I am sure that David will recall from when I made my statement accepting the ministerial advisory group recommendations, that it saw this sector as a strategic sector. Not only have we agreed that, but I have also undertaken a restructuring of my department, which now has a dedicated and expert bioscience team. Therefore, whatever the circumstances now, we have recognised that this is a key sector, and we will work hard to develop it.

David Lloyd: The Institute of Life Science in Swansea University is held up as a world exemplar for the advancement of health research through cutting edge technology, and for the creation of high-skilled jobs in its business development centre. Will you join me in congratulating this institute on its resounding success since its inception just over a year ago?

The Deputy First Minister: It is an excellent example of what we can achieve by working with the university sector and the private sector. The Institute of Life Science in Swansea shows exactly what can be done. It is an excellent example of how, as I have indicated, universities and the private sector can work together. Due to that investment, we are starting to see the beginnings of that cluster approach, whereby spin-out companies and other companies recognise the facilities there, and not only invest but create jobs, which demonstrates the importance of

yn y sector cwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint, ond yn gyffredinol, fel y nododd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth ymateb i'r Trysorlys yn 2006, mae prinder cwmnïau fferyllol a biotechnolegol mawr yng Nghymru, ac ar y lefel uchel honno, efallai, y mae angen inni wneud mwy. Petawn yn gwneud hynny, caiff nifer o gwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint eu creu. Dylem ofyn cwestiynau am hyn. A chofio'r sylfaen sgiliau yng Nghaerdydd, lle mae un o'r ysbytai athrofaol mwyaf yn Ewrop, ysgol feddygol ragorol, ac enw da iawn mewn nifer o wyddorau, gan gynnwys fferylliaeth, ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd, efallai nad ydym yn cael yr effaith y byddai rhywun yn ei disgwyl gan yr holl ganolfannau rhagoriaeth hynny.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Credaf ein bod yn gwneud cynnydd yma. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod David yn cofio imi ddweud pan wneuthum fy natganiad yn derbyn argymhellion grŵp cynghori'r Gweinidog, ei fod yn gweld y sector hwn fel sector strategol. Yr ydym wedi derbyn hynny, ond yr wyf hefyd wedi ad-drefnu fy adran, a bellach ceir tîm arbenigol a phenodedig ym maes biowyddoniaeth. Felly, beth bynnag yw'r amgylchiadau yn awr, yr ydym wedi cydnabod bod hwn yn sector allweddol, a byddwn yn gweithio'n galed i'w ddatblygu.

David Lloyd: Cyfeirir at yr Athrofa Gwyddor Bywyd ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe fel enghraifft dda fyd-eang ar gyfer datblygu ymchwil ym maes iechyd drwy gyfrwng technoleg arloesol, ac am greu swyddi sgiliau uchel yn ei chanolfan datblygu busnes. A wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch yr athrofa hon ar ei llwyddiant ysgubol ers iddi gael ei sefydlu ychydig dros flwyddyn yn ôl?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'n enghraifft wych o'r hyn y gallwn ei gyflawni drwy weithio gyda'r sector prifysgolion a'r sector preifat. Mae'r Athrofa Gwyddor Bywyd yn Abertawe yn dangos yn glir beth y gellir ei wneud. Mae'n enghraifft wych o sut y gall prifysgolion a'r sector preifat weithio gyda'i gilydd, fel y dywedais. O ganlyniad i'r buddsoddiad hwnnw, yr ydym yn dechrau gweld y dull clwstwr hwnnw'n datblygu, lle mae cwmnïau deillio a chwmnïau eraill yn sylweddoli bod y cyfleusterau yno, ac nid yn unig yn buddsoddi ond hefyd yn creu swyddi,

not just research but commercialising that research and getting the benefits for the wider economy.

Peter Black: As you say, the importance of universities collaborating with industry in this particular area is crucial, and there are some very good examples, particularly with the school of medicine. However, there is an issue in terms of driving forward innovation and developing new businesses around that innovation across the whole of Wales, which is underlined by the small number of patents granted in the sciences around Wales. As it happens, I think that the school of medicine is an exception to that rule. What is your strategy in terms of driving up the number of patents delivered by our universities in Wales, linking that with the growth of new small and medium-sized enterprises, business, jobs and high-quality jobs in the country?

The Deputy First Minister: That is an issue that I have been discussing with universities. I accept that it is an important area, but it is important to recognise that the university sector is now strongly working in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and the private sector. That is an issue that we are currently looking at. It is a crucial area for the development of the sector. I give Peter the assurance that we are working hard to drive that up.

Small Businesses

Q2 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister make a statement on support given to small businesses in north-east Wales?
OAQ(3)0616(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: We provide a range of support for small businesses. In north-east Wales this includes support for start-up businesses, including promotion of enterprise, and finance solutions to support investment.

Sandy Mewies: I know that you will be aware that, sometimes, very small grants can help people with a good idea to get a first-

sy'n dangos pa mor bwysig yw ymchwil, ond yn fwy na hynny, pa mor bwysig yw troi'r ymchwil hwnnw'n fasnachol a denu manteision i'r economi ehangach.

Peter Black: Fel y dywedwch, mae'n hanfodol bwysig bod prifysgolion yn cydweithio â diwydiant yn y maes penodol hwn, a cheir enghreifftiau da iawn, yn enwedig gyda'r ysgol feddygaeth. Fodd bynnag, ceir mater yn ymwneud â gyrru arloesedd ymlaen a datblygu busnesau newydd o amgylch yr arloesedd hwnnw ledled Cymru benbaladr, sy'n cael ei bwysleisio gan nifer fach y patentau a roddir yn y gwyddorau ledled Cymru. Fel y mae'n digwydd, credaf fod yr ysgol feddygaeth yn eithriad i'r rheol honno. Beth yw eich strategaeth o ran cynyddu nifer y patentau a gyflawnir gan ein prifysgolion yng Nghymru, a chysylltu hynny â thwf cwmnïau bach a chanolig newydd, busnes, swyddi a swyddi o ansawdd uchel yn y wlad?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n fater yr wyf wedi'i drafod gyda phrifysgolion. Derbyniaf fod hwn yn faes pwysig, ond mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod y sector prifysgolion erbyn hyn yn cydweithio'n gadarn mewn partneriaeth â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r sector preifat. Mae hwnnw'n fater yr ydym yn rhoi sylw iddo ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n faes hanfodol ar gyfer datblygu'r sector. Rhoddaf sicrwydd i Peter ein bod yn gweithio'n galed i yrru hynny ymlaen.

Busnesau Bach

C2 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y gefnogaeth a roddir i fusnesau bach yn y gogledd-ddwyrain?
OAQ(3)0616(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn darparu pob math o gymorth ar gyfer busnesau bach. Yn y gogledd-ddwyrain, mae hyn yn cynnwys cymorth ar gyfer dechrau busnesau, gan gynnwys hyrwyddo mentergarwch, ac atebion ariannol i gefnogi buddsoddiadau.

Sandy Mewies: Gwn y byddwch yn ymwybodol, weithiau, bod grantiau bach iawn yn gallu helpu pobl sydd â syniad da i

class business up and running, such as the husband and wife team in my constituency, Anne and James Elwood from Mold, who launched Anne's Patisserie from home but now, with support, have moved to an industrial unit in Flint. Do you agree that such grants should be widely publicised so that they can be made available as widely as possible to enable people with good ideas to set up businesses, not only to benefit themselves but also to benefit the local community?

The Deputy First Minister: I join you, Sandy, in congratulating Anne and James Elwood on setting up that business. That is precisely the reason why the flexible business solutions model was introduced: to make it more flexible and easier for small businesses to access that, together with the specific help that we are giving for start-up services. As you know, that new service went live on 16 June. I acknowledge the point that you are making about the need for us to make it clear that this support is available—today is one such opportunity, of course—and I will be looking, with my officials, to see how we can make the support more widely available. The new website is up and running, but if there is anything else that we can do to publicise it, I would want to do that.

Mark Isherwood: The housebuilding companies of David McLean and Redrow, which are based in Flintshire, have both previously announced job losses. Today we have heard that Redrow has reduced job numbers by 40 per cent as it battles against an unprecedented decline in the fortunes of the UK housing market. What support are you considering for the smaller companies—subcontractors and suppliers—that are based in north-east Wales that depend on those companies for their bottom line?

The Deputy First Minister: This is a widespread issue. We have heard about the particular difficulties that the construction sector is having, but those difficulties are primarily in the private housing sector and perhaps in the commercial sector, to a lesser extent. However, I think that there are substantial opportunities in the construction

gychwyn busnes o'r radd flaenaf, megis Anne a James Elwood o'r Wyddgrug yn fy etholaeth, y gŵr a'r wraig a lansiodd Anne's Patisserie o'u cartref ond bellach, gyda chefnogaeth, maent wedi symud i uned ddiwydiannol yn y Fflint. A ydych yn cytuno y dylid hyrwyddo grantiau o'r fath yn eang fel y gellir eu darparu mor eang â phosibl er mwyn galluogi pobl gyda syniadau da i sefydlu busnes, nid er eu budd nhw'n unig, ond er budd y gymuned leol hefyd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ymunaf â chi, Sandy, wrth longyfarch Anne a James Elwood ar sefydlu'r busnes hwnnw. Dyna'r union reswm pam y cyflwynwyd y model datrysiadau busnes hyblyg: i'w gwneud yn fwy hyblyg ac yn haws i fusnesau bach gael mynediad at hynny, ynghyd â'r cymorth penodol yr ydym yn ei roi i wasanaethau newydd. Fel y gwyddoch, rhoddwyd y gwasanaeth newydd hwnnw ar waith ar 16 Mehefin. Cydnabyddaf y pwynt a wneuch ynghylch yr angen inni egluro bod y gefnogaeth hon ar gael—wrth gwrs mae heddiw'n gyfle o'r fath—a byddaf yn edrych, gyda'm swyddogion, i weld sut y gallwn ddarparu'r gefnogaeth yn ehangach. Mae'r wefan newydd wedi'i sefydlu, ond os oes unrhyw beth arall y gallwn ei wneud i roi cyhoeddusrwydd iddo, byddwn yn awyddus i wneud hynny.

Mark Isherwood: Mae cwmnïau adeiladu tai David McLean a Redrow yn sir y Fflint wedi cyhoeddi yn y gorffennol y bydd swyddi'n cael eu colli. Yr ydym wedi clywed heddiw bod Redrow wedi gostwng 40 y cant ar nifer ei swyddi, wrth iddo frwydro yn erbyn dirywiad digynsail ffawd marchnad dai'r DU. Pa gefnogaeth yr ydych yn ei hystyried ar gyfer y cwmnïau llai—isgontractwyr a chyflenwyr—yn y gogledd-ddwyrain sy'n dibynnu ar y cwmnïau hynny i gael dau ben llinyn ynghyd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae hon yn broblem gyffredinol. Yr ydym wedi clywed am broblemau penodol y sector adeiladu, ond problemau yn y sector tai preifat yw'r rheini'n bennaf, ac yn y sector masnachol o bosibl i raddau llai. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod cyfleoedd sylweddol yn y sector adeiladu, yn enwedig gyda'r buddsoddiad a wneir ym

sector, particularly with the investment that is going in to social housing and to other areas. When we announced our statement on construction skills, what we did was to recognise that, despite the current downturn in the private housing sector, the actual need for construction workers over the next year, in Wales, will go up by at least 3,500. That is good news for the construction sector and the suppliers outside it. I would be very happy to be working with companies to see how they can access those benefits.

Janet Ryder: Deputy First Minister, you recently met, with me, a number of businesses in north-east Wales and heard their concerns that, as county councils are grouping more and more contracts together, it is becoming increasingly difficult for local firms to compete for those contracts. What are you going to do about that?

The Deputy First Minister: The first point that we would have to make is that, as Ministers, we should not get involved in individual contracts, but I think that there is a general point here about access to contracts through procurement at local-authority level, which is primarily the responsibility of local authorities. We obviously want to maximise the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises that are based in Wales to get those contracts. I will need to discuss this with my colleague, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, to see what discussions we can have with local government to make sure that, if those opportunities are available, companies are able to apply for them.

Eleanor Burnham: Lots of small businesses are obviously suffering because of various issues surrounding the failing economy and the rising price of fuel. How can you reassure small businesses in towns such as Mold, Ruthin and Denbigh, which rely on tourism, that you can help them to overcome the present difficulties? There are lots of empty shops in these areas and they obviously need some help. A lot of them fail because they cannot afford the high increases in rents and rates and so on.

maes tai cymdeithasol ac mewn meysydd eraill. Pan gyhoeddasom ein datganiad am sgiliau adeiladu, yr hyn a wnaethom oedd cydnabod y bydd yr angen gwirioneddol am weithwyr adeiladu yn cynyddu gan 3,500 o leiaf dros y flwyddyn nesaf yng Nghymru, er gwaethaf dirywiad y sector tai preifat ar hyn o bryd. Mae hynny'n newyddion da i'r sector adeiladu ac i'r cyflenwyr y tu hwnt i'r sector. Byddwn yn dra pharod i weithio gyda chwmnïau i weld sut y gallant fanteisio ar y buddion hynny.

Janet Ryder: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, gwnaethoch chi a minnau gwrdd ag amryw o fusnesau yn y gogledd-ddwyrain yn ddiweddar. Buom yn gwranddo ar eu pryderon ei bod yn fwyfwy anodd i gwmnïau lleol gystadlu am gontractau wrth i gynghorau sir gyfuno mwy a mwy o gontractau mewn grwpiau. Beth ydych yn mynd i'w wneud ynghylch hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Y pwynt cyntaf y byddai'n rhaid inni ei wneud yw na ddylem, fel Gweinidogion, ymwneud â chontractau unigol, ond credaf y ceir pwynt cyffredinol yma ynghylch mynediad at gontractau drwy gaffael ar lefel awdurdod lleol, a chyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw hynny yn bennaf. Yn amlwg yr ydym eisiau rhoi cymaint o gyfle â phosibl i fentrau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru ennill y contractau hynny. Bydd angen imi drafod hyn gyda'm cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol, i weld pa drafodaethau y gallwn eu cynnal gyda llywodraeth leol i sicrhau y gall cwmnïau, os yw'r cyfleoedd hynny ar gael, ymgeisio amdanynt.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae nifer o fusnesau bach yn amlwg yn dioddef oherwydd amrywiol broblemau'n ymwneud â dirywiad yr economi a phrisiau cynyddol tanwydd. Sut y gallwch dawelu meddyliau busnesau bach mewn trefi megis yr Wyddgrug, Rhuthun a Dinbych—sy'n dibynnu ar dwristiaeth—y gallwch eu cynorthwyo i oresgyn yr anawsterau a geir ar hyn o bryd? Mae llawer o siopau gwag yn yr ardaloedd hyn, ac mae'n amlwg bod angen rhywfaint o help arnynt. Mae amryw ohonynt yn methu oherwydd na allant fforddio'r cynnydd uchel mewn ardrethi a rhent ac ati.

The Deputy First Minister: There are a range of things that the Government is doing—many of them, of course, are outside my portfolio. For example, a consultation is currently taking place on the enhanced rate relief scheme, which I hope that Members and other people are getting involved with to see how we can make best use of the extra resources in that particular area. My colleague, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, the Minister for Heritage, is responsible for tourism and I know that he is working very hard to make sure that the tourism opportunities that might well come this year and benefit businesses, because of the strength of the euro, are realised.

I recognise that, apart from the towns that Eleanor mentioned, there are towns in all parts of north and south Wales that are suffering due to these particular issues. I would want to be doing a whole host of things to help, from rate relief to help for tourism. Of course, if businesses make an application for financial assistance through the flexible support mechanism, I want to do everything that I can to help them.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 3, OAQ(3)0636(ECT), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

1.20 p.m.

Integrated Transport

Q4 The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Will the Minister make a statement on access to integrated transport in Wales? OAQ(3)0613(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: The Wales transport strategy, 'Connecting the Nation', outlines my vision for integrated transport. This includes the improvement of rural transport and improved access to key sites, services and facilities.

Nick Bourne: I am sure that we are all in favour of integrated transport, which is obviously very important to Wales. With regard to integration with other Government

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r Llywodraeth yn gwneud amrywiaeth o bethau—mae llawer ohonynt y tu hwnt i'm portffolio i, wrth gwrs. Er enghraifft, cynhelir ymgynghoriad ar hyn o bryd ynghylch y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi estynedig, a gobeithiaf fod yr Aelodau a phobl eraill yn cyfrannu ato er mwyn gweld sut y gallwn ddefnyddio'r adnoddau ychwanegol yn y modd gorau posibl yn y maes penodol hwnnw. Fy nghyd-Weinidog, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth, sy'n gyfrifol am dwristiaeth, a gwn ei fod yn gweithio'n galed iawn i geisio sicrhau y gwireddir y cyfleoedd o ran twristiaeth a allai godi eleni a bod o fudd i fusnesau, oherwydd cryfder yr ewro.

Sylweddolaf fod trefi ledled y de a'r gogledd, ar wahân i'r rheini a grybwyllodd Eleanor, yn dioddef yn sgil y materion penodol hyn. Byddwn yn dymuno gwneud llond gwlad o bethau i helpu, o ryddhad ardrethi i gymorth gyda thwristiaeth. Wrth gwrs, os gwnaiff busnesau gais am gymorth ariannol drwy gyfrwng y mecanwaith cymorth hyblyg, yr wyf yn dymuno gwneud popeth o fewn fy ngallu i'w helpu.

The Presiding Officer: Question 3, OAQ(3)0636(ECT), has been transferred for written answer.

Trafnidiaeth Integredig

C4 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fynediad i drafnidiaeth integredig yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0613(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru, 'Cysylltu'r Genedl', yn amlinellu fy ngweledigaeth ar gyfer trafndiaeth integredig. Mae'n cynnwys gwella trafndiaeth wledig a gwella mynediad i safleoedd, gwasanaethau a chyfleusterau allweddol.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod oll o blaid trafndiaeth integredig, sy'n amlwg yn hynod bwysig i Gymru. Parthed integreiddio ag adrannau eraill y Llywodraeth, a yw'r

departments, has the Deputy First Minister has discussions, particularly with the Deputy Minister with responsibility for post offices, about the Labour-led post office closure programme? After the closures, the nearest post office will often be nowhere near a public transport route. Has the Deputy First Minister had discussions on that issue, or could such discussions usefully take place in order to ensure that such services are provided in those places where post offices close?

The Deputy First Minister: Nick stretched the question a little further than was intended, because the issue was integrated transport. However, in case Nick thinks that Government departments do not talk to each other, I talk regularly to the Deputy Minister responsible, and, across Government, we will do everything possible to support the post office network. Integrated transport is an important part of this Government's programme, and we want it to play a key role in the completed national and regional transport plans.

Jeff Cuthbert: Access to rail services is critically important for my constituents. I wrote to you on 30 June—I appreciate that you may not have had the time to consider a response—about the situation at Ystrad Mynach station, in the geographical centre of my constituency. Ystrad Mynach is a thriving community, but the railway platform for Cardiff-bound trains is virtually inaccessible for people with severe mobility problems. Network Rail has said that it is not in a position to fund the necessary improvements. Will the Deputy First Minister ask his officials to contact Network Rail and to examine ways to enable disabled people to access trains bound for Cardiff?

The Deputy First Minister: That is an important point. Access to public transport must be made available to able-bodied people and to people with disabilities. I recently talked to Network Rail about its route utilisation strategy, and the South East Wales

Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi cael trafodaethau ynghylch y rhaglen a arweinir gan y blaid Lafur i gau swyddfeydd post, yn arbennig gyda'r Dirprwy Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am swyddfeydd post? Ar ôl iddynt gael eu cau, yn aml iawn ni fydd y swyddfa bost agosaf unlle'n agos at lwybr trafndiaeth gyhoeddus. A yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi cael trafodaethau am y mater hwnnw, neu a ellid cynnal trafodaethau o'r fath er mwyn sicrhau y darperir gwasanaethau fel y rheini yn y lleoedd hynny lle bydd swyddfeydd post yn cau?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ymestynnodd Nick y cwestiwn fymryn yn bellach na'r bwriad, oherwydd trafndiaeth integredig oedd y pwnc. Fodd bynnag, rhag ofn i Nick feddwl nad yw adrannau'r Llywodraeth yn siarad â'i gilydd, byddaf yn siarad yn rheolaidd â'r Dirprwy Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am hyn, a byddwn yn gwneud popeth posibl ar draws y Llywodraeth i gefnogi'r rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post. Mae trafndiaeth integredig yn rhan bwysig o raglen y Llywodraeth hon, ac yr ydym eisiau iddi fod yn rhan allweddol o'r cynlluniau trafndiaeth cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol terfynol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae mynediad at wasanaethau rheilffordd yn allweddol bwysig i'm hetholwyr. Ysgrifennais atoch ar 30 Mehefin—sylweddolaf nad ydych o bosibl wedi cael amser i feddwl am ateb—ynghylch sefyllfa gorsaf Ystrad Mynach, sydd yng nghanol fy etholaeth yn ddaearyddol. Mae Ystrad Mynach yn gymuned ffyniannus, ond mae fwy neu lai'n amhosibl i bobl gyda phroblemau symudedd difrifol gael mynediad at blatfform y trenau sy'n teithio i Gaerdydd. Mae Network Rail wedi dweud nad yw mewn sefyllfa i ariannu'r gwelliannau angenrheidiol. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ofyn i'w swyddogion gysylltu â Network Rail ac edrych ar ffyrdd o alluogi pobl anabl i gael mynediad at drenau sy'n teithio i Gaerdydd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig. Rhaid darparu mynediad at drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus i bobl anabl ac i bobl nad ydynt yn anabl. Siaradais yn ddiweddar â Network Rail am ei strategaeth defnyddio llwybrau, ac mae Cynghrair Trafnidiaeth De-

Transport Alliance is examining its transport plan for south-east Wales. I look forward to receiving the letter, and I will talk to Network Rail about the matter that Jeff raised. There may be opportunities for individual enhancements to be prioritised in the SEWTA regional transport plan. In that case, Ystrad Mynach station would clearly be a candidate for funding.

Michael German: The Deputy First Minister will know that the bus service between Rogerstone, on the Ebbw Vale to Cardiff line, into the middle of Newport was recently withdrawn. This was not surprising, because, given the circuitous route and the length of time that it took to get to the centre of Newport, it was not a journey worth doing. Newport City Council has purchased land for a new station at Bassaleg, which would provide for a much more direct route into the centre of Newport. In the absence of a direct link into Newport, for which we all wait patiently, what consideration has the Deputy First Minister given to establishing a station at Bassaleg and a direct bus route from that station into the centre of Newport?

The Deputy First Minister: The bus service between Rogerstone and Newport was costing £200,000 in subsidies and not providing value for money. I hope, therefore, that people will recognise that withdrawing it was the right decision. I cannot comment about new stations, because, as I indicated, some of those decisions have to be taken in the context of the regional transport plan, which is being examined by SEWTA. If you feel, Mike, that this is an area that should be prioritised within SEWTA's regional plan, it would become a candidate for funding.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 5, OAQ(3)0641(ECT), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Seilwaith Drafnidiaeth

C6 Paul Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gynlluniau i wella'r seilwaith

ddwyrain Cymru yn edrych ar ei gynllun trafnidiaeth ar gyfer y de-ddwyrain. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael y llythyr, a byddaf yn trafod y mater a gododd Jeff gyda Network Rail. Efallai y bydd cyfleoedd i roi blaenoriaeth i welliannau unigol yng nghynllun trafnidiaeth ranbarthol SEWTA. Yn yr achos hwnnw, byddai gorsaf Ystrad Mynach yn amlwg yn ymgeisydd gwirioneddol ar gyfer cyllid.

Michael German: Bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwybod bod y gwasanaeth bws rhwng Tŷ-du a chanol Casnewydd, ar y rheilffordd rhwng Glynebwy a Chaerdydd, wedi'i ddiddymu'n ddiweddar. Nid oedd hyn yn syndod, oherwydd wrth ystyried y llwybr cwmpasog a faint o amser a gymerai i gyrraedd canol Casnewydd, yr oedd yn siwrnai seithug. Mae Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd wedi prynu tir ar gyfer gorsaf newydd ym Masaleg, a fyddai'n darparu llwybr mwy uniongyrchol o lawer i ganol Casnewydd. Yn absenoldeb trafnidiaeth sy'n mynd yn uniongyrchol i Gasnewydd, yr ydym oll yn aros yn amyneddgar amdano, i ba raddau y mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi ystyried sefydlu gorsaf ym Masaleg, a thaith fws uniongyrchol o'r orsaf honno i ganol Casnewydd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr oedd y gwasanaeth bws rhwng Tŷ-du a Chasnewydd yn costio £200,000 mewn cymorthdaliadau, ac nid oedd yn darparu gwerth am arian. Gobeithiaf felly, y bydd pobl yn sylweddoli mai diddymu'r gwasanaeth oedd y penderfyniad cywir. Ni allaf gynnig sylwadau am orsafoedd newydd, oherwydd fel y dywedais, mae'n rhaid ystyried rhai o'r penderfyniadau hynny yng nghyd-destun y cynllun trafnidiaeth rhanbarthol, sy'n destun ymchwiliad gan SEWTA. Os ydych, Mike, yn teimlo bod hwn yn faes y dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth iddo yng nghynllun rhanbarthol SEWTA, byddai'n dod yn ymgeisydd ar gyfer cyllid.

The Presiding Officer: Question 5, OAQ(3)0641(ECT), has been transferred for written answer.

Transport Infrastructure

Q6 Paul Davies: Will the Minister outline his plans to improve the transport

drafnidiaeth yng Nghymru? infrastructure in Wales? OAQ(3)0643(ECT)
 OAQ(3)0643(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae fy nghynllun ar gyfer gwella'r seilwaith drafnidiaeth wedi'i amlinellu yn strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru, 'Cysylltu'r Genedl'. Bydd y broses weithredu'n cael ei disgrifio'n fwy manwl yn y cynllun trafndiaeth cenedlaethol ac yn y cynlluniau trafndiaeth rhanbarthol.

The Deputy First Minister: My plan for improving transport infrastructure is set out in the Wales transport strategy, 'Connecting the Nation'. More detailed implementation will follow in the national transport plan and regional transport plans.

Paul Davies: Mae nifer o ffyrdd drwy Gymru na fabwysiadwyd. Yn wir, mae etholwyr wedi cysylltu â mi'n ddiweddar i ofyn i mi geisio perswadio Cyngor Sir Penfro i fabwysiadu ffyrdd. Oherwydd cyfyngiadau ariannol, mae'n anodd ambell waith i awdurdodau lleol wella safon ein ffyrdd. Yn y mwyafrif o achosion, byddai gwella'r ffyrdd yn gwella'r amgylchedd mae pobl yn byw ac yn gweithio ynddo. O gofio'r amgylchiadau, ac er mwyn cymell y cynghorau sir i wella rhai o'n ffyrdd, a fyddai'r Gweinidog yn fodlon ystyried sefydlu rhyw fath o gronfa arbennig lle byddai'r Llywodraeth yn ariannu rhan o'r cynlluniau hyn?

Paul Davies: A number of roads in Wales have not been adopted. Indeed, constituents have contacted me recently to ask me to try to persuade Pembrokeshire County Council to adopt roads. As a result of financial constraints, it is sometimes difficult for local authorities to improve the condition of our roads. In most cases, improving the roads would improve the environment in which people live and work. Given the circumstances, and in order to compel county councils to improve some of our roads, would the Minister be willing to consider setting up some sort of special fund by which the Government would finance some part of these schemes?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae cynlluniau awdurdodau lleol yn cael eu hariannu ar hyn o bryd, drwy iddynt wneud cais am y grant trafndiaeth, y mae cystadleuaeth brwd amdano, fel y gwyddoch. Gwnaethpwyd y penderfyniad ynghylch pwy fyddai'n derbyn yr arian eleni rai misoedd yn ôl. Ni wn a yw Cyngor Sir Penfro wedi ystyried gwneud cais am arian ychwanegol o dan y grant hwnnw, ond mae hwnnw fel arfer ar gyfer ffyrdd newydd yn hytrach nag ar gyfer cynnal a chadw ffyrdd presennol. Ni chredaf fod modd i ni sefydlu cronfa newydd arall ar gyfer hynny, oherwydd, yn y pen draw, mater i'r awdurdod lleol yw blaenoriaethu hynny o dan ei grant cynnal refeniw. Un o'r pethau mae awdurdodau lleol yn parhau i'w ddweud wrthym yw y byddai'n well ganddynt gael hyblygrwydd ariannol dan y cynllun yn hytrach na'n bod yn creu cronfeydd newydd drwy'r amser.

The Deputy First Minister: Local authority schemes are currently financed; they must apply for the transport grant, for which there is stiff competition, as you know. The decision on who would receive money this year was made some months ago. I do not know whether Pembrokeshire County Council has considered applying for additional money under this grant, but it usually goes towards new roads rather than maintaining roads that have already been built. I do not believe that we could establish another fund for that, because that is ultimately a matter for the local authority to prioritise under their revenue support grant. One thing that local authorities continue to tell us is that they prefer financial flexibility rather than the setting up of new funds all the time.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gyda'r cynnydd ym mhpris tanwydd, mae teithwyr yn wynebu problemau ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Mae teithio o un pen o'r wlad i'r llall yn mynd yn

Alun Ffred Jones: Given the increase in the price of fuel, travellers face problems in all parts of Wales. Travelling from one end of the country to the other is becoming very

rhywbeth drud iawn. Mae hynny'n rhoi mwy o bwyslais ar ddatblygu'r seilwaith reilffyrdd drwy Gymru. O ystyried ei bod yn cymryd pedair awr a thri chwarter i deithio o Fangor i Gaerdydd a bod cynlluniau wedi cael eu datblygu sy'n nodi y gellir byrhau'r siwrnai i dair awr, gyda buddsoddiad eithaf sylweddol dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd, a oes gennych unrhyw gynlluniau i gyflymu'r siwrnai faith hon rhwng dau ben y wlad?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae cysylltiadau trên rhwng y de a'r gogledd yn flaenoriaeth i'r Llywodraeth—gwnaethpwyd hynny'n glir yn 'Cymru'n Un' flwyddyn yn ôl. Felly, mae angen i ni edrych ar beth sydd angen ei wneud i wella'r gwasanaeth ac i'w gyflymu. Yr hyn sy'n broblemus ar hyn o bryd yw'r problemau rhwydwaith, yn arbennig ar y rheilffordd rhwng Caer a Wrecsam. Mae problemau hefyd ar y trac rhwng Wrecsam a'r Amwythig ac ar rannau o'r trac i lawr i Gaerdydd. Bwriadwn gynnal trafodaethau gyda Network Rail i weld, dros gyfnod o amser, a allwn wella'r trac rhwng Wrecsam a Chaer, er enghraifft, drwy ei ddeuoli neu drwy greu dolennau, a sicrhau y gellir cynyddu cyflymder y trenau rhwng Wrecsam a'r Amwythig. Felly, mae trafodaeth yn mynd yn ei blaen gyda Network Rail. Cyfeiriais yn gynharach at y ddogfen strategaeth a gyhoeddodd Network Rail yn ddiweddar. Byddwn yn gobeithio, drwy'r trafodaethau mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cael gyda'r cwmni, y daw'r math o gynlluniau y cyfeiriais atynt yn rhan o'r cynllun ar gyfer y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Kirsty Williams: What assessment have you made of rising energy and oil prices and your ability to deliver your road-building and other infrastructure projects in Wales?

The Deputy First Minister: We constantly review the cost of our projects, not just because of the increase in fuel prices, but because of the general increase in the cost of construction. This is something that we are constantly reviewing, and I can assure Kirsty that it is kept under regular, monthly review.

1.30 p.m.

expensive. That makes developing the rail infrastructure in Wales an even more pressing issue. When you consider that it takes four and three quarter hours to travel from Bangor to Cardiff and that plans have been drawn up that show that the journey could be cut to three hours, with quite a significant investment over a period of years, do you have any plans to cut the length of this journey from one end of the country to the other?

The Deputy First Minister: Rail links between north and south Wales are a priority for the Government—that was made clear in 'One Wales' a year ago. Therefore, we need to look at what needs to be done to improve the service and to cut the time that it takes. The problem at present is related to the network, especially on the line between Chester and Wrexham. There are also problems on the track between Wrexham and Shrewsbury and on parts of the track down to Cardiff. We intend to hold discussions with Network Rail to see whether, over a period of time, we can improve the track between Wrexham and Chester, by dualling the track or by creating loops, for example, and ensure that trains can travel more quickly between Wrexham and Shrewsbury. Therefore, a discussion is ongoing with Network Rail. I referred earlier to the strategy document that Network Rail published recently. I would hope that, as a result of the discussions that the Government is having with the company, plans such as those to which I have referred will become part of the plan for the coming years.

Kirsty Williams: Pa asesiad yr ydych wedi'i wneud o brisiau cynyddol olew ac ynni a'ch gallu i gyflwyno eich prosiectau adeiladu ffyrdd a phrosiectau seilwaith eraill yng Nghymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn adolygu costau ein prosiectau yn gyson, nid yn unig oherwydd y cynnydd ym mhrisiau tanwydd, ond oherwydd y cynnydd cyffredinol mewn costau adeiladu. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr ydym yn ei adolygu o hyd, a gallaf sicrhau Kirsty ein bod yn ei adolygu'n rheolaidd bob mis.

Kirsty Williams: You will be aware that the Sustainability Committee's work looking at building sustainability into our transport system raised questions about the validity of the Welsh transport planning and appraisal guidance process that you use to evaluate schemes when they are presented to you. Will you tell us what the cost of the oil incorporated into that assessment proposal is? I assume that you are not working on the same basis as the Government of London, which is costing oil at around \$30 a barrel in its assessment process. Will you give me a figure of what you anticipate, and what you use when you are assessing the cost of your schemes during that process?

The Deputy First Minister: I cannot give you a figure today, and you probably would not have expected me to do so, but I will write to you.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Q7 Darren Millar: What steps has the Minister taken to reduce the carbon emissions of his department? OAQ(3)0651(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I am committed to a reduction in carbon emissions. A number of initiatives, including the Wales transport strategy, low carbon developments and our emerging green jobs strategy, are taking this forward.

Darren Millar: It has been said that your department is lagging behind others in the Welsh Assembly Government when it comes to taking climate change seriously. It has been suggested by the Energy Saving Trust, among others, that rolling out eco-driving courses across the public sector could make significant inroads into carbon reduction in the transport sector in Wales. Is this something that you intend to roll out within your department, and does the Assembly Government have plans to extend this sort of scheme across the public sector in Wales?

The Deputy First Minister: I do not accept that my department is slow here, because I made it absolutely clear when I announced

Kirsty Williams: Byddwch yn gwybod bod y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd, wrth iddo edrych ar gynnwys cynaliadwyedd yn ein system drafnidiaeth, wedi codi cwestiynau ynglŷn â dilysrwydd proses arweiniad ar arfarnu a chynllunio trafnidiaeth Cymru, sef y broses y byddwch yn ei defnyddio i werthuso cynlluniau pan gânt eu cyflwyno ichi. A wnewch ddweud wrthym beth yw cost yr olew sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn y drefn asesu honno? Tybiaf nad ydych yn gweithio ar yr un sail â Llywodraeth Llundain, sy'n prisio olew ar oddeutu \$30 y gasgen yn ei phroses asesu. A wnewch roi ffigur imi ar gyfer yr hyn a ragwelwch, a'r hyn yr ydych yn ei ddefnyddio wrth asesu cost eich cynlluniau yn ystod y broses honno?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ni allaf roi ffigur ichi heddiw, ac mae'n debyg na fydddech wedi disgwyl imi wneud hynny, ond ysgrifennaf atoch.

Lleihau Allyriadau Carbon

C7 Darren Millar: Pa gamau mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cymryd i leihau allyriadau carbon ei adran? OAQ(3)0651(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i leihau allyriadau carbon. Mae hyn yn cael ei weithredu drwy nifer o fentrau, gan gynnwys strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru, datblygiadau carbon isel a'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, sy'n dod i'r amlwg.

Darren Millar: Mae wedi'i ddweud bod eich adran yn llusgo ar ôl adrannau eraill yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o ran mynd i'r afael o ddifrif â newid yn yr hinsawdd. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni, ymhlith eraill, wedi awgrymu y gallai lledaenu cyrsiau eco-yrro ar draws y sector cyhoeddus gael argraff sylweddol ar leihau carbon yn y sector trafnidiaeth yng Nghymru. A yw hyn yn rhywbeth y bwriadwch ei ledaenu yn eich adran, ac a oes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gynlluniau i ymestyn y math hwn o gynllun ar draws y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn derbyn bod fy adran yn araf yn hyn o beth, oherwydd fe'i gwneuthum yn gwbl glir pan

the Wales transport strategy that I take the target that we set in 'One Wales' of reducing carbon equivalent emissions, and the sectoral target for transport, very seriously. I do not accept that my department is falling behind here. My department is looking at a number of schemes for reducing fuel consumption. You have mentioned one of them; others are promoting walking and cycling, and giving advice to the logistics sector about how it can make more fuel-efficient use of its transport, such as how empty lorries, for example, need to make fewer journeys. So, a whole range of things are happening, and I am confident that we will play a full part in this area.

Leanne Wood: I am sure that you will be aware of the proposals to build a new liquid natural gas power station in Pembrokeshire. Worryingly, it looks as if those proposals will not include a combined heat and power facility. This station will be a massive carbon emitter, and its planning consent will be decided by the Westminster Government. Do you think that it will be difficult to persuade people to make individual sacrifices if the Westminster Government is going to set such a bad example? Do you agree that it should be this Assembly that determines applications for power generation plants larger than 50 MW?

The Deputy First Minister: The position is clear on the latter point, which is that we have always made the case for the transfer of responsibility to the National Assembly for planning matters over 50 MW. We have repeated that on a number of occasions. This was raised during the recent Joint Ministerial Committee—the first on domestic matters since 2002—and the communiqué that was issued publicly following that meeting made the point that this Government had raised that issue at that meeting. We are now awaiting a response from the UK Government.

Access to Broadband

Q8 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly

gyhoeddais strategaeth trafnidiaeth Cymru fod y targed a osodwyd gennym yn 'Cymru'n Un', sef, lleihau allyriadau sy'n cyfateb i garbon, a tharged y sector ar gyfer trafnidiaeth yn dargedau yr wyf yn wirioneddol o ddifrif yn eu cylch. Nid wyf yn derbyn bod fy adran yn llusgo ar ei hôl hi yn hyn o beth. Mae fy adran yn edrych ar nifer o gynlluniau er mwyn lleihau'r tanwydd a ddefnyddir. Yr ydych wedi crybwyll un ohonynt; rhai eraill yw hyrwyddo cerdded a beicio, a rhoi cyngor i'r sector logisteg ynglŷn â sut y gall ddefnyddio'i drafnidiaeth mewn ffordd fwy effeithlon o ran tanwydd, megis sut y mae lleihau nifer y teithiau a wneir mewn lorïau gweigion. Felly, mae amrywiaeth eang o bethau'n digwydd, ac yr wyf yn hyderus y byddwn yn chwarae rhan lawn yn y maes hwn.

Leanne Wood: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod am y cynigion i adeiladu gorsaf bŵer nwy hylifedig naturiol newydd yn sir Benfro. Mae'n destun pryder na fydd y cynigion hyn, i bob golwg, yn cynnwys cyfleuster gwres a phŵer cyfun. Bydd yr orsaf hon yn allyrru symiau enfawr o garbon, a Llywodraeth San Steffan fydd yn penderfynu a gaiff ganiatâd cynllunio ai peidio. A gredwch y bydd yn anodd perswadio pobl i aberthu fel unigolion os yw Llywodraeth San Steffan am ddangos esiampl mor wael? A gredwch mai'r Cynulliad hwn a ddylai benderfynu ynglŷn â cheisiadau ar gyfer gorsafoedd cynhyrchu pŵer dros 50 MW?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r sefyllfa'n glir o ran y pwynt olaf, sef ein bod wedi dadlau erioed o blaid trosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb am faterion cynllunio dros 50MW i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yr ydym wedi ailadrodd hynny droeon. Codwyd hyn yn ystod y Cydbwyllgor Gweinidogion yn ddiweddar—y cyntaf i drafod materion domestig er 2002—ac yn yr hysbysiad a gyhoeddwyd ar ôl y cyfarfod hwnnw, gwnaethpwyd y pwynt yr oedd y Llywodraeth hon wedi'i godi yn y cyfarfod hwnnw. Yr ydym yn awr yn disgwyl ymateb gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Mynediad i Fand Eang

C8 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisiau

Government's policies for ensuring access to broadband in all communities throughout Wales? OAQ(3)0632(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: Our continued investment in Wales's broadband future has seen affordable broadband access become a reality for many more homes and businesses. However, there remain a relatively small number of areas where affordable broadband is not available. We are planning a Wales-wide procurement to tackle that.

William Graham: You will know that this is a recurrent theme in my questions to you, particularly regarding the provision of broadband service to St Brides, Wentloog. That area has provided 18 of the 22 complaints from Newport on the not spot register. Would it be possible to examine the possibility of a new fibre roll-out and to investigate means of assisting existing providers, without breaking European Commission rules?

The Deputy First Minister: I cannot give you a precise answer on that this afternoon, but I undertake to ask my officials to look at the matter and to write to you formally on it. However, on the issue of the not spots more generally, I am aware that there are several not spot areas in Wales, one of which is the St Brides area, as you have indicated. I am grateful for the work of the cross-party group, which keeps me informed of these matters and keeps the issue at the forefront of my mind. I have been working hard with my officials, because the current contract, which is being rolled out, cannot deliver, or at least will not deliver, in the short term for the not spots. Therefore, we are trying to see whether there is a new procurement route that will enable us to do that, but, in order to secure that, we need the European Commission's consent. We are currently finalising the details of that procurement, which will be published in the early autumn, and there will be an advertisement in the *Official Journal of the European Union*; and we aim to award the contract next spring.

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer sicrhau bod pob cymuned ledled Cymru yn cael mynediad i fand eang? OAQ(3)0632(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae ein buddsoddiad parhaus yn nyfodol band eang Cymru wedi arwain at fynediad fforddiadwy at wasanaeth band eang ar gyfer llawer mwy o gartrefi a busnesau. Fodd bynnag, ceir nifer cymharol fach o ardaloedd lle nad oes band eang fforddiadwy ar gael o hyd. Yr ydym yn bwriadu cynnal proses gaffael Cymru gyfan er mwyn mynd i'r afael â hynny.

William Graham: Byddwch yn gwybod bod y thema hon yn codi dro ar ôl tro yn fy nghwestiynau ichi, yn enwedig gyda golwg ar ddarparu gwasanaeth band eang ar gyfer Saint-y-Brid, Gwynllwg. O'r ardal honno y daeth 18 o'r 22 cwyn sydd wedi dod o Gasnewydd ar gofrestr yr ardaloedd digyswllt. A fyddai modd ystyried posibilrwydd lledaenu ffibr newydd ac archwilio sut y gellid cynorthwyo'r darparwyr sydd ar gael eisoes heb dorri rheolau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ni allaf roi ateb pendant ichi am hynny'r prynhawn yma, ond addawaf ofyn i'm swyddogion edrych ar y mater ac ysgrifennu atoch yn ffurfiol yn ei gylch. Fodd bynnag, o ran yr ardaloedd digyswllt yn fwy cyffredinol, yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod nifer o ardaloedd digyswllt yng Nghymru, ac un o'r rheini yn ardal Saint-y-Brid, fel yr awgrymwyd gennych. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am waith y grŵp trawsbleidiol, sy'n sicrhau fy mod yn cael gwybod am y materion hyn ac yn cadw'r peth ar flaen fy meddwl. Yr wyf wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed gyda'm swyddogion, oherwydd ni all y contract presennol, sydd wrthi'n cael ei ledaenu, ddatrys problemau'r ardaloedd digyswllt yn y tymor byr, neu o leiaf, ni fydd yn gwneud hynny. Felly, yr ydym yn ceisio gweld a oes llwybr caffael newydd i'n galluogi i wneud hynny, ond, er mwyn sicrhau hynny, rhaid inni gael caniatâd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Yr ydym wrthi'n llunio manylion terfynol y drefn gaffael honno, ac fe'i cyhoeddir ddechrau'r hydref. Bydd hysbyseb yn yr *Official Journal of the European Union*; a'n nod fydd dyfarnu'r contract yn y gwanwyn flwyddyn nesaf.

Bethan Jenkins: Yn 2006, sefydlodd Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru a chanolfan arloesi Prifysgol Caerdydd brosiect e-lywodraeth wledig, i asesu anghenion busnesau bach, gwledig mewn gwledydd megis Cymru, Gwlad Pwyl a Slofenia. Un o'r problemau mwyaf a ddaeth i'r amlwg oedd y ffaith nad oedd mynediad i fand eang yn gymwys yng Nghymru ac yn y gwledydd eraill. Mae'r adroddiad i fod i ddod i ben eleni. Pa drafodaethau ydych chi wedi'u cael gyda Phrifysgol Caerdydd ac Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru i sicrhau bod mynediad cymwys i fand eang yn yr ardaloedd hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi gweld yr adroddiad eto, ond, pan ddaw i'n sylw, byddwn yn ei ystyried yn fanwl.

Jenny Randerson: I have a large not spot in my constituency, which may surprise you, as it is Cardiff Central. There are thousands of people with poor broadband speeds very near the city centre, and several hundred people have no access to broadband at all. BT has made much of its responsiveness to petitions. In the last year, my constituents have presented four petitions to BT, asking to be put on broadband; they have had no response, or their petitions have been rejected on technicalities. I have been trying to get a meeting with BT for some months. I heard this morning that the meeting that I had planned with it for tomorrow has been cancelled.

BT told me in February that the Welsh Assembly Government was looking at the situation. It has blamed several factors, including the laws of physics, the equipment and the wiring in constituents' homes, their choice of modem, and intractable lines. However, it all points to the fact that BT has sold off the Roath exchange and has transferred the lines to a much more distant exchange. Will you have a word with your partner in this enterprise throughout Wales? Following your conversations with BT, will you explain to me in a letter why it is that, in the centre of Cardiff, we cannot get broadband?

The Deputy First Minister: Of course I

Bethan Jenkins: In 2006, the Farmers' Union of Wales and Cardiff University's innovation centre set up a rural e-government project to assess the needs of small, rural businesses in countries such as Wales, Poland and Slovenia. One of the greatest problems that emerged was the fact that access to broadband was not adequate in Wales and in the other nations. The report is to be concluded this year. What discussions have you had with Cardiff University and the Farmers' Union of Wales to ensure that there is adequate access to broadband in those areas?

The Deputy First Minister: I have not seen the report yet, but, when it comes before us, we will give it detailed consideration.

Jenny Randerson: Mae gennyf ardal ddigyswllt fawr yn fy etholaeth, ac efallai y synnwech o glywed hynny, gan mai Canol Caerdydd yw'r ardal honno. Mae'r gwasanaeth band eang yn araf iawn i filoedd o bobl sy'n byw'n agos iawn at ganol y ddinas, ac mae cannoedd o bobl heb fand eang o gwbl. Mae BT wedi brolio'i fod yn ymateb i ddeisebau. Yn y flwyddyn diwethaf, mae fy etholwyr wedi cyflwyno pedair deiseb i BT, yn gofyn am gael eu rhoi ar fand eang; nid ydynt wedi cael ymateb, neu mae eu deisebau wedi'u gwrthod oherwydd manylion technegol. Yr wyf wedi bod yn ceisio cael cyfarfod â BT ers misoedd. Clywais y bore yma fod y cyfarfod a oedd wedi'i drefnu ar gyfer yfory wedi'i ganslo.

Dywedodd BT wrthyf ym mis Chwefror fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n edrych ar y sefyllfa. Mae wedi beio nifer o ffactorau, gan gynnwys deddfau ffiseg, yr offer a'r gwifro yng nghartrefi'r etholwyr, y modem y maent wedi'i ddewis, a leiniau anhydrin. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cyfan yn deillio o'r ffaith bod BT wedi gwerthu cyfnewidfa'r Rhath ac wedi trosglwyddo'r leiniau i gyfnewidfa sydd ymhellach i ffwrdd o lawer. A wnewch gael gair gyda'ch partner yn y fenter hon drwy Gymru? Ar ôl cael sgwrs gyda BT, a wnewch egluro imi drwy lythyr pam na allwn gael band eang, yng nghanol Caerdydd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Wrth gwrs y

will. My officials—I have not had discussions with BT, personally, for obvious reasons—are in regular discussions with BT. Where there have been particular localised problems, I have corresponded with BT to try to overcome those problems. Several Assembly Members have been in touch on this issue in the past, and we have tried to facilitate meetings and get a response. Therefore, I will ensure that my officials pick up your point and will ask BT to give you a response.

Regeneration Initiatives

Q9 Joyce Watson: What are the Minister's plans to develop employment opportunities through regeneration initiatives in west Wales? OAQ(3)0630(ECT)

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): In west Wales, we continue to work with partners from all sectors to deliver better jobs and stronger communities. This includes the innovative use of structural funds to create sustainable, well-paid jobs, and the Want to Work initiative to help people back to work.

1.40 p.m.

Joyce Watson: I welcome the Government's commitment to its regeneration programme. In the light of the recovery of the £600,000 grant from the Dairygold plant, following its closure, I am particularly interested in whether you can provide an update on the Assembly Government's plans for the regeneration of the Aeron valley. I used to run a small business less than a mile away from that plant, so I understand the needs of the location and the need to create employment in the area.

Leighton Andrews: As you know, Joyce, the decision on Dairygold was taken recently. With your permission, I will come back to you with a letter containing more information on that question.

Paul Davies: Mae'n hanfodol bod y Llywodraeth yn cefnogi mentrau adfywio er mwyn creu swyddi, yn enwedig mewn

gwnaf. Mae fy swyddogion—nid wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda BT yn bersonol, am resymau amlwg—yn trafod pethau'n rheolaidd gyda BT. Lle mae problemau lleol penodol wedi codi, yr wyf wedi gohebu â BT er mwyn ceisio datrys y problemau hynny. Mae nifer o Aelodau Cynulliad wedi cysylltu ynglŷn â hyn yn y gorffennol ac yr ydym wedi ceisio hwyluso cyfarfodydd a chael ymateb. Felly, byddaf yn sicrhau bod fy swyddogion yn codi'ch pwynt ac yn gofyn i BT ymateb ichi.

Mentrau Adfywio

C9 Joyce Watson: Beth yw cynlluniau'r Gweinidog i ddatblygu cyfleoedd cyflogaeth drwy fentrau adfywio yn y gorllewin? OAQ(3)0630(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews): Yn y gorllewin, yr ydym yn dal i weithio gyda phartneriaid o bob sector i sicrhau gwell swyddi a chymunedau cryfach. Mae hyn yn cynnwys defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol mewn modd arloesol i greu swyddi cynaliadwy â chyflogau da, a'r fenter Yn Awyddus i Weithio er mwyn cynorthwyo pobl i fynd yn ôl i'r gwaith.

Joyce Watson: Croesawaf ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i'w rhaglen adfywio. Yn sgil ad-dalu'r grant £600,000 gan ffatri Dairygold, ar ôl ei chau, hoffwn gael gwybod yn arbennig a allwch ddweud wrthym beth yw'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran cynlluniau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i adfywio dyffryn Aeron. Byddwn yn cadw busnes bach brin filltir o'r safle, felly yr wyf yn deall anghenion y lleoliad a bod angen creu swyddi yn yr ardal.

Leighton Andrews: Fel y gwyrddoch, Joyce, penderfynwyd ynglŷn â Dairygold yn ddiweddar. Gyda'ch caniatâd, ysgrifennaf lythyr atoch i roi rhagor o wybodaeth ichi am y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Paul Davies: It is essential that the Government supports regeneration enterprises in order to create jobs,

ardaloedd gwledig. Mewn ambell dref, mae un rhan o'r dref wedi marw oherwydd bod rhan arall wedi'i hadfywio. Mae Aberdaugleddau yn fy etholaeth i yn enghraifft benodol, gan fod canol y dref wedi dioddef tra bod y marina wedi'i ddatblygu. A all y Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud wrthym a oes cynlluniau penodol gan y Llywodraeth i fynd i'r afael â'r fath broblemau sydd yn dod yn fwy a mwy cyffredin?

Leighton Andrews: The important dimension that we have to examine in all our regeneration schemes is how to link areas of deprivation with areas of opportunity. That is precisely how the Department for Economy and Transport has evaluated its regeneration spend in recent months. If there are specific initiatives that you want us to assess in respect of Milford Haven, I would suggest that you write to me on those points.

Swyddi yn Etholaeth Arfon

C10 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei strategaeth i greu swyddi yn etholaeth Arfon? OAQ(3)0619(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn darparu ystod o fesurau, gan gynnwys y gronfa fuddsoddi sengl, masnacheiddio ymchwil a datblygu, a'r prosiect FibreSpeed er mwyn dod â swyddi a ffyniant economaidd i Arfon. Yn ddiweddar, yr oedd yn bleser gennyf gyhoeddi'r newyddion gwych y bydd cwmni McKesson yn buddsoddi yn yr ardal, gyda chymorth fy adran, gan ddod â 300 o swyddi o ansawdd uchel i Arfon.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gwyddoch fod bygythiad i swyddi yn y swyddfa dreth ym Mangor ac, er ein bod yn gobeithio y bydd newyddion da ac y gellir arbed y swyddi hynny, gallai'r gwaethaf ddigwydd a gallai'r swyddfa honno'n cau. Felly, a oes trefniadau ar y gweill gennych chi yn eich adran i geisio sicrhau bod y bobl sydd â sgiliau ac sydd yn gweithio yn y swyddfa honno yn cael cynigion swyddi, neu o leiaf yn cael eu hystyried ar flaen y ciw gan y cwmni newydd gan y gallai'r sgiliau hynny fod yn berthnasol i'r swyddi newydd. Mae'r posibilrwydd o swyddi newydd wedi'i groesawu, wrth gwrs.

particularly in rural areas. In some towns, one part of the town has died because another part has been regenerated. Milford Haven, in my constituency, is one such example, as the centre of the town has suffered while the marina has been developed. Can the Deputy Minister tell us whether the Government has specific plans to tackle such problems, which are becoming increasingly common?

Leighton Andrews: Y dimensiwn pwysig y mae'n rhaid inni ei archwilio ym mhob un o'n cynlluniau adfywio yw sut y mae cysylltu ardaloedd o amddifadedd ag ardaloedd sy'n cynnig cyfle. Dyna'n union sut y mae Adran yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth wedi gwerthuso'i gwariant ar adfywio yn y misoedd diwethaf. Os oes cynlluniau penodol yr ydych am inni eu hasesu gyda golwg ar Aberdaugleddau, byddwn yn awgrymu ichi ysgrifennu ataf ynglŷn â'r pwyntiau hynny.

Jobs in the Arfon Constituency

Q10 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on his strategy to create jobs in the Arfon constituency? OAQ(3)0619(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I am delivering a range of measures, including the single investment fund, the commercialisation of research and development, and the FibreSpeed project to bring jobs and economic prosperity to Arfon. Recently, I was delighted to announce the excellent news of McKesson's investment, supported by my department, bringing 300 high-quality jobs to Arfon.

Alun Ffred Jones: You will know that jobs in the tax office in Bangor are under threat and, although we hope that there will be good news and that those jobs can be saved, the worst could happen and the office could close. Therefore, are arrangements being made in your department to try to ensure that the people with skills who work in that office are offered posts, or are at least at the front of the queue for consideration by the new company, as their skills could be relevant to the new jobs. The possibility of new jobs has been welcomed, of course.

The Presiding Officer: Alun Ffred asked the Deputy First Minister to indicate whether further job opportunities would be available. Unfortunately, there was a lapse in the translation system.

Bydd yn well iti ateb yn y Saesneg, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog .

The Deputy First Minister: There are a number of opportunities. One of the pleasing factors of the McKesson investment—which is excellent news—is that, in announcing the project, the group made it clear that one of the reasons for coming to Bangor and the Arfon area was the skills that are in that area. I am sure that, as Alun Ffred mentioned, anyone who loses their job will be considered for those opportunities, but I will ensure that my officials are aware of his concern and that any linkages between job opportunities with McKesson and the local community are made.

Y Llywydd: Mae'r cyfieithiad yn awr yn gweithio.

Y Llywydd: Gofynnodd Alun Ffred i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ddweud a fyddai mwy o gyfleoedd ar gyfer swyddi ar gael. Yn anffodus, yr oedd nam ar y system cyfieithu.

You had better answer in English, Deputy First Minister.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae nifer o gyfleoedd ar gael. Un o ffactorau calonogol y buddsoddiad gan McKesson—sy'n newyddion rhagorol—yw bod y grŵp wedi'i gwneud yn glir, wrth gyhoeddi'r prosiect, mai un o'r rhesymau dros ddod i Fangor ac i ardal Arfon oedd y sgiliau sydd yn yr ardal honno. Yr wyf yn siŵr, fel y crybwyllodd Alun Ffred, y bydd unrhyw un sy'n colli ei swydd yn cael ei ystyried ar gyfer y cyfleoedd hynny, ond byddaf yn sicrhau bod fy swyddogion yn ymwybodol o'i bryder a bod y cysylltiad yn cael ei wneud rhwng y cyfleoedd am swyddi sydd ar gael gyda McKesson a'r gymuned leol.

Y Llywydd: The translation is now working.

Datganiad ar y Strategaeth Cynnwys Ffoaduriaid Statement on the Refugee Inclusion Strategy

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide an update on the refugee inclusion strategy. I was delighted to launch the strategy at the Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre in Newport on 14 June. Among stakeholders, expectation was high that the strategy would provide the necessary vision and direction to achieve refugee inclusion.

The reception that the strategy received from stakeholders and the media suggests that those expectations were realised. The aim of the refugee inclusion strategy is to support refugees and enable them to rebuild their lives in Wales and make a full contribution to society. The strategy outlines the actions that the Welsh Assembly Government will take to

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o lansio'r strategaeth yng Nghanolfan y Celfyddydau a Theatr Glan yr Afon yng Nghasnewydd ar 14 Mehefin. Yr oedd gan y rhanddeiliaid ddisgwyliadau mawr y byddai'r strategaeth yn cynnig y weledigaeth a'r cyfeiriad angenrheidiol er mwyn sicrhau bod ffoaduriaid yn cael eu cynnwys.

Mae'r derbyniad a gafodd y strategaeth gan randdeiliaid a gan y cyfryngau'n awgrymu y cafodd y disgwyliadau hynny eu gwireddu. Nod y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid yw cefnogi ffoaduriaid a'u galluogi i ailadeiladu eu bywydau yng Nghymru a chyfrannu'n llawn at gymdeithas. Mae'r strategaeth yn amlinellu'r camau y bydd Llywodraeth

achieve refugee inclusion across Wales.

Wales has a proud history of providing refuge to people fleeing persecution. Over the centuries, refugees from many countries have been welcomed by people in Wales. Asylum seekers living in Wales originate from more than 60 nations and speak 40 different languages. As the Minister with responsibility for asylum-seeker and refugee issues, I am committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all people living in Wales, and to ensuring that we respect each other's values, cultures, languages and faiths.

During the process of developing the refugee inclusion strategy, the Welsh Assembly Government worked with refugees, asylum seekers and their representative organisations. In response to the issues raised during the consultation, the strategy was revised to better reflect the circumstances and aspirations of asylum seekers and refugees in Wales.

The contribution that refugees, asylum seekers and their representative organisations made to the strategy needs to be acknowledged. The consultation process resulted in a stronger document, which now clarifies the distinctions between asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers, including their distinct experiences, motivations, service needs and legal status. It acknowledges that asylum seekers are not an homogeneous group, and encourages policy responses that take account of the diverse needs of asylum seekers and refugees. It also recognises the role of the receiving community, in particular the vital role that minority ethnic communities play in facilitating refugee inclusion.

During the consultation process, we identified the fulfilment of potential as the most important factor for individual refugees. In response, we have established that as one of the key themes of the refugee inclusion strategy, alongside ensuring diverse and cohesive communities and the accessibility of services.

Cynulliad Cymru'n eu Cymru i gyflawni cynnwys ffoaduriaid ledled Cymru.

Mae gan Gymru hanes balch o ddarparu lloches i bobl sy'n ffoi rhag erledigaeth. Dros y canrifoedd, mae pobl Cymru wedi croesawu ffoaduriaid o nifer o wledydd. Mae ceiswyr lloches yng Nghymru yn tarddu o dros 60 o wledydd ac yn siarad 40 o ieithoedd gwahanol. Fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am faterion sy'n ymwneud â cheiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i gyflawni cyfle cyfartal i bawb sy'n byw yng Nghymru, a sicrhau ein bod yn parhau gwerthoedd, diwylliannau, ieithoedd a chredoau ein gilydd.

Yn ystod y broses o ddatblygu'r strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid, yr oedd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gweithio gyda ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a'r mudiadau sy'n eu cynrychioli. Mewn ymateb i'r materion a godwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad, cafodd y strategaeth ei diwygio i adlewyrchu amgylchiadau a dyheadau ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru'n well.

Mae angen cydnabod cyfraniad ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a'r mudiadau sy'n eu cynrychioli at y strategaeth. Arweiniodd y broses ymgynghori at ddogfen gryfach, sydd yn awr yn egluro'r gwahaniaethau rhwng ceiswyr lloches, ffoaduriaid a gweithwyr mudol, gan gynnwys eu profiadau penodol, yr hyn sy'n eu cymell, eu hanghenion o ran gwasanaethau a'u statws cyfreithiol. Mae'n cydnabod nad yw ceiswyr lloches yn grŵp unffurf, ac yn annog ymatebion polisi sy'n ystyried anghenion amrywiol ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid. Mae hefyd yn cydnabod swyddogaeth y gymuned lle byddant yn ymgartrefu, yn enwedig y swyddogaeth hanfodol y mae cymunedau lleiafrifoedd ethnig yn ei chwarae i hwyluso cynnwys ffoaduriaid.

Yn ystod y broses ymgynghori, yr oeddem wedi nodi mai'r ffactor pwysicaf un ar gyfer ffoaduriaid unigol oedd cyflawni potensial. Mewn ymateb i hynny, yr ydym wedi sefydlu hynny fel un o themâu allweddol y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid, ochr yn ochr â sicrhau cymunedau amrywiol a chydlynol a hygyrchedd gwasanaethau.

Although the strategy is concerned with refugee inclusion, it contains provisions specific to asylum seekers. One of the principles on which the strategy is based is that refugee inclusion begins on day one of arrival in the United Kingdom, and successful inclusion is closely related to the standard of reception procedures, and people's experiences as asylum seekers.

Prior to the National Assembly for Wales elections in May 2007, candidates demonstrated their commitment to improving the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Wales by individually committing to pledges within the 'Refugee and Asylum Seekers: Manifesto' in 2007. The commitments made in the manifesto are addressed in the strategy.

The refugee inclusion strategy documents the progress that the Welsh Assembly Government has made to date in achieving refugee inclusion in Wales. At the same time, the strategy recognises that there are a number of barriers to refugee inclusion. As a group, refugees and asylum seekers are especially vulnerable. They are living in a new community, in a country where they face a wide range of difficulties just to meet their elementary day-to-day needs. The wellbeing of all will have been at risk, and many will have suffered persecution or worse. We need to be particularly sensitive to the requirements of children. First, they must be treated as children, and, as part of meeting the manifesto's commitments, we must recognise the need for children's advocacy, particularly those children who are unaccompanied.

To ensure that the refugee inclusion strategy achieves refugee inclusion, the individual strategic objectives set out in it are accompanied by action points. We are currently developing an implementation action plan, which identifies the resources, targets and outcomes for the individual actions. Once the plan has been formalised, a refugee inclusion strategy implementation group will be established. The group will monitor progress made towards implementing the refugee inclusion strategy

Er bod y strategaeth yn ymwneud â chynnwys ffoaduriaid, mae'n cynnwys darpariaethau sy'n benodol i geiswyr lloches. Un o'r egwyddorion sy'n sail i'r strategaeth yw bod cynnwys ffoaduriaid yn dechrau ar y diwrnod y byddant yn cyrraedd y Deyrnas Unedig, ac mae cynhwysiant llwyddiannus wedi'i blethu'n agos at safon y gweithdrefnau derbyn, a phrofiadau pobl fel ceiswyr lloches.

Cyn etholiadau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ym mis Mai 2007, dangosodd yr ymgeiswyr eu hymrwymiad i wella bywydau ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches yng Nghymru drwy ymrwmo'n unigol i addewidion yn y 'Maniffesto Ffoaduriaid a Cheiswyr Lloches' yn 2007. Mae'r strategaeth yn rhoi sylw i'r ymrwymadau a wnaethpwyd yn y maniffesto.

Mae'r strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid yn cofnodi'r cynnydd y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi'i wneud hyd yn hyn o ran cyflawni cynnwys ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru. Ar yr un pryd, mae'r strategaeth yn cydnabod bod nifer o rwystrau rhag cynnwys ffoaduriaid. Fel grŵp, mae ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches yn arbennig o agored i niwed. Maent yn byw mewn cymuned newydd, mewn gwlad lle maent yn wynebu amrywiaeth eang o anawsterau dim ond i ddiwallu eu hanghenion beunyddiol elfennol. Bydd lles pawb wedi bod yn y fantol, a bydd nifer wedi dioddef erledigaeth neu waeth. Mae angen inni fod yn arbennig o sensitif i ofynion plant. Yn anad dim arall, rhaid iddynt gael eu trin fel plant, ac, fel rhan o ddiwallu ymrwymadau'r maniffesto, rhaid inni gydnabod yr angen am eiriolaeth plant, yn enwedig y plant hynny sydd ar eu pen eu hunain.

I sicrhau bod y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid yn cyflawni cynnwys ffoaduriaid, daw'r amcanion strategol unigol a osodir ynddi gyda phwyntiau gweithredu. Ar hyn o bryd yr ydym yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu, sy'n nodi'r adnoddau, y targedau a'r canlyniadau ar gyfer y camau gweithredu unigol. Ar ôl i'r cynllun gael ei ffurfioli, sefydlir grŵp gweithredu strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid. Bydd y grŵp yn monitro'r cynnydd a wneir at weithredu'r strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid o'i

against the targets and outcomes set out in the implementation action plan. That will enable Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to monitor the progress made towards achieving refugee inclusion in Wales.

To facilitate an effective response to refugee inclusion, the implementation action plan priorities 10 actions that address those areas of service delivery subject to the greatest pressure. I recognise that refugee inclusion will not be achieved by working alone. The approach underpinning the strategy is, therefore, a partnership approach. Welsh Assembly Government officials will be contacting refugee organisations and other service providers in the near future to discuss how we can work in partnership to deliver the actions contained in the refugee inclusion strategy. We will also work with the media, academic institutions and faith groups to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy.

1.50 p.m.

The key to achieving inclusion is securing the participation of refugees in the decisions about services and their delivery. My officials will therefore be consulting with organisations that represent the interests of refugees and, where possible, consulting with individual refugees to inform the design and delivery of services.

Mark Isherwood: Thank you for that statement. Wales and the UK have a proud record of providing a safe haven for victims of persecution abroad. The day that ceases is the day we cease to be a tolerant and inclusive society.

To put the matter in context, fewer than 2,500 people are seeking asylum in Wales, which is less than 0.1 per cent of the population, and there are only around 10,000 refugees in total, many of whom live in abject poverty and require support to help them to rebuild their lives. We therefore support this strategy. I take this opportunity to thank you and Jane

chymharu â'r targedau a'r canlyniadau a osodir allan yn y cynllun gweithredu. Bydd hynny'n galluogi Gweinidogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fonitro'r cynnydd a wneir at gyflawni cynnwys ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru.

Er mwyn hwyluso ymateb effeithiol i gynnwys ffoaduriaid, mae'r cynllun gweithredu yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i 10 cam gweithredu sy'n rhoi sylw i'r meysydd darparu gwasanaeth hynny sydd dan y pwysau mwyaf. Yr wyf yn cydnabod na chyflawnir cynnwys ffoaduriaid drwy weithio ar ein pen ein hunain. Dull gweithredu partneriaeth felly yw'r dull gweithredu sy'n sail i'r strategaeth. Bydd swyddogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cysylltu â mudiadau ffoaduriaid a darparwyr gwasanaethau eraill yn y dyfodol agos i drafod sut y gallwn weithio mewn partneriaeth i ddarparu'r camau gweithredu sydd yn y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid. Byddwn hefyd yn gweithio gyda'r cyfryngau, sefydliadau academiaidd, a grwpiau ffydd i sicrhau y caiff y strategaeth ei rhoi ar waith yn effeithiol.

Yr allwedd i gyflawni cynhwysiant yw sicrhau cyfranogiad ffoaduriaid yn y penderfyniadau am wasanaethau a'u darparu. Felly bydd fy swyddogion yn ymgynghori â mudiadau sy'n cynrychioli buddiannau ffoaduriaid a, phan fydd yn bosibl, yn ymgynghori â ffoaduriaid unigol er mwyn cyfrannu at y gwaith o ddylunio a darparu gwasanaethau.

Mark Isherwood: Diolch ichi am y datganiad hwnnw. Mae gan Gymru a'r DU hanes balch o ddarparu lloches ddiogel i ddioddefwyr erledigaeth dramor. Ni fyddwn mwyach yn gymdeithas oddefgar a chynhwysol pan ddaw hynny i ben.

I roi'r mater mewn cyd-destun, mae llai na 2,500 o bobl yn ceisio lloches yng Nghymru, sy'n llai na 0.1 y cant o'r boblogaeth, a dim ond oddeutu 10,000 o ffoaduriaid a geir at ei gilydd, ac mae nifer ohonynt yn byw mewn tldi difrifol ac mae angen cefnogaeth arnynt i'w helpu i ailadeiladu eu bywydau. Yr ydym felly'n cefnogi'r strategaeth hon. Yr wyf am

Hutt, for meeting representatives of Refugee Voice Wales to hear their concerns. Higher Education Wales's Amanda Wilkinson also met them to discuss education issues, and I extend my thanks to her for that.

Your statement clarifies the distinction between asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers, which I welcome. What consideration have you given to communicating that distinction more broadly through some form of public information strategy to neutralise some unpleasant political extremists who try to misrepresent the clear separation?

As you rightly say, the strategy should be based on refugee inclusion from the first day they arrive in the UK. That is a point that they regularly emphasise. I welcome the fact that you have addressed the five pledges from the 'Refugee and Asylum Seekers: Manifesto' in your strategy. I also welcome the fact that you are talking specifically about action points, which I trust will be measurable, and targets and outcomes as you move towards an action plan.

You mention a partnership approach, which is most welcome, but how will you ensure that that partnership approach operates at a strategic level so that the various groups of refugees and refugee representative bodies have a voice in the development of the strategy, and not merely as consultees, as it progresses?

A key issue that has been raised in the evidence taken in committee is that of English for speakers of other languages. What action do you propose to take over ESOL schemes, and not only their delivery but their resourcing? Among others, North Wales Police highlighted resource concerns in meeting the level of demand.

I know that you share my commitment to the

achub ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i chi a Jane Hutt am gwrdd â chynrychiolwyr Llais Ffoaduriaid Cymru i glywed eu pryderon. Yr oedd Amanda Wilkinson o Addysg Uwch Cymru hefyd wedi cwrdd â hwy i drafod materion yn ymwneud ag addysg, ac yr wyf hefyd yn estyn fy niolch iddi hi am hynny.

Mae eich datganiad yn egluro'r gwahaniaeth rhwng ceiswyr lloches, ffoaduriaid a gweithwyr mudol, yr wyf yn ei groesawu. Pa ystyriaeth yr ydych wedi'i rhoi i gyfathrebu'r gwahaniaeth hwnnw'n ehangach drwy ryw fath o strategaeth gwybodaeth gyhoeddus i niwtraleiddio rhai eithafwyr gwleidyddol annymunol sy'n ceisio camddehongli'r gwahaniaeth clir hwnnw?

Fel yr ydych yn ei ddweud yn iawn, dylai'r strategaeth fod yn seiliedig ar gynnwys ffoaduriaid o'r diwrnod cyntaf y byddant yn cyrraedd yn y DU. Mae hwnnw'n bwynt y maent yn ei bwysleisio'n rheolaidd. Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ffaith eich bod wedi rhoi sylw i'r pum addewid o'r 'Maniffesto Ffoaduriaid a Cheiswyr Lloches' yn eich strategaeth. Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu'r ffaith eich bod yn siarad yn benodol am bwyntiau gweithredu, hyderaf y byddant yn fesuradwy, a thargedau a chanlyniadau wrth ichi symud at gynllun gweithredu.

Yr ydych yn sôn am ddull gweithredu partneriaeth, sydd i'w groesawu'n gynnes, ond sut y byddwch yn sicrhau bod dull gweithredu partneriaeth yn gweithredu ar lefel strategol er mwyn i'r grwpiau amrywiol o ffoaduriaid a chyrff sy'n cynrychioli ffoaduriaid gael llais yn natblygiad y strategaeth, ac nid dim ond ymgygoreion, wrth iddi fynd rhagddi?

Un mater allweddol a godwyd yn y dystiolaeth a gafwyd yn y pwyllgor yw Saesneg ar gyfer y rheini sy'n siarad ieithoedd eraill. Pa gamau gweithredu yr ydych yn bwriadu eu cymryd dros gynlluniau Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill, ac nid dim ond eu darparu ond yr adnoddau ar eu cyfer hefyd? Ymysg eraill, yr oedd Heddlu Gogledd Cymru wedi tynnu sylw at bryderon o ran adnoddau ar gyfer diwallu lefel y galw.

Gwn eich bod yn rhannu fy ymrwymiad i'r

Hope not Hate campaign, but how will you use the information from the strategy to neutralise the politics of cowardice, which throughout time has sought to blame the minorities within for the problems of society more broadly to avoid the responsibility of dealing with those problems?

As for an education strategy, how will you address the concerns raised by young people in the asylum system who, having been educated at schools in Wales, had to find the money to pay for international fees? In addition, how will you address the mistakes in the immigration status of applicants, which may have led to students being charged international fees?

Will the strategy address concerns about access to accommodation, childcare, student support and—a point that Refugee Voice Wales raised with me—youth participation in sport? The point was put to me strongly that the opportunity for these new young people to represent Wales and the UK in the Olympic Games in 2012 would be welcomed.

Brian Gibbons: Thank you for your positive reception of this statement. Among the first messages that we must send out to those who would exploit the plight of refugees and who wish to sow seeds of social disharmony in Wales is that we, as a National Assembly for Wales, are united across all political parties, without exception—and without individual exception—in extending a welcome to refugees. It would not be acceptable for people to try to play politics in any way on this, and the positive way in which you stated that on behalf of your party is to be welcomed. Hopefully, people in Wales will take note of the strong endorsement of that approach that you have given.

It is important that we involve refugees in the implementation of the strategy. They will play an important part in the monitoring group, or the implementation group. They will monitor the content produced by the implementation group and how policy is being implemented, with dates and the outcomes that you mentioned in your

ymgyrch Hope not Hate, ond sut y byddwch yn defnyddio'r wybodaeth o'r strategaeth i niwtraleiddio gwleidyddiaeth llwfrdra, sydd o'r cychwyn cyntaf wedi ceisio taflu'r bai am broblemau cymdeithas yn ehangach ar y lleiafrifoedd yn y gymdeithas honno i osgoi cyfrifoldeb delio â'r problemau hynny?

O ran strategaeth addysg, sut y byddwch yn rhoi sylw i'r pryderon a godwyd gan bobl ifanc yn y system lloches sydd, wedi iddynt gael eu haddysg mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru, wedi gorfod dod o hyd i'r arian i dalu am ffioedd rhyngwladol? Ar ben hynny, sut y byddwch yn rhoi sylw i'r camgymeriadau yn statws mewn fudo ymgeiswyr, a allai fod wedi arwain at godi ffioedd rhyngwladol ar fyfyrwyr?

A wnaiff y strategaeth roi sylw i bryderon am fynediad at lety, gofal plant, cefnogaeth i fyfyrwyr a—pwynt a gododd Llais Ffoaduriaid Cymru â mi—cyfranogiad pobl ifanc mewn chwaraeon? Cafodd y pwynt ei gyfleu'n gryf imi y byddid yn croesawu'r cyfle i'r bobl ifanc newydd hyn gynrychioli Cymru a'r DU yn y Gemau Olympaidd yn 2012.

Brian Gibbons: Diolch ichi am dderbyn y datganiad hwn yn gadarnhaol. Ymysg y negeseuon cyntaf y mae'n rhaid inni eu hanfon i'r rheini a fyddai'n ymwela ar sefyllfa ffoaduriaid ac sy'n dymuno hau hadau anghytgord cymdeithasol yng Nghymru yw ein bod ni, fel Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unedig ar draws pob plaid wleidyddol, yn ddieithriad—a heb eithriad unigol—o ran estyn croeso i ffoaduriaid. Ni fyddai'n dderbyniol i bobl geisio chwarae gwleidyddiaeth mewn unrhyw ffordd gyda hyn, ac mae'r ffordd gadarnhaol y dywedaso hynny ar ran eich plaid i'w chroesawu. Gobeithio y bydd pobl Cymru'n sylwi ar y gymeradwyaeth gref i'r agwedd honno yr ydych wedi'u rhoi.

Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cynnwys ffoaduriaid wrth weithredu'r strategaeth. Byddant yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn y grŵp monitro, neu'r grŵp gweithredu. Byddant yn monitro'r cynnwys a gynhyrchir gan y grŵp gweithredu a sut y caiff polisi ei weithredu, gyda dyddiadau a'r canlyniadau y soniasoch amdanynt yn eich cyfraniad. Ni ellir

contribution. The important role of refugee groups as consultees cannot be overemphasised. It is important that we continue to maintain a healthy dialogue with refugees, although many of the refugee support groups that we assist as an Assembly Government are also involved in the delivery of projects. That allows them to be on the front line, addressing the day-to-day problems of refugees. That is a great strength of partnership working, because they can bring back their front-line experience.

Without any doubt, English for speakers of other languages is probably the single biggest issue that people raise with us as an Assembly Government in this context. We have established a task and finish group to take into account the recent review by Estyn of ESOL provision in Wales. The purpose of that group is to take the messages of that Estyn review on board and to respond to those issues. We are also looking at opportunities through European funding to provide an enhanced range of ESOL services. However, it is true that, over the past few years, the pressure on ESOL provision has grown considerably, and we need to recognise that.

It is important that we promote a positive image of refugees. If people understand the persecution and worse that refugees in Wales have been fleeing, I am sure that there will be an instinctive sympathy for their plight. Many of the refugees who are settling in Wales have a tremendous amount to contribute to Welsh society, and, instead of going along with the right-wing xenophobia that sometimes features in this debate, we should be promoting the positive and highlighting how refugees can contribute. Being able to avail themselves of third-level education is an important part of their future contribution, and we are looking at how refugees can access the same services as other citizens living in Wales, once they are settled. The situation is somewhat different for asylum seekers, and that distinction needs to be borne in mind. Once people are accepted for settlement here, it is important that there is equity in these areas.

gorbwysleisio swyddogaeth bwysig grwpiau ffoaduriaid fel ymgynghoreion. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn parhau i gynnal deialog iach gyda ffoaduriaid, er bod nifer o'r grwpiau cefnogi ffoaduriaid yr ydym yn eu cynorthwyo fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd yn ymwneud â darparu prosiectau. Mae hynny'n caniatáu iddynt fod ar y rheng flaen, yn rhoi sylw i broblemau beunyddiol ffoaduriaid. Mae hynny'n un o gryfderau mawr gwaith partneriaeth, oherwydd gallant ddod â'u profiad ar y rheng flaen yn ôl.

Yn ddiau, mae'n debyg mai Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill yw'r un mater mwyaf y mae pobl yn ei godi â ni fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn y cyd-destun hwn. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl a gorffenn i ystyried yr adolygiad diweddar gan Estyn o ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill yng Nghymru. Diben y grŵp hwnnw yw ystyried negeseuon yr adolygiad Estyn hwnnw ac ymateb i'r materion hynny. Yr ydym hefyd yn edrych ar gyfleoedd drwy gyllid Ewropeaidd i ddarparu ystod well o wasanaethau Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill. Fodd bynnag, mae'n wir, dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, bod y pwysau ar ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill wedi tyfu'n sylweddol, ac mae angen inni gydnabod hynny.

Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn hyrwyddo delwedd gadarnhaol o ffoaduriaid. Os bydd pobl yn deall yr erledigaeth a'r gwaeth y mae ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru wedi bod yn ffoi oddi wrthynt, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd cydymdeimlad greddfoll â'u sefyllfa. Mae gan nifer o'r ffoaduriaid sy'n ymgartrefu yng Nghymru lawer iawn i'w gyfrannu at gymdeithas Cymru, ac, yn hytrach na dilyn y senoffobia asgell dde sy'n codi ei ben yn y ddadl hon ambell waith, dylem fod yn hyrwyddo'r cadarnhaol ac yn tynnu sylw at sut y gall ffoaduriaid gyfrannu. Mae gallu cael gafael ar addysg trydydd lefel yn rhan bwysig o'u cyfraniad yn y dyfodol, ac yr ydym yn edrych ar sut y gall ffoaduriaid gael gafael ar yr un gwasanaethau â dinasyddion eraill sy'n byw yng Nghymru, ar ôl iddynt ymsefydlu. Mae'r sefyllfa ychydig yn wahanol ar gyfer ceiswyr lloches, ac mae angen cofio'r gwahaniaeth hwnnw. Ar ôl i bobl gael eu derbyn yma fel preswylwyr

sefydlog, mae'n bwysig bod tegwch yn y meysydd hyn.

David Lloyd: I welcome the Minister's statement on the refugee inclusion strategy, although it has been a long time in the making. He rightly acknowledged the contribution of refugees, asylum seekers and their representative organisations to the formation of the strategy, and it is great to see the Government response come to fruition before us. As he made clear, there are distinctions between refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers. Only the day before yesterday, the Minister gave evidence to Committee D of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body, which was in the Senedd taking evidence on the integration of migrant workers in these islands. He will recall that the main issue surrounding migrant workers—and there is a fair overlap when it comes to refugees and asylum seekers—seemed to be the need for an accurate database of their exact numbers, so that we can counter the feelings that Mark Isherwood was enunciating in a level-headed manner, as well as the huge need for ESOL classes.

David Lloyd: Yr wyf yn croesawu datganiad y Gweinidog am y strategaeth cynnwys ffoaduriaid, er mai hir bu'r aros amdano. Yr oedd yn iawn i gydnabod cyfraniad ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a'r mudiadau sy'n eu cynrychioli at ffurfio'r strategaeth, ac mae'n braf gweld ymateb y Llywodraeth yn dwyn ffrwyth o'n blaenau. Fel yr eglurodd, ceir gwahaniaethau rhwng ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a gweithwyr mudol. Dim ond echdoe yr oedd y Gweinidog yn rhoi tystiolaeth i Bwyllgor D y Corff Rhyngseneddol Prydeinig-Gwyddelig, a oedd yn y Senedd yn cymryd tystiolaeth am integreiddio gweithwyr mudol yn yr ynysoedd hyn. Bydd yn cofio mai'r prif fater sy'n ymwneud â gweithwyr mudol—a cheir dipyn o orgyffwrdd pan ddaw at ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches—i bob golwg oedd yr angen am gronfa ddata gywir o'u hunion niferoedd, er mwyn inni allu gwrthwynebu'r teimladau yr oedd Mark Isherwood yn eu datgan mewn modd cytbwys, yn ogystal â'r angen enfawr am ddosbarthiadau Saesneg ar gyfer siaradwyr ieithoedd eraill.

2.00 p.m.

Imagine having to suddenly flee Wales to a far-away country, under persecution and fearing for your life, and landing on a shore faced with the strange situation of having no home, no skills in the language and being unable to access services because of communication difficulties. That is the situation that refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers face when they arrive in Wales for the first time. We should respond positively to that need and desire. That is what is outlined here.

Dychmygwch orfod ffoi o Gymru'n sydyn i wlad bell, dan erledigaeth ac yn ofni am eich bywyd, a glanio ar dir yn wynebu'r sefyllfa ddiethr o fod heb gartref, heb sgiliau yn yr iaith a heb allu cael gwasanaethau oherwydd anawsterau cyfathrebu. Dyna'r sefyllfa sy'n wynebu ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a gweithwyr mudol pan gyrhaeddant Gymru am y tro cyntaf. Dylem ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r angen a'r awydd hwnnw. Dyna sydd wedi'i amlinellu yma.

I need to press you further on the ESOL provision—or, at the moment, lack of it—for refugees and asylum seekers. There is a huge and urgent need for such provision. People are being left destitute as a result of a lack of support because they cannot communicate their needs and cannot communicate with the services that could—and, indeed, would—provide them with the necessary support if only they knew what was needed.

Mae angen immi bwysu arnoch ymhellach ynglŷn â'r ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill—neu, ar hyn o bryd, y diffyg darpariaeth—i ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Mae angen dirfawr a brys am ddarpariaeth o'r fath. Mae pobl yn cael eu gadael ar y clwt oherwydd diffyg cefnogaeth am eu bod yn methu cyfleu eu hanghenion ac yn methu cyfathrebu â'r gwasanaethau a allai—ac a fyddai, yn wir—yn rhoi'r gefnogaeth angenrheidiol iddynt pe baent ond yn gwybod

beth yw'r angen.

We are in Wales, and there is a specific Welsh dimension to this refugee inclusion strategy in that Wales has proud history of welcoming people, and providing information about Wales in various languages. Wales is distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom in language, culture, access to services, access to legal support, and in the availability and knowledge of the array of voluntary-sector bodies that are active in the fields of asylum and justice, as well as the refugee councils.

As you rightly pointed out, refugees and asylum seekers are often highly skilled. Dentists, doctors, teachers and nurses flee persecution in other countries, and we should enable those people to use their skills in Wales; we are often crying out for such skills—particularly dental skills—here. We should be able to accommodate, without too much bureaucracy, highly qualified professionals, and particularly health workers, who flee persecution in other countries. They should be able to find a post in Wales fairly swiftly on the basis of their skills.

You rightly pointed out the contribution made by refugees, asylum seekers and their representative organisations to the Government's refugee inclusion strategy. Those people and I would welcome an assurance that refugees and asylum seekers will be consulted on, and involved in, the implementation of the strategy. We do not just want to see a strategy; we want to see it implemented and progress on the ground, particularly with regard to the development of the all-important ESOL classes.

Brian Gibbons: Thank you again for your positive remarks. On the last point, I reiterate that the refugees will be represented on the implementation group, which will have a range of sub-groups to consider specific issues such as work and skill requirements, local provision and so forth. We probably provide more than £5 million-worth of ESOL provision in Wales. It is difficult to get a fully accurate picture because, clearly, further

Yr ydym yng Nghymru, ac mae dimensiwn Cymreig arbennig i'r strategaeth hon ar gyfer cynnwys ffoaduriaid, gan fod gan Gymru hanes balch o groesawu pobl, a darparu gwybodaeth am Gymru mewn gwahanol ieithoedd. Mae Cymru'n wahanol i weddill y Deyrnas Unedig o ran iaith, diwylliant, gallu cael gwasanaethau, gallu cael cefnogaeth gyfreithiol, ac o ran y llu o gyrff yn y sector gwirfoddol sy'n weithgar ym meysydd lloches a chyfiawnder, yn ogystal â'r cynghorau ffoaduriaid.

Fel y dywedasoch yn deg, mae ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches yn aml yn bobl fedrus iawn. Mae deintyddion, meddygon, athrawon a nyrsys yn ffoi rhag erledigaeth mewn gwledydd eraill, a dylem alluogi'r bobl hynny i ddefnyddio'u sgiliau yng Nghymru; yr aml yr ydym yn gweiddi am sgiliau o'r fath—sgiliau deintyddol yn arbennig—yma. Dylem allu derbyn, heb ormod o fiwrocraiaeth, bobl broffesiynol sydd â chymwysterau uchel, a gweithwyr iechyd yn enwedig, sy'n ffoi rhag erledigaeth mewn gwledydd eraill. Dylent allu dod o hyd i swydd yng Nghymru'n weddol fuan ar sail eu sgiliau.

Soniech yn ddigon cywir am gyfraniad ffoaduriaid, ceiswyr lloches a'u cyrff cynrychioliadol at strategaeth y Llywodraeth ar gyfer cynnwys ffoaduriaid. Byddai'r bobl hynny a minnau hefyd yn croesawu sicrwydd yr ymgynghorir â ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches, a sicrhau eu cyfranogiad, wrth weithredu'r strategaeth. Nid cael strategaeth yn unig a ddymunwn; mae arnom eisiau gweld ei gweithredu a'i datblygu ar lawr gwlad, yn enwedig yng nghyswllt datblygu'r dosbarthiadau hollbwysig i ddysgu Saesneg i Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill.

Brian Gibbons: Diolch eto am eich sylwadau cadarnhaol. Ar y pwynt olaf, dywedaf eto y bydd y ffoaduriaid yn cael eu cynrychioli ar y grŵp gweithredu, a fydd yn cynnwys amrediad o is-grwpiau i ystyried materion penodol fel gofynion gwaith a sgiliau, darpariaeth leol, ac ati. Mae'n debyg ein bod yn darparu gwerth dros £5 miliwn o ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill yng Nghymru. Mae'n anodd

education colleges are free to provide ESOL in a non-hypothecated way. It is, therefore, difficult to know precisely the extent of the provision above £5 million. Equally, when people find work—and refugees have probably not yet made that transition—there are instances where the employer, valuing the refugee's skills, will pay for the ESOL provision. So, it can be difficult to get a definitive figure, but we are spending in excess of £5 million on ESOL provision. We know that that is not enough and that there is a waiting list, so, for the future, that level of support will have to be considered. However, we have to get the balance right between what we provide as a public service and what employers and so forth provide, because they have a responsibility and a duty of care that they need to address.

On the point that you made about refugees, the term 'refugee', in a way, underplays the challenge that we face, because the strategy outlines that it is not good enough to just give refuge to people that face persecution, torture and harassment. The whole essence of the strategy is about not just providing a refuge, but allowing people to rebuild their lives, giving them a fresh start, and allowing them to reach their potential and contribute positively to Welsh society. Many of the iconic figures of Wales were not necessarily born in Wales, or their families came to settle in Wales just one or two generations ago. So, the diversity in Wales is beyond doubt.

The numbers are important, and we have a reasonable take on the number of asylum seekers and refugees who have come to Wales through the dispersal process, but some refugees or asylum seekers have come to Wales through independent means; they have been accepted in Birmingham or London, say, and have chosen to come to work in Wales. Finding out the full extent of all of those involved can be difficult, because a significant number of them do not identify

cael darlun hollol gywir, oherwydd, yn amlwg, mae colegau addysg bellach yn rhydd i ddarparu Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill mewn modd heb ei neilltuo. Mae'n anodd gwybod yn union, felly, faint o ddarpariaeth sydd dros £5 miliwn. Yn yr un modd, pan fydd pobl yn cael gwaith—ac mae'n debyg nad yw ffoaduriaid wedi cyrraedd y sefyllfa honno eto—mae enghreifftiau lle bydd y cyflogwr, am ei fod yn gwerthfawrogi sgiliau'r ffoadur, yn talu am y ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill. Felly, gall fod yn anodd cael ffigur pendant, ond yr ydym yn gwario dros £5 miliwn ar ddarpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill. Gwyddom nad yw hynny'n ddigon a bod rhestr aros, ac felly, yn y dyfodol bydd rhaid ystyried y lefel honno o gefnogaeth. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gael y cydbwysedd yn iawn rhwng yr hyn a ddarparwn fel gwasanaeth cyhoeddus a'r hyn a ddarperir gan gyflogwyr, ac ati, oherwydd mae ganddynt hwythau gyfrifoldeb a dyletswydd gofal ac mae angen iddynt ei chyflawni.

O ran y pwynt a wnaethoch am ffoaduriaid, mae'r term 'ffoadur', mewn ffordd, yn bychanu'r her a wynebwn, oherwydd mae'r strategaeth yn amlinellu nad yw'n ddigon da dim ond rhoi lloches i bobl sy'n wynebu eu herlid, eu poenydio a'u plagio. Holl hanfod y strategaeth yw ei bod yn golygu nid yn unig ddarparu lloches, ond caniatáu i bobl ailadeiladu eu bywydau, rhoi cychwyn newydd iddynt, a chaniatáu iddynt gyflawni eu potensial a chyfrannu'n gadarnhaol at gymdeithas yng Nghymru. Mae nifer o ffigurau eiconig Cymru na chawsant eu geni yng Nghymru, efallai, neu fod eu teuluoedd wedi ymgartrefu yng Nghymru genhedlaeth neu ddwy yn ôl. Felly, mae'r amrywiaeth yng Nghymru y tu hwnt i amheuaeth.

Mae'r niferoedd yn bwysig, ac mae gennym syniad da am nifer y ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid sydd wedi dod i Gymru drwy'r broses wasgaru. Ond mae rhai ffoaduriaid neu geiswyr lloches wedi dod i Gymru drwy ffyrdd annibynnol; cawsant eu derbyn yn Birmingham neu Lundain, dyweder, ac maent wedi dewis dod i weithio yng Nghymru. Gall fod yn anodd cael cyfanswm llawn y niferoedd hyn, oherwydd bydd nifer sylweddol ohonynt heb gyflwyno'u hunain

themselves to services; in some instances, they are getting on with their lives and rebuilding them. However, I think that we have a reasonable idea of the numbers. Certainly, the data on the newer people are much more resilient and we have a better feel for the extent of the challenge.

Peter Black: I also welcome this strategy document and the general direction in which the Government is going in relation to refugees and asylum seekers. I am glad to see that, as part of that, there will be a review of the funding policy for ESOL provision, and there also needs to be exploration of the opportunities available through European funding programmes. Language is one of the main barriers to employment, training and education for those that do not speak English, and how we can increase the amount of English lessons available to ensure that they are available to those who need them must form an important part of that strategy.

I am also pleased to see that the strategy questions the changes to the law in relation to refugees that could see refugees sent back to their home country should changes occur there. This new rule harms integration by removing the certainty of having indefinite leave to remain in the country for five years, and could undermine the position of refugees in Wales.

Minister, I wish to raise two main issues with you in relation to this strategy. These apply mostly to asylum seekers but also to refugees. Having been thrown into a strange country and moved around it, often not knowing where they will end up next, and being housed in neighbourhoods where they do not know anyone, many refugees and asylum seekers do not know to whom to turn for advice. They will often turn to a Member of Parliament or Assembly Member, and there are often voluntary groups to help to support and advise them. What can you do to try to bolster the level of advice and support available for asylum seekers and refugees, perhaps by using existing advice agencies and publicising the advice available in order to help refugees and asylum seekers to be

i'r gwasanaethau; mewn rhai achosion byddant yn bwrw ymlaen i ailadeiladu eu bywydau. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod gennym syniad gweddol am y niferoedd. Yn sicr, mae'r data am y bobl ddiweddarach lawer yn gadarnach, ac mae gennym well synnwy'r faint yr her.

Peter Black: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn croesawu'r ddogfen strategaeth hon a chyfeiriad cyffredinol y Llywodraeth yng nghyswllt ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Mae'n dda gennyf weld, fel rhan o hynny, y bydd adolygiad o'r polisi ariannu ar gyfer darpariaeth Saesneg ar gyfer Siaradwyr Ieithoedd Eraill, ac mae angen archwilio hefyd y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael drwy raglenni ariannu Ewrop. Iaith yw un o'r prif rwystrau rhag cael cyflogaeth, hyfforddiant ac addysg i bobl nad ydynt yn siarad Saesneg, a rhan bwysig o'r strategaeth honno o reidrwydd fydd ystyried sut y gallwn gynyddu nifer y gwersi Saesneg sydd ar gael er mwyn sicrhau eu bod ar gael i'r rhai y mae eu hangen arnynt.

Yr wyf yn falch gweld hefyd fod y strategaeth yn cwestiynu'r newidiadau yn y gyfraith ar ffoaduriaid a allai weld ffoaduriaid yn cael eu hanfon yn ôl i'w mamwlad pe bai newidiadau'n digwydd yno. Mae'r rheol newydd hon yn niweidio integreiddio drwy ddileu'r sicrwydd o gael caniatâd diderfyn i aros yn y wlad am bum mlynedd, a gallai danseilio sefyllfa ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru.

Weinidog, hoffwn godi dau brif fater gyda chi ynglŷn â'r strategaeth hon. Mae'r rhain yn berthnasol yn bennaf i geiswyr lloches ond hefyd i ffoaduriaid. Wedi cael eu taflu i wlad ddiethr a symud o gwmpas yno, yn aml heb wybod ble y byddant yn glanio nesaf, a chael eu cartrefu mewn cymdogaethau lle nad ydynt yn adnabod neb, mae llawer o ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches heb syniad at bwy i droi am gyngor. Trônt yn aml at Aelod Seneddol neu Aelod Cynulliad, ac yn aml ceir grwpiau gwirfoddol i helpu eu cefnogi a'u cynghori. Beth allwch ei wneud i geisio cryfhau lefel y cyngor a'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i geiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, efallai drwy ddefnyddio'r asiantaethau cynghori presennol a rhoi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r cyngor sydd ar gael, er mwyn helpu ffoaduriaid a

aware of that advice and access it? It would help tremendously if people who come to this country fleeing persecution could find that advice far more easily. It would also help if those people providing that advice had more resources at their disposal to deliver it.

2.10 p.m.

The other issue that concerns everyone in this Chamber is the huge amount of misinformation about the status of refugees and asylum seekers. Everywhere you go, you hear rumours and untrue stories about the latest injustice whereby an asylum seeker or refugee has gained some advantage over people who are born and bred in this country. There is a role for Government in trying to counter that misinformation if at all possible. I know that it is difficult, particularly when these rumours spring out of nowhere and you have to spend time finding out the facts before you can counter them, but there is certainly a need to get more information out there about the true position of refugees and asylum seekers—not only the very real reasons why they have to be here, but also what exactly they are entitled to and what they can access and the problems that they face in this country when they are here.

Brian Gibbons: That last point is an important one. People who wish to exploit this situation do not make a distinction between asylum seekers, refugees, illegal immigrants and migrant workers. None of us would support the presence of illegal immigrants in Britain; everyone who comes here should be here legally. However, people who want to attack asylum seekers and migrant workers who are here legitimately will use any argument, no matter how ill-informed, to launch an attack on them. Often, those attacks are motivated by xenophobia and an outdated sense of national chauvinism. Rather than this being a source of conflict, the fact that we are working to combat that mentality should be a source of national pride in Wales. In terms of the reception of this strategy in Wales, hopefully, we will be unanimous in welcoming refugees to Wales and in providing them with an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

cheiswyr lloches i fod yn ymwybodol o'r cyngor hwnnw a'i geisio? Byddai'n help aruthrol petai pobl sy'n dod i'r wlad hon o ffoi rhag erledigaeth yn gallu cael y cyngor hwnnw lawer yn haws. Byddai'n help hefyd petai gan y bobl sy'n rhoi'r cyngor hwnnw fwy o adnoddau wrth law i'w gyflwyno.

Y mater arall sy'n peri pryder i bawb yn y Siambr hon yw'r peth wmbredd o wybodaeth anghywir am statws ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Ble bynnag yr ewch chi, clywch sibrydion a straeon anwir am yr anghyfiawnder diweddaraf lle mae ceisiwr lloches neu ffoadur wedi cael rhyw fantais dros bobl sydd wedi'u geni a'u magu yn y wlad hon. Mae rôl i'r Llywodraeth wrth geisio ateb y celwyddau hynny os oes modd o gwbl. Gwn ei bod yn anodd, yn enwedig pan gyfyd y sibrydion hyn o ddim a'i bod yn rhaid treulio amser yn dod o hyd i'r ffeithiau cyn gallu dadlau yn eu herbyn, ond yn sicr mae angen cyhoeddi mwy o wybodaeth am wir sefyllfa ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches—nid yn unig y rhesymau real iawn pam y mae'n rhaid iddynt fod yma, ond hefyd beth yn union y mae ganddynt hawl i'w gael a beth y gallant ei gael a'r problemau a wynebant yn y wlad hon pan fyddant yma.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r pwynt diwethaf hwnnw'n un pwysig. Nid yw pobl sy'n dymuno manteisio ar y sefyllfa'n gwahaniaethu rhwng ceiswyr lloches, ffoaduriaid, mewnfudwyr anghyfreithlon a gweithwyr mudol. Ni fyddai neb ohonom yn cefnogi presenoldeb mewnfudwyr anghyfreithlon ym Mhrydain; dylai pawb sy'n dod yma fod yma'n gyfreithlon. Fodd bynnag, bydd pobl sydd am ymosod ar geiswyr lloches a gweithwyr mudol sydd yma'n gyfreithlon yn ddefnyddio unrhyw ddadl, waeth pa mor gyfeiliornus, i ymosod arnynt. Senoffobia ac ymdeimlad henffasiwn o siofinistiaeth genedlaethol yn aml yw'r cymhelliad y tu ôl i'r ymosodiadau hyn. Yn hytrach na bod hyn yn destun gwrthdaro, dylai'r ffaith ein bod yn gweithio i ymladd yn erbyn y meddylfryd hwnnw fod yn destun balchder cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. O ran y derbyniad i'r strategaeth hon yng Nghymru, gobeithio y byddwn yn unfryd yn ein croeso i ffoaduriaid i Gymru ac wrth ddarparu cyfle

iddynt ailadeiladu eu bywydau.

It is important that we recognise that while almost all refugees are concentrated in four centres in Wales, they access a wide range of other public services in Wales and one aspect of the implementation plan will be to promote employee development in Wales so that public servants more broadly will be aware of and sensitive to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees. If the public service in general is more aware, that will be to the good. Similarly, colleagues will know that the Minister for Health and Social Services has written to health services in Wales, outlining our position on access to health services by failed asylum seekers, which has been welcomed in the main. We are also providing over £500,000 to a wide range of refugee organisations in Wales to allow them to deliver frontline services in all of the main centres in Wales.

Mae'n bwysig inni sylweddoli, tra mae ffoaduriaid bron i gyd wedi'u crynhoi mewn pedair canolfan yng Nghymru, eu bod yn defnyddio amrywiaeth eang o wasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill yng Nghymru, ac un agwedd ar y cynllun gweithredu fydd hyrwyddo datblygiad gweithwyr yng Nghymru er mwyn i weision cyhoeddus yn fwy cyffredinol fod yn ymwybodol o anghenion ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid ac yn sensitif iddynt. Os bydd y gwasanaeth cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol yn fwy ymwybodol, bydd hynny er gwell. Yn yr un modd, bydd cyd-Aelodau'n gwybod bod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi ysgrifennu at wasanaethau iechyd yng Nghymru, yn amlinellu ein safbwynt ynghylch hawl ceiswyr lloches methiannus i allu cael gwasanaethau iechyd, sydd wedi'i groesawu ar y cyfan. Yr ydym hefyd yn darparu dros £500,000 i amrediad eang o gyrff ffoaduriaid yng Nghymru i ganiatáu iddynt ddarparu gwasanaethau rheng flaen ym mhob un o'r prif ganolfannau yng Nghymru.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for this statement, which is welcome. As someone who represents a diverse population, with a number of asylum seekers and refugees, I am interested in this issue. On the difficulties facing families when they come here as asylum seekers and refugees, when the children go to school, they become an important part of the community, as they settle in the school and learn the language quickly, which also helps the rest of the family if they do not speak the language of the host country. Could you be aware of the difficulties that may arise when the families are then offered housing or find housing? The children may have been attending the local school for a few years, and it can be doubly traumatic if they have to move school as well as home. I ask you to continue to listen to the asylum seeker and refugees groups, who will raise that issue with you, because having to move can be traumatic for those children when they have made friends and have become a part of their community.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch am y datganiad hwn, sydd i'w groesawu. Fel rhywun sy'n cynrychioli poblogaeth amrywiol, gyda nifer o geiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, mae gennyf ddiddordeb yn y mater hwn. O ran yr anawsterau sy'n wynebu teuluoedd pan ddônt yma fel ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, pan aiff y plant i'r ysgol maent yn dod yn rhan bwysig o'r gymuned, wrth iddynt ymgysgu â'r ysgol a dysgu'r iaith yn gyflym, sydd hefyd yn helpu gweddill y teulu os nad ydynt yn siarad iaith y wlad sy'n eu croesawu. A allech fod yn ymwybodol o'r anawsterau a all godi pan gaiff y teuluoedd wedyn gynnig cartref neu pan ddeuant o hyd i gartref? Bydd y plant efallai wedi bod yn mynd i'r ysgol leol am ychydig flynyddoedd, a gall fod ddwywaith mor boenus os bydd rhaid iddynt symud ysgol yn ogystal â chartref. Gofynnaf ichi ddal i wrando ar y grwpiau ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, a fydd yn codi'r pwnc hwnnw gyda chi, oherwydd gall gorfod symud fod yn drawmatig i'r plant hynny ar ôl gwneud ffrindiau a dod yn rhan o'u cymuned.

Brian Gibbons: You are absolutely right.

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle.

We are providing around £8 million, building up to £10 million over the next few years, as part of the Assembly Government's minority ethnic achievement grant and that is targeted at schools in particular to alleviate problems that children might have in relation to language and to develop their education, skills, and so on. Therefore, that grant is particularly important.

Something that may be of even greater concern is that there are between 100 and 150 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Wales. It is important that these children, who are not part of a family structure, are well looked after. One of our commitments, which we are keen to advance, is that those children in particular—but all children in Wales—should have access to independent advocacy for many of the reasons that you outlined: they have been very traumatised, their language skills may not be as well developed as one would expect with an adult, and a child has many more difficulties in securing their rights in an adult world. Therefore, the importance of promoting the independent advocacy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has to be one of our top priorities.

Joyce Watson: I would like to follow up your answer to Lorraine. I am particularly interested in two aspects of this document. The first is the move from being an illegal immigrant to seeking refuge. The target group in which I am particularly interested—I know that this will come as no surprise to you, Minister—is the group of people who are trafficked into Britain. Very often, within that target group, there are unaccompanied children. There is evidence to suggest that those unaccompanied children, once they are taken into care, disappear yet again. Therefore, I have three questions. When you consider, as you have said you will, resources, targets and outcomes, would you please consider the needs of those particular groups of people and the need to provide resources or financial assistance to those organisations that will be dealing specifically with that group of people? Could you also please tell me what sort of work you have undertaken with the children's commissioner on those unaccompanied children with regard to the way in which we will keep them safe

Yr ydym yn darparu oddeutu £8 miliwn, a fydd yn codi i £10 miliwn dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, fel rhan o grant cyrhaeddiad lleiafrifoedd ethnig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a thargedir hynny at ysgolion yn arbennig i liniaru problemau y gall plant eu cael gydag iaith, ac i ddatblygu eu haddysg, eu sgiliau, ac yn y blaen. Felly, mae'r grant hwnnw'n neilltuol o bwysig.

Rhywbeth a allai beri mwy byth o bryder yw bod rhwng 100 a 150 o blant ar eu pen eu hunain yn ceisio lloches yng Nghymru. Mae'n bwysig i'r plant hyn, nad ydynt yn rhan o fframwaith teuluol, gael gofal da. Un o'n hymrwymiaidau yr ydym yn awyddus i'w hyrwyddo yw y dylai'r plant hynny'n benodol—ond holl blant Cymru—allu cael gwasanaeth eirioli annibynnol am lawer o'r rhesymau a nodwyd gennych: maent wedi'u trawmateiddio'n fawr, efallai nad yw eu sgiliau iaith wedi datblygu cymaint ag y byddai rhywun yn ei ddisgwyl yn achos oedolyn, a bydd plentyn yn cael llawer mwy o anawsterau wrth sicrhau ei hawliau mewn byd o oedolion. Felly, rhaid i bwysigrwydd hybu eiriolaeth annibynnol i blant ar eu pen eu hunain sy'n ceisio lloches fod yn un o'n blaenoriaethau pennaf.

Joyce Watson: Hoffwn ddilyn eich ateb i Lorraine. Mae gennyf ddi-ddordeb neilltuol mewn dwy agwedd ar y ddogfen hon. Y cyntaf yw'r newid o fod yn fewnfudwr anghyfreithlon i geisio lloches. Y grŵp targed yr wyf yn ymddiddori ynddo'n benodol—a gwn na fydd hyn yn eich synnu, Weinidog—yw'r rheini sy'n dod i Brydain drwy'r fasnach pobl. Yn aml iawn, o fewn y grŵp targed hwnnw mae plant sydd ar eu pen eu hunain. Mae tystiolaeth yn awgrymu bod y plant hynny sydd ar eu pen eu hunain, ar ôl eu derbyn i ofal, yn diflannu eto. Felly, mae gennyf dri chwestiwn. Wrth ystyried adnoddau, targedau a chanlyniadau, fel y dywedasoeh y byddwch yn ei wneud, a wnewch chi hefyd ystyried anghenion y grwpiau penodol hynny o bobl, os gwelwch yn dda, a'r angen am ddarparu adnoddau neu gymorth ariannol i'r cyrff hynny a fydd yn delio'n benodol â'r grŵp hwnnw o bobl? A allech ddweud wrthyf hefyd, os gwelwch yn dda, pa fath o waith yr ydych wedi'i wneud gyda'r comisiynydd plant ynghylch y plant hynny sydd ar eu pen eu hunain o ran y modd

once we have recognised them?

Brian Gibbons: The children's commissioner has highlighted this particular issue with us. I have had a formal meeting with the children's commissioner, and this was one of the issues that he raised. Therefore, we are very aware of the commissioner's views on that.

Your point regarding trafficked women, and particularly trafficked women in the sex trade, is very important indeed. It is something that has been raised in the Assembly before. If women find themselves in this position, it is important, if at all appropriate, that they should apply for asylum-seeker status at the earliest possible stage if they fit into that category. Even if they have come in as illegal immigrants, becoming part of the asylum-seeking framework at least provides some sort of structure around the way in which their lives are being lived at that stage. Even when people are trafficked into Britain illegally and they come to the attention of the authorities, a period of reflection is allowed so that those who find themselves in this position, even if they are here illegally, are not immediately removed from the country; the authorities give a period of reflection, which is quite right and appropriate, because these people have often been seriously exploited.

We are working with Safer Wales to provide facilities in Cardiff that will be available to those across south Wales who are fleeing prostitution and the sex trade. We are moving those proposals forward. There have been some modifications to the proposals in the light of feedback, but we are anxious to move that forward. As part of our domestic abuse strategy, we recognise that women fleeing prostitution very often fit into the category of those suffering domestic abuse, and related issues such as honour violence can very often be entangled in this extremely unpleasant experience that affects a significant minority in Wales.

2.20 p.m.

y byddwn yn eu cadw'n ddiogel ar ôl inni eu hadnabod?

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r comisiynydd plant wedi tynnu ein sylw at y mater hwn. Yr wyf wedi cael cyfarfod ffurfiol â'r comisiynydd plant, ac yr oedd hyn yn un o'r materion a gododd. Felly, yr ydym yn ymwybodol iawn o farn y comisiynydd am hynny.

Mae'r pwynt a wnaethoch am fasnachu mewn menywod, ac yn enwedig fasnachu mewn menywod yn y fasnach ryw, yn un pwysig dros ben. Mae'n rhywbeth sydd wedi'i godi yn y Cynulliad o'r blaen. Os bydd menywod yn eu cael eu hunain yn y sefyllfa hon, mae'n bwysig, os yw'n briodol o gwbl, iddynt ymgeisio am statws ceisiwr lloches cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl os ydynt yn y categori hwnnw. Hyd yn oed os ydynt wedi dod i mewn fel mewnfudwyr anghyfreithlon, drwy ddod yn rhan o'r fframwaith ceisio lloches byddant o leiaf yn cael rhyw fath o drefn ar y modd y maent yn byw bryd hynny. Hyd yn oed os bydd pobl yn dod i Brydain drwy fasnachu anghyfreithlon ac yn dod i sylw'r awdurdodau, caniateir cyfnod o fyfyrto fel na fydd y rheini sy'n eu cael eu hunain yn y sefyllfa hon, hyd yn oed os ydynt yma'n anghyfreithlon, yn cael eu symud o'r wlad ar unwaith; mae'r awdurdodau'n rhoi cyfnod o fyfyrto, sy'n hollol iawn a phriodol, gan fod camfanteisio difrifol wedi bod ar y bobl hyn yn aml.

Yr ydym yn cydweithio â Cymru Ddiogelach i ddarparu cyfleusterau yng Nghaerdydd a fydd ar gael i bobl ar draws de Cymru sy'n ffoi rhag puteindra a'r fasnach ryw. Yr ydym yn symud y cynigion hynny ymlaen. Gwnaed rhai newidiadau yn y cynigion yng ngoleuni adborth a gafwyd, ond yr ydym yn awyddus i symud ymlaen ar hynny. Fel rhan o'n strategaeth ar drais yn y cartref, yr ydym yn derbyn bod menywod sy'n ffoi rhag puteindra yn aml yn perthyn i'r categori sy'n cael eu cam-drin yn y cartref, ac yn aml iawn gall materion cysylltiedig, fel trais yn seiliedig ar anrhydedd, fod ynghlwm wrth y profiad tra annymunol hwn sy'n effeithio ar leiafrif sylweddol yng Nghymru.

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cynnal Refferenda) (Diwygio)
(Cymru) 2008**
**Approval of the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Amendment)
(Wales) Regulations 2008**

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): I propose that **Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons):** Cynigiau fod(NDM3984)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 24.4: *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 24.4:*

1. considers the report of the Subordinate Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 17 June 2008 in relation to the draft the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Wales) Regulations 2008; and *1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Is-ddeddfwriaeth a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Mehefin 2008 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cynnal Refferenda) (Cymru) 2008; a*

2. approves that the draft the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Wales) Regulations 2008 is made in accordance with: *2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cynnal Refferenda) (Cymru) 2008, yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:*

a) the draft laid in the Table Office on 4 June 2008; and *a) y drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Mehefin 2008; a*

b) the explanatory memorandum laid in the Table Office on 4 June 2008. (NDM3984) *b) y memorandwm esboniadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Mehefin 2008. (NDM3984)*

These regulations revoke and replace those previously made by the National Assembly for Wales in March 2004. They will be made in accordance with the powers available under sections 13, 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn dirymu ac yn disodli'r rheini a wnaed gan Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ym mis Mawrth 2004. Fe'u gwneir yn unol â'r pwerau sydd ar gael o dan adrannau 13, 45 a 105 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000.

The 2004 regulations set out how a local authority in Wales was to hold a referendum for its electorate to decide whether or not to introduce a different political structure, particularly one involving a directly elected mayor. They provided for questions to be asked in the referendum, for the local authority to give public notice of the referendum, restricted the type of material that could be published within 28 days of the referendum to purely factual information, and placed a limit on campaign expenditure and created an offence for exceeding it. The regulations set out how the votes should be counted and how the local authority should respond to the results of the referendum. Mae rheoliadau 2004 yn gosod allan sut yr oedd awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru i gynnal refferendwm er mwyn i'w etholwyr benderfynu cyflwyno strwythur gwleidyddol gwahanol ai peidio, yn enwedig un sy'n cynnwys maer wedi ei ethol yn uniongyrchol. Yr oeddent yn darparu ar gyfer gofyn cwestiynau yn y refferendwm, i'r awdurdod lleol roi hysbysiad cyhoeddus o'r refferendwm, yn cyfyngu'r math o ddeunydd y gellid ei gyhoeddi o fewn 28 niwrnod i'r refferendwm i wybodaeth ffeithiol yn unig, ac yn gosod terfyn ar wariant ar ymgyrchu a chreu trosedd am wario mwy na hynny. Yr oedd y rheoliadau'n gosod allan sut y dylid cyfrif y pleidleisiau a sut y dylai'r awdurdod

Those who were in that second Assembly may recall that the 2004 regulations were made following representations when a valid petition was submitted to Ceredigion County Council for an elected mayor. This was the first and, to date, the only such petition that has been received in this regard. In that event, the electorate voted against having an elected mayor, but without the introduction of those 2004 regulations the referendum would not have been possible.

The regulations before us today are being introduced not in response to a further petition, but in order to ensure that the electoral process for holding a referendum has been brought as up to date as possible. In particular, these regulations implement the changes made in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to prevent electoral fraud. These include new security measures for ballot papers and require new safeguards in relation to postal votes. These regulations will no longer provide the option for conducting a referendum by means of an all-postal ballot. This is felt to be no longer practical because of the new provisions relating to the collecting and checking of personal identifiers for postal voters, which followed on as part of the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

These regulations also set out in full, and in one document for the first time, the procedural rules for running such referenda. This will mean that key users, counting officers and electoral administrators, will have ready access to a more user-friendly reference document. These regulations also increase the amount of referenda expenses in line with inflation, as well as introducing further modifications to the various statements that precede the ballot question itself. In making these regulations we have consulted widely, including with the Electoral Commission to ensure that it is happy with these changes. I therefore urge the Assembly to take note of and endorse these regulations that have been placed before you.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog. Nid wyf yn

lleol ymateb i ganlyniadau'r refferendwm. Efallai y bydd y rheini a oedd yn yr ail Gynulliad yn cofio bod rheoliadau 2004 wedi'u gwneud ar ôl cyflwyno sylwadau pan gyflwynwyd deiseb ddilys i Gyngor Sir Ceredigion am faer etholedig. Hon oedd y ddeiseb gyntaf a'r unig un o'i bath sydd wedi dod i law, hyd yma, yn y cyswllt hwn. Yn yr achos hwnnw, pleidleisiodd yr etholwyr yn erbyn cael maer etholedig, ond heb gyflwyno'r rheoliadau hynny yn 2004 ni fyddai'r refferendwm wedi bod yn bosibl.

Mae'r rheoliadau sydd ger ein bron heddiw'n cael eu cyflwyno nid i ymateb i ddeiseb bellach, ond er mwyn sicrhau bod y broses etholiadol ar gyfer cynnal refferendwm wedi'i diweddarau gymaint â phosibl. Yn benodol, mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn rhoi ar waith y newidiadau a wnaed yn Neddf Gweinyddu Etholiadol 2006 i atal twyll mewn etholiadau. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys mesurau diogelwch newydd ar gyfer papurau pleidleisio, ac yn gosod mesurau diogelwch newydd mewn cysylltiad â phleidleisiau drwy'r post. Ni fydd y rheoliadau hyn bellach yn rhoi'r dewis o gynnal refferendwm drwy bleidlais drwy'r post yn unig. Teimlir nad yw hyn yn ymarferol bellach oherwydd y darpariaethau newydd ynghylch casglu a gwirio dulliau adnabod personol ar gyfer rhai sy'n pleidleisio drwy'r post, a ddilynodd fel rhan o Ddeddf Gweinyddu Etholiadol 2006.

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn hefyd yn gosod allan yn llawn, ac mewn un ddogfen am y tro cyntaf, y rheoliadau gweithdrefnol ar gyfer cynnal referenda o'r fath. Bydd hyn yn golygu y bydd defnyddwyr allweddol, swyddogion cyfrif a gweinyddwyr etholiadol yn gallu cael yn hawdd ddogfen gyfeirio fwy hwylus. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn hefyd yn cynyddu'r treuliau ar gyfer referenda yn unol â chwyddiant, yn ogystal â chyflwyno newidiadau pellach yn y gwahanol osodiadau sy'n rhagflaenu cwestiwn y bleidlais ei hun. Wrth wneud y rheoliadau hyn yr ydym wedi ymgynghori'n eang, gan gynnwys â'r Comisiwn Etholiadol i sicrhau ei fod yn fodlon â'r newidiadau hyn. Felly, yr wyf yn annog y Cynulliad i nodi a chymeradwyo'r rheoliadau hyn sydd wedi'u gosod ger eich bron.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister.

credu fod unrhyw un am siarad ar y rheoliadau hyn. Tybiaf felly fod y cynnig wedi cael ei dderbyn, os nad oes unrhyw un yn gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

I do not think anyone wishes to speak on these regulations. I will therefore presume that the motion has been carried, if no one objects. I see there are no objections. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is therefore agreed.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Sefydlu ac Ethol Pwyllgor ar y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Dysgu a Sgiliau Establishment and Election of a Proposed Learning and Skills Measure Committee

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiaf fod

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 21.1, yn sefydlu pwyllgor i ystyried egwyddorion cyffredinol Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008 ac i gyflwyno adroddiad arno. Bydd y pwyllgor yn dod i ben os bydd y Mesur yn cael ei basio, os bydd yn syrthio neu os caiff ei dynnu yn ôl neu ar ôl i bwyllgor newydd gael ei sefydlu ar gyfer trafodion cyfnod 2 yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 23.31(ii). (NDM3985)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 21.1, establishes a committee to consider and report on the general principles of the Proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure. The committee shall cease to exist if the proposed Measure is passed, falls or is withdrawn, or a new committee is set up to consider Stage 2 proceedings under Standing Order No. 23.31(ii). (NDM3985)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3, yn ethol Christine Chapman (Llafur), Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur), Janet Ryder (Plaid Cymru), Andrew R.T. Davies (Ceidwadwyr) a Kirsty Williams (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol) yn aelodau o'r Pwyllgor ar y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Dysgu a Sgiliau. (NDM3986)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3, elects Christine Chapman (Labour), Jeff Cuthbert (Labour), Janet Ryder (Plaid Cymru), Andrew R.T. Davies (Conservative) and Kirsty Williams (Liberal Democrat) as members of the Proposed Learning and Skills Measure Committee. (NDM3986)

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr. Unwaith eto, nid wyf yn gweld unrhyw un sydd am wrthwynebu, felly yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, caiff y cynigion ei dderbyn.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you. Once again, I see that no one wishes to object, therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motions are agreed.

*Derbyniwyd y cynigion.
Motions carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 2.24 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 2.24 p.m.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Cam-drin Alcohol Alcohol Abuse

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Diprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Mark Isherwood: I propose that

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. recognises the importance of educating young people about the devastating health and social implications of alcohol abuse;

1. yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd addysgu pobl ifanc am oblygiadau difrodus camddefnyddio alcohol i iechyd ac i gymdeithas;

2. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to work with the UK Government in reducing drink-related accidents on Welsh roads. (NDM3987)

2. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i leihau damweiniau sy'n ymwneud â diod ar ffyrdd Cymru. (NDM3987)

This was designed to be a consensual motion and I am pleased that the Assembly Government has decided not to amend it. We note with concern the number of children under 16 in Wales who are admitted to hospital with problems caused by alcohol and, therefore, we also welcome the Liberal Democrat amendment.

Y bwriad oedd i'r cynnig fod yn un cydsyniol ac yr wyf yn falch fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi penderfynu peidio â'i ddiwygio. Yr ydym yn nodi'n bryderus nifer y plant dan 16 oed yng Nghymru sy'n mynd i'r ysbyty gyda phroblemau wedi eu hachosi gan alcohol. Felly, yr ydym hefyd yn croesawu gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

The most recent figures for deaths on Welsh roads show that drivers' alcohol consumption was a factor in over 10 per cent of them. The current focus of traffic policing on speeding motorists risks ignoring this. According to 2006 UK Government figures, only 5 per cent of road accident deaths and serious injuries involved driving beyond the speed limit. Therefore, other reasons must be looked at for the fatality gap. According to UK Government figures, speeding fines in north Wales soared eightfold in less than a decade, to 74,400 in just 12 months, compared with Gwent, which reported a fall over the same period, from 5,263 to just 506. In north Wales, the average number of road deaths has largely flat-lined since 2001, the year before the camera partnership was introduced, but in Gwent, over the same period, they fell by 10 per cent. In north Wales, the average number of young drivers killed has flat-lined, whereas it fell by 60 per

Mae'r ffigurau diweddaraf ar gyfer marwolaethau ar y ffyrdd yng Nghymru yn dangos bod yfed alcohol gan yrwyr yn ffactor mewn mwy na 10 y cant ohonynt. Mae'r pwyslais presennol ar blismona traffig ar fodurwyr sy'n gyrru'n rhy gyflym mewn perygl o anwybyddu hyn. Yn ôl ffigurau Llywodraeth y DU ar gyfer 2006, 5 y cant yn unig o farwolaethau ac anafiadau difrifol mewn damweiniau ar y ffyrdd a oedd yn gysylltiedig â gyrru'n gyflymach na'r terfyn cyflymder. Felly, rhaid ystyried rhesymau eraill dros y bwlch marwolaethau. Yn ôl ffigurau Llywodraeth y DU, cododd nifer y dirwyon am yrru'n rhy gyflym yng ngogledd Cymru wyth gwaith mewn llai na degawd, i 74,400 mewn dim ond 12 mis, o'u cymharu â Gwent, a soniodd fod gostyngiad dros yr un cyfnod, o 5,263 i ddim ond 506. Yng ngogledd Cymru, mae nifer cyfartalog y marwolaethau ar y ffyrdd wedi parhau ar yr un lefel i raddau helaeth er 2001, y flwyddyn

cent in Gwent. I am not saying that we should campaign against speed limits, because we need speed limits, but we must also have proportionate and intelligent enforcement of all motoring laws.

NHS figures from England reveal that the number of people admitted to hospital for alcohol-related reasons has more than doubled in the last 10 years, and almost one in 10 were reported as being under 18. Figures for alcohol liver disease have trebled and mental health disorders due to drink have more than doubled. The figures, as Alcohol Concern stated,

‘confirm everything we’ve heard from the frontline staff who deal with the after effects of heavy drinking’.

Assembly Government figures show that 15 per cent of all hospital admissions are due to alcohol intoxication, that every year 30,000 hospital bed-days are alcohol-related and that alcohol-related deaths in Wales have more than doubled in 15 years. That puts enormous pressure on an already overstretched NHS. A new survey by the World Health Organization puts Wales at the top of a list of countries where young people have been drunk at least twice by the age of 13; the figure was higher in Wales than elsewhere in Europe or in North America. As the Labour chair of the licensing committee on Flintshire County Council, Bernie Attridge, has said,

‘the problem of underage drinking is rising and the drinkers are getting younger and younger’.

He also adds that it has become more of a problem over the last seven to eight years. As he said,

cyn cyflwyno’r bartneriaeth gamerâu. Ond yng Ngwent, dros yr un cyfnod, gostyngodd y niferoedd 10 y cant. Yng ngogledd Cymru, mae nifer cyfartalog y gyrwyr ifanc a laddwyd wedi parhau ar yr un lefel, ond gostyngodd 60 y cant yng Ngwent. Nid wyf yn dweud y dylem ymgyrchu yn erbyn terfynau cyflymder, gan fod arnom eu hangen, ond rhaid inni hefyd gael gorfodi deallus a chymesur ar yr holl ddeddfau moduro.

Mae ffigurau gan y GIG yn Lloegr yn dangos bod nifer y bobl a dderbyniwyd i’r ysbyty am resymau’n ymwneud ag alcohol wedi codi fwy na dwywaith yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, a dywedwyd bod bron un o bob 10 dan 18 oed. Mae ffigurau ar gyfer afiechydon yr iau sy’n gysylltiedig ag alcohol wedi treblu ac anhwylderau iechyd meddwl oherwydd yfed wedi codi fwy na dwywaith. Fel y dywedodd Alcohol Concern, mae’r ffigurau

yn cadarnhau popeth yr ydym wedi’i glywed gan staff rheng flaen sy’n delio ag ôl-ffeithiau yfed trwm.

Mae ffigurau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dangos bod 15 y cant o’r holl bobl sy’n mynd i’r ysbyty yn deillio o feddwi ar alcohol, bod 30,000 o ddwironodau gwely mewn ysbytai bob blwyddyn yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol, a bod nifer y marwolaethau’n gysylltiedig ag alcohol yng Nghymru wedi codi fwy na dwywaith mewn 15 mlynedd. Mae hynny’n rhoi pwysau aruthrol ar y GIG a hwnnw wedi’i orymestyn eisoes. Mae arolwg newydd gan Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd yn rhoi Cymru ar frig y rhestr o wledydd lle mae pobl ifanc wedi bod yn feddw o leiaf ddwywaith cyrraedd 13 oed; yr oedd y ffigur yn uwch yng Nghymru nag mewn manau eraill yn Ewrop neu Ogledd America. Fel y mae cadeirydd Llafur y pwyllgor trwyddedu yng Nghyngor Sir y Fflint, Bernie Attridge, wedi dweud,

mae problem yfed dan oed ar gynnydd a’r yfwyr yn mynd yn iau o hyd.

Mae hefyd yn ychwanegu iddi ddod yn fwy o broblem dros y saith neu’r wyth mlynedd diwethaf. Fel y dywedodd,

'There is a big park behind my house and I have seen the children up there in really bad states—it seems to be every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night when you're seeing 11, 12 and 13 year olds drinking, it's quite scary'.

Last April, *Public Policy Research*, the journal of the Institute of Public Policy Research think-tank, proposed a review of the minimum drinking age and stated that Britain should consider raising the legal drinking age to 21. Alcohol Concern agreed that further action was needed, but did not think that raising the legal drinking age would help. If the age limit was increased, young people would find other ways of getting alcohol and other places to drink it, causing wider problems for themselves and others. What we really need to do is to change the drinking culture through education and tough enforcement, rather than making drinking a social taboo. People are getting hold of alcohol under the age of 18 and raising the age limit to 21 will not stop that. It is not something that Government, legislation or the police alone can solve; it is much more an attitude of the whole of society.

I welcome, as part of the solution, the alcohol banning orders imposed, for example, by Flintshire County Council. Police have the power to seize alcohol from anyone caught drinking in the zones, and fines of up to £500 can be issued by magistrates. Last year, Gordon Brown announced a review of legislation permitting 24-hour drinking. In January, the Archbishop of Canterbury attacked 24-hour drinking as the tip of the iceberg in a culture of alcohol abuse in Britain, adding his concern at reports that Gordon Brown's review would conclude that the legislation has been largely a success. Only this month, police, hospital and council bosses have united to damn the introduction of 24-hour drinking as a failure. They warned that violence continues to blight the streets, while the change has left taxpayers with a totally unacceptable £100 million bill.

We need clear and concerted action to tackle

Mae parc mawr y tu ôl i'm tŷ i ac yr wyf wedi gweld y plant i fyny yn y fan honno mewn cyflwr gwirioneddol ddrwg—mae'n ymddangos ein bod bob nos Iau, nos Wener a nos Sadwrn y gweld blant 11, 12 a 13 oed yn yfed, mae'n ddigon brawychus.

Fis Ebrill diwethaf, yn *Public Policy Research*, cylchgrawn melin drafod y Sefydliad Ymchwil Polisi Cyhoeddus, cynigiwyd y dylid gwneud adolygiad o'r oedran isaf ar gyfer yfed, a dywedwyd y dylai Prydain ystyried codi oed cyfreithiol yfed i 21. Cytunodd Alcohol Concern fod angen cymryd camau pellach, ond ni chredai y byddai codi oed cyfreithiol yfed o gymorth. Pe byddid yn codi'r terfyn oedran, byddai pobl ifanc yn dod o hyd i ffyrdd eraill i gael alcohol a lleoedd eraill i'w yfed, gan achosi mwy o broblemau iddynt hwy ac i eraill. Yr hyn y mae angen inni ei wneud mewn gwirionedd yw newid arferion yfed drwy addysg a chymau gorfodi llym, yn hytrach na throi yfed yn dabŵ cymdeithasol. Mae pobl yn cael alcohol cyn cyrraedd 18 oed ac ni fydd codi'r terfyn oedran i 21 yn atal hynny. Nid yw'n rhywbeth y gall Llywodraeth, deddfwriaeth na'r heddlu ei ddatrys ar eu pen eu hunain; mae'n fwy o agwedd gan gymdeithas yn gyfan.

Fel rhan o'r ateb, yr wyf yn croesawu'r gorchmynion gwahardd alcohol sydd wedi eu gosod, er enghraifft, gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint. Mae gan yr heddlu bŵer i gymryd alcohol o feddiant unrhyw un a gaiff ei ddal yn yfed yn y parthau, a gall ynadon osod dirwyon hyd at £500. Y llynedd, cyhoeddodd Gordon Brown adolygiad o ddeddfwriaeth sy'n caniatáu yfed 24 awr. Ym mis Ionawr, beirniadodd Archesgob Caer-gaint yfed 24 awr gan ei alw'n arwydd o ddiwylliant o gamddefnyddio alcohol ym Mhrydain, a dywedodd ei fod eef hefyd yn pryderu am adroddiadau y byddai adolygiad Gordon Brown yn dod i'r casgliad bod y ddeddfwriaeth wedi llwyddo i raddau helaeth. Y mis hwn, mae penaethiaid heddlu, ysbytai a chynghorau wedi dod at ei gilydd i gollfarnu cyflwyno yfed 24 awr gan ei alw'n fethiant. Rhybuddient fod trais yn dal yn bla ar y strydoedd, a'r newid wedi golygu bil cwbl annerbyniol o £100 miliwn i drethdalwyr.

Mae angen inni weithredu'n glir a chytûn i

the scourge of binge drinking on our streets, banning loss-leader sales of alcohol and introducing a three-strikes-and-you-are-out policy for retailers who sell to underage drinkers. We need action to stop health harm from alcohol spiralling out of control. Government action, though filled with good intentions, has often exacerbated existing problems and, in some areas, has created new ones reacting to deep fractures in society with short-term policy solutions.

2.30 p.m.

Harm reduction—medical management and maintenance—has a place in treatment, but it should also open many other doors, including the path towards abstinence. Further, there is a chronic shortage of dual diagnostic treatment for people suffering mental health problems who are also substance misusers. Drug and alcohol abusers need treatment, training, housing and an introduction to the workplace. People must be helped back to a productive life, away from anti-social behaviour and crime. As the Crown Prosecution Service told the Communities and Culture Committee in Wrexham last week, offender management relating to issues such as alcohol is not properly funded, and there is a lack of support in prisons. As it said, magistrates are given a stark choice. A penalty that will provide treatment and address behaviour requires a non-custodial sentence and, as it said, it is wrong that magistrates are prevented from giving custodial sentences because of a lack of treatment in prison. We must increase provision for alcohol and drug detoxification and rehabilitation, including residential care, so that people can be helped back to a productive life and away from anti-social behaviour and crime. We must tackle the revolving-door approach where, after treatment, people are sent right back to the situation that they came from.

ddelio â melltith goryfed mewn pyliau ar ein strydoedd, gan wahardd gwerthu alcohol ar golled a chyflwyno polisi tri rhybudd i fanwerthwyr sy'n gwerthu i bobl dan oed. Mae angen inni weithredu i atal y niwed i iechyd oherwydd alcohol rhag gwaethygu y tu hwnt i reolaeth. Mae gweithredu gan Lywodraeth, er ei fod yn llawn bwriadau da, wedi dwysáu'r problemau presennol yn aml, ac mewn rhai meysydd mae wedi creu rhai newydd drwy ymateb i holltau dwfn mewn cymdeithas gydag atebion polisi tymor-byr.

Mae angen cynnwys lleihau niwed—rheolaeth a chynhaliaeth feddygol—fel rhan o'r driniaeth, ond dylai hefyd agor nifer o ddrysau eraill, gan gynnwys y llwybr at sobrwydd. At hynny, mae prinder difrifol o driniaeth diagnosis deuol i bobl sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl ac sydd hefyd yn camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae angen i gamddefnyddwyr cyffuriau ac alcohol gael triniaeth, hyfforddiant, lle i fyw a'u cyflwyno'n ôl i'r gweithle. Rhaid rhoi cymorth i bobl ddechrau byw bywyd cynhyrchiol unwaith eto, gan gefnu ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throesddu. Fel y dywedodd Gwasanaeth Erllyn y Goron wrth y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant yn Wrecsam yr wythnos diwethaf, nid yw'r gwasanaeth rheoli troseddwr yn cael ei ariannu'n iawn o ran materion megis alcohol, ac mae diffyg cefnogaeth mewn carchardai. Fel yr oedd yn ei ddweud, y mae ynadon yn cael dewis moel. Mae angen dedfryd ddigarchar os ydynt am osod cosb a fydd yn cynnig triniaeth ac yn mynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad ac, fel y dywedodd, nid yw'n iawn bod ynadon yn cael eu rhwystro rhag rhoi dedfrydau o garchar oherwydd bod diffyg triniaeth mewn carchardai. Rhaid inni gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer dadwenwyno ac adsefydlu defnyddwyr alcohol a chyffuriau, gan gynnwys gofal preswyl, er mwyn gallu cynorthwyo pobl i fyw bywyd cynhyrchiol eto, a throi cefn ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throesddu. Rhaid inni ymdrin â'r agwedd drws tro lle mae pobl, ar ôl cael eu trin, yn cael eu hanfon yn syth yn ôl i'r sefyllfa yr oeddent ynddi yn y lle cyntaf.

The current prison system is not working. Nid yw'r system garchardai sydd ohoni yn

There is no clear accountability for the rehabilitation of prisoners. We would scrap Labour's early release scheme and build more prison places and, under our plans for a rehabilitation revolution, prisoners would earn their release by getting off drugs and alcohol and participating in education and work programmes, preparing them to go straight. The system should never write anyone off. The system of second chance should offer rehabilitation to the man or woman who was addicted to alcohol in their teens or twenties. The third sector can help rehabilitate and build broken lives. Treatment programmes should be contracted with private and third sector organisations, and they should be paid by results. Social enterprises should be encouraged to expand prison industries, where inmates can do proper work, learn skills and be paid.

The Assembly Government states that its substance misuse core education prevention programme is delivered in partnership between schools and police, and that its intervention programmes encourage offenders to engage with treatment services and offer support when a substance misusing offender reaches the end of a prison-based treatment programme. However, the Choose Life programme, which operates in both Altcourse and Walton prisons, where most north Wales offenders are incarcerated, has received no Welsh funding. I understand that the Minister for Social Justice is looking at that, and I encourage him to provide support by one means or another.

Choose Life also takes the message straight to young people in schools and colleges; it is presented by ex-offenders and ex-addicts—the very people to reach out to those who are hardest to reach. This good work must be supported, as must the work of DangerPoint in Flintshire, which delivers hands-on safety education to children and young people from across north Wales. That should be duplicated throughout Wales, as must schemes such as the Don't Touch—Tell! scheme run by CAIS in primary schools.

gweithio. Nid yw'n amlwg pwy sy'n atebol am adsefydlu carcharorion. Byddem yn cael gwared â system Llafur o ryddhau'n gynnar ac yn adeiladu mwy o lefydd mewn carchardai. Dan ein cynlluniau ar gyfer chwyldro adsefydlu, byddai carcharorion yn ennill yr hawl i gael eu rhyddhau drwy gefnu ar gyffuriau ac alcohol a chymryd rhan mewn rhaglenni addysg a gwaith, i'w paratoi i rodio'r llwybr cul. Ni ddylai'r system fyth roi'r gorau i drin neb. Dylai'r system ail gyfle gynnog triniaeth adsefydlu i'r dyn neu'r fenyw a oedd yn gaeth i alcohol yn ei arddegau neu ei ddauddegau. Gall y trydydd sector helpu adsefydlu pobl ac ailadeiladu bywydau sydd wedi'u chwalu. Dylid cynnog rhaglenni triniaeth ar gontract gyda sefydliadau preifat a sefydliadau'r drydedd sector, a dylid eu talu yn ôl y canlyniadau. Dylid annog mentrau cymdeithasol i ehangu diwydiannau carchar, lle gall carcharorion wneud gwaith iawn, meithrin sgiliau a chael eu talu.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dweud bod ei rhaglen addysg graidd i atal camddefnyddio sylweddau yn cael ei chyflwyno ar y cyd rhwng ysgolion a'r heddlu, a bod ei rhaglenni ymyrryd yn annog troseddwr i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau triniaeth gan gynnog cefnogaeth pan fydd troseddwr sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau yn cyrraedd diwedd rhaglen driniaeth yn y carchar. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r rhaglen Choose Life, sy'n cael ei chynnog yng ngharchardai Altcourse a Walton, a lle bydd mwyafrif y troseddwr o'r gogledd yn cael eu carcharu, wedi cael dim nawdd o Gymru. Deallaf fod y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol yn ystyried hynny, a hoffwn ei annog i roi cefnogaeth drwy ryw ddull neu'i gilydd.

Mae Choose Life hefyd yn mynd â'r neges yn uniongyrchol at bobl ifanc mewn ysgolion a cholegau; caiff ei chyflwyno gan gyn droseddwr a phobl a arferai fod yn gaeth—yr union bobl i ddarbwylllo'r rheini sydd fwyaf anodd cyfathrebu â hwy. Rhaid cefnogi'r gwaith da hwn, ac felly hefyd waith PentrePeryglon yn sir y Fflint, sy'n rhoi addysg diogelwch ymarferol i blant a phobl ifanc ledled gogledd Cymru. Dylid dyblygu hynny ledled Gymru, ac felly hefyd gynlluniau megis y cynllun Paid Cyffwrdd—

Dwed! a redir gan CAIS mewn ysgolion cynradd.

Alcohol abuse has devastating health and social implications for individuals and communities within Welsh society, and its rising tide of damage must be tackled. Let us tackle it together.

Mae gan gamddefnyddio alcohol oblygiadau difrodus o ran iechyd ac yn gymdeithasol i unigolion a chymunedau mewn cymdeithas yng Nghymru, a rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r ymchwydd o niwed y mae'n ei achosi. Gadewch inni ddod ynghyd i ddelio ag ef.

Jenny Randerson: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Insert as a new point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Cynnwys pwynt 1 newydd ac ail-rifo'r pwyntiau sy'n dilyn:

1. notes with concern that, in the last year for which figures are available, 371 children in Wales under the age of 16 were admitted to hospital with problems caused by alcohol.

1. yn nodi gyda phryder, yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer, bod 371 o blant dan 16 oed yng Nghymru wedi cael eu derbyn yn yr ysbyty gyda phroblemau'n ymwneud ag alcohol.

I am particularly concerned about the increase in alcohol misuse by children. I am especially concerned about the very startling statistic that one child a day is hospitalised as a result of alcohol abuse, either through the impact on their bodies of acute alcohol poisoning, or through mental health problems brought on by alcohol abuse. In the last financial year, 371 children under the age of 16, who fell into that category, were taken into hospital; 114 of them were under the age of 14. Those figures are truly shocking, and they show the true extent of the damage that alcohol is doing to the health of our young people.

Yr wyf yn hynod bryderus am y cynnydd mewn camddefnyddio alcohol ymhlith plant. Yr wyf yn pryderu'n arbennig am yr ystadegyn hynod frawychus fod un plentyn bob dydd yn cael ei anfon i'r ysbyty oherwydd camddefnyddio alcohol, naill ai oherwydd effaith gwenwyn alcohol difrifol ar y corff, ynteu oherwydd problemau iechyd meddwl oherwydd camddefnyddio alcohol. Yn y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, aethpwyd â 371 o blant dan 16 oed, a oedd yn y categori hwnnw, i'r ysbyty; yr oedd 114 ohonynt dan 14 oed. Mae'r ffigurau hynny'n gwbl syfrdanol ac yn dangos gwir faint y niwed y mae alcohol yn ei wneud i iechyd ein pobl ifanc.

I will, for a moment, dwell on the long-term health problems linked to excessive alcohol use—cirrhosis and cancer of the liver, serious vitamin deficiencies, heart and central nervous system damage and memory loss. The problems here are exacerbated by the fact that they have young bodies that are less able to deal with the impact of alcohol.

Oedaf, am ennyd, gyda'r problemau iechyd tymor-hir sy'n gysylltiedig â gorddefnyddio alcohol—sirosis a chanser yr iau, diffygiannau fitamin difrifol, niwed i'r galon a'r system nerfol ganolog, a'r cof yn pallu. Mae'r problemau'n waeth i bobl ifanc am fod eu cyrff yn ifanc ac am eu bod yn llai abl i ymdopi ag effaith alcohol.

We have talked a lot over the years about the negative health impact of excessive drinking, but we do not seem to be making any progress. That is why we have proposed this amendment. I believe that the Assembly needs to take stock of the figures, and we need to say how we are going to do something about it, which is not easy. It is clear that what has been done so far by the

Yr ydym wedi sôn llawer dros y blynyddoedd am yr effaith negyddol a gaiff goryfed ar iechyd, ond nid yw'n ymddangos ein bod yn gwneud dim cynnydd. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cynnig y gwelliant hwn. Credaf fod angen i'r Cynulliad bwysu a mesur y ffigurau, ac mae angen inni ddweud sut yr ydym am fynd i'r afael â hyn, ac nid yw hynny'n beth hawdd. Mae'n amlwg nad yw'r

Assembly Government and by all of the other agencies at a UK level, has not had any effect. I fear that the situation is getting worse.

I have talked about the health problems of alcohol abuse, but there are also massive social problems. It has a large impact on a child's education, leading to lower education attainment, lower aspiration and wasted potential. It is a tragedy that, increasingly, young people in our society are being demonised and seen as a problem rather than the key to our future. It is a tragedy that we see, on a daily basis, stories in the newspaper of anti-social behaviour. The reasons for much of this are drink related. When you think of when there have been problems of anti-social behaviour in your area or your neighbourhood, drink or drugs are often the fundamental cause.

As Mark said, the state cannot do it all. It also has to be an issue for families. We are facing a massive problem in our society, here in Britain. When you look at the international league tables, you will see that we, unfortunately, are ahead—or come at the bottom, depending on which is the worst thing to be—of so many of those league tables for Europe and beyond in terms of the problems that we have with crime, alcoholism and poverty. There is a link between them. We need to ensure that we take a whole-system approach, which is something that the Government has failed to do so far, and approach this as, effectively, a national emergency.

We need to get the message across to young people. We need to put it in their jargon, in their terms, and we need to tell them that getting drunk on a regular basis—

Bethan Jenkins: I have been listening to what you have said. Why are you concentrating so much on young people? Of course, I realise that young people are drinking too much in society, but I believe that adults are equally to blame for this situation. Often, it is the adults who influence young people in families and in a social capacity to drink at an early age.

hyn y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r holl asiantaethau eraill ar lefel y DU wedi'i wneud hyd yn hyn wedi cael dim effaith. Ofnaf fod y sefyllfa'n gwaethygu.

Yr wyf wedi sôn am y problemau iechyd ohewydd camddefnyddio alcohol, ond mae yna brblemau cymdeithasol aruthrol hefyd. Mae'n cael effaith fawr ar addysg plentyn, gan arwain at gyrhaeddiad addysgol is, llai o uchelgais a gwastraffu potensial. Mae'n drasiedi fod pobl ifanc yn cael eu pardduo fwyfwy yn ein cymdeithas a'u hystyried yn broblem, yn hytrach na bod yn allwedd i'n dyfodol. Mae'n drasiedi ein bod yn gweld storïau am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol bob dydd yn y papurau newydd. Rhesyau'n ymwneud ag yfed sy'n achosi llawer o'r ymddygiad hwn. Pan feddyliwch am yr adegau pan fu problemau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn eich ardal neu yn eich cymdogaeth, mae diod neu gyffuriau wrth wraidd hynny yn aml.

Fel y dywedodd Mark, ni all y wladwriaeth wneud y cyfan. Rhaid i hyn fod yn fater i deuluoedd hefyd. Yr ydym yn wynebu problem aruthrol mewn cymdeithas yma ym Mhrydain. Pan edrychwch ar y tablau cynghrair rhyngwladol, gwelwch ein bod ni, yn anffodus, ar frig—neu ar waelod, yn ôl pa un sydd waethaf—cynifer o'r tablau cynghrair hynny ar gyfer Ewrop a thu hwnt o ran problemau troseddu, alcoholiaeth a thlodi. Mae cysylltiad rhyngddynt. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod ein dull gweithredu yn cynnwys y system gyfan—rhywbeth y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi methu â'i wneud hyd yn hyn—a thrin hyn, yn y bôn, fel argyfwng cenedlaethol.

Mae angen inni gyfleu'r neges i bobl ifanc. Mae angen inni roi'r neges yn eu hiaith hwy, yn eu geiriau hwy, ac mae angen inni ddweud wrthynt bod meddwi'n rheolaidd—

Bethan Jenkins: Yr wyf wedi gwrandao ar yr hyn yr oeddech yn ei ddweud. Pam yr ydych chi'n canolbwyntio cymaint ar bobl ifanc? Yr wyf yn sylweddoli, wrth gwrs, fod pobl ifanc yn yfed gormod yn ein cymdeithas, ond credaf fod llawn cymaint o fai ar oedolion am y sefyllfa hon. Yr oedolion yn aml sy'n dylanwadu ar bobl ifanc, mewn teuluoedd ac mewn sefyllfaoedd cymdeithasol, i yfed yn

ifanc.

Jenny Randerson: I invite you to look at the motion before you. If you do so, you will immediately see why I am concentrating on young people: that is what it is about. I know that it is usual here for us to wander all over a topic, but I was attempting to be relevant to the topic in hand. I do not deny that the issues associated with alcohol abuse go all the way through society, but the health issues are much more acute if you drink too much when you are young, as I am sure that our GP colleagues in the Chamber would be only too happy to tell us.

Jenny Randerson: Fe'ch gwahoddaf i edrych ar y cynnig sydd ger eich bron. Os gwnewch hynny, gwelwch yn syth pam yr wyf yn canolbwyntio ar bobl ifanc: amdanant hwy y mae'r cynnig yn sôn. Gwn ei bod yn arfer gennym yma i grwydro hwnt ac yma o amgylch y pwnc, ond yr oeddwn yn ceisio bod yn berthnasol i'r pwnc dan sylw. Nid wyf yn gwadu nad yw'r pynciau sy'n ymwneud â chamddefnyddio alcohol yn treiddio drwy'r gymdeithas gyfan, ond mae'r materion iechyd lawer yn fwy difrifol os byddwch yn yfed gormod yn ifanc, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai ein cyd-Aelodau yn y Siambr sy'n feddygon teulu yn barod iawn i gadarnhau hynny.

I will finish simply by saying that young people need to get the message: getting drunk now on a regular basis means a hangover that could last the rest of your life.

Hoffwn gloi, yn syml, drwy ddweud bod angen cyfleu'r neges hon i bobl ifanc: mae meddwi'n rheolaidd yn awr yn arwain at benmaen-mawr a allai barhau weddill eich oes.

2.40 p.m.

Paul Davies: I am pleased to have an opportunity to take part in this debate. Alcohol abuse has a devastating effect, not only on individuals, but on families and communities. All too often these days, we hear and read reports about people being tragically killed due to drink-related accidents.

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn falch cael cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon. Mae camddefnyddio alcohol yn cael effaith ddifrodus nid yn unig ar unigolion ond ar deuluoedd a chymunedau hefyd. Byddwn yn clywed ac yn darllen adroddiadau lawer yn rhy aml y dyddiau hyn am bobl yn cael eu lladd oherwydd damweiniau'n ymwneud ag alcohol, ac mae hynny'n drasig.

One can argue that Wales and Britain have developed a culture of alcohol abuse in recent years, with binge drinking becoming a rapidly increasing characteristic. The damaging effects of alcohol abuse on the health and wellbeing of individuals are well documented, and yet it appears that the message regarding the long-term damage caused by alcohol misuse is not getting through to the most vulnerable. As Mark said, we have seen a worrying increase in the numbers of young people in Wales who drink alcohol to an extent that is detrimental to their health. However, there are limited resources to deal with the consequences of increased cases of alcohol abuse and dependency. Since becoming an Assembly Member, I have heard evidence from several

Gellir dadlau bod Cymru a Phrydain wedi datblygu diwylliant o gamddefnyddio alcohol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a bod goryfed mewn pyliau yn prysur ddatblygu'n nodwedd fwyfwy amlwg. Mae effeithiau niweidiol camddefnyddio alcohol ar iechyd a lles unigolion yn gwbl hysbys, ond er hynny ymddengys nad yw'r neges am y niwed tymor-hir y mae camddefnyddio alcohol yn ei achosi yn cyrraedd y bobl fwyaf bregus. Fel y dywedodd Mark, gwelsom gynnydd yn nifer y bobl ifanc yng Nghymru sy'n yfed alcohol i raddau sy'n niweidiol i'w hiechyd, ac mae hynny'n peri gofid. Fodd bynnag, cyfyngedig yw'r adnoddau sydd ar gael i ymdrin â chanlyniadau'r nifer cynyddol o achosion o gamddefnyddio alcohol a dibyniaeth ar alcohol. Ers cael fy ethol yn Aelod o'r

groups about the urgent need to improve and expand access to detoxification, rehabilitation and counselling services for those who suffer both alcohol and substance addiction. I have heard from several constituents who are concerned that a relative or friend is unable to access the treatment that they need to tackle their alcohol misuse, and I am sure that other Members have encountered similar problems. It is vital that we see a significant improvement in addiction treatment services. It is also crucial that we address the causes of alcohol abuse and work to reduce the number of people who misuse alcohol.

It can be argued that Wales and Britain have a different attitude to that of our European counterparts, who view alcohol as something to be enjoyed in moderation—our culture is certainly different. Attitude and education must be fundamental in attempting to reduce the number of people who abuse alcohol. It is easy to point the finger of blame when it comes to the increase in alcohol-related problems, but it is the responsibility of everyone across Wales to reconsider his or her behaviour and attitude towards alcohol. Parents have a responsibility to warn their children about the dangers of alcohol, and education is also a vital tool. It is an unfortunate trend that young people in Wales are drinking alcohol at an increasingly young age. We cannot ignore this fact and, therefore, our schools must also play a role in highlighting the damage that alcohol can do. It is imperative that we place as much emphasis on promoting responsible attitudes to alcohol in schools as we do on teaching young people about drugs.

As I have already said, it is crucial that we aim to promote a responsible attitude to alcohol among all people in Wales. We must all shoulder the responsibility if we want to reduce the number of people in Wales who become dependent on alcohol. Readdressing our attitudes towards and preconceptions about alcohol and improving access to support services for those suffering from alcohol addiction, is fundamental to tackling the spread of alcohol abuse in Wales.

Janice Gregory: As the patron of Brynawel

Cynulliad, yr wyf wedi clywed tystiolaeth gan llawer fod angen gwella ac ehangu mynediad i wasanaethau dadwenwyno, adsefydlu a chwmsela i bobl sy'n gaeth i alcohol a sylweddau, a hynny'n fuan. Yr wyf wedi clywed gan nifer o'm hetholwyr sy'n poeni nad yw perthynas neu ffrind yn gallu cael y driniaeth y mae ei hangen arno i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod Aelodau eraill wedi dod ar problemau tebyg. Mae'n hanfodol inni weld gwelliant sylweddol mewn gwasanaethau trin dibyniaeth. Mae'n hollbwysig hefyd inni fynd i'r afael ag achosion camddefnyddio alcohol a gweithio i leihau nifer y bobl sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol.

Gellir dadlau bod gan Gymru a Phrydain agwedd wahanol i wledydd cyfatebol yn Ewrop, sy'n ystyried alcohol yn rhywbeth i'w fwynhau'n gymedrol—mae ein diwylliant ni yn sicr yn wahanol. Rhaid i agwedd ac addysg fod wrth wraidd ein hymdrechion i leihau nifer y bobl sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol. Mae'n hawdd cael rhywun i'w feio am y cynnydd mewn problemau'n ymwneud ag alcohol, ond mae'n gyfrifoldeb ar bawb ledled Cymru i ailystyried eu hymddygiad a'u hagwedd at alcohol. Mae cyfrifoldeb ar rieni i rybuddio'u plant am beryglon alcohol, ac mae addysg hefyd yn arf hollbwysigf Mae'n duedd anffodus bod pobl ifanc yng Nghymru yn yfed alcohol yn iau ac yn iau. Ni allwn anwybyddu'r ffaith hon, ac felly rhaid i'n hysgolion wneud eu rhan hefyd wrth dynnu sylw at y niwed y gall alcohol ei wneud. Mae'n hanfodol inni roi'r un pwyslais ar hybu agweddau cyfrifol at alcohol mewn ysgolion ag a wnawn ar ddysgu pobl ifanc am gyffuriau.

Fel y dywedais eisoes, mae'n hollbwysig inni fod yn anelu at hybu agwedd gyfrifol at alcohol ymhlith holl bobl Cymru. Rhaid inni bob un ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb os ydym am leihau nifer y bobl yng Nghymru sy'n dod yn ddibynnol ar alcohol. Mae ailystyried ein hagweddau at alcohol a'n rhagdybiaethau amdano, a gwella gwella gwasanaethau cymorth i'r rheini sy'n gaeth i alcohol, yn hanfodol i ddelio â thwf camddefnyddio alcohol yng Nghymru.

Janice Gregory: Fel noddwr Tŷ Brynawel,

House, which is an alcohol rehabilitation facility in my constituency, I welcome any attempt to raise awareness of this very serious issue. I would be pleased to show any Members the excellent work that is undertaken at Brynawel House and for them to meet clients and hear about their experiences of alcohol abuse and its effect on them and their families. Many will tell you that their alcohol misuse started at a very early age.

I welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's work to combat the dangers of alcohol abuse to drinkers and other members of the public, and especially the work that is being done through the 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' strategy. I also welcome the pledge from the newly elected Labour administration in Bridgend to crack down on premises that sell alcohol to underage people. Illegal sales clearly promote excessive consumption among those who are too young to handle the challenge of drinking responsibly and fuel a variety of forms of anti-social behaviour, and they must be stopped. However, we must recognise the implications for those on the front line. I recently hosted a visit to the Assembly by the regional youth committee of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which told me that young shop workers are often left with no support when they have to refuse to sell drink to contemporaries who know them and are well placed to threaten them. Those who refuse are often attacked, either immediately in the shop or later in the street. Too often, they are then told that they should have gone along with the thugs rather than put themselves in danger.

However, when young workers give in to the pressures and their own fears, and are caught making an illegal sale, they are prosecuted and suffer the punishment—an £80 on-the-spot fine for a first offence, and a court appearance and a fine of up to £1,000 for a subsequent offence.

We need to make it clear that, if you want your business to sell alcohol, you must do as

sy'n gyfleuster adsefydlu alcohol yn fy etholaeth, yr wyf yn croesawu unrhyw ymdrech i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o'r mater hynod ddirifol hwn. Byddai'n bleser gennyf ddangos y gwaith rhagorol a wneir yn Nhŷ Brynawel i unrhyw Aelodau, a rhoi cyfle iddynt gwrdd â'r cleientiaid a chlywed am eu profiadau o gamddefnyddio alcohol ac effaith hynny arnynt hwy ac ar eu teuluoedd. Bydd llawer ohonynt yn dweud wrthyh eu bod wedi dechrau camddefnyddio alcohol yn ifanc iawn.

Yr wyf yn croesawu gwaith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i atal peryglon camddefnyddio alcohol i yfwyr ac aelodau eraill o'r cyhoedd, ac yn enwedig felly y gwaith a wneir drwy gyfrwng y strategaeth 'Gweithio Gyda'n Gilydd i Leihau Niwed'. Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu'r addewid gan y weinyddiaeth Lafur sydd newydd ei hethol ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr i osod cosbau llym ar unrhyw fannau sy'n gwerthu alcohol i bobl dan oed. Mae gwerthiant anghyfreithlon yn amlwg yn annog goryfed ymhlith pobl sy'n rhy ifanc i allu delio â her yfed yn gyfrifol, ac mae'n hybu amrywiol fathau o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a rhaid ei atal. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gydnabod y goblygiadau i'r rheini yn y rheng flaen. Yn ddiweddar croesewais ymweliad â'r Cynulliad gan bwyllgor ieuenctid rhanbarthol Undeb y Gweithwyr Siopau, Dosbarthu a Gwaith Perthynol, a ddywedodd wrthyf fod gweithwyr ifanc mewn siopau yn aml yn cael eu gadael heb ddim cefnogaeth pan fydd yn rhaid iddynt wrthod gwerthu diod i gyfoedion sy'n eu hadnabod ac sydd mewn sefyllfa dda i'w bygwth. Ymosodir yn aml ar y rhai sy'n gwrthod, naill ai ar unwaith yn y siop ynteu'n ddiweddarach ar y stryd. Yn rhy aml, dywedir wrthynt wedyn y dylent fod wedi gwrandao ar y llabystiau yn hytrach na pheryglu eu hunain.

Fodd bynnag, pan fydd gweithwyr ifanc yn ildio i'r pwysau ac i'w hofnau eu hunain, ac yn cael eu dal yn gwerthu'n anghyfreithlon, cânt eu herlyn a rhaid iddynt ddiodesd y gosb—dirwy o £80 yn y fan a'r lle am drosedd gyntaf, ac ymddangosiad llys a dirwy o hyd at £1,000 am drosedd ddilynol.

Mae angen inni wneud yn glir ei bod yn rhaid ichi, os ydych am i'ch busnes werthu alcohol,

follows: train your staff to handle this difficult responsibility; install safety and security measures to protect them; ensure that they are not left alone to face potential thugs; support staff in reporting all incidents to the police; display prominent 'No ID, No Sale!' notices to make it clear that it is the business not the individual enforcing the law; and post signs pointing out that those attempting to buy alcohol under age can be fined £50. Our society has the right to insist on shops complying with the law on sales to under-age people and to take vigorous action to enforce that. However, low-paid and, often, young shop workers are on the front line, and they deserve the full support and encouragement of their employers and society as a whole.

William Graham: It is almost impossible, sadly, to walk through many of our major towns and cities after 11 p.m. on a Saturday night, and increasingly on a Friday night, without witnessing someone who has consumed too much alcohol or the evidence of an anti-social act committed by someone who is intoxicated. Our police forces and paramedics estimate that 60 per cent of all the incidents that they are called to on a Friday and Saturday night are related to alcohol. Excessive drinking causes some 33,000 deaths a year, and treating liver damage, osteoporosis, heart disease and strokes associated with alcohol abuse costs more than £165 million.

I wish to focus on individual and collective responsibilities, and put forward something that has been discussed many times previously, which is simply known as the three Rs plan: respect, refuse, and review. The first R is respect for other people, their property and themselves, and the fact that the primary responsibility for correct behaviour rests with the individual. We must increase awareness of the respect that people should give to others and other people's property as well as to themselves. They must accept the full implications of their actions, and expect to be made to account for every act of misbehaviour. There should be a

wneud fel a ganlyn: hyfforddi eich staff i ddelio â'r cyfrifoldeb anodd hwn; sefydlu mesurau diogelwch a diogeledd i'w hamddiffyn; sicrhau na fyddant yn cael eu gadael ar eu pen eu hunain i wynebu llabystiaid posibl; cefnogi'r staff wrth roi gwybod i'r heddlu am bob digwyddiad; arddangos hysbysiadau 'Dim ID, Dim Gwerthu!' yn amlwg i'w gwneud yn glir mai'r busnes nid yr unigolyn sy'n gorfodi'r gyfraith; ac arddangos arwyddion yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith y gall pobl sy'n ceisio prynu alcohol o dan oed gael dirwy o £50. Mae gan ein cymdeithas yr hawl i fynnu bod siopau'n cydymffurfio â'r gyfraith ar werthu i bobl dan oed ac i weithredu'n gadarn i orfodi hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae gweithwyr siop sydd ar gyflogau isel ac, yn aml, yn ifanc yn y rheng flaen, ac y maent yn haeddu cefnogaeth lawn ac anogaeth eu cyflogwyr a chymdeithas drwyddi draw.

William Graham: Yn anffodus, mae'n amhosibl bron cerdded drwy lawer o'n trefi a'n dinasoedd mawr ar ôl 11 p.m. ar nos Sadwrn, ac yn gynyddol ar nos Wener, heb weld rhywun sydd wedi yfed gormod o alcohol neu dystiolaeth o weithred wrthgymdeithasol gan rywun sydd wedi meddwi. Mae ein heddluoedd a'n parafeddygon yn amcangyfrif bod 60 y cant o'r holl ddigwyddiadau y cânt eu galw iddynt ar nos Wener a nos Sadwrn yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Mae yfed yn ormodol yn achosi tua 33,000 o farwolaethau bob blwyddyn, ac mae trin difrod i'r afu, osteoporosis, clefyd y galon a strôc yn gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio alcohol yn costio dros £165 miliwn.

Yr wyf am ganolbwyntio ar gyfrifoldebau unigol a chyfunol, a chyflwyno rhywbeth sydd wedi ei drafod droeon o'r blaen ac sy'n cael ei adnabod yn syml yn y Saesneg fel cynllun y tair R: parchu, gwrthod ac adolygu. Yr R gyntaf yw parchu at bobl eraill, eu heiddo a hwy eu hunain, a'r ffaith mai'r unigolyn sy'n gyfrifoldeb yn bennaf am ymddwyn yn iawn. Rhaid inni gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o'r parch y dylai pobl ei roi i eraill ac i eiddo pobl eraill yn ogystal ag iddynt hwy eu hunain. Rhaid iddynt dderbyn goblygiadau llawn eu gweithredoedd, a disgwyl cael eu galw i gyfrif am bob gweithred o gamymddwyn. Dylid cael

proportionate sentence for acts of vandalism, anti-social behaviour, or being unable or incapable to ensure their personal safety.

I will digress slightly and put in a plea for more money for the restorative justice system, under which convicted individuals are confronted with the victims of their crime, whether their families or the victims themselves. That has a beneficial effect on recidivism generally.

The second R is refuse, and is about refusing to serve and buy alcohol. Therefore, licensees, their staff, and the friends of anyone abusing alcohol must accept responsibility for their actions by not continuing to serve or buy drinks for anyone who appears to be a little worse for wear or under age. That is particularly appropriate in trying to reduce the number of drink-driving offences committed. Far too often, people who have clearly had far too much to drink are able to buy further drinks for themselves or to have their misguided friends buy them for them. The sales policies of supermarkets and off-licences should be reviewed, particularly with regard to sales to under-age drinkers, or those supplying alcoholic drinks for children who are under age.

The third R is review, and is about licensees whose premises are regular hot spots for alcohol-related violence, anti-social behaviour and vandalism. These folks should be subjected to immediate temporary closure until measures to reduce such incidents are agreed, or, if such incidents persist, their licences should be revoked or simply refused. In that respect, I welcome the action of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's licensing committee, which has backed the police by suspending the licence of the Forest Hotel at Treforest, following numerous complaints about under-age drinking and brawling.

People who regularly commit violent, anti-social acts, together with those who drink with them and fail to restrain such behaviour, should have their access to certain premises

dedfryd gymesur am weithredoedd o fandaliaeth, ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, neu o fethu neu fod yn analluog i sicrhau eu diogelwch personol.

Yr wyf am grwydro ychydig a gwneud ple am ragor o arian i'r gyfundrefn cyfiawnder adferol. O dan y gyfundrefn hon rhaid i unigolion sydd wedi eu cael yn euog wynebu dioddefwyr eu troseddau, boed eu teuluoedd ynteu'r dioddefwyr eu hunain. Yn gyffredinol, caiff hynny effaith lesol ar gwympo'n ôl.

Mae'r ail R yn golygu gwrthod, sef gwrthod gwerthu a phrynu alcohol. Felly, rhaid drwyddedeion, eu staff, a ffrindiau unrhyw un sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol gymryd cyfrifoldeb am eu gweithredoedd drwy beidio â pharhau i werthu neu brynu diodydd i unrhyw un sy'n ymddangos wedi cael gormod neu'n rhy ifanc. Mae hynny'n arbennig o briodol wrth geisio gostwng nifer y troseddau yfed a gyrru a gyflawnir. Yn rhy aml o lawer, mae pobl sy'n amlwg wedi cael llawer gormod i'w yfed yn gallu prynu rhagor o ddiodydd iddynt eu hunain neu'n cael eu ffrindiau annoeth i'w prynu iddynt. Dylid adolygu polisïau gwerthu archfarchnadoedd a siopau trwyddedig, yn enwedig o ran gwerthu i yfwyr o dan oedran, neu'r rheini sy'n darparu diod feddwol i blant dan oedran.

Y drydedd R yw adolygu, ac mae'n cyfeirio at drwyddedeion sydd â'u busnesau'n ganolfannau rheolaidd o drais, ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a fandaliaeth yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Dylai'r bobl hyn orfod cau dros dro ar unwaith nes cytunir ar fesurau i ostwng nifer y digwyddiadau o'r fath, neu, os bydd digwyddiadau o'r fath yn parhau, dylid dirymu eu trwyddedau neu wrthod trwyddedau iddynt. Yn y cyswllt hwnnw, croesawaf y ffordd y mae pwyllgor trwyddedu Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf wedi gweithredu, gyda chefnogaeth yr heddlu, gan atal trwydded Forest Hotel yn Nhrefforest, yn dilyn cwynion niferus am ymladd ac yfed dan oed.

Dylid cyfyngu mynediad pobl sy'n ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol ac yn dreisgar yn rheolaidd, ynghyd â'r rheini sy'n yfed gyda hwy ac yn methu ffrwyno ymddygiad o'r

restricted or maybe denied totally for a specified time. That is an action that is frequently a condition of granting bail. These measures attempt to address some of the total problem and could lead to a solution that ensures that everyone is accountable for their own behaviour, the actions of their staff, customers and friends. If we could all acknowledge these responsibilities, we could begin to lay the foundations of an answer to the issue of alcohol abuse.

2.50 p.m.

David Lloyd: Alcohol is a poison, and the number of deaths in Wales because of the abuse of alcohol continues to rise. The number of patients discharged from hospital with alcoholic liver disease has more than doubled in the past 10 years. After smoking, alcohol is the biggest public health issue.

A drinking culture is embedded in the fabric of the nation, as we have heard. Campaigns about the dangers of alcohol abuse for health and wellbeing may eventually replicate the success of warnings about the hazards of tobacco, but the process could take decades, and, until then, the police and hospitals will be in the front line of the battle against drunkenness. As regards possible solutions, we need to tackle the so-called 'drinking culture', and possibly focus on increasing the price of alcohol and make it more difficult to obtain.

Plaid Cymru's parliamentary candidate for Islwyn, Steffan Lewis, is calling for a Scottish-style consultation on dealing with alcohol abuse and alcohol-related crime. Suggestions include having designated alcohol checkouts at shops and supermarkets, and raising the purchasing age for alcohol at off-licences to 21. The British Medical Association published a four-point plan in June 2007, which calls on the Government to pass licensing measures to end the deep discounting of alcohol for sale in off-licences, supermarkets and other off-sales outlets. The second point of that BMA plan is to undertake research into the use of pricing mechanisms to discourage the heavy consumption of high-alcohol products. The

fath, i rai adeiladau neu efallai eu hatal yn llwyr am gyfnod penodol. Mae gweithredu felly yn aml yn amod wrth ganiatáu mechniaeth. Mae'r mesurau hyn yn ceisio ymdrin â rhan o'r broblem gyfan a gallent arwain at ateb sy'n sicrhau bod pawb yn atebol am ei ymddygiad ei hun, am weithredoedd ei staff, ei gwsmeriaid a'i ffrindiau. Pe gallem i gyd gydnabod y cyfrifoldebau hyn, gallem ddechrau gosod seiliau ateb i broblem camddefnyddio alcohol.

David Lloyd: Mae alcohol yn wenwyn, ac mae nifer y marwolaethau yng Nghymru oherwydd camddefnyddio alcohol yn dal i godi. Mae nifer y cleifion a ryddheir o'r ysbyty gyda chlefyd alcohol ar yr afu wedi mwy na dyblu yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Ar ôl ysmegu, alcohol yw'r broblem iechyd cyhoeddus fwyaf.

Mae diwylliant yfed wedi gwreiddio yng ngwead y genedl, fel y clywsom. Hwyrach y bydd ymgyrchoedd am beryglon camddefnyddio alcohol i iechyd a lles yn ailadrodd llwyddiant y rhybuddion am beryglon tybaco maes o law, ond gallai'r broses gymryd degawdau, a than hynny bydd yr heddlu a'r ysbytai ar flaen y gad yn y frwydr yn erbyn meddwdod. O ran atebion posibl, mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r hyn a elwir yn 'ddiwylliant yfed', a chanolbwyntio efallai ar gynyddu pris alcohol a'i wneud yn fwy anodd ei gael.

Mae Steffan Lewis, ymgeisydd seneddol Plaid Cymru yn Islwyn, yn galw am ymgynghoriad tebyg i'r un a gafwyd yn yr Alban ynghylch delio â chamddefnyddio alcohol a throsteddu'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Ymysg yr awgrymiadau mae cael man talu penodedig am alcohol mewn siopau ac archfarchnadoedd, a chodi oed prynu alcohol i 21. Cyhoeddodd Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain gynllun pedwar pwynt ym mis Mehefin 2007, sy'n galw ar y Llywodraeth i lunio mesurau trwyddedu i roi terfyn ar y disgowntiau sylweddol ar alcohol a werthir mewn siopau trwyddedig, archfarchnadoedd ac unedau eraill sy'n gwerthu alcohol i'w gario allan. Yr ail bwynt yn y cynllun hwnnw gan y BMA yw gwneud ymchwil i

third point was on the need to legislate on alcohol labelling, rather than relying on voluntary agreements with the drinks industry. The fourth point was to reduce the drink-driving limit from 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg, and to introduce random breath testing in Wales.

In 2007, a BBC questionnaire of 115 hospital specialists revealed that 77 admitted to treating at least one patient aged under 25 with severe alcohol-related disease resulting in liver damage. In the past, most hospital consultants would have seen patients in their 50s or 60s; they now describe seeing patients in their early 20s with alcohol-related hepatitis, and women whose livers are permanently damaged with cirrhosis by the time they are 30. For some patients, that will lead to an agonising wait on the liver transplant waiting list before they are 40, and so we need more livers for transplant.

That leads me to the issue of presumed consent for organ donation. Presumed consent means that 100 per cent of the population could potentially donate their organs in the event of their death. Even taking away the 15 per cent refusal rate experienced in Spain, which already has a system of presumed consent, we would be left with around 85 per cent of the population actively opting to donate their organs in the event of their death. Spain has a brilliant infrastructure to convert potential donors into active registered donors, and has a high rate of active organ donation. Here in the UK, with the current opt-in system, just 22 per cent of potential organ donors are signed up to the register, and the refusal rate on top of that is 40 per cent. Coupled with a less than brilliant infrastructure, that gives us far fewer donors in the United Kingdom than in Spain.

As a Government and as a people, we must face up to correcting Europe's second-worst organ donation rate as regards kidney and liver transplants, because we are facing a rising epidemic. We also have to tackle our drinking culture.

ddefnyddio mecanweithiau prisio i annog peidio ag yfed gormod o ddiodydd sy'n cynnwys llawer o alcohol. Y trydydd pwynt oedd yr angen am ddeddfu ar alcohol, yn hytrach na dibynnu ar gytundebau gwirfoddol gyda'r diwydiant diodydd. Y pedwerydd pwynt oedd gostwng y cyfyngiad yfed a gyrru o 80mg o alcohol i 100ml o waed am bob 50mg, a chyflwyno profion gwaed ar hap yng Nghymru.

Yn 2007, datgelodd holiadur gan y BBC i 115 o arbenigwyr ysbyty fod 77 yn cyfaddef eu bod wedi trin o leiaf un claf dan 25 oed a oedd â chlefyd difrifol yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol, a hwnnw wedi achosi niwed i'r afu. Yn y gorffennol, byddai'r rhan fwyaf o ymgynghorwyr ysbyty wedi gweld cleifion yn eu 50au neu eu 60au; yn awr soniant am weld cleifion yn eu 20au cynnar â hepatitis yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol, a menywod â'u hafu wedi ei niweidio'n barhaol gan sirosis erbyn cyrraedd 30 oed. I rai cleifion, bydd hynny'n arwain at ddisgwyl dirdynnol ar y rhestr aros am drawsblaniad afu cyn eu bod yn 40 oed, ac felly mae arnom angen mwy o afuoedd i'w trawsblannu.

Mae hynny'n mynd â mi at fater caniatâd tybiedig i roi organau. Mae caniatâd tybiedig yn golygu y gallai 100 y cant o'r boblogaeth o bosibl roi eu horganau pe baent yn marw. Hyd yn oed ar ôl y gyfradd wrthod o 15 y cant sy'n digwydd yn Sbaen, lle mae system o ganiatâd tybiedig, byddai hynny'n golygu bod tuag 85 y cant o'r boblogaeth yn dewis rhoi eu horganau pe baent yn marw. Mae gan Sbaen seilwaith gwych i droi rhoddwyr posibl yn rhoddwyr cofrestredig gweithredol, ac mae yno gyfradd uchel o roi organau'n weithredol. Yma yn y DU, gyda'r system bresennol o ddewis ymuno, 22 y cant yn unig o'r rhoddwyr organau posibl sy'n ymuno â'r gofrestr, ac mae'r gyfradd wrthod ar ben hynny yn 40 y cant. Ynghyd â seilwaith sy'n llai na gwych, mae hynny'n rhoi llawer llai o roddwyr inni yn y Deyrnas Unedig nag yn Sbaen.

Fel Llywodraeth ac fel pobl, rhaid inni wynebu'r her o gywiro'r gyfradd rhoi organau ail waethaf yn Ewrop o ran trawsblaniadau arenau ac afu, oherwydd yr ydym yn wynebu epidemig cynyddol. Rhaid hefyd inni fynd i'r afael â'n diwylliant yfed.

Peter Black: It is not alcohol use that concerns the Welsh Liberal Democrats but alcohol misuse. Most people who drink alcohol do so responsibly, and respect their own health and that of other people. It is not a case of cracking down on people's freedom to spend their time as they wish; it is about ensuring that everyone can do so without there being a problem.

Therefore, if we are looking at how to tackle alcohol-related problems, we must understand that it is just a small minority of people who abuse alcohol, and it is on those we need to concentrate. A number of Members have referred to the fact that young people have a particular problem with alcohol, and, as Jenny Randerson pointed out, that is mentioned in the motion. However, it is not just young people who have those problems; a culture of alcohol misuse is prevalent not just in Wales but throughout the United Kingdom. People consume alcohol as a matter of course, and consider that to be normal activity. Most people do so responsibly, but others do not, and see it as a challenge to out-drink others, which is when the problems start.

Wherever you get alcohol misuse, you also get the related problems. For example, a huge amount of domestic abuse is associated with alcohol misuse, as is a lot of violence generally in our society. Talk to any police officer and they will tell you that they would rather encounter someone who has been smoking cannabis than someone who has been drinking alcohol, because at least the person smoking cannabis will not assault them, violently resist arrest, destroy property, or cause other problems. We have to accept that, if we are to deal with the particular issues of violence and the destruction of property, we also have to start looking at attitudes towards alcohol and how we deal with it.

In many ways, alcohol is the poor relation of substance misuse. When you say the words 'substance misuse', most people think of drugs and the impact of drugs on society, which do have a pretty dreadful impact.

Peter Black: Nid defnyddio alcohol sy'n pryderu Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ond camddefnyddio alcohol. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl sy'n yfed alcohol yn gwneud hynny'n gyfrifol, ac yn parchu eu hiechyd eu hunain ac iechyd pobl eraill. Nid mater ydyw o gyfyngu rhyddid pobl i dreulio'u hamser fel y dymunant; y nod yw sicrhau bod pawb yn gallu gwneud hynny heb broblem.

Felly, os ydym yn ystyried sut i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol, rhaid inni ddeall mai lleiafrif bach o bobl sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol, ac ar y rheini y mae angen inni ganolbwyntio. Mae nifer o Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith fod gan bobl ifanc broblem neilltuol gydag alcohol, ac fel y dywedodd Jenny Randerson, caiff hynny ei grybwyll yn y cynnig. Fodd bynnag, nid pobl ifanc sy'n cael y problemau hynny; mae diwylliant o gamddefnyddio alcohol yn gyffredin nid yng Nghymru'n unig ond ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Bydd pobl yn yfed alcohol fel mater o drefn, ac yn ystyried hynny'n weithgaredd normal. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn gwneud hynny'n gyfrifol, ond nid yw eraill, ac edrychant ar hyn fel her i yfed mwy nag eraill, a dyna pryd fydd y problemau'n dechrau.

Ble bynnag y bydd camddefnyddio alcohol, bydd y problemau cysylltiedig hefyd. Er enghraifft, mae llawer iawn o drais yn y cartref yn gysylltiedig â chamddefnyddio alcohol, fel y mae llawer o drais yn gyffredinol yn ein cymdeithas. Siaradwch ag unrhyw heddwes a bydd yn dweud wrthyfch y byddai'n well ganddo wynebu rhywun sydd wedi bod yn ysmegu cannabis na rhywun sydd wedi bod yn yfed alcohol, oherwydd o leiaf ni fydd y sawl sy'n ysmegu cannabis yn ymosod arno, yn gwrthod cael ei arestio'n dreisgar, yn dinistrio eiddo, nac yn achosi problemau eraill. Rhaid inni dderbyn, os ydym i ddelio â phroblemau neilltuol trais a dinistrio eiddo, ei bod yn rhaid inni hefyd ddechrau edrych ar agweddau at alcohol a sut y deliwn ag ef.

Mewn llawer ffordd, alcohol yw'r perthynas tlawd wrth gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Pan ddywedwch y geiriau 'camddefnyddio sylweddau', bydd y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn meddwl am gyffuriau ac effaith cyffuriau ar

However, more people abuse alcohol than drugs, and the impact on their lives, their health, and their families can be just as devastating as the impact of drugs. I have seen families lose a young relative because of a drink-driving incident, and I have seen the difficulty that they have had accepting that sudden death. Sometimes, it is not the person who died who was doing the drinking; people die as the result of other people's drinking. In 2006, it was estimated that 540 people were killed as the result of drink driving. That is one reason why we need to support anti drink-driving campaigns. A third of those drink drivers were young people, by the way, although it is clearly a problem that affects everyone. I remember not so long ago the intensity of the Government-run campaigns against drink driving, not just at Christmas but throughout the year, often. You rarely see those sorts of advertisements nowadays. The previous concentration on drink-driving campaigns is no longer evident. I believe that, as a result of that, more people are starting to drink and drive. You cannot let up the pace of informing people of the consequences of drinking and driving and its unacceptability at any stage. You cannot just have a campaign for Christmas; it has to be a campaign for the entire year.

Reference has been made to cut-price alcohol offers. They used to be far more prevalent than they are now, but you still get them in many town and city centres, where people can go to a venue and drink as much as they want for a set price or as part of an entrance fee. That is completely irresponsible on the part of the licensee, and local authorities should be able to take the matter up under the Licensing Act 2003 and revoke an establishment's licence. As things stand, I understand that authorities have to link any alcohol-related misbehaviour or violence to a particular establishment if they are to take any action against it. It seems that they do not have the right to tell an establishment, 'Do not give these offers or we will take your licence away'. That needs to be looked at, and I hope that the Minister can make representations to the UK Government in that regard.

gymdeithas, ac y maent yn cael effaith ddigon ofnadwy. Fodd bynnag, mae mwy o bobl yn camddefnyddio alcohol na chyffuriau, a gall yr effaith ar eu bywydau, eu hiechyd, a'u teuluoedd fod lawn mor ddinistriol ag effaith cyffuriau. Yr wyf wedi gweld teuluoedd yn colli perthynas ifanc oherwydd yfed a gyrru, ac wedi gweld yr anhawster a gawsant i dderbyn y farwolaeth sydyn honno. Weithiau, nid y sawl a fu farw a oedd wedi yfed; bydd pobl yn marw o ganlyniad i yfed pobl eraill. Yn 2006, amcangyfrifwyd bod 540 o bobl wedi eu lladd oherwydd yfed a gyrru. Mae hynny'n un rheswm pam y mae angen inni gefnogi ymgyrchoedd yn erbyn yfed a gyrru. Yr oedd traean y gyrwyr hynny a oedd wedi bod yn yfed yn bobl ifanc, gyda llaw, er ei bod yn amlwg yn broblem sy'n effeithio ar bawb. Cofiaf heb fod ymhell iawn yn ôl mor danbaid oedd ymgyrchoedd y Llywodraeth yn erbyn yfed a gyrru, nid adeg y Nadolig yn unig, ond gydol y flwyddyn, yn aml. Anaml y gwelwch y math hwnnw o hysbysebion y dyddiau hyn. Nid yw'r canolbwyntio a fu ar ymgyrchoedd yfed a gyrru i'w weld mwyach. O ganlyniad i hynny, credaf fod mwy o bobl yn dechrau yfed a gyrru. Ni allwch lacio'r ymdrech i roi gwybod i bobl am ganlyniadau yfed a gyrru a'i fod yn annerbyniol unrhyw bryd. Ni allwch gael ymgyrch ar gyfer y Nadolig yn unig; rhaid iddi fod yn ymgyrch am y flwyddyn gyfan.

Cyfeiriwyd at y cynigion alcohol rhad. Arferent fod lawer yn fwy cyffredin nag ydynt erbyn hyn, ond byddwch yn dal i'w gweld yng nghanol llawer o drefi a dinasoedd, lle gall pobl fynd i fan cyfarfod ac yfed cymaint ag a fyddant am bris penodol neu fel rhan o ffi mynediad. Mae hynny'n gwbl anghyfrifol ar ran y trwyddedai, a dylai awdurdodau lleol allu codi'r mater dan Ddeddf Trwyddedu 2003 a dirymu trwydded sefydliad. Fel y mae hi, deallaf ei bod yn rhaid i'r awdurdodau gysylltu unrhyw gamymddwyn neu drais sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol â sefydliad neilltuol os ydynt am ddwyn camau yn ei erbyn. Mae'n ymddangos nad oes ganddynt hawl i ddweud wrth sefydliad, 'Peidiwch â rhoi'r cynigion hyn neu byddwn yn tynnu'ch trwydded oddi arnoch'. Mae angen edrych ar hynny, a gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog gyflwyno sylwadau i Lywodraeth y DU yn y cyswllt

hwnnw.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call Jeff Cuthbert to speak.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf ar Jeff Cuthbert i siarad.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. I am just checking that the clock has been zeroed. [*Laughter.*]

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Dim ond edrych yr ydwyf i wneud yn siŵr fod y cloc wedi ei droi i sero. [*Chwerthin.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You have just wasted six seconds doing that.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr ydych newydd wastraffu chwe eiliad yn gwneud hynny.

Jeff Cuthbert: I know.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mi wn.

Sadly, alcohol abuse blights many neighbourhoods, and it can affect much more than just the person who may be inflicting this form of abuse on him or herself. Alcohol, as we know, can lead to many personal, family and community-orientated problems. Forms of anti-social behaviour caused by the effects of alcohol abuse can be detrimental to the wellbeing of an entire community. There also appear to be strong links between alcohol abuse and areas of deprivation, which raises the question, is the problem of alcohol abuse a result of the environment, or is the environment a result of the problem? I tend to accept the former, and, with that in mind, it is vital to look at alcohol abuse and its associated problems in a bigger and more holistic way, by looking at a range of social and economic problems, a view that I am glad to say that the Welsh Assembly Government also takes.

Yn anffodus, mae camddefnyddio alcohol yn difetha nifer o gymdogaethau, a gall effeithio ar lawer mwy na'r sawl sydd efallai'n peri'r math hwn o gamdriniaeth iddo'i hun. Gall alcohol, fel y gwyddom, arwain at nifer o broblemau personol, teuluol a chymunedol. Gall mathau o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n cael eu hachosi gan effeithiau camddefnyddio alcohol fod yn niweidiol i les cymuned gyfan. Mae'n ymddangos hefyd fod cysylltiadau cryf rhwng camddefnyddio alcohol ac ardaloedd o amddifadedd, sy'n codi'r cwestiwn ai canlyniad yr amgylchedd yw problem camddefnyddio alcohol, ynteu ai canlyniad y broblem yw'r amgylchedd? Tueddaf i dderbyn y cyntaf, a chyda hynny mewn golwg mae'n hanfodol edrych ar gamddefnyddio alcohol a'i broblemau cysylltiol mewn ffordd fwy a ffordd fwy cyfannol, drwy edrych ar ystod o broblemau cymdeithasol ac economaidd—barn y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei choleddu hefyd, yr wyf yn falch dweud.

3.00 p.m.

Although it is vital to increase the level of awareness and understanding of alcohol and its risk to our youth, that can only be part of a solution that looks at a much bigger picture. I know through my work as chair of the all-party group on healthy living that Health Challenge Wales, among others, does a great deal of good work to educate youngsters and parents about the dangers of alcohol abuse and to raise the esteem of youngsters, hopefully reducing the culture of binge drinking now or in the not too distant future.

Er bod cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o alcohol a'i risg i'n pobl ifanc yn hanfodol, dim ond rhan o ateb sy'n edrych ar ddarlun llawer mwy yw hynny. Gwn drwy fy ngwaith fel cadeirydd y grŵp hollbleidiol ar fyw'n iach fod Her Iechyd Cymru, ymysg pethau eraill, yn gwneud llawer iawn o waith da i addysgu pobl ifanc a rhieni am beryglon camddefnyddio alcohol ac am wella hunanbarch pobl ifanc, gyda'r gobaith o leihau'r diwylliant o oryfed mewn pyliau yn awr neu yn y dyfodol agos.

The substance misuse strategy, 'Working Together to Reduce Harm', proposes a joint

Mae'r strategaeth camddefnyddio sylweddau, 'Gweithio Gyda'n Gilydd i Leihau Niwed',

approach to tackling the harm caused by alcohol, drugs and other misused substances, and I believe this to be the right approach. If we simply seek to eradicate the misuse of one substance without eliminating the cause of the misuse, we will simply move the problem to another substance. The substance misuse strategy also seeks to address the problem at the core, including the selling of alcohol to minors. The extra powers given to communities and police under the Licensing Act 2003 to have licences reviewed and revoked, as William Graham mentioned earlier, enables communities to remove irresponsible suppliers of alcohol. These are regular subjects at the Partnerships and Communities Together meetings that I attend in my constituency, as is the totally unacceptable practice of adults knowingly buying alcohol for their children or for other children.

With regard to the wider economic and social problems, I am also glad to see that the Assembly Government is trying to end the vicious circle that sees generations of families caught in a spiral of substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. Breaking the chains of those not in education, employment and training will help to raise their esteem and remove some of the factors that lead to alcohol and other substance misuse. Unfortunately, although everyone agrees that help must be provided to end this curse on society, we know from our own experience that no-one is prepared to have alcohol and substance misuse facilities located near to them, and we have to overcome that difficulty if we are to provide a meaningful remedy for substance misuse. I will support this motion and the amendment, but I believe that we are already taking the important steps that are needed to combat not only alcohol and substance misuse and abuse, but the causes and the environment that lead down that path. To conclude, continued and community-wide action will be needed for some time; it is in all our interests, because misuse blights not only the life of the abuser, but, as I said the beginning of my speech, whole neighbourhoods.

yn cynnig dull ar y cyd i fynd i'r afael â'r niwed a achosir gan alcohol, cyffuriau a sylweddau eraill a gamddefnyddir, a chredaf mai dyma'r dull cywir. Os ceisiwn ddileu camddefnyddio un sylwedd yn unig heb ddileu achos y camddefnydd, y cyfan a wnawn yw symud y broblem i sylwedd arall. Mae'r strategaeth ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau hefyd yn ceisio mynd i'r afael â gwraidd y broblem, gan gynnwys gwerthu alcohol i bobl ifanc dan oed. Mae'r pwerau ychwanegol a roddwyd i gymunedau a'r heddlu dan Ddeddf Trwyddedu 2003 i adolygu a dirymu trwyddedau, fel y soniodd William Graham, yn galluogi cymunedau i gael gwared â chyflenwyr alcohol anghyfrifol. Mae'r rhain yn bynciau a drafodir yn rheolaidd yng nghyfarfodydd Partneriaethau a Chymunedau gyda'i Gilydd yn fy etholaeth i, yn ogystal â'r arfer cwbl annerbyniol lle mae oedolion yn prynu alcohol i'w plant neu i blant eraill.

O ran y problemau economaidd a chymdeithasol ehangach, yr wyf hefyd yn falch gweld bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ceisio rhoi terfyn ar y cylch dieflig lle mae cenedlaethau o'r un teulu wedi'u dal mewn cylch o gamddefnyddio sylweddau ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Bydd torri cadwyni'r rheini nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn helpu gwella'u hunan-barch a dileu rhai o'r ffactorau sy'n arwain at gamddefnyddio alcohol a sylweddau eraill. Yn anffodus, er bod paw'n yn cytuno'i bod yn rhaid darparu cymorth i roi terfyn ar y felltith hon ar ein cymdeithas, gwyddom o brofiad nad oes neb yn fodlon i gyfleusterau ar gyfer pobl sy'n camddefnyddio alcohol neu sylweddau gael eu lleoli yn eu hardal hwy, a rhaid inni oresgyn yr anhawster hwnnw os ydym am ddarparu ateb ystyrlon i gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Cefnogaf y cynnig hwn a'r gwelliant, ond credaf ein bod eisoes yn cymryd y camau pwysig y mae eu hangen i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol a sylweddau, yn ogystal â'r achosion a'r amgylchedd sy'n arwain pobl ar hyd y trywydd hwnnw. I gloi, bydd angen camau parhaus yn y gymuned gyfan am gryn amser; mae hynny o fudd inni bob un, oherwydd mae camddefnyddio nid yn unig yn difetha bywyd y sawl sy'n camddefnyddio, fel y dywedais ar ddechrau fy araith, ond mae

hefyd yn bla ar gymdogaethau cyfan.

Eleanor Burnham: This is a complex issue, and it is perhaps a reflection of the contemporary psyche in our not being like the continental Europeans with their cafe culture. We have binge drinking instead, and while I accept the sincerity of our previous speaker, Jeff, there is a lot of hypocrisy in the Labour Party, because it brought about 24-hour drinking, which has unfortunately not worked in our climate. I speak as a former magistrate and a mother—

Eleanor Burnham: Mae hwn yn fater cymhleth, ac efallai fod y ffaith nad ydym yn debyg i'r Ewropeaid cyfandirol a'u diwylliant caffi yn adlewyrchiad o'r meddylfryd cyfoes. Yn hytrach, mae gennym oryfed mewn pyliau, ac er fod mod yn derbyn ddiffuantrwydd ein siaradwr blaenorol, Jeff, mae llawer o ragrith yn y Blaid Lafur, oherwydd cyflwynodd gyfreithiau yfed 24 awr nad ydynt wedi gweithio yn ein hinsawdd ni, yn anffodus. Siaradaf fel cyn ynad ac fel mam—

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you take an intervention?

Jeff Cuthbert: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Eleanor Burnham: No, I will not. You have had your say, and I will continue. Maybe in a minute.

Eleanor Burnham: Na wnaf. Cawsoch eich cyfle, ac yr wyf am barhau. Ymhen munud, efallai.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Either you take an intervention or you do not. Are you—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych naill ai'n derbyn ymyriad ynteu nad ydych. Ydych chi—

Eleanor Burnham: I will take a short intervention.

Eleanor Burnham: Derbyniaf ymyriad byr.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I had not finished. Either give way graciously, or do not give way. Are you taking an intervention from Jeff Cuthbert?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oeddwn wedi gorffen. Yr ydych naill ai'n ildio'n hynaws, ynteu'n peidio ag ildio. A ydych yn derbyn ymyriad gan Jeff Cuthbert?

Eleanor Burnham: Yes.

Eleanor Burnham: Ydwyf.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch.

Jeff Cuthbert: I would be grateful if you could tell us where, in any part of the UK, there is an establishment that is open 24 hours for drinking, and what hard evidence you have that that policy has led to an increase in binge drinking.

Jeff Cuthbert: Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddweud wrthym ymhle, yn unrhyw ran o'r DU, y mae sefydliad sydd ar agor 24 awr i yfed ynddo, a pha dystiolaeth gadarn sydd gennych fod y polisi hwnnw wedi arwain at gynnydd mewn goryfed mewn pyliau.

Eleanor Burnham: You only have to ask the police across the UK about how many more officers they have to have on duty all night. Your hypocrisy is breathtaking; I was sincere in what I said earlier about upholding your views, but from your intervention we can all see that the Labour Party is guilty of hypocrisy in this arena, in UK, if not Welsh Assembly terms.

Eleanor Burnham: Y cyfan y mae angen ichi ei wneud yw holi'r heddlu ledled y DU ynghylch faint yn fwy o swyddogion sydd ganddynt ar ddyletswydd drwy'r nos. Mae eich rhagrith yn rhyfeddol; yr oeddwn yn ddiwyll yn yr hyn a ddywedais yn gynharach am ategu eich barn, ond ar ôl eich ymyriad gallwn i gyd weld bod y Blaid Lafur yn euog o ragrith yn hyn, yn y DU os nad yn

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

We must look at this. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has recently reported that we must adopt a new approach to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm. I am not an expert, but its conclusion suggests that we must look much more at shifting policy towards community-based intervention. We do not have time to discuss all of its conclusions, but we must look at its report very hard, because this is a growing problem.

Rhaid inni edrych ar hyn. Mae Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree wedi dweud yn ddiweddar ei bod yn rhaid inni fabwysiadu dull newydd i atal a lleihau niwed sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Nid wyf yn arbenigwr, ond mae ei gasgliad yn awgrymu ei bod yn rhaid inni edrych yn fanylach o lawer ar newid y polisi i ddarparu ymyriad yn y gymuned. Nid oes gennym amser i drafod ei holl gasgliadau, ond rhaid inni edrych ar ei adroddiad yn fanwl iawn, oherwydd mae hyn yn broblem gynyddol.

Jenny and Peter referred to the reason why we are discussing children and young people: it is because of the huge proportion of children and young people admitted to hospital—361 under the age of 16, 114 of whom were under the age of 14. It is an ever-growing problem, and we need to take it far more seriously. We need to put much more positive emphasis on the difficulties that youngsters face—there are many role models and celebrities who are constantly seen in the media to be overindulging. I will not name anyone in case someone jumps up and complains, but there is a huge issue with youngsters' role models, many of whom are extremely well-known globally. They are often seen coming out nightclubs looking absolutely dreadful, yet the media portrays these people as the height of what you should aim for. It is very sad. There is also a lot of peer pressure that pushes people over the limit to do silly things; we have all been young and have done silly things, but the limit is being stretched ever further.

Cyfeiriodd Jenny a Peter at y rheswm pam yr ydym yn trafod plant a phobl ifanc: y rheswm yw bod cyfran enfawr o blant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu derbyn i'r ysbyty—361 dan 16, a 114 ohonynt dan 14 oed. Mae'n broblem gynyddol, ac mae angen inni ei chymryd yn fwy o ddifrif. Mae angen inni roi llawer mwy o bwyslais cadarnhaol ar yr anawsterau sy'n wynebu pobl ifanc—mae nifer o fodolau rôl ac enwogion sydd i'w gweld yn y cyfryngau yn goryfed yn gyson. Nid enwaf neb rhag i rywun neidio ar ei draed a chwyno, ond mae yna broblem fawr gyda modelau rôl pobl ifanc—nifer ohonynt yn fyd enwog. Fe'u gwelir yn aml yn dod allan o glybiau nos yn edrych yn ofnadwy, ond eto mae'r cyfryngau'n portreadu'r bobl hyn fel yr uchelgais fwyaf. Mae'n drist iawn. Yn ogystal â hyn, mae llawer o bwysau gan gymheiriaid sy'n gwthio nifer o bobl i wneud pethau gwirion; buom i gyd yn ifanc gan wneud pethau gwirion, ond mae'r ffiniau'n cael eu gwthio ymhellach.

I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government will take these matters extremely seriously, because the increase in alcohol misuse is very perturbing and disturbing.

Gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cymryd y materion hyn o ddifrif, oherwydd mae'r cynnydd mewn camddefnyddio alcohol yn achosi anesmwythd a phryder mawr.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): The Assembly Government is pleased to support the motion and the amendment in the name of Kirsty Williams. The debate strayed rather far from the subject, but, nonetheless, all of the comments were pertinent to the subject of alcohol misuse, and all of the contributions demonstrated effectively that this is a key

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Mae'n bleser gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gefnogi'r cynnig hwn a'r gwelliant yn enw Kirsty Williams. Crwydrodd y ddadl braidd ymhell oddi wrth y pwnc, ond, serch hynny, yr oedd pob sylw'n berthnasol i gamddefnyddio alcohol, a dangosodd pob cyfraniad yn effeithiol fod hon yn her

social challenge that we must face in the twenty-first century.

The motion concentrated on young people, and most of my comments will be in that regard. Many people referred to the recent World Health Organization publication on the drinking behaviour of school-aged children across a wide range of western European countries. It showed that Wales had a high rate of alcohol consumption, particularly among those aged below 13. Those figures are a matter of concern, although it should be noted that if we look at the figures sequentially, there has been a decline in the number of young people who drink weekly. For example, in 2002, 57 per cent of boys and 52 per cent of girls aged 15 to 16 reported drinking weekly. In 2006, this had dropped to 42 per cent for boys and 38 per cent for girls. For 13 to 14-year-olds in the same years, the figure went down from 31 per cent to 23 per cent for boys and from 24 per cent to 20 per cent for girls. That was paralleled by a similar reduction in the incidence of drunkenness among young people.

So, contrary to some of the very pessimistic contributions, the figures show that progress is possible—other statistics show a plateau in the level of alcohol consumption among young people—and that this is not a debate that needs to be dominated by the counsel of despair.

However, that is not to say that we do not have a substantial and serious problem that must be faced. As an Assembly Government, we are working with the four police forces in Wales to develop the all-Wales school liaison programme, which became operational in 2004. As part of the programme, pupils have an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the issues relating to substance misuse, including alcohol, anti-social behaviour and personal safety. Specific lessons relating to alcohol have been added to the programme, and are currently being delivered to certain age groups. The all-Wales school liaison programme is being delivered in almost all secondary and primary schools in Wales, with funding coming from the community safety partnerships. It is through community safety partnerships,

gymdeithasol allweddol y mae'n rhaid inni ei hwynebu yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Canolbwyntiai'r cynnig ar bobl ifanc, a bydd y rhan fwyaf o'm sylwadau'n ymwneud â hynny. Cyfeiriodd llawer o bobl at gyhoeddiad Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd yn ddiweddar at arferion yfed plant ysgol ar draws ystod eang o wledydd gorllewin Ewrop. Dangosodd fod y cyfraddau yfed alcohol yng Nghymru yn uchel, yn arbennig ymysg plant dan 13 oed. Mae'r ffigurau hynny'n destun pryder, ond dylid sylwi, os edrychwn ar y ffigurau'n olynol, bod gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n yfed bob wythnos. Er enghraifft, yn 2002, dywedodd 57 y cant o fechgyn a 52 y cant o ferched 15 ac 16 oed eu bod yn yfed bob wythnos. Yn 2006, yr oedd hyn wedi gostwng i 42 y cant o fechgyn a 38 y cant o ferched. Ar gyfer plant 13 a 14 oed yn ystod yr un blynyddoedd, gostyngodd y ffigur o 31 y cant i 23 y cant o fechgyn ac o 24 y cant i 20 y cant o ferched. Yr oedd gostyngiad tebyg yn nifer yr achosion o feddwi ymysg pobl ifanc.

Felly, yn wahanol i rai o'r cyfraniadau pesimistaidd iawn, dengys y ffigurau fod cynnydd yn bosibl—dengys ystadegau eraill fod lefel yr alcohol y mae pobl ifanc yn ei yfed wedi sefydlogi—ac nad yw hon yn ddadl y mae angen iddi gael ei llethu gan anobaith.

Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n golygu nad oes gennym broblem fawr a difrifol y mae'n rhaid inni ei hwynebu. Fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'r pedwar heddlu yng Nghymru i ddatblygu rhaglen Cymru gyfan o gyswllt ag ysgolion, a roddwyd ar waith yn 2004. Fel rhan o'r rhaglen, caiff disgyblion gyfle i wella'u gwybodaeth a'u dealltwriaeth o'r problemau sy'n ymwneud â chamddefnyddio sylweddau, gan gynnwys alcohol, ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a diogelwch personol. Mae gwersi penodol yn ymwneud ag alcohol wedi eu hychwanegu at y rhaglen, ac maent yn cael eu cyflwyno i grwpiau oed penodol ar hyn o bryd. Caiff rhaglen Cymru gyfan o gyswllt ag ysgolion ei chyflwyno ym mhob ysgol uwchradd ac ysgol gynradd bron yng Nghymru, ac fe'i hariennir gan bartneriaethau

rather than directly from the Assembly Government, that worthwhile programmes such as Choose Life! and DangerPoint receive their funding. I was pleased that Ann Jones gave me the opportunity to meet Choose Life! in Rhyl some weeks ago. I was impressed with the organisation's dedication and the quality of the presentations.

3.10 p.m.

It is also important that we recognise that some schoolchildren are at particularly high risk. With that in mind, we are putting in place a further programme tailored to pupils who are in referral units and have special behavioural problems. We, as an Assembly Government, are committed to reintroducing school nurses into all schools in Wales, as well as establishing a programme for school counselling. These measures will allow schoolchildren and young people to access these experts when facing stresses in their lives that may be contributing to alcohol consumption problems.

We are taking this issue seriously and I do not accept the accusation that was made in this debate that we are not doing so. Anyone who has read the 10-year strategy will recognise that an increased emphasis has been placed on tackling alcohol misuse. We are also developing a specific alcohol action plan in conjunction with the National Public Health Service in Wales. Furthermore, the inequalities in health fund is also being redirected to have a greater emphasis on tackling the problem of alcohol misuse. That again demonstrates the importance that we place on this.

We also recognise that young people—and many of you have commented on this—can come to consume alcohol in a family setting and we recognise the situation with regard to adults. This is an important area and we are looking at programmes that will expand school-based education to not only involve the young people but provide opportunities for parents to become involved in these programmes. Where children are particularly vulnerable, we are looking at the experience

diogelwch cymunedol. Drwy bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, yn hytrach nag yn uniongyrchol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, y mae rhaglenni gwrth chweil fel Choose Life! A DangerPoint yn cael eu hariannu. Yr oeddwn yn falch fod Ann Jones wedi rhoi cyfle imi gyfarfod â Choose Life! Yn y Rhyl rai wythnosau'n ôl. Gwnaeth ymrwymiad y sefydliad a safon y cyflwyniadau argraff arnaf.

Mae hefyd yn bwysig inni gydnabod bod rhai plant ysgol yn wynebu risg fawr iawn. Gan gofio hynny, yr ydym yn rhoi rhaglen arall ar waith wedi'i theilwra ar gyfer disgyblion mewn unedau cyfeirio sydd â phroblemau ymddygiad arbennig. Yr ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad, wedi ymrwymo i ailgyflwyno nyrsys ysgol ym mhob ysgol yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â sefydlu rhaglen ar gyfer gwasanaeth cwnsela mewn ysgolion. Bydd y mesurau hyn yn caniatáu i blant ysgol a phobl ifanc allu mynd at yr arbenigwyr hyn pan fydd straen yn eu bywydau a all fod yn cyfrannu at broblemau yfed alcohol.

Yr ydym yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif, ac nid wyf yn derbyn y cyhuddiad a wnaed yn y ddadl hon nad ydym yn gwneud hynny. Bydd unrhyw un sydd wedi darllen y strategaeth 10 mlynedd yn cydnabod bod mwy o bwyslais wedi ei roi ar ddelio â chamddefnyddio alcohol. Yr ydym hefyd yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu penodol ar alcohol ar y cyd â Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol Cymru. Yn ogystal, mae'r gronfa anghydraddoldebau iechyd hefyd yn cael ei hailgyfeirio i sicrhau bod mwy o bwyslais ar fynd i'r afael â phroblem camddefnyddio alcohol. Mae hynny eto yn dangos y pwys a roddwn ar hyn.

Yr ydym hefyd yn cydnabod bod pobl ifanc—ac mae llawer ohonoch wedi gwneud sylwadau am hyn—y gallu cael alcohol mewn sefyllfa deuluol, a chydnabyddwn y sefyllfa o ran oedolion. Mae hwn yn faes pwysig, ac yr ydym yn edrych ar raglenni a fydd yn ehangu addysg mewn ysgolion i ddarparu cyfleoedd i rieni gymryd rhan yn y rhaglenni hyn, yn ogystal â'r bobl ifanc. Lle mae plant yn agored iawn i niwed, yr ydym yn edrych ar brofiad rhaglenni fel Cryfhau

of programmes such as Strengthening Families, which will be able to provide additional assistance to families with problems relating to alcohol consumption.

Bethan Jenkins: I met the British Youth Council last week, which said that it welcomed counselling on alcohol, drugs and sexual health, but would prefer that that counselling were given in the community as opposed to in schools, because it can then be quite structured and not something that young people can access. What consideration are you giving to that and to incorporating young people's opinions in debates such as this in future?

Brian Gibbons: It is important that young people's views are taken into account in fashioning these debates. I would suggest that any educational programme that is totally adult-centred would have no credibility and would be just a finger-wagging exercise. We all know that education itself in the passing on of knowledge does not necessarily result in a change in behaviour or cultural attitudes. So, your point is important. The message must be relevant and must resonate with young people. If we are talking at them rather than engaging them in a dialogue, it simply will not work.

Jeff Cuthbert also raised an important point about the role of adults in relation to alcohol consumption among children. The Chief Medical Officer for Wales is working with his colleagues throughout the UK to develop a programme that will provide parents with guidelines on what they can do to promote a healthier attitude to alcohol consumption.

I was pleased to hear Janice Gregory's contribution on young people being exposed to alcohol in corner shops, convenience stores and off-licences, which is important. I had a constructive meeting with the Association of Convenience Stores some weeks ago and it supported the strategy that the Assembly Government is pursuing and several points that Janice made in her contribution about young workers in off-licences were also made by that association. The enforcement of the regulations is important in that regard.

Teuluoedd, a fydd yn gallu darparu cymorth ychwanegol i deuluoedd sydd â phroblemau'n ymwneud ag yfed alcohol.

Bethan Jenkins: Cyfarfûm â Chyngor Ieuencid Prydain yr wythnos diwethaf, a ddywedodd ei fod yn croesawu gwasanaeth cwnsela ar alcohol, cyffuriau ac iechyd rhyw, ond y byddai'n well ganddo petai'r gwasanaeth cwnsela hwnnw'n cael ei ddarparu yn y gymuned yn hytrach nag mewn ysgolion, oherwydd wedyn gall fod yn eithaf strwythuredig, yn hytrach rhywbeth y gall pobl ifanc droi ato. Pa ystyriaeth a roddwch i hynny ac i gynnwys barn pobl ifanc mewn dadleuon fel hon yn y dyfodol?

Brian Gibbons: Mae'n bwysig ystyried barn pobl ifanc wrth drefnu'r dadleuon hyn. Byddwn yn awgrymu na fyddai'r un rhaglen addysgol sy'n canolbwyntio'n gyfan gwbl ar oedolion yn gredadwy ac mai ymarfer i ddweud y drefn yn unig fyddai. Gwyddom oll nad yw addysg ynddi'i hun wrth drosglwyddo gwybodaeth yn arwain at newid ymddygiad neu agweddau diwylliannol o anghenraid. Felly, mae eich pwynt yn bwysig. Rhaid i'r neges fod yn berthnasol a rhaid i bobl ifanc uniaethu â hi. Os byddwn yn pregethu wrthynt yn hytrach na siarad â hwy mewn deialog, ni fydd yn gweithio.

Cododd Jeff Cuthbert bwynt pwysig hefyd am rôl oedolion yng nghyswllt yfed alcohol ymhlith plant. Mae Prif Swyddog Meddygol Cymru yn gweithio gyda'i gydweithwyr ledled y DU i ddatblygu rhaglen a fydd yn rhoi canllawiau i rieni ar yr hyn y gallant ei wneud i hybu agwedd iachach at yfed alcohol.

Yr oeddwn yn falch clywed cyfraniad Janice Gregory ar bobl ifanc sy'n gallu cael alcohol mewn siopau cornel, siopau cyfleustra a siopau diodydd, sy'n bwysig. Cefais gyfarfod adeiladol gyda'r Gymdeithas Siopau Cyfleustra rai wythnosau'n ôl, ac yr oedd yn cefnogi strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Gwnaethy gymdeithas honno hefyd nifer o'r pwyntiau a wnaeth Janice yn ei chyfraniad hi am weithwyr ifanc mewn siopau diodydd. Mae gorfodi'r rheoliadau yn bwysig yn hynny o beth.

Finally, I will deal with a few matters that are not devolved. We accept that there are lessons to be learned from elsewhere in the United Kingdom. We are keen to learn from what is going on in Scotland and we are liaising with our colleagues there on the new regulatory proposals that they are putting in place. The Westminster Government has reviewed the licensing law changes. The argument that Jeff Cuthbert made in that regard is probably more in line with the facts of the situation in relation to 24-hour drinking. The review indicated that there is a need for tougher enforcement—we are talking not only about three strikes, but two strikes—and more vigorous enforcement on the back of the review of 24-hour drinking has been one of the consequences of that.

I am grateful for the considered response of the Assembly and I am grateful to the Welsh Conservatives for bringing this motion forward. The depth of concern conveyed by Assembly Members confirms that this is an important policy, and I am glad that there is considerable cross-party consensus with regard to trying to address this growing and serious problem.

Andrew R.T. Davies: It is a pleasure to sum up a Conservative debate with consensus echoing around the Chamber, because the first thing that I normally have to respond to is an intervention in some shape or form. The level of concern that has been expressed around the Chamber shows that we are united in our concern regarding alcohol abuse, particularly among our young people. That concern was highlighted by the World Health Organization report that, sadly, put us at the top of the league table—or the bottom, depending on which way you look at it. This focused the debate. While I appreciate that some of the tools that the Minister and his Government need lie at the other end of the M4—such as the judicial system, the promotional system and licensing—it is us who end up having to pick up the social and health effects. Some 15 per cent of our NHS budget is spent on drink-related problems. That is a massive drain on our resources, which the NHS in Wales has to bear. We have also had many debates in the Chamber about the physical abuse that many health

Yn olaf, ymdriniaf ag ychydig faterion nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli. Yr ydym yn derbyn bod gwersi i'w dysgu o fannau eraill yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Yr ydym yn awyddus i ddysgu o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban, ac yr ydym yn cysylltu â'n cymheiriaid yno ynghylch y cynigion rheoleiddio newydd y maent yn eu sefydlu. Mae Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi adolygu'r newidiadau yn y gyfraith drwyddedu. Mae'n debyg fod y ddadl a wnaeth Jeff Cuthbert i'r perwyl hwnnw yn cyd-fynd yn fwy â ffeithiau'r sefyllfa o safbwynt yfed 24 awr. Dangosodd yr adolygiad fod angen gorfodi'n fwy llym—yr ydym yn siarad nid yn unig am dri rhybudd, ond am ddau rybudd—ac un o ganlyniadau hynny fu gorfodi mwy caeth yn sgil yr adolygiad o yfed 24 awr.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ymateb ystyrllon y Cynulliad ac i'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig am gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn. Mae dyfnder y pryder a fynegwyd gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn cadarnhau bod hwn yn bolisi pwysig, ac yr wyf yn falch bod consensws sylweddol ar draws y pleidiau i geisio rhoi sylw i'r broblem ddifrifol a chynyddol hon.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Mae'n bleser crynhoi dadl y Ceidwadwyr gyda chonsensws yn adleisio o amgylch y Siambr, gan mai'r peth cyntaf y mae'n rhaid imi ymateb iddo fel rheol yw ymyriad o ryw fath neu'i gilydd. Mae lefel y pryder a fynegwyd o amgylch y Siambr yn dangos ein bod yn unedig yn ein pryder o safbwynt camddefnyddio alcohol, yn enwedig ymhlith ein pobl ifanc. Tynnwyd sylw at y pryder hwn gan adroddiad Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd a oedd, yn anffodus, yn ein rhoi ar frig tabl y cynghrair—neu ar y gwaelod, yn ôl sut yr edrychwch arno. Rhoddodd hyn ffocws i'r ddadl. Er fy mod yn sylweddoli bod rhai o'r offer y mae eu hangen ar y Gweinidog a'i Lywodraeth ym mhen arall yr M4—megis y system farnwrol, y system hyrwyddo a thrwyddedu—ni sy'n gorfod delio â'r effaith gymdeithasol a'r effaith ar iechyd. Gwerir oddeutu 15 y cant o'n cyllideb ar gyfer y GIG ar broblemau'n gysylltiedig ag yfed. Mae hynny'n dreth aruthrol ar ein hadnoddau, a rhaid i'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol ei thalu. Cawsom hefyd nifer o ddadleuon yn y Siambr am y

workers have to face on a Friday or a Saturday—or any day of the week. That, too, is drink-related.

One clear message from this debate, which was highlighted by the figures that Mark brought to the Chamber, is that we should never turn our backs on anyone; we should offer them the opportunity to reform their life and to get back on track. This is emphasised by the disparity that exists between our communities. In Merthyr, the level of alcohol abuse is three times greater than in Monmouthshire. Many people say that this is not unexpected, but we need to get inside these issues and eliminate that disparity so that those communities do not suffer from the effects of alcohol abuse.

With regard to drink driving, Peter Black highlighted the 540 fatal drink-related accidents in the UK. In Wales, 19 of the 180 fatal accidents were drink related; this represents 12 per cent of road fatalities. We seem to have lost our way on the issue of drink driving. There are periodical campaigns to emphasise the need to control our drinking, but that message does not seem to be permeating the hardcore of individuals who seem to think that it is acceptable to get behind the wheel of a car. It is not only a case of the tragic deaths of those individuals; there are also the injuries that occur and the fatalities of innocent people who may be caught up in that accident. I would agree with Dai Lloyd on the issue of lowering the maximum acceptable level of alcohol in the blood while driving to 50 mg per 100 ml. Serious consideration also need to be given to zero tolerance for drivers aged 17 to 25, because, at that young age, they have many things to focus on without worrying about drink driving. If they know that there is no wriggle room, then there is no excuse.

3.20 p.m.

Dai also raised the relevant point of organ donor consent. There are horrific figures, particularly for women under 40, regarding cirrhosis of the liver. This is a massive

cam-drin corfforol y mae llawer o weithwyr iechyd yn gorfod ei wynebu ar ddydd Gwener neu ddydd Sadwrn—neu unrhyw ddydd o'r wythnos. Mae hynny, hefyd, yn gysylltiedig ag yfed.

Un neges glir o'r ddadl hon y tynnwyd sylw ati gan y ffigurau a gyflwynodd Mark gerbron y Siambr yw na ddylem byth droi ein cefnau ar neb; dylem roi cyfle iddynt wella'u bywyd ac ailgydio ynddo. Caiff hyn ei bwysleisio gan y gwahaniaeth sydd rhwng ein cymunedau. Ym Merthyr, mae'r lefel camddefnyddio alcohol deirgwaith yn uwch nag yn sir Fynwy. Dywed llawer o bobl nad yw hyn yn annisgwyl, ond mae angen inni fynd dan groen y materion hyn a dileu'r gwahaniaeth hwn fel nad yw'r cymunedau hynny'n dioddef oherwydd effeithiau camddefnyddio alcohol.

O safbwynt yfed a gyrru, tynnodd Peter Black sylw at y 540 o ddamweiniau angheuol yn gysylltiedig ag yfed yn y DU. Yng Nghymru, yr oedd 19 o'r 180 o ddamweiniau angheuol yn gysylltiedig ag yfed; mae hynny'n 12 y cant o farwolaethau ar y ffyrdd. Mae'n ymddangos ein bod wedi colli ein ffordd o safbwynt yfed a gyrru. Mae yna ymgyrchoedd cyfnodol i bwysleisio'r angen i reoli ein hyfed, ond nid yw'n ymddangos bod y neges honno'n cyrraedd yr unigolion diildio sydd, yn ôl pob golwg, yn meddwl ei bod yn dderbyniol mynd y tu ôl i lyw car. Nid marwolaethau trasig yr unigolion hynny yw'r unig fater; mae yna hefyd yr anafiadau sy'n digwydd a marwolaethau pobl ddiniwed a all gael eu dal yn y ddamwain honno. Byddwn yn cytuno â Dai Lloyd ynghylch gostwng yr uchafswm derbyniol ar gyfer lefel yr alcohol yn y gwaed wrth yrru i 50 mg mewn 100 ml. Mae angen rhoi ystyriaeth ddifrifol i ddim goddefgarwch i yrwyr 17 i 25 oed, oherwydd yn yr oedran ifanc hwnnw mae ganddynt lawer o bethau i ganolbwyntio arnynt heb boeni am yfed a gyrru. Os gwyddant nad oes dim lle i wingo, yna nid oes dim esgus.

Cododd Dai bwynt perthnasol hefyd am ganiatâd rhoi organau. Mae'r ffigurau'n ddychrynlyd, yn enwedig ar gyfer menywod dan 40, o safbwynt sirosis yr afu. Mae hon yn

problem that the NHS has to face. Trying to rectify that problem goes to the heart of donor consent issues and organ donations. If we get the educational aspect right at the start, then, hopefully, we can stop those problems from building up a head of steam.

Paul Davies highlighted the importance of education, of working with schools and, as Bethan interjected, with the community, to ensure that that message is acceptable to young people. It must not merely be a glamorous campaign; it must permeate the brains of young people, because it is currently seen as being adult driven. If we get the education message right at a young age—*[Interruption.]*

Mohammad Asghar: I have heard all the contributions on this serious issue, but everyone is missing one point: cheap, third-class alcohol is being imported from other parts of the world, which children can easily access, perhaps through elders who can buy it from shops. That information has come from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The point to be made is that we should deal with the serious issue of bringing cheap, third-class alcohol into this country, which children and other people buy, which and damages their health and property.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I could not agree with you more, Mohammad. I was going to close on that point and on the point that Janice Gregory raised about pressure being put on shop workers and licensees to serve people who they know to be under-age or face physical violence. The Government here and in Westminster need to be working with the licence trade to ensure that it has safeguards in place to address that real issue. Many of us have driven through towns and villages in our constituencies on a Friday or Saturday night—or any night of the week—and have seen people who are clearly under-age consuming alcohol. That alcohol has not been plucked out of hedgerows; it has been supplied to them in some shape or form.

There is a broad consensus here this afternoon, which I am pleased to see, but I

problem aruthrol y mae'n rhaid i'r GIG ei hwynebu. Mae ceisio unioni'r broblem honno'n mynd at wraidd materion caniatâd rhoddwyr a rhoi organau. Os cawn yr agwedd addysgol yn iawn ar y dechrau, yna, gyda lwc, gallwn atal y problemau hynny rhag cynyddu.

Tynnodd Paul Davies sylw at bwysigrwydd addysg, a gweithio gydag ysgolion, ac fel y dywedodd Bethan gyda'r gymuned, i sicrhau bod y neges honno'n dderbynol i bobl ifanc. Rhaid iddi beidio â bod yn ymgyrch hardd yn unig; rhaid iddi dreiddio i ymennydd pobl ifanc, oherwydd ar hyn o bryd caiff ei hystyried yn rhywbeth sy'n cael ei symbylu gan oedolion. Os cawn y neges addysg yn iawn i'r ifanc—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Mohammad Asghar: Yr wyf wedi clywed yr holl gyfraniadau am y mater difrifol hwn, ond mae pawb yn methu un pwynt: mae alcohol rhad, israddol yn cael ei fewnforio o rannau eraill o'r byd, alcohol y gall plant gael gafael arno'n hawdd, efallai drwy bobl hŷn sy'n gallu ei brynu mewn siopau. Oddi wrth Gyllid a Thollau Ei Mawrhydi y daeth y wybodaeth honno. Y pwynt i'w wneud yw y dylem ddelio â mater difrifol yr alcohol rhad, israddol sy'n dod i mewn i'r wlad hon, alcohol y mae plant a phobl eraill yn ei brynu ac sy'n niweidio'u hiechyd a'u heiddo.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Ni allwn gytuno mwy â chi, Mohammad. Yr oeddwn am gloi gyda'r pwynt hwnnw a'r y pwynt a godwyd gan Janice Gregory am roi pwysau ar weithwyr siopau a thrwyddedeion i werthu i bobl y gwyddant eu bod dan oed ynteu i wynebu trais corfforol. Mae angen i'r Llywodraeth yma ac yn San Steffan fod yn gweithio gyda'r fasnach drwyddedig i sicrhau bod ganddi fesurau diogelu ar waith i roi sylw i'r broblem wirioneddol honno. Mae llawer ohonom wedi gyrru drwy drefi a phentrefi yn ein hetholaethau ar nos Wener neu nos Sadwrn—neu unrhyw noswaith yn yr wythnos—a gweld pobl sy'n amlwg o dan oed yn yfed alcohol. Nid yw'r alcohol hwnnw wedi ei dynnu o'r gwrychoedd; mae wedi ei ddarparu iddynt mewn rhyw fodd neu'i gilydd.

Mae consensws cyffredinol yma'r prynhawn yma, ac yr wyf yn falch o'i weld, ond

hope that we can now move forward, ensuring that we make that fundamental change in the alcohol market, so that young people get the educational and support benefits that they need to stay on the right path and to develop their prospects in our society.

gobeithio y gallwn yn awr symud ymlaen, gan sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud y newid sylfaenol hwnnw yn y farchnad alcohol, er mwyn i bobl ifanc gael y manteision cymorth ac addysgol y mae arnynt eu hangen i aros ar y llwybr cywir ac i ddatblygu eu rhagolygon yn ein cymdeithas.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there is no objection. Therefore, the amendment is agreed, according to Standing Order No. 7.35.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno'r gwelliant. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes dim gwrthwynebiad. Felly, cytunwyd y gwelliant, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 1.
Amendment 1 carried.*

Motion NDM3987 as amended: that

Cynnig NDM3987 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. notes with concern that, in the last year for which figures are available, 371 children in Wales under the age of 16 were admitted to hospital with problems caused by alcohol.

1. yn nodi gyda phryder, yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer, bod 371 o blant dan 16 oed yng Nghymru wedi cael eu derbyn yn yr ysbyty gyda phroblemau'n ymwneud ag alcohol;

2. recognises the importance of educating young people about the devastating health and social implications of alcohol abuse;

2. yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd addysgu pobl ifanc am oblygiadau difrodus camddefnyddio alcohol i iechyd ac i gymdeithas;

3. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to work with the UK Government in reducing drink-related accidents on Welsh roads.

3. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i leihau damweiniau sy'n ymwneud â diod ar ffyrdd Cymru.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion as amended. Does any Member object? I see that there is no objection. Therefore, the motion as amended is agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno'r cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes dim gwrthwynebiad. Felly, cytunwyd y cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM3987 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3987 as amended carried.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Nyrsys Arbenigol ar gyfer Cleifion â Dementia Specialist Nurses for Patients with Dementia

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Kirsty Williams, a

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of

gwelliannau 3 a 4 yn enw Carwyn Jones.

Kirsty Williams, and amendments 3 and 4 in the name of Carwyn Jones.

David Melding: I propose that

David Melding: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to identify resources to increase the number of specialist nurses for patients with dementia. (NDM3988)

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i nodi adnoddau i gynyddu nifer y nyrsys arbenigol ar gyfer cleifion â demensia. (NDM3988)

I wish that I could emulate your great skills in Welsh, Deputy Presiding Officer, but I am still in the slow lane. However, my comprehension is improving, so I can, at least, appreciate the wonderful progress that you are making.

Hoffwn allu efelychu eich sgiliau ardderchog yn y Gymraeg, Ddirprwy Lywydd, ond araf yw fy nghynnydd o hyd. Fodd bynnag, mae fy nealltwriaeth yn gwella, felly gallaf o leiaf werthfawrogi'r cynnydd gwych yr ydych chi'n ei wneud.

Today is most appropriate for holding this debate, as it is dementia awareness week, which has concentrated the attention of many people who do not otherwise think about dementia. We have a large range of voluntary groups to thank for putting this subject at the top of the agenda at this time of year and to get people to discuss the issue, which is excellent.

Mae heddiw'n briodol iawn ar gyfer cynnal y ddadl hon, oherwydd mae'n wythnos ymwybyddiaeth o ddementia, sydd wedi hoelio sylw llawer o bobl nad ydynt fel arall yn meddwl am ddementia. Mae gennym ystod eang o grwpiau gwirfoddol i ddiolch iddynt am roi'r pwnc hwn ar frig yr agenda ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, ac am gael pobl i drafod y mater, sy'n wych.

We will support the Liberal Democrat amendments, but we reject the Welsh Assembly Government amendments. I would acknowledge that they are not wholly negative, but, in our opinion, they weaken the motion in certain respects.

Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ond gwrthodwn welliannau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Byddwn yn cydnabod nad ydynt yn gwbl negyddol, ond yn ein barn ni maent yn gwanhau'r cynnig ar lawer cyfrif.

It is appropriate to start by reminding ourselves what dementia is. It is the loss of brain function, which can be triggered by a variety of causes; it is important that we remember that. There is no one cause. The condition can be the result of many conditions, but there are some very common causes. Alzheimer's disease is the one that most people would probably know about; it affects 62 per cent of dementia sufferers. That is then followed by vascular dementia, which is basically the result of small strokes; 17 per cent of dementia sufferers have that as the cause of their dementia.

Mae'n briodol dechrau drwy ein hatgoffa'n hunain beth yw dementia. Dirywiad yn y modd y mae'r ymennydd yn gweithio ydyw, a gall gael ei sbarduno gan amrywiol achosion; mae'n bwysig inni gofio hynny. Nid oes un achos unigol. Gall y cyflwr fod yn ganlyniad i nifer o gyflyrau, ond mae yna rai achosion cyffredin iawn. Clefyd Alzheimer yw'r un y byddai'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn gwybod amdano; mae'n effeithio ar 62 y cant o ddiodefwyr dementia. Yna, dilynir hwnnw gan ddementia fasgwlaidd, sef canlyniad strociau bychan, yn syml; dyna yw achos dementia mewn 17 y cant o ddiodefwyr dementia.

We may recall the time, relatively recently, when the late George Melly announced that he was suffering from vascular dementia. His

Hwyrach y cofiwn yr adeg, yn gymharol ddiweddar, pan gyhoeddodd y diweddar George Melly ei fod yn dioddef gan

wife spoke movingly about how she was caring for George Melly and how he was almost two people. He could be suffering from dementia and not know how to eat, practically, and yet he was still able to perform on stage and had a great public image. She welcomed that, in the sense that he was still enjoying life as much as he could, but it did put immense pressure on her as a carer. It took great courage to make that known because, obviously, someone like George Melly will reach a huge audience, which is of great benefit to the thousands who suffer from this.

In looking at prevalence I remind people that it is not just a disease that can affect the very old. One in 1,400 will get dementia between the age of 40 and 64, which is relatively rare. The prevalence then increases dramatically between 65 and 69 years of age—it has the definition of a common condition, affecting one in 100. Between 70 and 79 years of age, the prevalence moves to one in 25; and by the time that people are over 80 years of age, they have a one in six chance of suffering dementia. Therefore, it is one of the huge challenges that we face. There are an estimated 37,000 people with dementia in Wales. This figure is expected to rise to nearly 50,000 by 2021, largely as a result of improvement in life expectancy. As we see people enjoying longer lives, we will be facing different health challenges. This will be one of the major challenges that we will have to tackle.

Tragically, in cases where the onset of dementia happens when people are relatively young, there are around 15,000 younger people with dementia in the United Kingdom—that is probably an underestimate. Although that is a relatively small number, it is important to realise how isolated these people can be. Often, there will not be specialised services. I have seen young people with dementia in care homes that are obviously designed to care for elderly people, and often people with elderly mentally infirm difficulties. It is not the natural environment for that age group. This adds to the suffering that they have due to their core condition.

ddementia fasgwlaidd. Siaradodd ei wraig yn deimladol am y modd yr oedd yn gofalu am George Melly a'r modd yr oedd ef yn ddau berson bron. Gallai fod yn dioddef gan ddementia ac yn methu â gwybod sut i fwyta, yn ymarferol, ac eto yr oedd yn dal i allu perfformio ar lwyfan, ac yr oedd ganddo ddelwedd gyhoeddus ardderchog. Croesawai hynny, yn yr ystyr ei fod yn dal i fwynhau bywyd cymaint ag y gallai, ond ei fod yn rhoi pwysau aruthrol arni hi fel gofalwr. Bu'n ddewr iawn i wneud hynny'n hysbys, oherwydd, wrth gwrs, bydd rhywun fel George Melly yn cyrraedd cynulleidfa anferthol, ac mae hyn o fudd mawr i'r miloedd sy'n dioddef o hyn.

Wrth weld mor gyffredin yw'r clefyd, atgoffaf bobl nad clefyd sy'n gallu effeithio ar bobl oedrannus iawn yn unig ydyw. Bydd un o bob 1,400 yn cael dementia pan fyddant rhwng 40 a 64 oed, er bod hynny'n gymharol anghyffredin. Mae'r cyffredinolrwydd wedyn yn cynyddu'n aruthrol rhwng 65 a 69 oed—fe'i diffinnir fel cyflwr cyffredin, sy'n effeithio ar un o bob 100. Rhwng 70 a 79 oed, mae'r niferoedd yn symud i un o bob 25; ac erbyn i bobl fod dros 80 oed, mae ganddynt un siawns o bob chwech o ddiodes dementia. Felly, mae'n un o'r heriau anferthol sy'n ein hwynebu. Amcangyfrifir bod 37,000 o bobl yng Nghymru yn dioddef gan ddementia. Disgwylir i'r ffigur hwn godi i 50,000 bron erbyn 2021, yn bennaf oherwydd disgwyl byw'n hŷn. Wrth inni weld pobl yn mwynhau bywyd hwy, byddwn yn wynebu gwahanol heriau iechyd. Dyma fydd un o'r heriau mawr y bydd yn rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â hwy.

Yn drasig, mewn achosion pan fydd dementia'n dechrau pan fydd pobl yn gymharol ifanc, mae tua 15,000 o bobl iau sydd â dementia yn y Deyrnas Unedig—mae'n debygol fod hwnnw'n amcangyfrif rhy isel. Er bod hwnnw'n nifer cymharol fychan, mae'n bwysig sylweddoli mor ynysig y gall y bobl hyn fod. Yn aml, ni fydd gwasanaethau arbenigol. Yr wyf wedi gweld pobl ifanc â dementia mewn cartrefi gofal sy'n amlwg wedi'u bwriadu i ofalu am bobl oedrannus, ac yn aml pobl ag anawsterau henoed bregus eu meddwl. Nid dyma'r amgylchedd naturiol i'r grŵp oed hwnnw. Mae hyn yn ychwanegu at eu dioddefaint o'u cyflwr craidd.

Of those people who suffer from dementia at a relatively young age, there is a much higher proportion among the black and minority ethnic population, which is something that needs to be explored. We need to ensure that services are particularly sensitive in that area.

On treatment, it is commonly understood that there is no cure. There are treatments that can help control the symptoms, but we are at a relatively new phase in medical and scientific advancement. However, there is hope that we will see better treatments coming into the marketplace. It is important that we are able to invest in these treatments and make them available where there is demonstrable clinical improvement. Above all, we need to use these new treatments invariably from an early time in the person's diagnosis. Early diagnosis, in general, is crucial; the more that we help when people acquire the early stages of dementia, the better the longer-term implications are for that person's general health. Strategically, this tells us something important; primary healthcare and community healthcare have a valuable role to play in improving services for people with dementia.

In terms of what I think are some of the policy implications, our motion mentions specialist nurses in particular, because there has been a relative decline in these services. I realise that there has also been an attempt to mainstream, which we welcome, but we feel that a specialist nurse can be a key catalyst to improving services in general, especially in primary and community care. We have seen the profile of dementia rise, which is something that the Government should build upon. There are things that you can do in terms of your behaviour that will lower your risk of suffering from dementia.

3.30 p.m.

It is difficult to try to convince people that they need to change their behaviour so that when they are over 70, or 80 even, there is less chance that they will have a debilitating condition like dementia. However, it is

O'r bobl hynny sy'n dioddef gan ddementia yn gymharol ifanc mae yna gyfran uwch o lawer ymhlith y boblogaeth o bobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig, ac mae hyn yn rhywbeth y mae angen ymchwilio iddo. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n sensitif dros ben yn y maes hwnnw.

O safbwynt triniaeth, mae dealltwriaeth gyffredin nad oes iachâd. Mae yna driniaethau sy'n gallu helpu rheoli'r symptomau, ond yr ydym mewn cyfnod cymharol newydd mewn datblygiadau meddygol a gwyddonol. Er hynny, mae gobaith y gwelwn well triniaethau'n dod ar y farchnad. Mae'n bwysig inni allu buddsoddi yn y triniaethau hyn a sicrhau eu bod ar gael pryd bynnag y bydd gwelliant clinigol amlwg. Yn anad dim, mae angen inni ddefnyddio'r triniaethau newydd hyn yn ddiffael yn fuan yn niagnosis unigolyn. Mae diagnosis buan, yn gyffredinol, yn hanfodol; po fwyaf o gymorth a rown pan fydd pobl yn mynd drwy gyfnodau cynnar dementia, gorau oll yw'r goblygiadau tymor hwy i iechyd cyffredinol yr unigolyn hwnnw. Yn strategol, mae hyn yn dweud rhywbeth pwysig wrthym; mae gofal iechyd sylfaenol a gofal iechyd cymunedol yn werthfawr wrth wella gwasanaethau i bobl â dementia.

O safbwynt yr hyn a gredaf yw rhai o'r goblygiadau o ran polisïau, mae ein cynnig yn crybwyll nyrsys arbenigol yn benodol, oherwydd bu dirywiad cymharol yn y gwasanaethau hyn. Sylweddolaf fod ymgais hefyd i brif ffrydio, a chroesawn hynny, ond teimlwn y gall nyrs arbenigol fod yn gatalydd allweddol i wella gwasanaethau'n gyffredinol, yn enwedig mewn gofal sylfaenol a chymunedol. Yr ydym wedi gweld proffil dementia yn cynyddu, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y dylai'r Llywodraeth adeiladu arno. Mae yna bethau y gallwch eu gwneud o ran eich ymddygiad a fydd yn lleihau eich risg o ddioddef o ddementia.

Mae'n anodd ceisio argyhoeddi pobl fod angen iddynt newid eu hymddygiad fel y bydd llai o siawns, pan fyddant dros 70 oed, neu hyd yn oed yn 80, iddynt gael cyflwr gwanychol fel dementia. Fodd bynnag, mae'n

important that we give people the information on what they can do to help control and reduce their chances of suffering from dementia.

We need to remember the role of carers and what they do for people with dementia. Nine times out of 10, they are the people who are providing the care that helps people with dementia get through life and perform everyday tasks. When we look at the carers' strategy, for example—and I know that this has been considered—we need to bear in mind that many of those carers will be dealing with people who have dementia and perhaps other conditions too.

We need to focus resources on dementia as its prevalence increases. I know that it is easy to demand more resources, and I hope that we can do that through efficiency savings, wise spending and improving productivity. That is what we need to do, but we will need to spend more on this area of care and medicine, and we must plan for that and be prepared to do it.

It is sometimes harder for people with dementia, especially the older people, to make their cases when they are put against those of younger people who have conditions that are perhaps more demanding of public attention. We need to remember that when you get older and suffer from dementia, quality of life is still very important to the family unit and to those individuals who are suffering from the condition, in particular.

We need to look at the example in England—although I do not in any way mean that we should just copy what is happening in England—where there is a national strategy for dementia, and that is the subject of the Liberal Democrat amendment. There is something to commend a Welsh strategy for dementia. I say that while recognising that there is quite a lot of strategy out there to improve the lives of people who have dementia. A recent review commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government and undertaken by Dr Charles Twining, who is known to many of us as a great expert in the field and a great friend of carers and that general movement, found that there was a

bwysig inni roi'r wybodaeth i bobl am yr hyn y gallant ei wneud i helpu rheoli a lleihau eu siawns o ddiodeff gan ddementia.

Mae angen inni gofio rôl gofalwyr a'r hyn a wnânt dros bobl sydd â dementia. Naw gwaith o bob 10, hwy sy'n darparu'r gofal sy'n helpu pobl sydd â dementia i fyw eu bywyd a gwneud tasgau beunyddiol. Pan edrychwn ar y strategaeth gofalwyr, er enghraifft—a gwn fod hyn wedi'i ystyried—mae angen inni gadw mewn cof y bydd nifer o'r gofalwyr hynny'n ymwneud â phobl sy'n dioddef gan ddementia a chyflyrau eraill hefyd o bosibl.

Mae angen inni ganolbwyntio adnoddau ar ddementia wrth iddo ddod yn fwyfwy amlwg. Gwn ei bod yn hawdd mynnu mwy o adnoddau, a gobeithio y gallwn wneud hynny drwy arbedion effeithlonrwydd, gwario doeth a gwella cynhyrchaeth. Dyna y mae angen inni ei wneud, ond bydd angen inni wario mwy ar y maes hwn mewn gofal a meddygaeth, a rhaid inni gynllunio ar gyfer hynny a bod yn barod i'w ddarparu.

Mae'n anos weithiau i bobl sydd â dementia, yn arbennig pobl hŷn, gyflwyno'u hachosion pan gânt eu cyferbynnu â rhai pobl iau sydd â chyflyrau sydd, o bosibl, yn mynnu mwy o sylw gan y cyhoedd. Mae angen inni gofio, wrth ichi heneiddio a dioddef gan ddementia, fod ansawdd bywyd yn dal yn bwysig iawn i'r uned deuluol ac yn arbennig i'r unigolion hynny sy'n dioddef gan y cyflwr.

Mae angen inni edrych ar yr enghraifft yn Lloegr—er nad wyf yn golygu o gwbl mai'r unig beth y dylem ei wneud yw efelychu'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr—lle ceir strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer dementia, a dyna yw testun gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Mae rhywbeth i'w gymeradwyo mewn strategaeth i Gymru ar gyfer dementia. Dywedaf hynny er fy mod yn cydnabod bod llawer o strategaethau ar gael eisoes i wella bywyd pobl sydd â dementia. Mewn adroddiad yn ddiweddar a gomisiynwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i gyflawni gan Dr Charles Twining, un y mae nifer ohonom yn ei adnabod fel arbenigwr mawr yn y maes, a chyfaill mawr i

clear strategy in the national service framework for older people, for example. However, that strategy also addresses services for younger people with dementia, and it may not be the best way of addressing that particular set of people. Other policies address dementia, and Dr Twining says that there is no lack of a general strategy, and I would agree with that. However, I believe, as he concludes in his review, that we need more robust implementation and co-ordination. I wonder whether we could draw these various strands together and present it in a collective fashion as the national strategy. That would not entail a vast amount of work, nor would it drive the Welsh Assembly Government in a different direction from that in which it is already going. Therefore, I am not being critical; I am saying that perhaps this is a way of clinching the higher degree of co-ordination that we would expect in order to respond to the increased public profile and the increased political attention that this area of care and medicine is getting.

I conclude by commending the role of the voluntary sector. It has been key in campaigning for better services for people with dementia. It has raised the profile of this condition, which, as I said, is in competition with many other conditions that hit people who are a lot younger and who are, perhaps, more marketable to profile in the public eye. The voluntary sector has done a wonderful job in those terms, and it also delivers innovative services. In that sense, I commend the Alzheimer's Society and other charities for their splendid work.

Jenny Randerson: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 1: insert as new points 1 and 2 at start of motion and renumber accordingly:

1. notes the already high levels of dementia in Wales;

2. notes the expected increases in the number of people suffering with dementia in Wales and the UK.

ofalwyr a'r mudiad cyffredinol hwnnw, dangoswyd bod strategaeth eglur yn y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn, er enghraifft. Fodd bynnag, mae'r strategaeth honno'n edrych hefyd ar wasanaethau ar gyfer pobl iau sydd â dementia, ac efallai nad dyna'r ffordd orau i ymdrin â'r garfan arbennig honno. Mae polisïau eraill yn mynd i'r afael â dementia, a dywed Dr Twining nad oes prinder strategaeth gyffredinol, a byddwn yn cytuno â hynny. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae'n ei ddweud wrth orffen ei adolygiad, credaf fod angen inni gael mwy o weithredu a chydgyssylltu cadarn. Tybed a allem dynnu'r gwahanol elfennau hyn ynghyd a'i gyflwyno mewn modd cyfunol fel y strategaeth genedlaethol? Ni fyddai hynny'n golygu llawer iawn o waith, nac ychwaith yn gyrru Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyfeiriad gwahanol i'w chyfeiriad presennol. Felly, nid bod yn feiriadol yr wyf; dweud yr wyf bod hon, efallai, yn ffordd i sicrhau'r radd uwch o gydweithredu y byddem yn ei disgwyl er mwyn ymateb i'r proffil cyhoeddus uwch a'r cynnydd yn y sylw gwleidyddol y mae'r maes hwn o ofal a meddygaeth yn eu cael.

Gorffennaf drwy gymeradwyo rôl y sector gwirfoddol. Mae wedi bod yn allweddol yn yr ymgyrch dros wasanaethau gwell i bobl sydd â dementia. Mae wedi codi proffil y cyflwr hwn sydd, fel y dywedais, yn cystadlu â nifer o gyflyrau eraill sy'n taro pobl lawer iau ac sydd, efallai, yn haws eu cyflwyno gerbron y cyhoedd. Mae'r sector gwirfoddol wedi gwneud gwaith gwych yn y cyfeiriad hwnnw, ac mae hefyd yn darparu gwasanaethau arloesol. Yn yr ystyr hwnnw, yr wyf yn cymeradwyo'r Gymdeithas Alzheimer ac elusennau eraill am eu gwaith rhagorol.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu fel pwyntiau 1 a 2 newydd ar ddechrau'r cynnig ac ail-rifo'r pwyntiau sy'n dilyn:

1. yn nodi'r lefelau uchel o ddemensia yng Nghymru eisoes;

2. yn nodi'r cynnydd disgwylidig yn nifer y bobl sy'n dioddef demensia yng Nghymru ac yn y DU.

Amendment 2: After ‘Welsh Assembly Government’ insert

to bring forward a national dementia plan for Wales to effectively deal with the projected growth in the number of people suffering with dementia over the next 20 years and.

I thank the Conservatives for proposing this important topic and for putting it on our agenda. We need to put forward a national dementia plan or strategy very urgently. In the next 15 years alone, there will be an increase of over 30 per cent in the number of people suffering from dementia in Wales. The situation is urgent. We are not thinking about future generations; we are thinking about now. We are thinking about a steady escalation in the number of people suffering from dementia in Wales.

It seems to me that, as an Assembly and as a nation, we have not yet got to grips with the serious impact that an ageing population will have on future service provision and requirements. David outlined in detail the figures and statistics on the impact of dementia. With only a little drama—which is not David’s way—you could call it a dementia time bomb.

Like David, I will refer to the important position of carers. Carers shoulder an immense burden and alleviate the impact of dementia on the NHS. I was concerned that the First Minister, in a recent written response following the UK’s announcements on carers, stated that there will be no additional money coming to the Welsh block. That has an impact, because carers expected additional help and support. Therefore, the Minister must try to meet that financial requirement from within her existing budget, which will not be easy. The Westminster Government is good at dressing up old money as new, which leads to a sense of disappointment.

It is likely that each of us knows people who are affected by, or suffer from, dementia. The impact on their carers and on their loved ones is immense. I know because my mother and

Gwelliant 2: ar ôl ‘Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru’ rhoi:

i gyflwyno cynllun demensia cenedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru er mwyn delio’n effeithiol â’r twf a ragwelir yn nifer y bobl a fydd yn dioddef demensia dros yr 20 mlynedd nesaf ac.

Diolchaf i’r Ceidwadwyr am gynnig y testun pwysig hwn ac am ei roi ar ein hagenda. Mae angen brys inni gyflwyno cynllun neu strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer dementia. Yn ystod y 15 mlynedd nesaf yn unig, bydd cynnydd o 30 y cant yn nifer y bobl sy’n dioddef gan ddementia yng Nghymru. Mae’r sefyllfa’n galw am weithredu ar frys. Nid meddwl am genedlaethau’r dyfodol yr ydym, ond am y presennol. Yr ydym yn meddwl am gynydd cyson yn nifer y bobl sy’n dioddef gan ddementia yng Nghymru.

Ymddengys i mi nad ydym eto, fel Cynulliad nac fel cenedl, wedi mynd i’r afael â’r effaith ddifrifol y bydd poblogaeth sy’n heneiddio yn ei chael ar ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau a gofynion gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol. Amlinellodd David yn fanwl y ffigurau a’r ystadegau ar effaith dementia. Gyda dim ond mymryn o ddrama—nad yw’n gydnaws â dull David—gallech ei alw’n fom o ddementia sy’n tician.

Fel David, cyfeiriaf at safle pwysig gofawyr. Mae gofawyr yn ysgwyddo baich anferth ac yn lliniaru effaith dementia ar y GIG. Yr oeddwn yn pryderu bod y Prif Weinidog wedi dweud, mewn ymateb ysgrifenedig yn ddiweddar yn dilyn cyhoeddiadau’r DU ar ofalwyr, na fydd dim arian ychwanegol yn dod i floc Cymru. Mae hynny’n cael effaith, oherwydd bod gofawyr wedi disgwyl cael cymorth a chefnogaeth ychwanegol. Felly, rhaid i’r Gweinidog geisio diwallu’r angen ariannol hwnnw o’i chyllideb bresennol, ac ni fydd hynny’n hawdd. Mae Llywodraeth San Steffan yn fedrus ar wisgo hen arian fel arian newydd, sy’n arwain at ymdeimlad o siom.

Mae’n debygol ein bod bob un yn adnabod pobl yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan ddementia neu sy’n dioddef ganddo. Mae’r effaith ar eu gofawyr a’u hanwyliaid yn enfawr. Gwn

my stepfather died from it. I watched them deteriorate. I witnessed the impact that my mother's dementia had on my stepfather and how her condition definitely brought on his. My mother suffered from dementia in her 60s. Unlike other forms of caring, when caring for someone with dementia, you never have time off. You might have time out of the house, but you are so mentally on edge and worried about what the sufferer may be doing that you never rest mentally. The toll is immense.

I now turn to the Government amendments. I am sorry that amendment 3 has been tabled. There is no need for self-congratulation here. Not enough money is spent on dementia, and the Members on the opposite side of the Chamber know that. They should not try to wriggle their way out of the situation.

Amendment 4 is more interesting, and we support it but, in doing so, we are not in any way undermining the significance and the importance of specialist nurses, but an improved specialist service will encompass and include specialist nurses.

We must take the holistic view that we are trying to suggest in our amendment. A strategy or improved service, depending on how you look at it, should include not just NHS services but social services, the availability of care homes and support for carers, research, the availability of drugs, and prevention awareness. We need one strategy, one plan, and one approach so that we can look forward and plan for the future. There may be a 30 per cent increase across Wales as a whole over the next few years, but the figure is 44 per cent for Powys. The impact in some areas will be massive. The pressure on the NHS is massive, and 2021, which is when it is predicted that those estimated increases will take effect, is just around the corner.

3.40 p.m.

The Minister for Health and Social Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau

oherwydd bu fy mam a'm llystad farw o'r cyflwr. Fe'u gwyliais yn dirywio. Yr oeddwn yn dyst i'r effaith a gafodd dementia fy mam ar fy llystad a'r ffordd y cychwynnodd ei chyflwr hi ei gyflwr ef. Yr oedd fy mam yn dioddef gan ddementia yn ei 60au. Yn wahanol i fathau eraill o ofalu, pan fyddwch yn gofalu am rywun sydd â dementia, ni fyddwch byth yn cael amser rhydd. Hwyrach y cewch amser allan o'r tŷ, ond byddwch ar bigau'r drain yn feddylol i'r fath raddau, ac yn gofidio am yr hyn y gallai'r dioddefwr fod yn ei wneud, fel na fyddwch byth yn gorffwyso'n feddylol. Mae'r effaith yn enfawr.

Trof yn awr at welliannau'r Llywodraeth. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf fod gwelliant 3 wedi'i gyflwyno. Nid oes angen hunan-longyfarch o'r fath yn y fan hon. Nid oes digon o arian yn cael ei wario ar ddementia, ac mae Aelodau ar ochr arall y Siambr yn gwybod hynny. Ni ddylent geisio gwingo'u ffordd allan o'r sefyllfa.

Mae Gwelliant 4 yn fwy diddorol, ac yr ydym yn ei gefnogi, ond wrth wneud hynny nid ydym mewn unrhyw fodd yn tansilio arwyddocâd a phwysigrwydd nyrsys arbenigol. Ond bydd gwasanaeth arbenigol gwell yn cwmpasu ac yn cynnwys nyrsys arbenigol.

Rhaid inni gymryd yr olwg gyfannol y ceisiwn ei hawgrymu yn ein gwelliant. Dylai strategaeth neu wasanaeth gwell, yn ôl eich barn ar y mater, gynnwys nid yn unig wasanaethau'r GIG ond gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, argaeledd cartrefi gofal a chefnogaeth i ofalwyr, ymchwil, argaeledd cyffuriau, ac ymwybyddiaeth atal. Mae arnom angen un strategaeth, un cynllun, ac un dull fel y gallwn edrych ymlaen a chynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol. Gallai cynnydd o 30 y cant ddigwydd ar draws Cymru gyfan dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, ond 44 y cant yw'r ffigur i Bowys. Bydd yr effaith mewn rhai ardaloedd yn enfawr. Mae'r pwysau ar y GIG yn enfawr, ac mae 2021, pan ragwelir y daw'r cynnydd i rym, yn agos iawn.

Services (Edwina Hart): I propose the following amendments in the name of Carwyn Jones. Amendment 3: insert ‘continue to’ before ‘identify’.

Amendment 4: delete ‘increase the number of specialist nurses’ and replace with ‘improve specialist services’.

Darren Millar: Mae’n bleser gennyf siarad yn y ddadl hon.

As with the debate on age-related macular degeneration a few weeks ago, the Welsh Conservatives continue to demonstrate that we are interested in the subjects that really matter to people in Wales. Members are probably aware that today’s debate is very timely, because this week is dementia awareness week. This is an important part of the process of raising awareness about the difficulties experienced in dealing with this particular illness, in all of its different guises. Before I go any further, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome members of the Alzheimer’s Society to the Senedd today. I look forward to speaking to some of them later.

Like Jenny Randerson’s family, my family has also been affected by dementia—my Nana recently passed away and she had suffered from Alzheimer’s for some years, so this subject is very close to my heart.

With the number of people with dementia in Wales estimated to increase significantly, I am dismayed to discover that there is a real danger of dementia services in Wales lagging behind those in other parts of the United Kingdom, such as England, through the absence of a national strategy for dementia; there is a national strategy over the border. The lack of equality in NHS services and treatments that are available to residents living in Wales and those on the other side of the Welsh border continues to worry members of this party. We have raised the matter on a number of occasions. It would appear that the postcode lottery that is also evident within Wales—certainly with regard to prescription drugs—is slowly creeping into other areas, and I believe that dementia is one of them. There desperately needs to be a

Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Carwyn Jones. Rhoi ‘yn parhau i’ cyn ‘nodi’.

Gwelliant 4: dileu ‘i gynyddu nifer y nyrsys arbenigol’ a rhoi ‘i wella gwasanaethau arbenigol’ yn ei le.

Darren Millar: It is a pleasure for me to speak in this debate.

Fel yn y ddadl rai wythnosau’n ôl ynghylch dirywiad macwlaidd yn gysylltiedig â henaint, mae’r Ceidwadwyr yn dal i ddangos bod ganddynt ddiddordeb yn y pynciau sydd o wir bwys i bobl yng Nghymru. Mae’n debyg fod Aelodau’n ymwybodol fod dadl heddiw yn un amserol iawn, gan fod yr wythnos hon yn wythnos ymwybyddiaeth dementia. Mae hyn yn rhan bwysig o’r broses o gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o’r anawsterau wrth ddelio â’r salwch arbennig hwn, ym mhob un o’i wahanol ffurfiau. Cyn imi fynd ymhellach, hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i groesawu aelodau o Gymdeithas Alzheimer i’r Senedd heddiw. Edrychaf ymlaen at sgwrsio â rhai ohonynt yn ddiweddarach.

Fel gyda theulu Jenny Randerson, mae dementia wedi effeithio ar fy rheulu innau—bu farw fy nain yn ddiweddar ac yr oedd hi wedi dioddef gan y clefyd Alzheimer ers rhai blynnyddoedd, felly, mae’r pwnc hwn yn agos iawn at fy nghalon.

Gan fod amcangyfrif y bydd nifer y bobl sydd â dementia yng Nghymru yn cynyddu’n sylweddol, siom i mi yw darganfod bod perygl gwirioneddol y bydd gwasanaethau dementia yng Nghymru yn llusgo ar ôl y gwasanaethau mewn rhannau eraill o’r Deyrnas Unedig, megis Lloegr, oherwydd diffyg strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer dementia; mae yna strategaeth genedlaethol dros y ffin. Mae’r diffyg cydraddoldeb yng ngwasanaethau a thriniaethau’r GIG sydd ar gael i drigolion sy’n byw yng Nghymru o’u cymharu â phobl sy’n byw dros y ffin yn parhau i beri pryder i aelodau’r blaid hon. Yr ydym wedi codi’r mater droeon. Ymddengys fod y loteri cod post sydd hefyd yn amlwg yng Nghymru—yn sicr o ran cyffuriau a ragnodir—yn cropian yn araf i fannau eraill, a chredaf fod dementia yn un ohonynt. Mae

focus on consistency of service across Wales, and that is why we are supporting the amendment that has been tabled in the name of Kirsty Williams to bring forward a national dementia plan for Wales.

The Alzheimer's Society has expressed concern at the lack of partnership working between health, social services and the voluntary sector across Wales. That problem is a recurring feature in the treatment of many long-term illnesses. Perhaps the Minister, in her response to this debate, will tell us what she is doing to overcome the barriers to a joined-up approach when it comes to dementia care. Things are patchy at the moment and although there are some examples of good practice in Wales, in other places, standards fall well short of those required to deliver a comprehensive, joined-up service. A year on from the introduction of 'One Wales' and the formation of the One Wales coalition—and a Labour MP today described the Labour part of the coalition as 'too dull' and the Plaid half as 'running rings around Labour'—we have to wonder how much of a joined-up strategy can emerge from such a stitched-up coalition.

It is estimated that the current annual costs of caring for people with dementia in Wales are greater than the combined cost of caring for people suffering with cancer, heart disease and stroke. Given that stark reality, I am keen to ensure that any future dementia strategy includes much more investment in research into the effective treatment and prevention of the disease. Perhaps the Minister would be so good as to outline, in her response, her intentions with regard to research, given the projected increase in the number suffering with dementia, which could be as many as 67,000 by 2051, according to the latest research.

The Alzheimer's Society, again—let us not forget that these are the people who are on the front line of helping people with this disease—has expressed a lot of concern about the lack of visible investment from the Labour-Plaid Government in dementia. It uses the example of the Worried About Your

dirfawr angen canolbwyntio ar gysondeb gwasanaethau ledled Cymru, a dyna pam yr ydym yn cefnogi'r gwelliant a gyflwynwyd yn enw Kirsty Williams i ddarparu cynllun dementia cenedlaethol i Gymru.

Mae'r Gymdeithas Alzheimer wedi mynegi pryder ynghylch diffyg gweithio mewn partneriaeth rhwng iechyd, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r sector gwirfoddol drwy Gymru. Mae'r broblem honno'n nodwedd fynych yn y ffordd y caiff llawer o afiechydon hirdymor eu trin. Efallai y bydd y Gweinidog, yn ei hymateb i'r ddadl hon, yn dweud wrthym beth y mae'n ei wneud i oresgyn y rhwystrau sy'n atal dull gweithredu cydgysylltiedig o ran gofal dementia. Mae pethau'n anghyson ar hyn o bryd, ac er bod rhai enghreifftiau o arfer da yng Nghymru, mewn mannau eraill mae safonau'n methu cyrraedd yr hyn sy'n angenrheidiol i gyflwyno gwasanaeth cynhwysfawr, cydgysylltiedig. Flwyddyn ar ôl cyflwyno 'Cymru'n Un' a ffurfio clymblaid Cymru'n Un—ac AS Llafur heddiw yn dweud bod y blaid Lafur yn 'rhy anniddorol' ac ochr Plaid wedi 'achub y blaen ar Lafur'—rhaid inni ofyn faint o strategaeth gydgysylltiedig a all ddod gan glymblaid o'r fath sydd wedi'i threfnu'n annheg.

Amcangyfrifir bod y costau blynyddol cyfredol o ofalu am bobl sydd â dementia yng Nghymru yn fwy na'r holl gostau o ofalu am bobl sy'n dioddef gan ganser, clefyd y galon a strôc. O gofio'r realiti noeth hwnnw, yr wyf yn awyddus i sicrhau y bydd unrhyw strategaeth ar ddementia yn y dyfodol yn cynnwys llawer mwy o fuddsoddi i ymchwilio i'r modd y gellir trin y salwch yn effeithiol a'i atal. Hwyrach y byddai'r Gweinidog cystal ag amlinellu, yn ei hymateb, ei bwriadau o ran ymchwil, a chofio'r cynnydd a amcanir yn nifer y rheini a fydd yn dioddef gan ddementia, a allai fod cynifer â 67,000 erbyn 2051, yn ôl yr ymchwil ddiweddaraf.

Mae'r Gymdeithas Alzheimer eto—a pheidsiwn ag anghofio mai'r rhain yw'r bobl sydd ar flaen y gad yn y gwaith o helpu pobl sydd â'r clefyd hwn—wedi mynegi llawer o bryder am y diffyg buddsoddi gweladwy mewn dementia gan Lywodraeth Llafur/Plaid. Yn enghraifft, defnyddia

Memory? campaign, which was aimed mainly at promoting GP awareness. In England, the campaign was given considerable funding by the Department of Health, but not so here in Wales, where the society had to raise a significant sum of money through fundraising and from its own resources. That is not right and it needs to be addressed in the future.

To move on quickly to the need for specialist nurses, there is a need for the Assembly Government to do much more and to work more closely with the Royal College of Nursing to ensure that nurses with the right skills to care for people with dementia are available in the future. Dementia patients have distinctive needs that require specialist skills. There has been a movement towards specialism in other clinical circles and it certainly has the potential to deliver significant improvements in dementia care. In fact, I would go as far as to say that specialism is delivering improvements in the quality of care for other illnesses, and there is no reason to doubt that dementia patients would not benefit in the same way.

Given the growing demand for dementia care, this clearly needs careful planning with the Royal College of Nursing, and proper resourcing if we are to have the number of nurses that we project we will need in future. We must reverse the decline in the number of specialist nurses who are available in this specialism, and I therefore urge Members to support the motion.

Helen Mary Jones: I also welcome this debate and thank David Melding and the Conservative group for tabling the motion. I associate myself with many of the remarks that David and others have made about the important role that voluntary organisations play in drawing our attention to some of these important issues. I had an opportunity to speak briefly with the members of the Alzheimer's Society who are here today, which was a useful experience for me, and I commend it to any Assembly Members who have not yet had an opportunity to talk to them. It is always an eye-opener to speak directly to the people who are at the receiving end of the services that we plan and debate

ymgyrch Poeni am eich cof? sy'n anelu'n bennaf at hybu ymwybyddiaeth meddygon teulu. Yn Lloegr, rhoddwyd cryn gyllid i'r ymgyrch gan yr Adran Iechyd, ond nid felly yma yng Nghymru, a bu'n rhaid i'r Gymdeithas sicrhau swm sylweddol o arian drwy godi arian ac o'i hadnoddau ei hun. Nid yw hynny'n iawn, a rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny yn y dyfodol.

I symud ymlaen yn gyflym at yr angen am nyrsys arbenigol, mae angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud llawer mwy a chydweithio'n agosach â Choleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys i sicrhau bod nyrsys sydd â'r sgiliau priodol i ofalu am bobl â dementia ar gael yn y dyfodol. Mae gan gleifion dementia anghenion penodol sy'n gofyn am sgiliau arbenigol. Mae symud at arbenigedd wedi digwydd mewn cylchoedd clinigol eraill ac mae i hynny, yn sicr, y potensial o ddarparu gwelliannau o bwys mewn gofal dementia. Mewn gwirionedd, byddwn yn mynd mor bell â dweud bod arbenigedd yn sicrhau gwelliannau yn ansawdd y gofal mewn afiechydon eraill, ac nid oes rheswm dros amau na fyddai cleifion dementia yn elwa yn yr un ffordd.

O gofio'r galw cynyddol am ofal dementia, mae'n amlwg fod angen cynllunio hyn yn ofalus gyda'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol, a bod adnoddau priodol ar gael os ydym am gael nifer y nyrsys y rhagwelir y bydd eu hangen yn y dyfodol. Rhaid inni newid y gostyngiad yn nifer y nyrsys arbenigol sydd ar gael yn y maes arbenigol hwn, ac felly yr wyf yn annog Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn croesawu'r ddadl hon, a diolch i David Melding a'r grŵp Ceidwadol am gyflwyno'r cynnig. Yr wyf am gysylltu fy hun â nifer o'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd gan David ac eraill ynghylch rôl bwysig mudiadau gwirfoddol wrth dynnu ein sylw at rai o'r materion pwysig hyn. Cefais gyfle i gael sgwrs fer ag aelodau'r Gymdeithas Alzheimer sydd yma heddiw, ac yr oedd hynny'n brofiad defnyddiol imi. Yr wyf yn annog unrhyw Aelodau o'r Cynulliad nad ydynt wedi cael cyfle hyd yma i gael gair â hwy. Mae'n agoriad llygad bob amser i gael sgwrsio'n uniongyrchol â'r bobl sy'n cael y gwasanaethau yr ydym yn eu cynllunio ac yn

here.

While I associate myself with many of the remarks made by other speakers, there was some slightly unnecessary politicking by one or two people. I will not repeat what others have said, but I do want to focus on one issue that I believe underlies much of the historic lack of resources for and focus on services for dementia and the other mental health issues of older people, and that is systemic age discrimination. I am not suggesting for one minute that individual clinicians or individuals working in social care deliberately discriminate, but there is discrimination. There is an assumption that mental deterioration is somehow a natural part of the ageing process and that it will happen to everyone, and so not only is there little that can be done but perhaps also that little should be done about it, as it is not the right service for our resources. As David Melding said, that is not the case. With the right treatment and management, even people with the most severe cases of dementia can be helped to live with it, and its onset can be slowed down. I think that we all look to the time when more effective treatments will be available, but we must ensure that they are prioritised.

There is also an assumption that dementia affects only older people, which can lead to younger patients with dementia being misdiagnosed, which must be addressed. In my family and in constituency casework, I have come across older people with other mental health issues, such as depression or late-onset schizophrenia, who have been diagnosed with dementia because that is what we all expect older people to suffer from. We need to challenge those assumptions and change those attitudes. Although it is prevalent predominantly among older people, we must treat this illness with the same seriousness as we treat other mental health conditions. I am not saying that the way in which we currently treat mental health patients is by any means adequate, however, as too many people are falling through the net, but there is a particular issue in that some of us—or perhaps all of us—still assume that

dadlau amdanynt yma.

Er fy mod yn cysylltu fy hun â llawer o'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd gan siaradwyr eraill, yr oedd ychydig wleidyddia diangen braidd gan un neu ddau o bobl. Nid wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn y mae eraill wedi'i ddweud, ond hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar un mater a gredaf sydd wrth wraidd llawer o'r diffyg hanesyddol o ran adnoddau a chanolbwyntio ar wasanaethau ar gyfer dementia ac ystyriaethau iechyd meddwl eraill sy'n effeithio ar bobl hŷn, ac mae hynny'n wahaniaethu systematig ar sail oed. Nid wyf yn awgrymu am eiliad fod clinigwyr unigol neu unigolion sy'n gweithio mewn gofal cymdeithasol yn gwahaniaethu'n fwriadol, ond mae gwahaniaethu'n digwydd. Mae yna dybiaeth fod dirywiad meddyliol rywsut yn rhan naturiol o'r broses o heneiddio ac y bydd yn digwydd i bawb, ac felly nid yn unig nid oes llawer y gellir ei wneud, ond efallai nad oes llawer y dylid ei wneud yn ei gylch ychwaith, gan nad dyna'r gwasanaeth priodol ar gyfer ein hadnoddau. Fel y dywedodd David Melding, nid dyna'r achos. Gyda'r driniaeth gywir a rheolaeth, gellir helpu hyd yn oed y bobl sydd â'r achosion mwyaf difrifol o ddementia i fyw gyda'r cyflwr, a gellir arafu ei ddatblygiad. Credaf ein bod i gyd yn edrych ymlaen at yr adeg pan fydd triniaethau mwy effeithiol ar gael, ond rhaid inni sicrhau rhoi blaenoriaeth iddynt.

Mae yna ragdybiaeth hefyd fod dementia yn effeithio ar bobl hŷn yn unig, sy'n gallu golygu bod cleifion iau sydd â dementia yn cael diagnosis anghywir, a rhaid rhoi sylw i hynny. Yn fy nheulu i ac mewn gwaith achos yn fy etholaeth yr wyf wedi dod ar draws pobl hŷn â phroblemau iechyd meddwl eraill, megis iselder neu sgitsoffrenia hwyr, sydd wedi cael diagnosis o ddementia oherwydd ein bod i gyd yn disgwyl i bobl hŷn ddiodeff ganddo. Mae angen inni herio'r tybiaethau hyn a herio'r agweddau hynny. Er ei fod yn fwy cyffredin ymhlith pobl hŷn, rhaid inni drin y salwch hwn gyda'r un difrifoldeb ag yr ydym yn trin cyflyrau iechyd meddwl eraill. Nid wyf yn awgrymu bod ein ffordd o drin cleifion iechyd meddwl ar hyn o bryd yn ddigonol o bell ffordd, fodd bynnag, gan fod gormod o lawer o bobl yn syrthio drwy'r rhwyd. Ond mae yna broblem oherwydd bod rhai ohonom—neu bob un ohonom efallai—

getting older means, as my father would have said, 'losing your marbles'. We must challenge that assumption. None of this discrimination is intentional, and I would not want to suggest that for a moment, but the after-effects are devastating and they last for the long term. As we know, we all bring our own assumptions along to these debates but we need to challenge them.

Many practical steps can be taken, but, to make those really effective, we need a cultural change. We need to look differently at our attitudes towards older people as a society more broadly, and particularly towards the mental health of people as they get older. For example, I wonder whether we should really have three lots of mental health services—one that serves people up until the age of 18, another that kicks in for those aged between 18 and 60 or 65, and another that kicks in when you are older. The point has already been made that much of the work on the dementia strategy is included as a part of the older people's strategy, and so that excludes younger people who suffer from dementia. Do we need one integrated mental health service so that people can receive age-appropriate services and move seamlessly between one set of services and another? I realise that there are challenges involved in that, but, to have that cultural change, clinicians, family members, decision-makers and we as politicians need to challenge our assumptions about ageing and about what the ageing process entails. Only then can a transformation truly follow.

3.50 p.m.

Alun Cairns: It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I wish to highlight the case of a constituent of mine who was let down by the local health board and, naturally, by the policies that derive from the National Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government. My constituent was taking Aricept, prescribed by their general practitioner for memory loss, which was possibly a symptom of the early stages of Alzheimer's, although that was not diagnosed at the time. The general

yn dal i dybio bod heneiddio'n golygu, fel y byddai fy nhad wedi'i ddweud, eich bod 'yn colli eich marblis'. Rhaid inni herio'r dybiaeth honno. Nid yw'r gwahaniaethu hwn yn fwriadol o gwbl, ac ni fyddwn yn awgrymu hynny am eiliad, ond mae'r ôl-ffeithiau'n ddinistriol ac yn parhau dros y tymor hir. Fel y gwyddom, yr ydym i gyd yn dod â'n tybiaethau gyda ni i'r dadleuon hyn, ond mae angen inni eu herio.

Gellir cymryd nifer o gamau ymarferol, ond i sicrhau eu bod yn wirioneddol effeithiol mae angen newid diwylliant. Mae angen inni fel cymdeithas edrych mewn ffordd wahanol ar ein hagweddau at bobl hŷn, ac yn fwyaf arbennig at iechyd meddwl pobl wrth iddynt heneiddio. Er enghraifft, tybed a oes arnom angen tri math o wasanaeth iechyd meddwl mewn gwirionedd—un sy'n gwasanaethu pobl nes byddant yn 18 oed, un arall ar gyfer pobl rhwng 18 a 60 neu 65 oed, ac un arall ar gyfer pobl hŷn na hynny. Gwnaethpwyd y pwynt eisoes fod llawer o'r gwaith ar y strategaeth dementia wedi'i gynnwys fel rhan o'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn, ac sydd felly'n eithrio pobl iau sy'n dioddef gan ddementia. A oes angen un gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl integredig arnom, fel y gall pobl gael gwasanaethau sy'n briodol i'w hoed a symud yn ddi-dor rhwng un set o wasanaethau ac un arall? Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod heriau yn hynny, ond os ydym am weld y newid diwylliant hwnnw, mae angen i glinigwyr, aelodau o deuluoedd, llunwyr penderfyniadau a ninnau fel gwleidyddion herio ein tybiaethau ynghylch heneiddio a goblygiadau'r broses o heneiddio. Dim ond wedyn y gall trawsnewid ddilyn.

Alun Cairns: Mae'n ffrainc fawr cael y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Hoffwn dynnu sylw at achos un o fy etholwyr a gafodd gam gan y bwrdd iechyd lleol ac, yn naturiol, gan y polisïau sy'n deillio o'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yr oedd fy etholwr yn cymryd Aricept, a oedd wedi ei ragnodi gan ei feddyg teulu am fod ei gof yn pallu, a hynny o bosibl yn symptom o ddechrau'r clefyd Alzheimer, er nad oedd wedi cael diagnosis o hynny ar y pryd. Yr oedd y meddyg teulu wedi rhagnodi

practitioner prescribed Aricept because of the lack of a chemical in the brain called acetylcholine—and I am looking at Dai Lloyd, the GP, to see whether I got the pronunciation right. However, Aricept was deemed to be the best way to overcome that.

However, as a result of the cost of the drug, and as a result of policy changes in the UK Government, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, and the Assembly Government, a view was taken that Aricept was too expensive and therefore needed to be prescribed in far lower numbers than was the case at that time. Despite that, the GP persisted in providing Aricept to my constituent until the LHB took strong action and called on the general practitioner to stop prescribing the drug unless there was support from a secondary care consultant. The GP had no option but to stop, but there was a three-month gap between stopping prescribing Aricept on the instructions of the local health board and an appointment becoming available with a consultant. The constituent then got in touch with me.

I made representations to the local health board and said that, surely, in this sort of case, the drug should be continued until a patient was referred to a consultant for the consultant to make a judgment on whether it was good value for money to give the patient Aricept. The local health board came back quite strongly, saying that, as a result of Government policies, Aricept was no longer appropriate for prescription, as primary care, that it had to go to secondary care, and that the drug should not be available in the interim period before a patient sees a consultant. However, when my constituent went to see the consultant, the consultant was angry to learn that Aricept had been stopped for those three months. That is precisely the case that I was seeking to make to the local health board at the time. Thankfully, the patient is now receiving Aricept again, but there is no doubt that that three-month gap caused stress, worry and concern to the patient, and could well have contributed to the deterioration of the condition.

Therefore, I wanted to highlight that as an example and to bring to the Assembly Government, the Assembly, and the

Aricept oherwydd diffyg cemegyn o'r enw acetylcholine yn yr ymennydd—yr wyf yn edrych ar Dai Lloyd, y meddyg teulu, i weld a wyf wedi ei ynganu'n gywir. Fodd bynnag, tybiwyd mai Aricept oedd y ffordd orau i oresgyn hynny.

Fodd bynnag, oherwydd cost y cyffur, a newidiadau ym mholisi Llywodraeth y DU, y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol, a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, penderfynwyd bod Aricept yn rhy ddud, ac felly ei bod yn rhaid ei ragnodi i lawer llai o gleifion nag a oedd yn wir ar y pryd. Er hynny, daliodd y meddyg teulu ati i ragnodi Aricept i fy etholwr nes i'r BILL weithredu a galw ar y meddyg teulu i roi'r gorau i ragnodi'r cyffur oni bai y byddai'n cael cefnogaeth ymgynghorydd gofal eilaidd. Nid oedd gan y meddyg teulu ddewis ond rhoi'r gorau i'w ragnodi, ond yr oedd bwlch o dri mis rhwng rhoi'r gorau i ragnodi Aricept yn dilyn cyfarwyddiadau'r bwrdd iechyd lleol a dyddiad yr apwyntiad gyda'r ymgynghorydd. Yna cysylltodd yr etholwr â mi.

Cysylltais â'r bwrdd iechyd lleol a dywedais, wrth reswm, y dylid parhau i ragnodi'r cyffur mewn achos fel hwn nes byddai'r claf yn cael ei gyfeirio at ymgynghorydd er mwyn i'r ymgynghorydd benderfynu a oedd rhoi Aricept i'r claf yn werth da am yr arian. Daeth y bwrdd iechyd lleol yn ôl ataf, yn bendant ei farn, gan ddweud, oherwydd polisiau'r Llywodraeth, nad oedd Aricept bellach yn addas i'w ragnodi, fel gofal sylfaenol, y byddai'n rhaid iddo gael gofal eilaidd ac na ddylai'r cyffur fod ar gael yn y cyfamser cyn i'r claf weld ymgynghorydd. Fodd bynnag, pan aeth fy etholwr i weld yr ymgynghorydd, yr oedd yr hwnnw'n ddig o glywed nad oedd Aricept wedi ei ragnodi i'r claf am y tri mis. Dyna'n union yr oeddwn yn ceisio'i ddweud wrth y bwrdd iechyd lleol ar y pryd. Yn ffodus, mae'r claf yn awr yn cael Aricept unwaith eto, ond nid oes amheuaeth nad yw'r bwlch hwnnw o dri mis wedi achosi straen, pryder a phoendod i'r claf, ac mae'n ddigon posibl ei fod wedi cyfrannu at y dirywiad yn ei gyflwr.

Yr oeddwn, felly, am dynnu sylw at hynny fel enghraifft a thynnu sylw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, y Cynulliad a'r Gweinidog at y

Minister's attention the situation in which we find ourselves when the policy on expensive drugs is changed. It may well be that, theoretically, something should not be provided under primary care but under secondary care. If we are ever in that situation, which I hope we are not, there needs to be agreement about an appropriate transition to ensure that there is a continuity of treatment for that patient.

We accept that resources are limited, and that we need to act on the best medical advice about the most appropriate drug at the time. However, we are dealing with individuals, and it is not right simply to carry out a tick-box exercise, and say, 'I am sorry, it is not appropriate for prescription at primary care and needs to be provided at secondary care'. If, as a result of the Assembly and the Assembly Government's deficiency, there is a three-month wait for that secondary care appointment, surely it is wrong to withdraw the drug.

Despite representations, the local health board persisted that it was acting on Assembly Government policy, and it looked to me to pursue the matter with the Minister. By the time I had got through the bureaucracy and reached that stage, the patient had seen the consultant and had again been prescribed Aricept. It therefore seemed pointless to pursue it with the Minister, as I assumed that most other patients in that situation would have been addressed by that time. However, I wanted to use this opportunity to say that, whenever there is any change in Government policy, we need to think long and hard about the implications for individual patients.

Eleanor Burnham: I thank the Conservatives for tabling this sad and serious motion. I also speak from experience, as my mother-in-law developed Alzheimer's when my father-in-law died some years ago, long before Aricept became available, and so I know that this condition can have a huge impact on families. My kids were quite young at the time, and it was devastating for them, to be frank. The Welsh Assembly Government needs to act on this issue. Many areas in my region have a high percentage of

sefyllfa yr ydym ynnddi pan gaiff y polisi ar gyffuriau drud ei newid. Mae'n ddigon posibl na ddylai rhywbeth gael ei ddarparu, yn ddamcaniaethol, dan ofal sylfaenol ond dan ofal eilaidd. Os byddwn byth mewn sefyllfa o'r fath, a gobeithio na fyddwn byth, mae angen cael cytundeb ynglŷn â chyfnod pontio priodol i sicrhau bod y driniaeth yn parhau i'r claf hwnnw.

Yr ydym yn derbyn bod adnoddau'n gyfyngedig, a bod angen inni weithredu ar y cyngor meddygol gorau ynghylch y cyffur mwyaf priodol ar y pryd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ymdrin ag unigolion, ac nid yw'n iawn cynnal ymarferiad o roi tic mewn blychau a dweud, 'Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, nid yw'n briodol i'w ragnodi dan ofal sylfaenol, ac mae angen ei ddarparu o dan ofal eilaidd'. Os bydd yn rhaid aros am dri mis, oherwydd diffyg ar ran y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, am yr apwyntiad gofal eilaidd hwnnw, mae'n anghywir rhoi'r gorau i ragnodi'r cyffur.

Er gwaethaf sylwadau, yr oedd y bwrdd iechyd lleol yn mynnu ei fod yn gweithredu polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac yr oedd am imi godi'r mater gyda'r Gweinidog. Erbyn imi frwydro drwy'r fiwrocratiaeth a chyrraedd y cam hwnnw, yr oedd y claf wedi gweld yr ymgynghorydd ac yn cael Aricept unwaith eto. Yr oedd yn ymddangos felly nad oedd pwrpas codi'r mater gyda'r Gweinidog, oherwydd tybiwn y byddai achos y rhan fwyaf o gleifion eraill yn yr un sefyllfa wedi'i ddatrys erbyn hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddwn am fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddweud, pan fydd polisi'r Llywodraeth yn newid, fod angen inni feddwl yn ofalus am oblygiadau hynny i gleifion unigol.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch i'r Ceidwadwyr am gyflwyno'r cynnig trist a difrifol hwn. Yr wyf yn siarad o brofiad, oherwydd i fy mam-yng-nghyfraith ddatblygu clefyd Alzheimer pan fu farw fy nhad-yng-nghyfraith rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, ymhell cyn bod Aricept ar gael, ac felly gwn fod y cyflwr hwn yn cael effaith enfawr ar deuluoedd. Yr oedd fy mhlant yn weddol ifanc ar y pryd, ac yr oedd yn brofiad ofnadwy iddynt, a dweud y gwir. Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithredu ar y mater hwn. Mewn llawer ardal

older and ageing people, and in most of those areas there will be a 35 per cent increase in cases of dementia by 2021. This issue must be dealt with now; otherwise, there will be huge and ever-increasing pressure placed on services in north Wales.

I fully support the motion because I know, from other people's experiences, how wonderful dementia nurses are these days. Their training and skills have been developed since my mother-in-law's time. Dementia can cause patients' families a great deal of pain, and we must be humane in our approach to this matter. The example given by Alun Cairns was sad and distressing. Let us hope that such a case will not be repeated.

I agree that attitudes to older people must improve. Society puts people in boxes depending on their age—youngsters are in one box and older people are in another. We must embrace the European way of encompassing older people in the family and seeing them as being of huge benefit. As other Members have said, we must grasp the nettle. The choice is ours, so let us ensure that we make the right choice.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I welcome this debate, which is an important opportunity for the Assembly to discuss the issue of dementia. It is also appropriate that we draw attention to this subject, given that it is Dementia Awareness Week. This is an area in which I have a particular interest as I am honorary vice-president of the Swansea and Lliw valley branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

I echo David Melding's comments about the role of volunteers, because, without them, life for many Alzheimer's sufferers would be terrible. Volunteers also help carers' groups in alleviating the burden of care. Many Members, including Jenny, spoke of the stresses and strains associated with being an Alzheimer's carer. It is a 24-hour job in which the worry never goes away, even when the person who is cared for has gone to bed. It is important that we recognise that.

yn fy etholaeth i mae canran uchel o bobl hŷn a phobl sy'n heneiddio, ac yn y rhan fwyaf o'r ardaloedd hynny bydd cynnydd o 35 y cant yn nifer yr achosion o ddementia erbyn 2021. Rhaid delio â'r mater hwn yn awr; os na wneir hynny, bydd pwysau enfawr a chynyddol ar wasanaethau yn y gogledd.

Yr wyf yn cefnogi'r cynnig yn llwyr oherwydd gwn, o brofiadau pobl eraill, mor ardderchog yw nyrsys dementia y dyddiau hyn. Mae eu hyfforddiant a'u sgiliau wedi datblygu llawer ers dyddiau fy mam-yinghyfraith. Gall dementia achosi llawer o boendod i deuluoedd y cleifion, a rhaid inni fabwysiadu ymagwedd drugarog at y mater hwn. Yr oedd yr enghraifft a roddwyd gan Alun Cairns yn drist ac yn drallodus. Gadewch inni obeithio na fydd achos o'r fath yn codi eto.

Cytunaf ei bod yn rhaid i agweddau at bobl hŷn wella. Mae cymdeithas yn categoreiddio pobl yn ôl eu hoed—mae pobl ifanc yn cael eu rhoi mewn un blwch a phobl hŷn mewn blwch arall. Rhaid inni fabwysiadu'r ffordd Ewropeaidd o gynnwys pobl hŷn yn y teulu ac edrych arnynt fel mantais enfawr. Fel y mae Aelodau eraill wedi'i ddweud, rhaid inni achub ar y cyfle. Ni piau'r dewis, felly, gadewch inni sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud y dewis cywir.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ddadl hon, sy'n gyfle pwysig i'r Cynulliad drafod dementia. Mae'n briodol inni dynnu sylw at y pwnc hwn, o gofio'i bod yn Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth Dementia. Mae hwn yn faes y mae gennyf ddiddordeb arbennig ynddo fel is-lywydd anrhydeddus cangen Abertawe a Dyffryn Lliw o Gymdeithas Alzheimer.

Yr wyf yn ategu sylwadau David Melding am rôl gwirfoddolwyr, oherwydd hebddynt byddai bywyd yn ofnadwy i lawer o bobl sy'n dioddef gan glefyd Alzheimer. Mae gwirfoddolwyr hefyd yn cynorthwyo grwpiau gofalgwyr i ysgafnhau baich gofal. Mae nifer o Aelodau, gan gynnwys Jenny, wedi sôn am y pwysau a'r straen wrth ofalu am berson sydd â chlefyd Alzheimer. Mae'n waith 24 awr, ac nid yw'r pryderon yn cilio, hyd yn oed pan fydd yr unigolyn sy'n cael gofal wedi mynd

i'w wely. Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod hynny.

I was taken by David's point about younger people with dementia, as I once met someone in their early 40s who had dementia, and it came as quite a shock to me and made me realise that this is not a condition that affects only older people. That takes us back to Helen Mary Jones's point that we tend to think of dementia as being a part of the ageing process, but we must change our mindsets in that regard. It is important to have an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's, as much can be done to engage with the individuals and to try to slow down the condition's progress. There is much work to be done in that area.

It is important that there be continuing support for research into dementia. We are investing £0.5 million in the Wales dementias and neurodegenerative diseases research network. That seems like a small sum, but a lot of money is being invested elsewhere into research on Alzheimer's.

I now want to deal with a few of the other comments made by David Melding. Most people who have dementia will be cared for in the community, in their own homes by their families, or in the residential sector. As the number of people with dementia continues to increase, there is a growing need for specialist and other types of care to be provided in people's own homes. People with dementia have many and complex needs, and we must start to recognise that more clearly.

4.00 p.m.

We have spoken to specialist nurses, who are members of the older persons' community mental health team, and are integral to service provision across Wales. Along with social services, they do important work such as assessing and managing clinical needs, monitoring medication and providing personal care. However, one of the issues is the spend and the financial resources that will be required as this group of patients continues to access NHS and care services. I will allude briefly to 'One Wales', and the Government's commitment on mental health;

Nodais sylw David ynghylch pobl iau sydd â dementia, gan fy mod unwaith wedi cwrdd â rhywun yn ei 40au cynnar a oedd â dementia. Yr oedd yn gryn sioc imi a gwnaeth imi sylweddoli nad cyflwr yw hwn sy'n effeithio ar bobl hŷn yn unig. Mae hynny'n mynd â ni'n ôl at bwynt Helen Mary Jones, a ddywedodd ein bod yn dueddol o feddwl am ddementia fel rhan o'r broses heneiddio, ond rhaid inni newid ein ffordd o feddwl am hyn. Mae'n bwysig cael diagnosis o glefyd Alzheimer yn gynnar, gan fod modd gwneud llawer i gysylltu â'r unigolion ac arafu cynnydd y cyflwr. Mae llawer o waith i'w wneud yn y maes hwnnw.

Mae'n bwysig inni barhau i gefnogi ymchwil i ddementia. Yr ydym yn buddsoddi £0.5 miliwn yn y rhwydwaith ymchwil yng Nghymru ar glefydau dementia a niwro-ddirwyiol. Mae hynny'n swnio fel swm bychan, ond mae llawer o arian yn cael ei fuddsoddi mewn ymchwil i glefyd Alzheimer mewn lleoedd eraill.

Hoffwn ymdrin ag ychydig o'r sylwadau eraill a wnaed gan David Melding. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o bobl sydd â dementia yn cael gofal yn y gymuned, yn eu cartrefi eu hunain gan eu teuluoedd, neu yn y sector preswyl. Wrth i nifer y bobl sydd â dementia ddal i gynyddu, mae angen cynyddol am ofal arbenigol a mathau eraill o ofal sy'n cael eu darparu yng nghartrefi pobl. Mae gan bobl sydd â dementia anghenion niferus a chymhleth, a rhaid inni ddechrau cydnabod hynny'n gliriach.

Yr ydym wedi siarad â nyrsys arbenigol sy'n aelodau o'r tîm iechyd meddwl cymunedol i bobl hŷn, ac maent yn hanfodol i ddarparu gwasanaethau ledled Cymru. Maent hwy, ynghyd â gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, yn gwneud gwaith pwysig fel asesu a rheoli anghenion clinigol, monitro meddyginiaethau a darparu gofal personol. Fodd bynnag, un o'r problemau yw'r gwariant a'r adnoddau ariannol y bydd eu hangen wrth i'r grŵp cleifion hwn ddal i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau'r GIG a gwasanaethau gofal. Cyfeiriaf yn fyr at 'Cymru'n Un', ac

the fact that we have given a commitment on expenditure in that area is important. It is also important that expenditure by NHS trusts on mental health services is ring-fenced, because that helps to protect services. We all know the numbers of those suffering from dementia are increasing, and this is a challenge that the success of the NHS will have to be measured against. We need to ensure that services keep pace with that increase, and strong workforce planning is an essential part of that. It is a question of making decisions now about rebalancing expenditure as we go into a very tight budget settlement. We will have to decide where the balance is to be, and where the priority will be. That will be a difficult decision for the Government.

To turn to the amendments, which the Government plans to support, there is undoubtedly a level of dementia that has previously gone unrecognised, and it is true that the numbers of sufferers are expected to increase—the Alzheimer's Society is talking about a 30 per cent increase. These points are matters of fact, so I am happy to accept amendment 1, but I will also be voting for amendment 2, calling for a dementia plan. I accept, in the context of David Melding's comments, that this is not being critical, as the work is being done. However, I agree that we should bring all the different strands of work that the Assembly Government has done together to produce a document that amounts to a plan. Those strands will include the focus on dementia within the mental health and older persons national service frameworks, and I have listened to Helen Mary's point about how to deal with some of those. We are investing in telecare throughout Wales, which will also help, and, as I have indicated, we are investing over £500,000 in the disease research network. It is important that we bring these strands together, and I so am happy to accept that amendment.

This is an important topic, and it is far removed from any of the party-political point-scoring that can sometimes characterise

ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth ar iechyd meddwl; mae'r ffaith ein bod wedi rhoi ymrwymiad ar wariant yn y maes hwnnw'n bwysig. Mae hefyd yn bwysig fod gwariant gan ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG ar wasanaethau iechyd meddwl wedi'i glustnodi, gan fod hynny'n helpu amddiffyn gwasanaethau. Gwyddom i gyd fod niferoedd y bobl sy'n dioddef gan ddementia ar gynnydd, ac mae hon yn her y bydd yn rhaid mesur llwyddiant y GIG yn ei herbyn. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cyd-fynd â'r cynnydd hwnnw, ac mae cynllunio gweithlu'n dda yn rhan hanfodol o hynny. Mater ydyw o benderfynu'n awr ynghylch newid cydbwysedd gwariant wrth inni gychwyn ar setliad cyllideb tynn iawn. Bydd yn rhaid inni benderfynu ble mae'r cydbwysedd, a ble mae'r flaenoriaeth. Bydd hynny'n benderfyniad anodd i'r Llywodraeth.

I droi at y gwelliannau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu eu cefnogi, mae'n sicr bod yna lefel o ddementia a oedd heb ei adnabod o'r blaen, ac mae'n wir fod disgwyl i nifer y dioddefwyr gynyddu—mae'r Gymdeithas Alzheimer yn sôn am gynnydd o 30 y cant. Mae'r pwyntiau hyn yn fater o ffaith, felly, yr wyf yn fodlon derbyn gwelliant 1, ond byddaf hefyd yn pleidleisio o blaid gwelliant 2, sy'n galw am gynllun dementia. Yr wyf yn derbyn, yng nghyd-destun sylwadau David Melding, nad beirniadaeth yw hon, gan fod y gwaith yn mynd ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf y dylem ddod â'r holl feysydd gwaith gwahanol y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymgymryd â hwy at ei gilydd i lunio dogfen sy'n gyfystyr â chynllun. Bydd y meysydd hynny'n cynnwys y canolbwyntio ar ddementia yn y fframweithiau gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer iechyd meddwl a phobl hŷn, ac yr wyf wedi gwrandao ar y pwynt a wnaeth Helen Mary ynghylch y modd i ddelio â rhai o'r rheini. Yr ydym yn buddsoddi mewn teleofal ledled Cymru, a fydd hefyd o gymorth, ac fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud yr ydym yn buddsoddi dros £500,000 yn y rhwydwaith ymchwil clefydau. Mae'n bwysig inni ddod â'r meysydd hyn at ei gilydd, ac felly yr wyf yn fodlon derbyn y gwelliant hwnnw.

Mae hwn yn destun pwysig, ac mae ymhell iawn o unrhyw ymgais i ennill pwyntiau gwleidyddol a all fod nodweddu dadleuon yn

debates in the Assembly. It is in that spirit of serious co-operation that I have tabled our amendments, and will support the Liberal Democrat amendments. Our aim is to extend the scope of the motion. I accept entirely the important role played by specialist nurses in this field—indeed, we have increased the number of qualified mental health nurses caring for people with mental illnesses from 2,916 in 2005 to 3,758 in 2007. However, the point that Jenny Randerson made was that nurses are part of a wider, multi-disciplinary set of services that must be brought together to improve the situation in the future. I would say to the Welsh Liberal Democrats that amendment 4 was not intended to be self-congratulatory—it was trying to reflect the fact that there is a direction of travel in terms of resources.

Last week I went to north Wales for the sixtieth anniversary celebrations of the NHS, and I visited a dementia unit at Wrexham Maelor Hospital, where I was able to announce funding for a new unit. As you go around the unit, you are struck by the level of care that is required from staff, and their compassion in dealing with patients. After seeing the old unit, I was so pleased to be able to announce the new one; although there were windows, the view was of a wall rather than anything more interesting. When you consider the quality-of-life issues there, you realise how much more we have to do in putting the money in to ensure the necessary resources. I hope that the commitment that I was able to make last week in Wrexham Maelor will be part of how we will continue to deal with the capital issues that are associated with this.

Alun gave an example that I think that many Members could give from their casework. I do not want to go into the details of the NICE decision—I do not think that that would be appropriate today—but it illustrates the difficult areas that we have to deal with as Assembly Members, and sometimes we feel that the system works against our constituents. However, that is an extremely complex argument, and we do not have time

y Cynulliad weithiau. Yr awydd hwnnw i gydweithredu o ddifrif a oedd gennyf wrth gyflwyno'n gwelliannau, a byddaf yn cefnogi gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Ein nod yw ymestyn cwmpas y cynnig. Yr wyf yn derbyn yn llwyr fod gan nyrsys arbenigol ran bwysig yn y maes hwn—yn wir, yr ydym wedi cynyddu nifer y nyrsys iechyd meddwl cymwysedig sy'n gofalu am bobl sydd â salwch meddwl o 2,916 yn 2005 i 3,758 yn 2007. Fodd bynnag, y pwynt a wnaeth Jenny Randerson oedd bod nyrsys yn rhan o set ehangach o wasanaethau aml-ddisgyblaeth y mae'n rhaid eu dwyn ynghyd i wella'r sefyllfa yn y dyfodol. Dywedwn wrth Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru nad oedd yn fwriad i welliant 4 fod yn hunanglodforus—yr oedd yn ceisio cyfleu'r ffaith fod adnoddau'n symud i gyfeiriad penodol.

Yr wythnos diwethaf euthum i'r gogledd ar gyfer dathlu'r GIG yn drigain oed, ac ymwelais ag uned ddementia yn Ysbyty Maelor Wrecsam, lle'r oeddwn yn gallu cyhoeddi cyllid ar gyfer uned newydd. Wrth ichi fynd o gwmpas yr uned, byddwch yn sylwi'n neilltuol ar lefel y gofal y mae angen i staff ei rhoi, a'u tosturi wrth ddelio â chleifion. Ar ôl gweld yr hen uned, yr oeddwn mor falch gallu gwneud y cyhoeddiad am yr un newydd; er bod yna ffenestri, yr olygfa oedd wal yn hytrach na dim byd mwy diddorol. Pan ystyriwch y problemau yno'n ymwneud ag ansawdd bywyd, byddwch yn sylweddoli cymaint mwy y mae'n rhaid inni ei wneud o ran neilltuo arian i sicrhau'r adnoddau angenrheidiol. Gobeithio y bydd yr ymrwymiad yr oeddwn yn gallu ei wneud yr wythnos diwethaf yn Ysbyty Maelor Wrecsam yn rhan o'r ffordd y byddwn yn parhau i ddelio â'r materion cyfalaf sy'n gysylltiedig â hyn.

Rhoddodd Alun enghraifft y credaf y gallai nifer o Aelodau ei rhoi o'u gwaith achos. Nid wyf am fanylu am y penderfyniad gan NICE—ni chredaf y byddai hynny'n addas heddiw—ond mae'n dangos y meysydd anodd y mae'n rhaid inni ddelio â hwy fel Aelodau o'r Cynulliad, ac weithiau teimlwn fod y system yn gweithio yn erbyn ein hetholwyr. Fodd bynnag, mae honno'n ddadl gymhleth dros ben, ac nid oes gennym

to look at it today.

The First Minister and I have been busy with celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of the NHS. He was asked last week to read out a message from Michael Foot, celebrating Nye Bevan's setting up of the health service. It was a goodwill message, and one of the issues that he raised in it was the need to look at the issue of dementia. That came from a very articulate and bright 94-year-old, and he saw this as being one of the issues that we had to deal with in Government for the future. I will finish my contribution today on that note, by saying that we all recognise that this is an issue; it is a growing concern, and we should try to develop a consensus on how to take these issues forward and how to rebalance to ensure that the necessary financial resources are in place.

Nick Ramsay: I thank the Minister for her comments. The debate has been incredibly constructive and thought provoking, with many interesting contributions from many Assembly Members. I shall briefly go through some of the comments that I thought worth noting.

In his opening contribution, my colleague David Melding highlighted an important fact, which is that dementia is not restricted to older people, but also, tragically, affects younger people, and is affecting more people than ever before. It is not a single illness. There are 100 illnesses, some well known and others not so well known, that people can suffer from that can be classed as dementia.

In her contribution, Jenny Randerson echoed the view of the Alzheimer's society that we may be lacking a strategic approach to the current situation. The society has raised five points in its dealings with the Assembly. They are primarily that in Wales we face the same increase in the number of people suffering from dementia as England does, and we therefore need an effective partnership between health, social care and the voluntary sector, working, hopefully, to a framework, to deliver the sort of improvements that we want to see.

ddigon o amser i'w hystyried heddiw.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog a minnau wedi bod yn brysur gyda dathliadau'r GIG yn drigain oed. Yr wythnos diwethaf gofynnwyd iddo ddarllen neges oddi wrth Michael Foot, i ddathlu sefydlu'r gwasanaeth iechyd gan Nye Bevan. Neges o ewyllys da ydoedd, ac un o'r materion a gododd ynddi oedd yr angen i edrych ar fater dementia. Cafwyd hynny gan unigolyn 94 oed sy'n effro ac yn huawdl iawn, ac ystyriai fod hyn yn un o'r materion yr oedd yn rhaid i ni ddelio ag ef yn y Llywodraeth ar gyfer y dyfodol. Gorfennaf fy nghyfraniad heddiw ar y nodyn hwnnw, drwy ddweud ein bod i gyd yn derbyn bod hyn yn fater o bwys; mae'n destun pryder cynyddol, a dylem geisio meithrin consensws ar y modd i symud y materion hyn ymlaen a sut i newid y cydbwysedd er mwyn sicrhau bod yr adnoddau ariannol angenrheidiol ar gael.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei sylwadau. Mae'r ddadl wedi bod yn un rhyfeddol o adeiladol ac yn ysgogi'r meddwl, a chafwyd nifer o gyfraniadau diddorol gan lawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Ymdriniaf yn fyr â rhai o'r sylwadau y credwn eu bod yn haeddu eu nodi.

Yn ei gyfraniad agoriadol, tynnwyd sylw gan fy nghyd-Aelod David Melding at ffaith bwysig, sef nad yw dementia yn gyfyngedig i bobl hŷn, a'i fod hefyd, gwaetha'r modd, yn effeithio ar bobl iau ac yn effeithio ar fwy o bobl nag erioed o'r blaen. Nid un salwch mohono. Mae yna 100 salwch, rhai'n adnabyddus ac eraill nad ydynt mor adnabyddus, y gall pobl ddioddef ohonynt ac y gellir eu galw'n ddementia.

Yn ei chyfraniad, adleisiodd Jenny Randerson farn y gymdeithas Alzheimer y gallem fod yn brin o ddull gweithredu strategol i ddelio â'r sefyllfa bresennol. Mae'r gymdeithas wedi codi pum pwynt yn ei hymwneud â'r Cynulliad. Y rhai pennaf o'r rheini yw ein bod ni yng Nghymru'n wynebu'r un cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n dioddef o ddementia ag y mae Lloegr, ac felly fod arnom angen partneriaeth effeithiol rhwng iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a'r sector gwirfoddol drwy weithio, gobeithio, o fewn fframwaith, i sicrhau'r math o welliannau yr

ydym am eu gweld.

In his comments, Darren Millar raised the real concerns about a postcode lottery operating in this regard. He mentioned the need for the Assembly Government to bring the strands of work together and to develop a strategy, which we have not seen in the past. I am pleased to note from your comments, Minister, that you have taken that on board. Whether it is a plan or a Welsh slant, there is general consensus in the health service, the voluntary sector and among Members that we need to see something more than we have seen in the past in order to improve the situation and to ensure that the increasing numbers of people suffering from dementia get the drugs—which are often very costly—that they need.

I thought that Helen Mary Jones's contribution was particularly interesting. She identified a slightly different slant on the need to improve specialist services, and spoke of the prejudice against dementia patients that often exists. Many of us would recognise that the condition is often seen as affecting only older people, but that is not the case. Unless we address that and break down such prejudice and barriers, we will not see the improvements that we and the public need to see, so that the drugs that are being developed are developed as effectively as possible and made available to those who need them most. I therefore listened with interest to your comments, Helen Mary.

Alun Cairns talked about a constituency issue. His point was that we need to think outside the box on this. We need to look at how we can deliver what we all accept are very costly drugs in a modern setting, and we have to ensure that clinicians feel that their hands are not tied. There will always be cost limitations, but provision needs to be driven by the sufferer and the clinicians. We do not want clinicians to think that there is an overriding Assembly Government bias against providing these drugs—we want them to feel free to take the decisions that are in the interests of their patients.

Yn ei sylwadau, cododd Darren Millar y pryderon gwirioneddol ynghylch loteri cod post sy'n gweithredu yn hyn. Soniodd fod angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ddod â'r meysydd gwaith at ei gilydd a datblygu strategaeth, nad ydym wedi'i weld yn y gorffennol. Yr wyf yn falch sylwi o'ch sylwadau, Weinidog, eich bod wedi derbyn hynny. P'un a fydd yn gynllun neu'n ddull neilltuol Gymreig ai peidio, mae consensws cyffredinol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn y sector gwirfoddol ac ymysg Aelodau fod angen inni weld rhywbeth mwy nag yr ydym wedi'i weld yn y gorffennol er mwyn gwella'r sefyllfa a sicrhau bod y niferoedd cynyddol o bobl sy'n dioddef gan ddementia yn cael y cyffuriau—sy'n aml yn ddrud iawn—y mae arnynt eu hangen.

Yr oeddwn yn meddwl bod cyfraniad Helen Mary Jones yn neilltuol o ddiddorol. Tynnodd sylw at agwedd braidd yn wahanol ar yr angen i wella gwasanaethau arbenigol, a soniodd am y rhagfarn sy'n aml yn erbyn cleifion sydd â dementia. Byddai llawer ohonom yn derbyn bod y cyflwr yn aml yn cael ei weld fel cyflwr sy'n effeithio ar bobl hŷn yn unig, ond nid felly y mae. Oni roddwn sylw i hynny a chwalu rhagfarn a rhwystrau o'r fath, ni welwn y gwelliannau y mae angen i ni a'r cyhoedd eu gweld, fel y bydd y cyffuriau perthnasol yn cael eu datblygu mor effeithiol ag y bo modd a'u darparu i'r rheini y mae arnynt eu hangen fwyaf. Felly, gwrandewais gyda diddordeb ar eich sylwadau, Helen Mary.

Soniodd Alun Cairns am fater etholaethol. Ei bwynt oedd bod angen inni feddwl yn greadigol am hyn. Mae angen inni ystyried sut y gallwn ddarparu cyffuriau yr ydym i gyd yn derbyn eu bod yn ddrud iawn mewn cyd-destun modern, a rhaid inni sicrhau nad yw clinigwyr yn teimlo bod eu dwylo wedi'u clymu. Bydd cyfyngiadau o ran cost bob amser, ond mae angen i'r ddarpariaeth gael ei hysgogi gan y dioddefwr a'r clinigwyr. Nid ydym am i glinigwyr feddwl fod rhagfarn gyffredinol ar ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn erbyn darparu'r cyffuriau hyn—yr ydym am iddynt deimlo'n rhydd i wneud y penderfyniadau sydd o les i'w cleifion.

The Minister mentioned the 'One Wales' commitment to mental health. Jonathan Morgan has done a great deal of work in this area. The work done by the Assembly on mental health issues is to be commended. I hope that we can see the development of a long-term framework and an effective strategy that will specifically help people in this area. Many Assembly Members spoke from personal experience and know people who have suffered from dementia. They spoke with great feeling and compassion.

I am pleased that the Minister has taken the concerns on board, and I hope that Assembly Members will support the motion and Liberal Democrat amendments so that we can get on with the job of tackling this worrying and growing problem.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that amendment 1 be agreed. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the amendment is therefore agreed.

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 1.
Amendment 1 carried.*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod gwelliant 2 yn cael ei dderbyn. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y gwelliant ei dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 2.
Amendment 2 carried.*

4.10 p.m.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod gwelliant 3 yn cael ei dderbyn.

Is there any objection? I see that there is. In that case, we will defer voting on the remaining items until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleiso.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Soniodd y Gweinidog am yr ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i iechyd meddwl. Mae Jonathan Morgan wedi gwneud llawer iawn o waith yn y maes hwn. Mae'r gwaith a wneir gan y Cynulliad ar faterion iechyd meddwl i'w gymeradwyo. Gobeithio y gallwn weld datblygu fframwaith tymor hir a strategaeth effeithiol a fydd o gymorth i bobl yn y maes hwn yn benodol. Siaradodd nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar sail profiad personol, ac maent yn adnabod pobl sydd wedi dioddef gan ddementia. Yr oeddent yn llawn teimlad a thosturi.

Yr wyf yn falch fod y Gweinidog wedi cydnabod y pryderon, a gobeithio y bydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn cefnogi'r cynnig a gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol er mwyn inni allu bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith o ddelio â'r broblem boenus a chynyddol hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod gwelliant 1 yn cael ei dderbyn. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y gwelliant ei dderbyn.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that amendment 2 be agreed. Are there any objections? I see that there are none. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the amendment is therefore agreed.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that amendment 3 be agreed.

A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod. Gan hynny, gohiriwn y pleidleisiau ar yr eitemau sy'n weddill tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Y Bobl sydd Fwyaf Agored i Niwed mewn Cymdeithas
The Most Vulnerable in Society

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of William Graham.

Y Diprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham.

Michael German: I propose that

Michael German: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

agrees that the Welsh Assembly Government is failing the most vulnerable in society. (NDM3989)

yn cytuno bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n siomi'r rheini sydd fwyaf agored i niwed mewn cymdeithas. (NDM3989)

I do not expect that this debate will be as consensual as the last two. However, there are important issues here that need to be highlighted at a time when we are looking at the Government's record over the past year. The One Wales Government was formed a year ago this week; it was hailed as a turning point in Welsh political history. Both Labour and Plaid described their programme of government as progressive, stable and ambitious, and the 'One Wales' agreement stated that it was a plan to deliver a:

Nid wyf yn disgwyl y bydd cymaint o gytundeb yn y ddadl hon â'r ddwy ddiwethaf. Er hynny, mae materion pwysig dan sylw yma y mae angen tynnu sylw atynt ar adeg pan ydym yn ystyried record y Llywodraeth dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Ffurfiwyd Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un flwyddyn yn ôl i'r wythnos hon; fe'i galwyd yn drobwynt yn hanes gwleidyddol Cymru. Disgrifiodd Llafur a Plaid eu rhaglen ar gyfer llywodraeth yn un flaengar, sefydlog ac uchelgeisiol, a dywedai cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un' ei fod yn gynllun i sicrhau:

'fair, prosperous, confident and outgoing Wales',

'[C]ymru deg, lewyrchus, hyderus ac allblyg',

and, most importantly, to improve the quality of life of people:

ac, yn bwysicaf oll, i wella ansawdd bywyd:

'from all walks of life, and especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged'.

'pobl o bob rhan o'r gymdeithas, ac yn enwedig y bobl sydd fwyaf bregus a difreintiedig'.

Our debate today is designed to test that commitment to 'the most vulnerable and disadvantaged'. The Government has stated that it is intent on improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. One year on, we are testing whether it is truly able to do that.

Amcan ein dadl heddiw yw rhoi prawf ar yr ymrwymiad hwnnw i'r 'bobl sydd fwyaf bregus a difreintiedig'. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud ei bod yn benderfynol o wella ansawdd bywyd y rhai sydd fwyaf agored i niwed ac yn ddifreintiedig. Ar ôl blwyddyn yr ydym yn ceisio profi a yw'n gallu gwneud hynny mewn gwirionedd.

Over the last year, there have been failures across all policy areas, but, in particular, the Government is failing to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. A summation of the last year is that there have been lots of warm words and much working toward solutions, but there has been an increase in child

Dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, bu methiannau ym mhob maes polisi, ond yn benodol mae'r Llywodraeth yn methu gwella bywydau'r rhai sydd fwyaf agored i niwed. Crynodeb o'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf yw bod llawer o eiriau dymunol wedi bod a llawer o ymdrech i gael atebion, ond bu cynnydd yn nhlodi plant ac

poverty and in the numbers of those in fuel poverty. The Government's greatest success has been in preserving the status quo.

Education is the most glaring example. While the Government has prioritised populist measures, such as free prescriptions and free car parking at hospitals—most notably for the rich, and in the case of the Royal Gwent Hospital in my region, for shoppers—the education system has felt the strain. This is the most glaring example of where the most vulnerable have been let down, because the most vulnerable in our society need to be assisted by the education system to help them through to build a successful future. However, the record of the One Wales Government on education is under fire, from early years education right through to higher education.

The introduction of a new style of learning for our youngest children should have been a cause for universal rejoicing, but the failure to fund it properly has left a bad taste in the mouths of many teachers, parents and governors. The scheme attracted universal support and the pilot scheme was well received, but now we have a hollow promise that we will get more money to fund it in the future. We knew that it would require an increased teacher-to-pupil ratio. That was integral to its success: the adult-to-pupil ratio was intended to be a key driver, and you would not be able to achieve success without the appropriate ratio of adults to pupils. The 'One Wales' commitment to radically reduce class sizes was predicated on appropriate and proper funding for the foundation phase. As a Government, you had many warnings that it would be very expensive to implement this properly, and you underestimated the amount of money needed. Consequently, we have been left with late decisions, inadequate funding and the promise of more money to follow.

However, when the First Minister was questioned about this a few days ago in Plenary, he said that it would be for Jane Hutt to make the bid for future funding. That means that the foundation phase will have to do battle with other areas of Government

yn niferoedd y bobl sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd. Llwyddiant mwyaf y Llywodraeth fu cadw'r sefyllfa fel yr oedd.

Addysg yw'r enghraifft fwyaf amlwg. Wrth i'r Llywodraeth roi blaenoriaeth i fesurau poblyddol, fel presgripsiynau am ddim a pharcio am ddim ger ysbytai—i'r cyfoethog yn fwyaf penodol, ac yn achos Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yn fy rhanbarth i, i siopwyr—mae'r system addysg wedi bod dan straen. Hon yw'r enghraifft amlycaf lle y mae'r rhai sydd fwyaf agored i niwed wedi cael cam, gan fod ar y bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas angen cymorth gan y system addysg i'w helpu i fynd ymlaen i adeiladu dyfodol llwyddiannus. Serch hynny, mae record Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un ar addysg dan y lach, o addysg y blynyddoedd cynnar hyd at addysg uwch.

Dylasai cyflwyno dull dysgu newydd ar gyfer ein plant ieuengaf fod yn destun dathlu cyffredinol, ond mae'r methiant i'w ariannu'n briodol wedi gadael blas drwg yng nghegau llawer o athrawon, rhieni a llywodraethwyr. Cafodd y cynllun ei gefnogi'n gyffredinol a chafwyd derbyniad da i'r cynllun peilot, ond bellach mae gennym addewid gwag y cawn fwy o arian i'w ariannu yn y dyfodol. Gwyddem y byddai angen cymhareb uwch o athro-disgybl. Yr oedd hynny'n hanfodol i'w lwyddiant: yr oedd yn fwriad i'r gymhareb oedolyn-disgybl fod yn ysgogydd allweddol, ac ni fyddech yn gallu sicrhau llwyddiant heb gael y gymhareb briodol rhwng oedolion a disgyblion. Yr oedd yr ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i leihau maint dosbarthiadau'n sylweddol wedi'i seilio ar gyllid priodol ac addas ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen. Fel Llywodraeth, cawsoch nifer o rybuddion y byddai'n ddrud iawn rhoi hyn ar waith yn iawn, a gwnaethoch amcangyfrif rhy isel o faint o arian yr oedd ei angen. O ganlyniad i hynny, cawsom benderfyniadau hwyr, cyllid annigonol ac addewid bod mwy o arian i ddod.

Er hynny, pan holwyd y Prif Weinidog am hyn ychydig ddyddiau'n ôl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, dywedodd mai lle Jane Hutt oedd gwneud cais am gyllid ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae hynny'n golygu y bydd yn rhaid i'r cyfnod sylfaen gystadlu â meysydd gwariant

spending, instead of being treated as the priority that we were all led to believe that it was.

The other important issue is the classrooms and buildings in which our children are taught. Estyn has clearly said that pupils' performance improves considerably in substantially refurbished buildings or in new buildings.

Good school facilities are essential for developing children, particularly those who are in most need. The Government talked about improving school buildings in order to create a first-class learning environment, and there was a commitment that all schools would be fit for purpose by 2010. However, that target has been dropped; indeed, it would never have been met. The Government has not even set itself a target for what it intends to achieve regarding proper school facilities.

Basic skills is the third area in which funding is crucial for those people who are in most need. It is also an area where we need to raise our game. There have been debates in the Chamber on the matter but the problem will get much worse over the next 12 months. Many further education colleges in Wales are now considering axing not only courses but whole facilities, because they will be unable to fund their activities in the coming year.

The funding formula that the Government has promoted in the last six to nine months encourages FE colleges to enrol more 16 to 18-year-old students. The colleges that have been successful are those that have achieved a level of about 1 per cent below the necessary inflationary rise. Money for the rest of the colleges has been reversed.

What is the Government's intention on the issue? One FE college principal told me that he is being asked to park his tanks on the lawn of the local comprehensive school. He is going to have to get more students from the local comprehensive school to enrol at his college. However, those are the very

eraill y Llywodraeth, yn hytrach na chael ei drin fel blaenoriaeth, fel yr arweiniwyd ni bob un i gredu.

Y mater pwysig arall yw'r ystafelloedd dosbarth a'r adeiladau lle mae ein plant yn cael eu haddysgu. Mae Estyn wedi dweud yn glir bod perfformiad disgyblion yn gwella'n sylweddol mewn adeiladau lle mae llawer o waith adnewyddu wedi ei wneud neu mewn adeiladau newydd.

Mae cyfleusterau ysgol da yn hanfodol i blant sy'n datblygu, yn enwedig y rheini sydd â'r angen mwyaf. Soniodd y Llywodraeth am wella adeiladau ysgol er mwyn creu amgylchedd dysgu rhagorol, a chafwyd ymrwymiad y byddai pob ysgol yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010. Fodd bynnag, mae'r targed hwnnw wedi ei ostwng; yn wir, ni fyddai wedi ei gyrraedd byth. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth wedi gosod targed ar ei chyfer hi ei hun hyd yn oed o ran yr hyn y mae'n bwriadu ei gyflawni yng nghyswllt cyfleusterau ysgol priodol.

Sgiliau sylfaenol yw'r trydydd maes lle mae arian yn hollbwysig ar gyfer y bobl hynny sydd â'r angen mwyaf. Mae hefyd yn faes lle y mae angen inni wneud yn well. Cafwyd dadleuon yn y Siambr ar y mater, ond bydd y broblem yn mynd lawer yn waeth yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf. Erbyn hyn mae nifer o golegau addysg bellach yng Nghymru yn ystyried dileu cyrsiau, a chyfleusterau cyfan hyd yn oed, oherwydd byddant yn methu ariannu eu gweithgareddau yn y flwyddyn i ddod.

Mae'r fformiwla ariannu y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i hyrwyddo yn ystod y chwech i naw mis diwethaf yn annog colegau AB i gofrestru mwy o fyfyrwyr 16 i 18 oed. Y colegau sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus yw'r rheini sydd wedi cael tuag 1 y cant yn llai na'r cynnydd angenrheidiol oherwydd chwyddiant. Mae'r arian i weddill y colegau wedi ei gwtogi.

Beth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ei wneud am y mater? Dywedodd un pennaeth coleg AB wrthyf y gofynnir iddo fynd i'r ysgol gyfun leol i chwilio am fyfyrwyr. Bydd yn rhaid iddo gael mwy o fyfyrwyr o'r ysgol gyfun leol i gofrestru yn ei goleg. Fodd bynnag, dyna'r union sefydliadau yr ydym yn

institutions that we turn to for the provision of basic skills—they have been built up to deal with the basic problem of raising the skill game in Wales. We must secure appropriate funding. However, FE institutions are axing their current provision with the resultant loss of continuing education for vulnerable people.

Most telling is the funding gap in higher education between England and Wales. I remember the Deputy First Minister berating the First Minister in the Chamber just over 12 months ago about the funding gap in higher education between Wales and England. Despite the fact that that funding gap is growing, the present partnership Government tells us that it has achieved success and that it has dealt with the matter in an appropriate manner.

The greatest success of the last 12 months has been in preserving the status quo—keeping Labour hands on the levers of power in Wales, keeping the powers of the Assembly limited, and stifling initiatives to such a degree that no Assembly Members applied to introduce a single law when given the opportunity to do so in the June ballot. The ‘One Wales’ agreement has kept two parties together but it has failed to prevent parts of Wales falling apart.

4.20 p.m.

Mark Isherwood: I propose amendment 1 in the name of William Graham. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets that the Assembly Government has failed to tackle the causes whilst focusing on the symptoms of social breakdown.

It is not the intention of the Assembly Government to fail the most vulnerable in our society. Regrettably, however, the approach and actions of the Governments in London and Cardiff have had that effect; hence, our amendment.

All mainstream political parties want to tackle poverty, but we must find different solutions to the deep-rooted problems of

troi atynt i ddarparu sgiliau sylfaenol—maent wedi eu datblygu i ymdrin â phroblem sylfaenol gwella sgiliau yng Nghymru. Rhaid inni sicrhau cyllid priodol. Fodd bynnag, mae sefydliadau AB yn dileu eu darpariaeth bresennol, a chanlyniad hyn yw ein bod yn colli addysg barhaus i bobl sy'n agored i niwed.

Y peth mwyaf arwyddocaol yw'r bwch cyllido mewn addysg uwch rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Cofiaf y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn difrio'r Prif Weinidog yn y Siambr ychydig dros 12 mis yn ôl am y bwch cyllido mewn addysg uwch rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Er gwaethaf y ffaith fod y bwch cyllido hwnnw'n cynyddu, mae'r Llywodraeth bartneriaeth bresennol yn dweud wrthym ei bod wedi llwyddo ac wedi ymdrin â'r mater mewn modd priodol.

Y llwyddiant mwyaf a welwyd yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf yw cadw'r *status quo*—Llafur yn dal ei gafael ar yr awenau yng Nghymru, yn cadw pwerau'r Cynulliad yn gyfyngedig, ac yn rhwystro mentrau i'r fath raddau fel na wnaeth yr un Aelod Cynulliad gais am gyflwyno cyfraith pan gafwyd cyfle i wneud hynny yn y bleidlais ym mis Mehefin. Mae cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un' wedi cadw dwy blaid gyda'i gilydd ond wedi methu atal rhannau o Gymru rhag dadfeilio.

Mark Isherwood: Cynigaf welliant 1 yn enw William Graham. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi methu â mynd i'r afael â'r achosion wrth ganolbwyntio ar symptomau chwalfa gymdeithasol.

Nid bwriad Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yw siomi'r bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas. Yn anffodus, fodd bynnag, mae ymagwedd a gweithredoedd y Llywodraeth yn Llundain a'r Llywodraeth yng Nghaerdydd wedi cael yr effaith honno; a dyna yw sail ein gwelliant.

Mae pob un o'r prif bleidiau gwleidyddol yn awyddus i fynd i'r afael â thlodi, ond rhaid inni gael atebion gwahanol i broblemau

multiple deprivation and the root causes of poverty in Wales. Freedom from poverty, addiction and the fear of crime are not possible unless we free people from the cycle of hopelessness. We need to build a stronger society by tackling poverty, social exclusion, cross-generational breakdown and crime, by improving community life in Wales and by turning a welfare state safety net for the deprived and vulnerable into a welfare society springboard for all.

Research released by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation last week showed that the average Briton needs to earn at least £13,400 a year before tax to afford a basic, but acceptable, standard of living. However, most people relying on basic out of work benefits do not reach this standard. A single person on income support gets less than half that amount, and out-of-work families typically receive two-thirds.

It is crunch time for households in Wales, as we face a downturn in the economy, below inflation pay rises, rising debt and less money in people's pockets. Increases in the price of petrol and food, energy bills, train fares, council tax, water and insurance for homes and cars threaten to tip household budgets into the red. Spiralling consumer debt stands at over £1.4 trillion, having increased at £1 million every five minutes last year. Mortgage possession orders in Wales increased by 14.5 per cent over the same period, compared with just 4.7 per cent in England, and, with almost 60 per cent of its economy in the public sector, Wales is particularly vulnerable as the cuts start to bite.

Wales suffers the greatest debt poverty in the United Kingdom. After 15 years of economic growth, over 0.5 million working-age people in Wales are not in work and more than one in six young people are not in education, employment or training. Economic dependency is not being eradicated—it is becoming entrenched.

sylyfaenol amddifadedd lluosog a'r hyn sydd wrth wraidd tlodi yng Nghymru. Nid yw rhyddid rhag tlodi, dibyniaeth ac ofn troseddu yn bosibl oni allwn ryddhau pobl o gylch anobaith. Mae angen inni adeiladu cymdeithas gryfach drwy fynd i'r afael â thlodi, allgáu cymdeithasol, methiant rhwng y cenedlaethau, a throseddu, drwy wella bywyd cymunedol yng Nghymru a throi rhwyd diogelwch gwladwriaeth les ar gyfer pobl sy'n ddifreintiedig ac yn agored i niwed yn sbardun ar gyfer cymdeithas les i bawb.

Dangosodd ymchwil a ryddhawyd gan Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree yr wythnos diwethaf fod angen i'r Prydeiniwr cyffredin ennill o leiaf £13,400 y flwyddyn cyn treth i allu cael safon fyw elfennol, ond derbynol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r bobl sy'n dibynnu ar fudd-daliadau diweithdra sylyfaenol yn cyrraedd y safon hon. Mae person sengl sy'n cael cymhorthdal incwm yn cael llai na hanner hynny, a teuluoedd di-waith fel rheol yn cael dwy ran o dair o hynny.

Mae'n adeg hollbwysig i aelwydydd yng Nghymru, a ninnau'n wynebu dirywiad yn yr economi, codiadau cyflog llai na chwyddiant, cynnydd mewn dyledion, a llai o arian ym mhocedi pobl. Mae cynnydd ym mhpris petrol a bwyd, biliau ynni, pris tocynnau trên, y dreth gyngor, dŵr ac yswiriant ar gyfer cartrefi a cheir yn bygwth rhoi cyllidebau cartrefi yn y coch. Mae dyledion cynyddol defnyddwyr bellach dros £1.4 triliwn, wedi cynnydd o £1 filiwn bob pum munud y llynedd. Gwelwyd cynnydd o 14.5 y cant mewn gorchmynion meddiannu morgais yng Nghymru yn ystod yr un cyfnod, o'i gymharu â dim ond 4.7 y cant yn Lloegr, a chan fod bron i 60 y cant o economi Cymru yn y sector cyhoeddus, mae mewn sefyllfa fregus iawn wrth i'r toriadau ddechrau cnoi.

Mae tlodi dyledion yn waeth yng Nghymru nag mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Ar ôl 15 mlynedd o dwf economaidd, mae dros 0.5 miliwn o bobl o oed gweithio yng Nghymru yn ddi-waith a mwy nag un o bob chwe pherson ifanc heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Nid yw dibyniaeth economaidd yn cael ei dileu—mae'n sefydlogi.

Creating wealth is the key to the future, but despite billions of pounds in European funding, prosperity in Wales, according to the latest published figures, has fallen to just 77 per cent of the UK average. It was announced this week that the cost of living for one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, namely pensioners, has outstripped inflation over the past 10 years. That means that goods and services are even less affordable for them.

The number of households in fuel poverty in Wales has doubled to almost 250,000, of which 219,000 are classed as being vulnerable. For every 10 per cent rise in energy prices, an additional 48,000 homes are forced into fuel poverty. Energywatch is concerned that there is no clear evidence that the home energy efficiency scheme is able to target the fuel-poor, and Energywatch and National Energy Action Cymru have called for a review of the strategic approach to fuel poverty in Wales. I know that it is in the 'One Wales' agreement, but we need to see urgent action.

As we have already heard today, under-age drinking is rising, and almost half of all anti-social behaviour orders issued to young people aged between 10 and 17 have been breached on one or more occasion.

We need greater action to help vulnerable children and to tackle child poverty. In Wales, 25 per cent of children—150,000 children—are living in poverty before housing costs are taken into account, an increase from 144,000 in the previous year for which figures are available. In schools, the number of exclusions for attacks on teachers has almost doubled in four years. In giving schools the freedom to tackle issues relating to individual pupil behaviour, we must also expect them to exercise that responsibly.

Too often, excluded pupils also have additional learning needs or mental health problems which, if unaddressed, can lead to

Mae creu cyfoeth yn bwysig iawn ar gyfer y dyfodol, ond er gwaethaf biliynau o bunnoedd o gyllid Ewropeaidd, mae ffyniant yng Nghymru, yn ôl y ffigurau diweddaraf i gael eu cyhoeddi, wedi gostwng i ddim ond 77 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU. Cyhoeddwyd yr wythnos hon bod costau byw i un o'r grwpiau sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas, sef pensïynwyr, wedi bod yn uwch na chwyddiant dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Mae hynny'n golygu ei bod yn anos fyth iddynt allu fforddio nwyddau a gwasanaethau.

Mae nifer yr aelwydydd sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru wedi dyblu bron i 250,000, ac mae 219,000 o'r rhain yn cael eu galw'n gartrefi sy'n agored i niwed. Am bob codiad o 10 y cant ym mhrisiau ynni, mae 48,000 yn fwy o gartrefi'n cael eu gwrthio i dlodi tanwydd. Mae Golwg ar Ynni yn bryderus nad oes tystiolaeth glir fod y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref yn gallu targedu pobl sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd, ac mae Golwg ar Ynni a National Energy Action - Cymru wedi galw am adolygiad o'r agwedd strategol at dlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru. Gwn ei fod yng nghytundeb 'Cymru'n Un', ond mae angen gwneud rhywbeth yn fuan.

Fel y clywsom eisoes heddiw, mae yfed dan oed ar gynnydd, ac mae bron hanner yr holl orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a osodir ar bobl ifanc rhwng 10 a 17 oed wedi eu torri o leiaf unwaith.

Mae angen inni wneud mwy i helpu plant sy'n agored i niwed ac i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant. Yng Nghymru, mae 25 y cant o'n plant—150,000 o blant—yn byw mewn tlodi cyn ystyried costau tai, sy'n gynnydd o 144,000 ers y flwyddyn flaenorol y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer. Mewn ysgolion, mae nifer y disgyblion sy'n cael eu gwahardd o'r ysgol oherwydd ymosodiadau ar athrawon wedi dyblu bron mewn pedair blynedd. Wrth roi rhyddid i ysgolion fynd i'r afael â phroblemau ymddygiad disgyblion unigol, rhaid inni hefyd ddisgwyl iddynt ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw.

Yn rhy aml o'r hanner, mae gan ddisgyblion sydd wedi eu gwahardd anghenion dysgu ychwanegol neu broblemau iechyd meddwl

anti-social behaviour and crime. As I have previously mentioned, I was told by a parent that his daughter had been regularly excluded from her school for being naughty, but her behaviour was linked to her attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism.

We must engage communities, trust people, share responsibility and tackle underlying causes, and encourage and support those in the public sector and community-based organisations, social enterprises and charities who have shown that they can make a difference.

Eleanor Burnham: The fact that many commentators accuse the Government of only 'working towards' things puts all of this into context. There are many issues regarding child poverty and, as the previous speaker mentioned, 150,000 children live in poverty. As someone who sits on the Children and Young People Committee and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, I consider that a great shame. Last year's lack of progress has not resulted in the equality that we were supposed to have had. It is disappointing, because, added to that, there is a global economic crisis, a credit crunch, household debt and a lack of affordable housing. However we look at it, the lack of movement in drawing down adequate European funding, with the match funding, is a huge area of concern for many people in Wales.

Communities First is a wonderful idea, but there are many concerns about the allocation, spend and efficacy of the amount of money that is pigeonholed. Many other wards outside Communities First wards are almost equally deprived and worry that they cannot access funding. The funding gap in further education is a huge concern when you consider the skills needed to help develop the economy. Furthermore, the derisory and below-inflation increase in funding for local authorities, on whom many of us wholly depend for our public services, is more glaring than anything. Local authorities have been given increased responsibilities and there is more expectation, yet they are

hefyd, a gall y rhain arwain at ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throseddu oni roddir sylw iddynt. Fel yr wyf wedi ei grybwyll eisoes, dywedodd rhiant wrthyf fod ei ferch wedi cael ei gwahardd o'r ysgol yn rheolaidd am fod yn ddrwg, ond yr oedd ei hymddygiad yn gysylltiedig â'i hanhwylder diffyg canolbwyntio a gorfywiogrwydd ac awtistiaeth.

Rhaid inni ymgysylltu â chymunedau, ymddiried mewn pobl, rhannu cyfrifoldeb a mynd i'r afael ag achosion sylfaenol, ac annog a chefnogi'r rheini yn y sector cyhoeddus ac mewn mudiadau cymunedol, mentrau cymdeithasol ac elusennau sydd wedi dangos y gallant wneud gwahaniaeth.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'r ffaith fod llawer o sylwebyddion yn cyhuddo'r Llywodraeth o wneud dim ond 'gweithio tuag at' bethau yn rhoi hyn oll yn ei gyd-destun. Mae yna nifer o broblemau'n ymwneud â thlodi plant ac, fel y dywedodd y siaradwr blaenorol, mae 150,000 o blant yn byw mewn tlodi. Fel rhywun sy'n eistedd ar y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc a'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal, credaf fod hynny'n drueni mawr. Nid yw'r diffyg cynnydd y llynedd wedi arwain at y cydraddoldeb yr oeddem i fod i'w weld. Mae'n siomedig, oherwydd yn ychwanegol at hynny mae argyfwng economaidd byd-eang, gwasgfa greddyd, cartrefi mewn dyled a phrinder tai fforddiadwy. Sut bynnag yr edrychwn arno, mae'r methiant i gael digon o arian Ewropeaidd, ac arian cyfatebol, yn fater sy'n peri pryder mawr i lawer o bobl yng Nghymru.

Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn syniad gwych, ond mae llawer o bryderon ynglŷn â'r dyraniad, y gwariant ac effeithlonrwydd y swm sy'n cael ei neilltuo. Mae llawer o wardiau eraill y tu allan i wardiau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf sydd lawn mor ddifreintiedig, bron, ac sy'n poeni na allant gael cyllid. Mae'r bwch cyllido mewn addysg bellach yn bryder enfawr o gofio'r sgiliau y mae eu hangen i helpu datblygu'r economi. At hyn mae'r cynnydd chwerthinllyd, ac is na chwyddiant, yng nghyllid awdurdodau lleol y mae llawer ohonom yn dibynnu'n gyfan gwbl arno am ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, yn ddychrynlyd o amlwg. Mae awdurdodau

supposed to carry out those duties with below-inflation funding increases; that is disappointing. Council-tax hikes are necessary, and, if notice were taken of the much fairer system of local income tax that we propose, we could, perhaps, overcome one particular difficulty.

The One Wales Government's commitment to help pensioners with their council tax is regrettable. Ieuan Wyn said that he regrets that, and it is worrying in the context of the credit crunch, household debt and the increase in fuel prices. The One Wales Government has not done much to improve that scenario.

Local services being closed include post offices, and it is rather bizarre and perverse, in a democracy, that the head of the Post Office will receive bonuses that are wholly based on the more closures he can achieve. We should, surely, do our best for the poor and vulnerable, who will have more difficulty accessing services when their local post office closes. It is a vital community lifeline, and I regret the closures very much.

Equally, there are other issues in the rural outposts, and Gwynedd produced an important report—published in March—about the huge extra burden on people in rural villages. That is one manifestation, among many, of worrying trends across north Wales and the rest of the country. The news today that Redrow, which is an important housebuilder, is in difficulties and laying off people, potentially adds to the lack of affordable housing. All of those points signify a grim year, and I hope that the Government will increase the pressure, so that when the Barnett formula is eventually revised, we can, perhaps, have more equality and more money to spend on the vulnerable in our society.

Alun Davies: Having listened to that counsel of hopelessness, I feel like disappearing and burying my head in my hands. This motion

lleol wedi cael mwy o gyfrifoldebau ac mae mwy o ddisgwyliadau, ac eto maent i fod i gyflawni'r dyletswyddau hynny gyda chynnydd llai na chwyddiant yn eu cyllid; mae hynny'n siomedig. Mae codiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn angenrheidiol, a phe cymerid sylw o'r system dreth incwm leol lawer tecach yr ydym ni'n ei chynnig, efallai y gallem oresgyn un anhawster penodol.

Mae ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un i helpu pensïynwyr gyda'u treth gyngor yn destun gofid. Dywedodd Ieuan Wyn ei fod yn poeni am hynny, ac mae'n peri gofid yng nghyd-destun y wasgfa greddy, dyledion cartrefi a'r cynnydd ym mhrisiau tanwydd. Nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un wedi gwneud llawer i wella'r sefyllfa honno.

Mae gwasanaethau lleol sy'n cael eu cau yn cynnwys swyddfeydd post, ac mae braidd yn od ac yn wrthnysig, mewn democratiaeth, fod pennaeth Swyddfa'r Post yn cael bonws wedi'i seilio'n gyfan gwbl ar y nifer mwyaf o swyddfeydd y gall eu cau. Siawns na ddylem wneud ein gorau er lles pobl dlawd a phobl sy'n agored i niwed: bydd yn anos iddynt allu cael gwasanaethau pan fydd eu swyddfa bost leol yn cau? Mae'r swyddfeydd post hyn yn gyfleuster hanfodol i'r gymuned, ac mae eu cau yn ofid mawr i mi.

Yn yr un modd mae yna broblemau eraill yn yr ardaloedd gwledig, a chynhyrchodd Gwynedd adroddiad pwysig—a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mawrth—yn glŷn â'r baich ychwanegol enfawr sydd ar bobl mewn pentrefi gwledig. Un enghraifft yw hynny o lawer sy'n peri pryder ar draws y gogledd ac yng ngweddill y wlad. Gallai'r newyddion heddiw bod Redrow, sy'n gwmni pwysig ym maes adeiladu tai, mewn anawsterau ac yn diswyddo pobl, ychwanegu at y prinder tai fforddiadwy. Mae pob un o'r pwyntiau hyn yn darogan blwyddyn galed, a gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cynyddu'r pwysau, fel y gallwn, efallai, pan fydd fformiwla Barnett yn cael ei diwygio ymhen amser, gael mwy o gydraddoldeb a mwy o arian i'w wario ar y bobl sy'n agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas.

Alun Davies: Ar ôl gwranddo ar y fath anobaith, teimlaf fel diflannu a chuddio fy wyneb yn fy nwylo. Yr unig ffordd i

can only be described as an exercise in sheer cynicism. However, describing it as cynicism implies a degree of strategic intelligence that is probably bereft in the Welsh Liberal Democrats. Eleanor has already left the Chamber; I am not surprised, most of us would have left the Chamber before she stood up.

4.30 p.m.

It is one of the most cynical and pointless motions that has been tabled in the Assembly in the last year. It says nothing positive, but does that not sum up the Welsh Liberal Democrats? Over the last few years, I have spent too much time in hustings meetings listening to Liberal Democrats telling us how the world can be put to rights, and not once have I heard a Liberal Democrat say that they are prepared to make a tough, hard or intelligent decision. 'I will follow the mob for I am its leader' is the political philosophy of the Welsh Liberal Democrats. We hear from Liberal Democrats living in a make-believe world of their own. We have already heard from Eleanor and Mike—spending money and wealth that they have no idea how to create. No doubt we will hear from Peter and Kirsty in the next few minutes telling us again how they will spend other people's money and how they will be able to give life to this make-believe world of political incompetence and infancy that we hear about from the Liberal Democrats.

What we heard in the opening speech, and in the following speech, was nothing about the work that is being done to make an impact for vulnerable people in Wales. Is building new hospitals in Porthmadog, Rhondda, the Cynon valley, Merthyr, the Rhymney valley and Blaenau Gwent failing the vulnerable? I do not think so. What about the support that we have seen for business and economic development? Is that failing the vulnerable? I do not think so. What about the support for education? All too often, we have discussed the money spent on developing and delivering new school buildings. I remember asking for and getting the comparative

ddisgrifio'r cynnig hwn yw sinigiaeth lwyr. Fodd bynnag, mae ei ddisgrifio fel sinigiaeth yn awgrymu rhywfaint o ddeallusrwydd strategol, sy'n brin mae'n debyg ymhlith Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru. Mae Eleanor wedi gadael y Siambr yn barod; nid wyf yn synnu, oherwydd mae'n debyg y byddai'r rhan fwyaf ohonom wedi gadael y Siambr cyn iddi godi.

Mae'n un o'r cynigion mwyaf sinigaidd a dibwys i'w gyflwyno yn y Cynulliad yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Nid yw'n dweud dim cadarnhaol, ond onid yw hynny'n dweud y cyfan am Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru? Dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, yr wyf wedi treulio gormod o amser mewn hustyngau'n gwrando ar y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn dweud wrthym sut mae rhoi'r byd yn ei le, ac nid wyf wedi clywed Democrat Rhyddfrydol yn dweud unwaith ei fod yn barod i wneud penderfyniad anodd, caled neu ddeallus. 'Dilynaf y dorf gan mai fi sy'n ei harwain' yw athroniaeth wleidyddol Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru. Clywn gan Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n byw ym myd bach eu dychymyg. Clywsom eisoes gan Eleanor a Mike—yn gwario arian a chyfoeth nad oes ganddynt glem sut i'w creu. Mae'n siŵr y clywn gan Peter a Kirsty yn yr ychydig funudau nesaf sut y byddant yn gwario arian pobl eraill, a sut y byddant yn gallu gwireddu'r byd dychmygol hwn y clywn amdano gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, byd o anallu ac anaeddfedrwydd gwleidyddol.

Nid oedd a wnelo'r hyn a glywsom yn yr araith agoriadol, ac yn yr araith i'w chanlyn, ddim â'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i wella byd pobl sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Ai gwneud cam â phobl sy'n agored i niwed yw adeiladu ysbytai newydd ym Mhorthmadog, yn Rhondda, yng nghwm Cynon, ym Merthyr, yng nghwm Rhymni ac ym Mlaenau Gwent? Go brin. Beth am y gefnogaeth a welsom i fusnes a datblygu economaidd? Ai gwneud cam â phobl sy'n agored i niwed yw hynny? Go brin. Beth am y gefnogaeth i addysg? Yn rhy aml o lawer yr ydym wedi trafod yr arian sy'n cael ei wario ar ddatblygu a darparu adeiladau ysgol

figures for the last 20 years. Around £30 million, £40 million or £50 million was spent under the Tories; £200 million has been spent year on year since 1997, ensuring that our children have the best possible education. Is that failing the vulnerable? I do not think so. The reality of life is far divorced from the make-believe world of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, and yet again, we have seen the Assembly's time wasted on pointless motions.

When they wrote their press release on this yesterday, it did not mention child poverty. Eleanor spoke about child poverty; why did they not put that in their press release? They did not do that because it is not important to them. What is important to the Liberals is scoring petty political points, not addressing the root causes of poverty in this country. That is why we are putting down new laws on child poverty; we are passing right to buy legislation, and we are putting funding into Communities First areas. That is working for the poor and the vulnerable and ensuring that the lives of people in the future will be better than the lives of people in the past, and that is what differentiates us on this side of the Chamber from the sliver of Liberals in the middle.

What you cannot do through these sorts of motions is deliver a single improvement in people's lives. This sort of motion does not employ nurses or teachers and it does not create work and jobs. All it does is waste time. It is a laughable, ludicrous and opportunist motion. Only the Liberals could see it as a political philosophy. That is why the Liberals are, and will always be, the court jesters of Welsh politics.

Kirsty Williams: I would like to focus on issues of education and how, over the last year, we have seen the One Wales Government fail to grasp the opportunities that education offers to address the needs of the most vulnerable in Wales. Whether it is in terms of the education of our youngest students or our very oldest learners, whether it is in terms of the buildings in which they

newydd. Cofiaf ofyn am y ffigurau cymharol am yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf a'u cael. Gwariwyd oddeutu £30 miliwn, £40 miliwn neu £50 miliwn dan y Toriaid, mae £200 miliwn wedi'i wario o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall er 1997, gan sicrhau bod ein plant yn cael yr addysg orau posibl. Ai gwneud cam â phobl sy'n agored i niwed yw hynny? Go brin. Mae realiti bywyd yn wahanol iawn i fyd dychmygol Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, ac eto'i gyd gwelsom wastraffu amser y Cynulliad ar gynigion dibwynt.

Pan ysgrifennwyd eu datganiad i'r wasg ynglŷn â hyn ddoe, nid oedd sôn ynddo am dlodi plant. Soniodd Eleanor am dlodi plant; pam na roesant hynny yn eu datganiad i'r wasg? Ni wnaethant hynny oherwydd nad yw'n bwysig iddynt. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig i'r Rhyddfrydwyr yw sgorio mân bwyntiau gwleidyddol, nid mynd i'r afael â'r hyn sydd wrth wraidd tlodi yn y wlad hon. Dyna pam yr ydym yn cyflwyno deddfau newydd ym maes tlodi plant; yr ydym yn pasio deddfwriaeth hawl i brynu, ac yr ydym yn rhoi arian i ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Dyna yw gweithio dros bobl dlawd a phobl sy'n agored i niwed a sicrhau y bydd bywydau pobl yn y dyfodol yn well na bywydau pobl yn y gorffennol, a dyna sy'n ein gwneud ni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr yn wahanol i'r sglifyn o Ryddfrydwyr yn y canol.

Yr hyn na allwch ei wneud drwy'r math hwn o gynigion yw sicrhau un gwelliant hyd yn oed ym mywydau pobl. Nid yw'r math hwn o gynnig yn cyflogi nyrsys nac athrawon ac nid yw'n creu gwaith a swyddi. Y cyfan y mae'n ei wneud yw gwastraffu amser. Mae'n gynnig chwerthinllyd, hurt sy'n ceisio manteisio ar gyfle. Dim ond y Rhyddfrydwyr a allai ei weld fel athroniaeth wleidyddol. Dyna pam mai'r Rhyddfrydwyr yw'r ffyliaid yng ngwleidyddiaeth Cymru a dyna a fyddant am byth.

Kirsty Williams: Hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar faterion addysg ac ar y ffordd yr ydym, dros y flwyddyn diwethaf, wedi gweld Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn methu manteisio ar y cyfleoedd y mae addysg yn eu cynnig i fynd i'r afael ag anghenion y bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru. Ni waeth ai sôn yr ydym am addysgu ein myfyrwyr ieuengaf ynteu am addysgu ein

are taught or the way in which they get to school in the first place, the One Wales Government is neither progressive nor ambitious.

The handling of the foundation phase has been nothing short of disastrous. In my constituency, people now refer to what should have been the Government's flagship education scheme as the 'F word'. The Government has not had the guts to accept responsibility and say that it got its sums wrong; instead, it has tried to blame someone else, and even if you buy that—and I am not biting—what does it say about the moral authority and leadership of the Minister for education if she cannot get the co-operation and information that she needs to deliver on the scheme? That scheme will now be rolled out over a period of four years instead of three, and already, within months of publishing its little tick-box chart on how it is progressing, we have already seen it fall down on a number of those boxes.

Joyce Watson: I do not know what planet you are living on, but on my planet, I have gone around and seen the investment that has been made in the foundation phase in schools that are delivering it. For example, last week in my constituency, I heard from a school council what was being delivered in its new school and how the children were learning, and we witnessed that.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please make an intervention and not a speech.

Joyce Watson: Why have you not seen what I have witnessed? How can you be so negative about a good scheme that is working?

Kirsty Williams: Bless you, Joyce, brevity was never your strong point. You are obviously not going to the schools in Brecon and Radnor—an area that you are supposed to represent—because if you attended those fora and spoke to headteachers in Brecon and Radnor, you would find that they would tell you exactly how they felt about your Government and its introduction of the

dysgwyr hynaf, am yr adeiladau lle cânt eu dysgu ynteu'r ffordd y maent yn cyrraedd yr ysgol yn y lle cyntaf, nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un nac yn flaengar nac yn uchelgeisiol.

Mae'r ffordd y maent wedi ymdrin â'r cyfnod sylfaen wedi bod yn drychineb llwyr. Yn fy etholaeth i, wrth gyfeirio yn Saesneg at yr hyn a ddylasai fod yn gynllun addysg blaenllaw y Llywodraeth, fe'i gelwir yn 'F word'. Nid oedd gan y Llywodraeth yr asgwrn cefn i dderbyn y cyfrifoldeb a dweud iddi gamgyfrif; yn hytrach, mae wedi ceisio beio rhywun arall, a hyd yn oed os llyncwch hynny—ac nid wyf fi am gymryd yr abwyd—beth mae'n ei ddweud am awdurdod moesol ac arweiniad y Gweinidog dros addysg os na all gael y cydweithrediad a'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol i wireddu'r cynllun? Caiff y cynllun hwnnw'n awr ei rannu dros gyfnod o bedair blynedd yn hytrach na thair, ac eisoes, ymhen misoedd ar ôl cyhoeddi ei siart bach o dicio blychau i fesur y cynnydd, gwelsom y cynllun eisoes yn methu mewn nifer o'r blychau hynny.

Joyce Watson: Ni wn ar ba blaned yr ydych yn byw, ond ar fy mhlaned i yr wyf wedi bod o gwmpas ac wedi gweld y buddsoddi a fu yn y cyfnod sylfaen mewn ysgolion sy'n ei roi ar waith. Er enghraifft, yr wythnos diwethaf yn fy etholaeth, clywais gan gyngor ysgol am yr hyn a oedd yn cael ei gyflawni yn ei ysgol newydd a sut yr oedd y plant yn dysgu, ac yr oeddem yn dystion i hynny.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A gawn ni ymyriad yn hytrach nag araith, os gwelwch yn dda?

Joyce Watson: Pam nad ydych chi wedi gweld yr hyn yr wyf fi wedi bod yn dyst iddo? Sut y gallwch fod mor negyddol am gynllun da sy'n gweithio?

Kirsty Williams: Joyce fach, ni oedd bod yn gryno yn un o'ch cryfderau erioed. Mae'n amlwg nad ydych yn mynd i'r ysgolion ym Mrycheiniog a Maesyfed—ardal yr ydych i fod i'w chynrychioli—oherwydd petaech yn mynd i'r ffora hynny ac yn siarad â phenaethiaid ym Mrycheiniog a Maesyfed, caech wybod yn union sut yr oeddent yn ei deimlo am eich Llywodraeth ac am

foundation phase, which is universally regarded as being disastrous. Our school buildings continue to be—

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Kirsty Williams: I will not give way now, Alun, because I know that you will want me to give way later.

Our school buildings continue to be an obvious embodiment of where we have gone horribly wrong. I have to say ‘fair play’ to the previous Government because at least it set itself a target on what it would do about school buildings. It did not hit it, but at least it had a plan and a vision, neither of which exists in the One Wales Government.

Further education colleges that have performed so well—above and beyond what this Government asked of them—are cutting courses and losing staff. The higher education funding gap threatens our universities’ ability to recruit the best staff and to deliver on the economic development agenda.

We are facing the prospect of a decimation of work-based learning grants in some areas, and I understand that the budget for community learning grants will be raided to fund holes in the education budget. Those schemes are often delivered in the most deprived areas of Wales. Furthermore, I am beginning to receive information from people out there on the ground that those budgets will be cut because there are holes in Jane Hutt’s budget relating to other matters. Six months after its publication, we are still waiting for the Government’s response to the Webb review.

We have a skills policy that condemns Wales always to lag behind the rest of the UK. Alun Davies talks about a political philosophy; I did not realise that he knew what that was—he changes it so often. I did not realise that he truly understood the dynamics of a political philosophy. I know that you have only been here a year, Alun, but it is not our job to be nice to you; that is Don Touhig’s job. Our job is to be the opposition to your failing One

gyflwyno’r cyfnod sylfaen. Mae pawb yn ei ystyried yn drychineb. Mae adeiladau ein hysgolion yn dal yn—

Alun Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Kirsty Williams: Nid wyf am ildio’n awr, Alun, oherwydd gwn y byddwch am imi ildio’n ddiweddarach.

Mae adeiladau ein hysgolion yn dal yn ymgorfforiad amlwg o’r ffordd yr ydym wedi gwneud llanastr ohoni. Rhaid imi ddweud ‘chwarae teg’ i’r Llywodraeth flaenorol, oherwydd o leiaf gosododd darged iddi’i hun ar gyfer yr hyn y byddai’n ei wneud ynglŷn ag adeiladau ysgolion. Ni chyrrhaeddodd y targed, ond o leiaf yr oedd ganddi gynllun a gweledigaeth, ac nid yw’r naill na’r llall i’w gweld yn Llywodraeth Cymru’n Un.

Mae colegau addysg bellach sydd wedi gwneud cystal—y tu hwnt i’r hyn y gofynnodd y Llywodraeth iddynt ei wneud—yn cwtogi eu cyrsiau ac yn colli staff. Mae’r bwlch cyllido ym maes addysg uwch yn bygwth gallu ein prifysgolion i recriwtio’r staff gorau ac i wireddu’r agenda datblygu economaidd.

Mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae rhagolygon tocio sylweddol ar grantiau dysgu’n seiliedig ar waith, a chaf ar ddeall y dygir arian o’r gyllideb ar gyfer grantiau dysgu cymunedol er mwyn llenwi’r tyllau yn y gyllideb addysg. Caiff y cynlluniau hynny’n aml eu darparu yn ardaloedd mwyaf di-freintiedig Cymru. Yr wyf hefyd yn dechrau cael gwybodaeth gan bobl ar lawr gwlad y bydd y cyllidebau hynny’n cael eu torri am fod tyllau yng nghyllideb Jane Hutt ar gyfer meysydd eraill. Chwe mis ar ôl ei gyhoeddi, yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl ymateb y Llywodraeth i adolygiad Webb.

Mae gennym bolisi sgiliau sy’n condemnio Cymru i lusgo o hyd y tu ôl i weddill y DU. Mae Alun Davies yn sôn am athroniaeth wleidyddol: nid oeddwn yn sylweddoli ei fod yn gwybod beth oedd hynny—mae’n ei newid mor aml. Nid oeddwn yn sylweddoli ei fod yn wir yn deall deinameg athroniaeth wleidyddol. Gwn nad ydych yma ond ers blwyddyn, Alun, ond nid ein gwaith ni yw bod yn glên wrthych; gwaith Don Touhig yw

Wales Government. I am sorry if that upsets you, but I will continue to do the job that I am here to do, namely to oppose and scrutinise the failures of your administration. There is nothing progressive or ambitious about what your Government has done over the last year; it has given us more of what we had in the previous four years.

The impact that Plaid Cymru has had is overstated by your good friend, Don Touhig, because I see no radical departure. I sat in the Proposed Learner Travel Measure Committee last week and witnessed a Plaid Cymru Deputy First Minister reject amendments put forward by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats that wanted to test the very boundaries of the legislative settlement that we have here. I witnessed a Plaid Cymru Member take officials' advice and say that what we wanted could not be done. We wanted to stretch those boundaries and Plaid Cymru turned around and rejected that opportunity. The performance in that committee summed up for me what this last year has been about.

Alun Ffred Jones: Diolch am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl ddibwynt hon. Credaf fod Alun Davies wedi taro'r hoelen ar ei phen. Clywsom lawer am addysg, ond nid oes dim am addysg yn y cynnig. Petai'r dewrder gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i nodi'n union beth yw eu bwriad wrth gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn, byddai wedi bod yn haws ymateb iddo.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn fy atgoffa o gynghorydd yng Nghyngor Sir Gwynedd a oedd yn cwyno'n ddi-baid ac yn dweud, 'Mae hyn yn warthus; mae'n rhaid i ni wneud rhywbeth', ond nid oedd byth yn dweud beth oedd angen ei wneud. Dyna beth y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ei wneud heddiw. Maent yn dweud bod rhaid gwneud rhywbeth a gwario mwy, ond nid ydynt yn esbonio o le y daw'r arian.

Nododd Mike German fod Plaid Cymru wedi helpu'r Blaid Lafur o ran,

hynny. Ein gwaith ni yw bod yn wrthblaid i'ch Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un sy'n methu. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf os yw hynny'n codi'ch gwrychyn, ond byddaf yn parhau i wneud y gwaith yr wyf yma i'w wneud, sef gwrthwynebu methiannau'ch gweinyddiaeth a chraffu arnynt. Nid oes dim byd blaengar nac uchelgeisiol yn yr hyn y mae eich Llywodraeth wedi'i wneud dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf; mae wedi rhoi inni fwy o'r hyn a gawsom yn y pedair blynedd blaenorol.

Mae effaith Plaid Cymru wedi ei gor-ddweud gan eich cyfaill da, Don Touhig, oherwydd ni welaf ddim byd newydd radical. Eisteddais ym Mhwyllgor y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Teithio gan Ddysgwyr yr wythnos diwethaf a gweld Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Plaid Cymru yn gwrthod gwelliannau a gynigiwyd gan y Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a oedd am brofi union ffiniau'r setliad deddfwriaethol sydd gennym yma. Gwelais Aelod o Blaid Cymru yn cymryd cyngor swyddogion ac yn dweud na ellid gwneud yr hyn yr oeddem yn dymuno'i wneud. Yr oeddem am ymestyn y ffiniau hynny, a'r hyn a wnaeth Plaid Cymru oedd gwrthod y cyfle. I mi, roedd y perfformiad yn y pwyllgor hwnnw'n crisialu hanfod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf hon.

Alun Ffred Jones: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this pointless debate. I believe Alun Davies has hit the nail on the head. We have heard a great deal about education, but there is nothing about education in the motion. If the Liberal Democrats had been brave enough to note exactly what they had in mind when tabling the motion, it would be easier to respond.

This motion reminds me of a Gwynedd county councillor who would always complain and say, 'This is disgraceful; we have to do something', but he would never actually tell us what should be done. That is what the Liberal Democrats are doing today. They say we must do something and spend more money, but they do not explain where the money will come from.

Mike German noted that Plaid Cymru has assisted the Labour Party in,

'keeping Labour hands on the levers of power'.

'Llafur yn dal ei gfael ar yr awenau yng Nghymru'.

4.40 p.m.

Mae'n ddrwg iawn gennyf, Mike German, ond pe bai eich plaid chi wedi dangos tipyn bach mwy o ruddin a *savvy* gwleidyddol, efallai y byddech mewn sefyllfa wahanol. Mae'r ffaith bod Kirsty Williams yn ymosod, wedi iddi wrthod y cyfle i gymryd cyfrifoldeb am Lywodraeth Cymru, yn gwneud i chi ofyn a yw'r bobl hyn o ddifrif.

I am sorry, Mike German, but if your party had shown a little more backbone and political savvy, perhaps you would be in a different position. The fact that Kirsty Williams is attacking us, having rejected the opportunity to take responsibility for governance in Wales, makes one question whether these people are serious.

Kirsty Williams: I am grateful for the mention in your speech. There have been times over the past 12 months when the performance of this Government has led me to doubt what I voted for in that executive meeting last year. I have thought that I may have got it wrong, having seeing what you have done over the last 12 months, but then I realise that, had I voted the other way, I would not have been looking at Ieuan Wyn Jones as the Deputy First Minister, but he would have been First Minister, and then I do not feel quite so bad.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am sôn amdanaf yn eich araith. Ar adegau yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf mae perfformiad y Llywodraeth hon wedi gwneud imi amau'r hyn y pleidleisiais drosto yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor gwaith hwnnw y llynedd. Yr wyf wedi meddwl efallai imi wneud camgymeriad, ar ôl gweld yr hyn a wnaethoch dros y 12 mis diwethaf. Ond yna byddaf yn sylweddoli, petawn wedi pleidleisio fel arall, nad ar y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Ieuan Wyn Jones y byddwn yn edrych ond mai ef fyddai'r Prif Weinidog, ac yna nid wyf yn teimlo cynddrwg.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr oeddech yn beirniadu Joyce Watson am ei bod ychydig yn hirwyntog; nid oes neb mor hirwyntog â chi nac yn malu gymaint o awyr yn y Siambr hon.

Alun Ffred Jones: You criticised Joyce Watson for being slightly long-winded; there is no-one more long-winded, or who talks so much rubbish, than you in this Chamber.

Bu ichi restru nifer o feysydd lle yr hoffech weld y Llywodraeth yn gwario mwy o arian—a phwy na fyddai am weld mwy o arian yn cael ei wario ar bob gwasanaeth yn y byd? Ni chlywaf gennych o ble y byddwch yn cael yr arian. Pe byddech wedi bod yn ddigon dewr i fod yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth, buasech yn ymdrin â'r un gyllideb yn union ag sydd gan y Llywodraeth hon. Dyna ble y mae'r dewisiadau yn bwysig. Wrth gwrs, nid oes rhaid ichi wynebu hynny, sy'n iawn ac yn hawl gan yr wrthblaid. Fodd bynnag, mae'n codi cwestiwn ynglŷn â'ch difrifoldeb fel plaid a pha mor berthnasol yr ydych i wleidyddiaeth Cymru mewn difrif.

You listed a number of areas where you wished to see the Government spend more money—and who would not want to see more money being spent on every service in the world? I do not hear you say where that money will come from. If you had been brave enough to be a part of the Government, you would have been dealing with the exact same budget as is available to this Government. That is where the choices are. Of course, you do not have to face those choices, which is fine and is the right of opposition parties. However, it raises a question about how serious you are as a party and how relevant you are to politics in Wales.

Gan fod llawer o sôn am ddiffyg adnoddau—sy'n berffaith wir—hoffwn ddweud dau beth am sefyllfa Prydain heddiw. Bu i Eleanor—cyn iddi ddiflannu o'r drafodaeth—gyfeirio

Since there has been much talk about the lack of resources—which is quite true—I wish to say two things about the situation in Britain today. Eleanor—before she disappeared from

at fformiwla Barnett. Mae'n deimlad sy'n cadarnhau safbwynt Plaid Cymru ers degawdau bod y drefn Barnett wedi gweithio yn groes i fuddiannau Cymru. Os bydd adolygiad—ac ni fydd hwn yn digwydd am rai blynyddoedd—mae'n rhaid gofalu ein bod yn gwario'r arian hwnnw i gryfhau economi Cymru a'i gwneud yn wlad fwy ffyniannus.

Mae'n rhaid i ni hefyd wynebu, ar draws y pleidiau, ein bod wedi mynd yn gymdeithas llawer mwy annheg dros y degawdau diwethaf, gan ddechrau gyda'r Torïaid. Bellach, mae bron i chwarter o gyfoeth Prydain yn nwylo 1 y cant yn unig o'r boblogaeth. Mae dros hanner y cyfoeth yn nwylo 10 y cant o'r boblogaeth. Am y rheswm hwnnw, mae gennym gymdeithas fwy rhanedig a rhwygiedig. Nes i'r Llywodraeth—ac nid yw'r hawliau trethiannol gennym—fynd i'r afael â'r annhegwch hwnnw, bydd pobl ar y gwaelod yn cael bywyd anodd ac annheg.

Christine Chapman: Like Alun Davies, I was mystified by the fact that the Welsh Liberal Democrat press release did not mention child poverty. This is probably the biggest political challenge for all of us here, of whichever political party. I am disappointed that they have not yet come up with any solutions with regard to what we can do about this. It is a long-term issue.

Before I begin my main points, with regard to Mark Isherwood's comments, I am baffled by the fact that the Tories think that our problems have suddenly appeared from nowhere. I believe that the roots of these problems go back a long way—20 or 30 years, when the Tories were in power. We are all responsible, but I see this day in, day out in my community, and I believe that the Conservatives have to take some responsibility for this.

I want to use the brief time that I have today to highlight the issue of child poverty. The One Wales Government, and the Labour Government before that, have made strong arguments in the public domain, I believe, that action on tackling child poverty is essential to the wellbeing of society. Labour's anti-poverty policies have gone a

the debate—referred to the Barnett formula. It is a feeling which confirms the view held by Plaid Cymru for many decades that the Barnett system has militated against Welsh interests. Should there be a review—and that will not happen for a few years—we must ensure that we spend that money to strengthen the Welsh economy and make the country more prosperous.

We also have to face, across all the parties, that we have become a far more inequitable society over the past decades, starting with the Tories. Now, almost a quarter of Britain's wealth is in the hands of only 1 per cent of the population. More than half the wealth is in the hands of 10 per cent of the population. That is why we have a far more divided society. We do not have the taxation powers, but until the Government gets to grip with that inequity, people at the bottom will find life difficult and unfair.

Christine Chapman: Fel Alun Davies, nid oeddwn yn deall o gwbl pam nad oedd datganiad Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru i'r wasg yn sôn am dlodi plant. Mae'n siŵr mai dyma'r her wleidyddol fwyaf inni i gyd yma, o ba blaid wleidyddol bynnag. Yr wyf yn siomedig nad ydynt eto wedi cynnig yr un ateb ynglŷn â'r hyn y gallwn ei wneud ynghylch hyn. Mae'n fater tymor hir.

Cyn imi ddechrau ar fy mhrif bwyntiau, o ran sylwadau Mark Isherwood mae'r ffaith fod y Torïaid yn meddwl bod ein problemau wedi ymddangos o'r pedwar gwynt yn fy rhyfeddu. Credaf fod gwreiddiau'r problemau hyn ymhell iawn yn ôl —20 neu 30 mlynedd, pan oedd y Torïaid mewn grym. Yr ydym i gyd yn gyfrifol, ond gwelaf hyn drwy'r dydd bob dydd yn fy nghymuned, a chredaf ei bod yn rhaid i'r Ceidwadwyr ysgwyddo rhywfaint o'r cyfrifoldeb am hyn.

Yr wyf am ddefnyddio'r amser prin sydd gennyf heddiw i dynnu sylw at dlodi plant. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, a'r Llywodraeth Lafur cyn hynny, wedi dadlau'n gryf yn y maes cyhoeddus, mi gredaf, fod gweithredu i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant yn hanfodol i les cymdeithas. Mae polisiau Llafur i atal tlodi wedi mynd ymhell i

long way towards lifting people out of poverty, and they include the introduction of the national minimum wage, working tax credits, and Sure Start to name but a few. The approach that we are taking here in Wales can be summed up quite neatly by the following quotation from a Unicef report:

‘Children are kept in poverty not by a padlock to which there is a single key but by a combination lock that requires an alignment of factors if it is to be released’.

If we are to succeed in eliminating the scourge of child poverty and social exclusion, that must be a part of mainstream policies.

‘One Wales’ underlines the need for cross-cutting policies and programmes to tackle child poverty. I welcome that and believe that there is a solid foundation on which we can build. We know that significant progress has been made since devolution, with child poverty rates reduced from 35 per cent in 1999 to 29 per cent in 2006-07, and I welcome the fact that there have also been many other plans that are making a difference to children’s lives and their life chances. For example, the child trust fund is providing all children, particularly those from low-income families, with an important financial asset for the future. Flying Start, Cymorth and free school breakfasts are all good examples of practical solutions to the problem of tackling child poverty, an approach that has been absent from some of the Liberal Democrats’ speeches today. Those initiatives are particularly benefiting the most disadvantaged children. For example, we know that quality childcare can make a real difference to how children develop. Children who do not eat well, who live in cramped, damp and poorly heated homes are more likely to be unwell, and have less chance of thriving. Therefore, the Welsh Assembly Government’s intervention will start to change that pattern.

I am pleased that my colleague, Huw Lewis, is chairing an expert group on child poverty and is ensuring that the Welsh Assembly Government is meeting its targets. Therefore, Labour is also scrutinising the One Wales Government. These multi-agency

ryddhau pobl o dlodi, ac maent yn cynnwys cyflwyno’r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol, credydau treth gwaith, a Cychwyn Cadarn i enwi rhai yn unig. Gellir crynhoi’r ffordd yr ydym yn mynd ati i weithredu yma yng Nghymru yn bur daclus drwy’r dyfyniad isod o adroddiad gan Unicef:

Caiff plant eu cadw mewn tlodi nid gan glo clwt nad oes ond un allwedd iddo, ond gan glo cyfunrhif lle mae gofyn alinio nifer o ffactorau os yw i gael ei ryddhau.

Os ydym i lwyddo i ddileu pla tlodi plant ac allgáu cymdeithasol, rhaid i hynny fod yn rhan o bolisiau prif ffrwd.

Mae ‘Cymru’n Un’ yn tanlinellu’r angen am bolisiau a rhaglenni trawsbynciol i fynd i’r afael â thlodi plant. Yr wyf yn croesawu hynny, a chredaf fod sylfaen gadarn y gallwn adeiladu arni. Gwyddom fod cynnydd sylweddol wedi bod ers datganoli, a chyfraddau tlodi plant wedi gostwng o 35 y cant yn 1999 i 29 y cant yn 2006-07, ac yr wyf yn croesawu’r ffaith fod nifer o gynlluniau eraill hefyd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau plant a’u cyfleoedd mewn bywyd. Er enghraifft, mae’r gronfa ymddiriedolaeth blant yn ased ariannol pwysig i bob plentyn, yn enwedig y rheini o deuluoedd incwm isel. Mae Dechrau’n Deg, Cymorth a brechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion i gyd yn enghreifftiau da o atebion ymarferol i’r broblem o fynd i’r afael â thlodi plant, rhywbeth sydd wedi bod ar goll yn areithiau’r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol heddiw. Mae’r cynlluniau hynny’n arbennig o lesol i’r plant sydd dan fwyaf o anfantais. Er enghraifft, gwyddom fod gofal plant safonol yn gallu gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i’r ffordd y mae plant yn datblygu. Mae plant nad ydynt yn bwyta’n dda, sy’n byw mewn cartrefi cyfyng, llaith, nad ydynt yn cael eu gwresogi’n dda, yn fwy tebygol o fod yn sâl, a chânt lai o gyfle i ffynnu. Felly, bydd ymyriad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dechrau newid y patrwm hwnnw.

Yr wyf yn falch fod fy nghyd-Aelod, Huw Lewis, yn cadeirio grŵp arbenigol ar dlodi plant ac yn sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cyrraedd ei thargedau. Felly, mae Llafur hefyd yn craffu ar Lywodraeth Cymru’n Un. Mae’r dulliau

approaches, which were started by a Labour Welsh Assembly Government and now continued by the One Wales Government, are having an impact.

I am delighted to be a member of the first ever Children and Young People's Committee, which is a recognition of the importance that the Assembly places on tackling child poverty. Only this morning, we heard some powerful evidence from a number of children and young people, which brought home to us that we have much more to do and also the importance of engaging with young people. They must be the solution and must not be perceived to be the problem. I was pleased to be at that committee meeting today, because I regard it as the Assembly's conscience on the rights of children and young people.

Finally, while we need to acknowledge the progress that has been made, none of us here can claim that the job is completed. There is much more to be done and we cannot be complacent. There are 170,000 children in poverty in Wales today. The Assembly will be failing in its duty if we neglect them.

Joyce Watson: I will not waste time by restating that this is just posturing and hot air on the part of the Liberals, because that is clearly what it is, and they have, in this case, been joined by the Conservatives. They have not placed anything on the table other than grand ideas that are backed up in any way. I prefer, and I am sure that the public also prefers, some informed solutions grounded in reality. That is why, yesterday, I hosted an event for the Single Parent Action Network and Victoria Morgan-Beatty, at which lone parents in Wales voiced their experiences of balancing a job and raising children to me, my Labour colleagues, and the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. I know that the Liberals and the Tories were probably busy elsewhere, because they did not manage to find any time at all to pop in to listen to those real concerns.

amlasiantaethol hyn, a ddechreuwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac sydd bellach yn parhau o dan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un, yn cael effaith.

Yr wyf wrth fy modd fy mod yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc cyntaf erioed, sy'n gydnabyddiaeth o'r pwysigrwydd y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei roi ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant. Cywsom dystiolaeth rymus y bore yma gan nifer o blant a phobl ifanc, a wnaeth inni sylweddoli bod gennym lawer rhagor i'w wneud, a hefyd mor bwysig yw ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc. Hwyl o reidrwydd yw'r ateb, a rhaid peidio ag edrych arnynt fel y broblem. Yr oeddwn yn falch o fod yn y cyfarfod pwyllgor hwnnw heddiw, oherwydd yr wyf yn ei ystyried fel cydwybod y Cynulliad ar hawliau plant a phobl ifanc.

Yn olaf, er bod angen inni gydnabod y cynnydd sydd wedi ei wneud, ni all neb ohonom yma honni bod y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau. Mae llawer rhagor i'w wneud ac ni allwn fod yn hunanfodlon. Mae 170,000 o blant mewn tlodi yng Nghymru heddiw. Bydd y Cynulliad yn methu yn ei ddyletswydd os byddwn yn eu hesgeuluso.

Joyce Watson: Nid wyf am wastraffu amser yn ailadrodd nad yw hyn yn ddim ond ymagweddu ymhongar a siarad gwag ar ran y Rhyddfrydwyr, oherwydd dyna ydyw yn amlwg, ac yn yr achos hwn mae'r Ceidwadwyr wedi ymuno â hwy. Nid ydynt wedi rhoi dim ar y bwrdd ar wahân i syniadau mawreddog heb ddim y tu cefn iddynt. Mae'n well gennyf fi, a chan y cyhoedd hefyd, mae'n siŵr gennyf, gael atebion sydd â'u sail mewn realiti a gwybodaeth. Dyna pam y trefnais ddigwyddiad ddoe ar gyfer y Single Parent Action Network a Victoria Morgan-Beatty, lle bu rhieni sengl yng Nghymru yn sôn wrthyf am eu profiadau wrth ymdrechu i fod mewn swydd a magu plant yr un pryd, ac wrth fy nghyd-Aelodau Llafur, a'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau. Gwn fod y Rhyddfrydwyr a'r Toriaid yn brysur rywle arall, mae'n debyg, oherwydd nid oeddent wedi gallu cael amser o gwbl i daro heibio i wrando ar y pryderon gwirioneddol hynny.

4.50 p.m.

I mention that, because it is single parents who feature as being poor, but the Liberal Democrats did not mention poverty in their grandiose statement on how they would rule the world and solve all of the problems. The overriding message of the event that I hosted was to welcome all that we have done and all that we intend to do, some of which has already been mentioned. The parent action group welcomed the Cymorth programme and our child poverty commitments here and in Westminster. It is a shame that the Liberals and the Conservatives do not understand that it is practical steps that solve issues rather than grandiose statements. Genesis Wales, for example, has provided work, training and learning opportunities with childcare facilities for more than 11,500 beneficiaries in Objective 1 areas. It has also given more than 3,000 people an opportunity to turn their lives around in Objective 3 areas. We are now looking to develop a second phase. Flying Start is another practical solution, benefiting real children and demonstrating real commitment. When the Liberals and the Conservatives come down from their cloud, maybe they will find some solutions.

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): Some of us in politics believe that, now and again, we should spread a little joy. Hearing the tirade of gloom, despair and darkness from the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives today makes me wonder about that. What they have said is so much at odds with the facts. The facts are that since the present Government came into being we have made great strides in dealing with the underlying problems facing the most vulnerable in Wales. What we have done has been backed by making extra resources available to improve services across a wide range of policy areas.

In housing, for example, 'One Wales' commits us to providing an additional 6,500 new-build affordable houses over our four-year Assembly. We are working with local authorities on a range of initiatives to assist them to improve their delivery of affordable

Crybwyllaf hynny gan mai rhieni sengl sy'n cael eu hystyried yn dlawd, ond ni soniodd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am dlodi yn eu datganiad mawreddog am y ffordd y byddent yn llywodraethu'r byd ac yn datrys y problemau i gyd. Neges amlycaf y digwyddiad a drefnais oedd croesawu popeth yr ydym wedi'i wneud ac y bwriadwn ei wneud, ac mae rhai o'r elfennau eisoes wedi eu crybwyll. Yr oedd y grŵp gweithredu rhieni yn croesawu'r rhaglen Cymorth a'n hymrwymiaidau ar dlodi plant yma ac yn San Steffan. Mae'n drueni nad yw'r Rhyddfrydwyr a'r Ceidwadwyr yn deall mai camau ymarferol sy'n datrys materion, nid datganiadau mawreddog. Mae Genesis Cymru, er enghraifft, wedi darparu gwaith, hyfforddiant a chyfleodd dysgu gyda chyfleusterau gofal plant i fwy nag 11,500 o fuddiolwyr mewn ardaloedd Amcan 1. Mae hefyd wedi rhoi cyfle i dros 3,000 o bobl weddnewid eu bywyd mewn ardaloedd Amcan 3. Yr ydym yn awr yn bwriadu datblygu ail gam. Mae Dechrau'n Deg yn ateb ymarferol arall, ac o fudd i blant gwirioneddol ac yn dangos ymrwymiad gwirioneddol. Pan ddaw'r Rhyddfrydwyr a'r Ceidwadwyr i lawr o'u cwmwl, efallai y dŏnt o hyd i rai atebion.

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Mae rhai ohonom mewn gwleidyddiaeth yn credu y dylem, o bryd i'w gilydd, daenu ychydig lawenydd. Mae gwranddo ar yr areithio trist, anobeithiol a thywyll gan y Ceidwadwyr heddiw yn gwneud i mi amau hynny. Mae'r hyn y maent wedi'i ddweud mor groes i'r ffeithiau. Y ffeithiau, ers i'r Llywodraeth bresennol ddod i rym, yw ein bod wedi cymryd camau breision i ddelio â'r problemau gwaelodol sy'n wynebu'r bobl fwyaf bregus yng Nghymru. Yn gefn i'r hyn yr ydym wedi'i wneud darparwyd adnoddau ychwanegol i wella gwasanaethau ar draws ystod eang o feysydd polisi.

Ym maes tai, er enghraifft, mae 'Cymru'n Un' yn ein rhwymo i ddarparu 6,500 o dai fforddiadwy newydd dros ein Cynulliad pedair blynedd. Yr ydym yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol ar ystod o gynlluniau i'w helpu i wella'r ffordd y maent yn darparu tai

housing. In addition, we will be introducing the affordable housing delivery plans from autumn this year to ensure that local planning authorities focus fully on this issue in advance of the adoptions of those local development plans.

The homelessness plan will also be out for consultation this summer, which will be of benefit to all those people who find themselves, quite often through no fault of their own, with nowhere to live.

On education, we have heard much talk from the Liberal Democrats about the problems of funding, the alleged funding gap in various places in education in Wales, and about education generally not being as well funded as it should be. One fact that is worth repeating is that the Assembly Government has been more successful at widening participation in higher education from disadvantaged groups than the United Kingdom as a whole has been. That success is reflected in the figures: the proportion of young and mature students from low-participation neighbourhoods beginning first degrees at Welsh higher education institutions is above the UK average. Overall, Welsh Assembly Government funding for higher education has increased by more than a third in the past seven years, from £325 million in 2002-03 to more than £436 million at present. We are also committed to spending more than £76 million on enabling the HE sector to increase its impact by working together. We recognise that it is important that the sector continues to move forward.

We have heard talk of further education, and yet it has to be realised that there are many ways in which FE colleges can source funds, such as through work-based learning contracts, through securing private contracts, and many other ways. There are many opportunities for further education colleges to obtain funding other than Government funding.

Basic skills have been mentioned. We have the national basic skills strategy, called 'Words Talk—Numbers Count'. We also fund two national support projects, which are

fforddiadwy. Yn ogystal, byddwn yn cyflwyno cynlluniau i ddarparu tai fforddiadwy o'r hydref eleni ymlaen er mwyn sicrhau bod awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yn canolbwyntio'n llwyr ar y mater hwn cyn mabwysiadu'r cynlluniau datblygu lleol hynny.

Bydd y cynllun digartrefedd hefyd yn destun ymgynghori yn yr haf eleni, a bydd hynny o fudd i'r holl bobl hynny sy'n eu cael eu hunain, er nad ydynt ar fai, yn aml, heb le i fyw.

O ran addysg, clywsom lawer o siarad gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am y problemau cyllido, y bwlch cyllido honedig mewn gwahanol fannau yn y maes addysg yng Nghymru, ac nad yw addysg yn gyffredinol yn cael ei chyllido cystal ag y dylai. Un ffaith sy'n werth ei hailadrodd yw bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi bod yn fwy llwyddiannus yn ehangu cyfranogiad mewn addysg uwch ymhlith grwpiau difreintiedig nag a fu gweddil y Deyrnas Unedig i gyd. Adlewyrchir y llwyddiant hwnnw yn y ffigurau: mae cyfran y myfyrwyr ifanc a hŷn o gymdogaethau lle mae cyfranogiad yn is sy'n dechrau ar radd gyntaf yn sefydliadau addysg uwch Cymru yn uwch na chyfartaledd y DU. Drwyddi draw, mae cyllid Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer addysg uwch wedi cynyddu dros draean yn y saith mlynedd diwethaf, o £325 miliwn yn 2002-03 i fwy na £436 miliwn ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym hefyd wedi ymrwymo i wario dros £76 miliwn ar alluogi'r sector AU i gynyddu ei effaith drwy weithio gyda'n gilydd. Yr ydym yn cydnabod ei bod yn bwysig i'r sector barhau i symud ymlaen.

Clywsom sôn am addysg bellach, ond rhaid sylweddoli bod colegau AB yn gallu cael cyllid mewn llawer ffordd, megis drwy gcontractau dysgu'n seiliedig ar waith, drwy sicrhau contractau preifat, a nifer o ffyrdd eraill. Mae llawer o gyfleoedd i golegau addysg bellach gael cyllid, ar wahân i gyllid gan y Llywodraeth.

Mae sgiliau sylfaenol wedi eu crybwyll. Mae gennym y strategaeth genedlaethol ar sgiliau sylfaenol a elwir yn 'Geiriau'n Galw—Rhifau'n Cyfri'. Yr ydym hefyd yn ariannu

targeting groups at risk and those in danger of exclusion. On top of that, we intend to establish a basic skills development programme for offenders and ex-offenders.

You talk about the foundation phase, but that is being rolled out. That idea came from this side of the Chamber, and it will be rolled out and be of benefit to so many children across Wales. It would have been easier had local authorities provided us with the information that they were required to provide at an earlier stage.

Jenny Randerson: I am listening to you and I am tempted to be impressed by your wonderful record of action. Can you, however, explain to me why the voters were not impressed in May, and why you did so very badly?

Carwyn Jones: I can tell you that now. I hope, as far as Jenny is concerned, that I can tempt her further, if I may put it that way.

Let us look at children in the care system and care leavers—those in our society who are perhaps the most at risk. The Children First programme has made £45 million available to local authorities, and that money was incorporated into the local government revenue settlement. Let us remember that we introduced the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales that introduced regulation across a range of care settings for vulnerable adults and children. We have also strengthened child protection arrangements by legislating for local safeguarding children boards. Those boards are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. We also have the vulnerable children legislative competence Order, which over time will produce a Measure to afford even more protection for those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

As a Government, we remain committed to the UK Government pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and ‘One Wales’ includes a number of new commitments that are aimed

dau brosiect cymorth cenedlaethol, sy'n targedu grwpiau risg a phobl y mae perygl iddynt gael eu hallgáu. At hynny, bwriadwn sefydlu rhaglen i ddatblygu sgiliau sylfaenol ar gyfer troseddwyr a chyn droseddwyr.

Soniwch am y cyfnod sylfaen, ond mae hwnnw'n cael ei gyflwyno. Daeth y syniad hwnnw o'r ochr hon i'r Siambr a bydd yn cael ei gyflwyno, a bydd o fudd i gynifer o blant ar draws Cymru. Byddai wedi bod yn haws petai awdurdodau lleol wedi rhoi inni y wybodaeth yr oedd gofyn iddynt ei darparu yn gynharach.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn gwrando arnoch ac mae'n demtasiwn i'ch record weithredu wych wneud argraff arnaf. Fodd bynnag, a allwch egluro wrthyf pam na wnaethoch gymaint o argraff ar y pleidleiswyr ym mis Mai, a pham y gwnaethoch mor eithriadol o wael?

Carwyn Jones: Gallaf ddweud hynny wrthyf yn awr. Gobeithio, cyn belled ag y mae Jenny yn y cwestiwn, y gallaf ei themtio ymhellach, os caf ei roi felly.

Gadewch inni edrych ar y plant yn ein cyfundrefn gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal—y rhai yn ein cymdeithas sydd efallai yn y perygl mwyaf. Mae rhaglen Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf wedi darparu £45 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol, a chafodd yr arian hwnnw ei ymgorffori yn setliad refeniw llywodraeth leol. Dylem gofio mai ni a gyflwynodd Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, a gyflwynodd reoleiddio ar draws ystod o sefydliadau gofal i oedolion a phlant sy'n agored i niwed. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cryfhau'r trefniadau amddiffyn plant drwy ddeddfu i gael byrddau lleol diogelu plant. Mae'n ofynnol i'r byrddau hynny ddiogelu a hyrwyddo lles plant. Mae gennym hefyd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ynglŷn â phlant sy'n agored i niwed, a fydd dros amser yn cynhyrchu Mesur i roi mwy fyth o amddiffyniad i'r rheini sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas.

Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn dal wedi ymrwymo i adduned Llywodraeth y DU i ddileu tlodi plant erbyn 2020, ac mae ‘Cymru'n Un’ yn cynnwys nifer o

specifically at tackling it. Members will recall that, on 11 June, the Government issued a consultation paper on tackling child poverty, and it includes a proposal for a voluntary agreement on child poverty between the Assembly Government and public agencies.

Let us not forget Communities First: 142 Communities First partnerships have been established to help communities to tackle the effects of deprivation in their areas and to build capacity. It is arguably the first programme of its kind ever to have been taken forward. Of course, that is being rolled on into the future as well.

I listened carefully to what the Liberal Democrats, and Mike German in particular, and Mark Isherwood said. Mark mentioned crime. He threw out a flow of mainly indigestible statistics, but I can tell him that, when care in the community was first introduced in 1990, it was so badly resourced that many people left institutions—that is, psychiatric hospitals—and ended up by a circuitous route in prison. I know that because I represented a lot of them in court. The problem was that not enough money was provided. It was a good idea, but not enough funding was put forward for it. That was in the days, in the early 1990s, after 14 years of Conservative government, when offenders could be released after serving a third of their sentences, not a half. At that point, after serving a third of a sentence, offenders could apply for release on licence. We do not need to take lessons about protecting the public and decreasing crime from the Members opposite. I can only point to the—

Mark Isherwood *rose*—

Carwyn Jones: You may want to hold your fire as there is more to come, but carry on.

Mark Isherwood: You have characteristically dismissed the flow of statistics, but those statistics are evidence. They are facts based on research undertaken by independent bodies in 2008—this year. Could you address those facts, and, rather

ymrwymiadau newydd sydd wedi'u bwriadu'n benodol i fynd i'r afael â hyn. Bydd yr Aelodau'n cofio i'r Llywodraeth, ar 11 Mehefin, gyhoeddi papur ymgynghori ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant, ac mae'n cynnwys cynnig ar gytundeb gwirfoddol ar dlodi plant rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ac asiantaethau cyhoeddus.

Ni ddylem anghofio Cymunedau yn Gyntaf: mae 142 o bartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf wedi eu sefydlu i helpu cymunedau i fynd i'r afael ag effeithiau amddifadedd yn eu hardaloedd ac i feithrin gallu. Gellid dadlau mai hon yw'r rhaglen gyntaf o'i bath erioed i gael ei gweithredu. Wrth gwrs, bydd hefyd yn cael ei darparu yn y dyfodol.

Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar yr hyn a ddywedodd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a Mike German yn arbennig, a Mark Isherwood. Soniodd Mark am droseddau. Taflodd lif o ystadegau digon annirnadwy atom, ond gallaf ddweud wrtho, pan gyflwynwyd gofal yn y gymuned gyntaf yn 1990 fod yr adnoddau ar ei gyfer mor wael nes oedd llawer o bobl wedi gadael sefydliadau—hynny yw, ysbytai seiciatrigr— a'u cael eu hunain ymhen tipyn yn y carchar. Gwn hynny oherwydd cynrychiolais nifer ohonynt yn y llys. Y broblem oedd nad oedd digon o arian yn cael ei ddarparu. Yr oedd yn syniad da, ond ni ddarparwyd digon o gyllid. Yr oedd hynny yn y dyddiau, yn y 1990au cynnar, ar ôl 14 blynedd o lywodraeth Geidwadol, pan allai troseddwr gael eu rhyddhau ar ôl treulio traean o'u dedfryd, nid hanner. Bryd hynny, ar ôl treulio traean o'u dedfryd, gallai troseddwr wneud cais am gael eu rhyddhau ar drwydded. Nid oes angen inni gymryd gwersi ar amddiffyn y cyhoedd a gostwng lefelau troseddau gan yr Aelodau gyferbyn. Ni allaf ond tynnu sylw at y—

Mark Isherwood *a gododd*—

Carwyn Jones: Efallai y byddwch am ddal ati gan fod rhagor i ddod, ond ewch ymlaen.

Mark Isherwood: Yr ydych, yn nodweddiadol, wedi wfftio'r llif ystadegau, ond mae'r ystadegau hynny'n dystiolaeth. Maent yn ffeithiau wedi'u seilio ar ymchwil a wnaethpwyd gan gyrrff annibynnol yn 2008—eleni. A allech ymdrin â'r ffeithiau hynny, ac

than list the things that you have attempted to do, tell us the outcomes of those things that you have done?

Carwyn Jones: Let us list some facts. The Liberal Democrats complain about a lack of action by the Government to protect the vulnerable. Let us look at the actions of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative council in Bridgend. The council has tried to remove school transport. It has tried to remove the meals-on-wheels service and replace it with a delivery of frozen food every fortnight to the service's vulnerable recipients. It has talked about improving education, and yet, in 2003, when money was made available to it to build a new school in the village of Penyfai, nothing was done. Even though the money was made available, that school has still not been built because of the inaction of the Liberal Democrat-led council.

Then we have the Conservatives. Mark asked me for facts, so here are a few facts for him. It was the Conservatives who cut the earnings link to pensions, and now they are talking about vulnerable people. It was the Conservatives with their policies who put millions of people on the dole. It was the Conservatives who introduced the concept of substantial negative equity in the early 1990s, and it went far beyond the situation that we find ourselves in now. It was the Conservatives who deprived the NHS of funds and who carried through the most botched and expensive Government action ever: the privatisation of the railways.

At the heart of the philosophy of this Government lies protecting the vulnerable, alleviating poverty, and promoting social inclusion. That will continue to be at the heart of this Government, and the most vulnerable in our society can look to the parties on this side of the Chamber to protect them and to improve their lives.

5.00 p.m.

Peter Black: A few Ministers, over the last few weeks, have said in response to several attacks that you have to be in government to

yn hytrach na rhestru'r pethau yr ydych wedi ceisio'u gwneud, a ddywedwch wrthym am ganlyniadau'r pethau hynny yr ydych wedi'u gwneud?

Carwyn Jones: Gadewch inni restru rhai ffeithiau. Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cwyno am ddiffyg gweithredu gan y Llywodraeth i amddiffyn pobl fregus. Gadewch inni edrych ar weithredoedd y cyngor Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a Cheidwadol ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cyngor wedi ceisio dileu cludiant ysgol. Mae wedi ceisio dileu'r gwasanaeth pryd ar glud a newid i anfon bwyd wedi'i rewi bob pythefnos at y bobl fregus sy'n cael y gwasanaeth. Mae wedi siarad am wella addysg, ac eto, yn 2003, pan ddarparwyd arian iddo i godi ysgol newydd ym mhentref Pen-y-fai, ni wnaethpwyd dim. Er i'r arian hwnnw gael ei ddarparu, mae'r ysgol honno'n dal heb ei chodi oherwydd y diffyg gweithredu gan y cyngor dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Yna, mae'r Ceidwadwyr. Gofynnodd Mark imi am ffeithiau, felly, dyma rai ffeithiau iddo. Y Ceidwadwyr a dorrodd y cysylltiad rhwng enillion a phensiynau, a soniant yn awr am bobl sy'n agored i niwed. Y Ceidwadwyr a'u polisiau a roddodd filiynau o bobl ar y dôl. Y Ceidwadwyr a gyflwynodd y syniad o ecwiti negyddol sylweddol yn y 1990au cynnar, ac aeth ymhell y tu hwnt i'r sefyllfa yr ydym ynddi'n awr. Y Ceidwadwyr a amddifadodd y GIG o arian a gweithredu'r erioed gan Lywodraeth: preifateiddio'r rheilffyrdd.

Wrth galon athroniaeth y Llywodraeth hon mae amddiffyn pobl sy'n agored i niwed, lliniaru tlodi, a hyrwyddo cynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Bydd hynny'n dal yn agos at galon y Llywodraeth hon, a gall y mwyaf bregus yn ein cymdeithas droi at y pleidiau ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr i'w gwarchod ac i wella'u bywydau.

Peter Black: Mae ambell Weinidog, dros yr ychydig wythnosau diwethaf, wedi dweud mewn ymateb i lawer ymosodiad ei bod yn

change things. However, what is clear and what has been demonstrated in the 'One Wales' celebrations, and over the last year, is that it is no good being in government if you cannot deliver on your own targets and agenda. That failure has been laid out starkly for us in the Welsh Liberal Democrat contributions today.

In education, the foundation phase has been underfunded. The Government has missed its own target on school buildings. It stated that all school buildings would be fit for purpose by 2010, and that target was reiterated by Jane Hutt in the present Government. An increase of around 1.5 per cent in funding for further education means that many colleges are not able to deliver the Government's skills agenda. There is also a £61 million funding gap in higher education, and despite a personal commitment by the First Minister to try to close that gap, action has still not been taken.

In local government, we have a below-inflation increase in funding, which is hitting schools and social services. We have seen a failure to help pensioners this year as promised, and a failure to deliver on a Welsh-language daily newspaper, as set out in 'One Wales'. Post offices are being closed, and yet there is no movement on bringing the post office development fund forward, even though Labour Members, such as Alun Davies, have called for it. There have been delays in finalising the local transport services grant, which has further strained councils' ability to fund essential services. The Government has also failed to meet its own targets on child poverty and fuel poverty, and it continues not to meet those targets.

The Government talks about providing 6,500 affordable homes, but there has been no significant progress in delivering those homes. There is no indication that the number of new homes being built is greater than in previous years, and the over-reliance on section 106 has now been hit by the credit crunch, removing an important plank in delivering that policy. There is no means of

rhaid bod mewn llywodraeth i newid pethau. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n glir a'r hyn sydd wedi'i ddangos yn nathliadau 'Cymru'n Un', a thros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, yw nad oes diben bod mewn llywodraeth os na allwch gyflawni eich targedau a'ch agenda eich hun. Mae'r methiant hwnnw wedi'i osod allan yn foel inni yng nghyfraniadau Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru heddiw.

Mewn addysg, nid oes digon o gyllid wedi'i ddarparu ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi methu ei tharged ei hun ar adeiladau ysgol. Dywedodd y byddai pob adeilad ysgol yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010, ac ailadroddwyd y targed hwnnw gan Jane Hutt yn y Llywodraeth bresennol. Mae cynnydd o ryw 1.5 y cant yng nghyllid addysg bellach yn golygu bod nifer o golegau'n methu cyflawni agenda sgiliau'r Llywodraeth. Mae bwlch cyllid o £61 miliwn mewn addysg uwch hefyd, ac er gwaethaf ymrwymiad personol gan y Prif Weinidog i geisio cau'r bwlch hwnnw, nid oes dim wedi'i wneud o hyd.

Mewn llywodraeth leol, mae gennym gynnydd is na chwyddiant yn y cyllid, sy'n taro ysgolion a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Yr ydym wedi gweld methiant i helpu pensiynwyr eleni fel yr addawyd, a methiant i wireddu'r addewid am bapur newydd dyddiol Cymraeg, fel yr amlinellwyd yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Mae swyddfeydd post yn cau, ac eto nid oes dim symudiad i ddod â'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post ymlaen, er bod Aelodau Llafur, fel Alun Davies, wedi galw am hynny. Bu oedi cyn pennu swm terfynol y grant gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth lleol, sydd wedi gwasgu ymhellach allu cynghorau i dalu am wasanaethau hanfodol. Mae'r Llywodraeth hefyd wedi methu cyflawni ei thargedau ei hun ar dlodi plant a thlodi tanwydd, ac mae'n parhau i fethu cyrraedd y targedau hynny.

Sonia'r Llywodraeth am ddarparu 6,500 o gartrefi fforddiadwy, ond ni chymerwyd dim camau sylweddol ymlaen i sicrhau'r cartrefi hynny. Nid oes arwydd o gwbl fod nifer y cartrefi newydd sy'n cael eu hadeiladu'n fwy nag mewn blynyddoedd a fu, ac mae'r orddibyniaeth ar adran 106 bellach wedi'i tharo gan yr argyfwng credyd, gan ddileu elfen bwysig o gyflawni'r polisi hwnnw. Nid

measuring achievement on that policy, and when you take into account sales and demolitions, the likelihood is that we have fewer affordable homes now than we did a year ago. Repossessions are up by 75 per cent, and local councils are under pressure to deal with that, and yet we have no money for homelessness facilities and support.

Alun Davies *rose*—

Peter Black: I have not finished yet, Alun—sit down.

Wales is at the bottom of the GVA league table for regions and nations of the UK. Our GVA is now 78.1 per cent of the UK average, down from 85.4 per cent in 1989. The ‘One Wales’ anniversary celebrations that we are now in the middle of have two features. We have Plaid and Labour claiming all the credit for themselves, with Don Touhig playing Banquo at the feast. We have been treated to a long list of inputs and questionable half-outcomes, but little actual achievements. Alun Davies claimed that this motion was cynical and pointless—he has clearly been reading his own One Wales Government propaganda. Alun Ffred joined in, but he should not forget—

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Peter Black: I am not giving way. Alun Ffred should not forget the motion that Plaid Cymru tabled when it was in opposition. It was a one-line motion that stated, ‘This Government is failing the people of Wales’. You have played the game yourselves. We are doing exactly what we should be doing and being an effective opposition, in the same way that you did when you were in opposition.

Alun Davies *rose*—

Peter Black: Please sit down, Alun.

We have been in government, and we have taken hard decisions.

oes modd i fesur yr hyn a gyflawnwyd ar y polisi hwnnw, a phan gymerir i ystyriaeth y niferoedd sy’n cael gwerthu a’u dymchwel, y tebygolrwydd yw bod gennym lai o gartrefi fforddiadwy yn awr nag oedd gennym flwyddyn yn ôl. Mae adfeddiannu wedi cynyddu 75 y cant, ac mae cynghorau lleol dan bwysau i ddelio â hynny, ac eto nid oes gennym ddim arian ar gyfer cyfleusterau a chymorth i’r digartref.

Alun Davies *a gododd*—

Peter Black: Nid wyf wedi gorffen eto, Alun—eisteddwch.

Mae Cymru ar waelod tabl cynghrair rhanbarthau a chenhedloedd y Deyrnas Unedig o ran gwerth ychwanegol crynswth. Mae ein gwerth ychwanegol crynswth yn awr yn 78.1 y cant o gyfartaledd y Deyrnas Unedig, i lawr o 85.4 y cant ym 1989. Mae dwy nodwedd i’r dathliadau pen-blwydd ‘Cymru’n Un’ yr ydym yn eu canol ar hyn o bryd. Mae Plaid a Llafur yn hawlio’r clod i gyd iddynt eu hunain, a Don Touhig yn chwarae Banquo yn y wledd. Cawsom restr hirfaith o fewnbynau a hanner-canlyniadau amheus, ond fawr ddim go iawn wedi’i gyflawni. Honnodd Alun Davies fod y cynnig hwn yn sinigaidd a dibwynt—yn amlwg mae wedi bod yn darllen propaganda ei Lywodraeth Cymru’n Un ei hun. Ymunodd Alun Ffred, ond ni ddylai anghofio—

Alun Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Peter Black: Nid wyf am ildio. Ni ddylai Alun Ffred anghofio’r cynnig a gyflwynodd Plaid Cymru pan oedd hi’n wrthblaid. Cynnig un llinell ydoedd a ddywedai, ‘Mae’r Llywodraeth hon yn gadael pobl Cymru i lawr’. Yr ydych wedi chwarae’r gêm eich hunain. Yr ydym ni’n gwneud yr union beth y dylem fod yn ei wneud ac yn bod yn wrthblaid effeithiol, fel chithau pan oeddech yn wrthblaid.

Alun Davies *a gododd*—

Peter Black: Eisteddwch, os gwelwch yn dda, Alun.

Yr ydym wedi bod mewn llywodraeth, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud penderfyniadau caled.

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Alun Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Peter Black: No. I am not giving way.

Peter Black: Na. Nid wyf am ildio.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please sit down, Alun Davies. [*Interruption.*] Peter, I have not asked you to start again. If you do not wish to take an intervention, Peter, just say 'no', and do not shout at people to sit down. I have said before to Members that if anyone is to tell anyone to sit down it is me. Please continue.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Eisteddwch, os gwelwch yn dda, Alun Davies. [*Torri ar draws.*] Peter, nid wyf wedi gofyn i chi ddechrau eto. Os nad ydych yn dymuno cymryd ymyriad, Peter, dywedwch 'na', a pheidiwch â gweiddi ar bobl i eistedd. Yr wyf wedi dweud wrth Aelodau o'r blaen, os oes unrhyw un i ddweud wrth unrhyw un am eistedd i lawr, fi yw hwnnw. Ewch yn eich blaen, os gwelwch yn dda.

Peter Black: I have said 'no' on a couple of occasions, Deputy Presiding Officer; Alun Davies obviously wanted to heckle me, even though I was not taking an intervention.

Peter Black: Yr wyf wedi dweud 'na' ddwywaith, Ddirprwy Lywydd; yr oedd Alun Davies yn amlwg yn awyddus i'm heclo, er nad oeddwn yn cymryd ymyriad.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Well, I did not hear you say that. Carry on.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Wel, ni chlywais mohonoch yn dweud hynny. Ewch yn eich blaen.

Peter Black: Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer. As I was saying, we have been in government, and we have made hard decisions. However, when we did so, we put together a programme that could be paid for and was deliverable. There is the major failing of this Government. We are not asking the Government to spend money on our uncosted promises, we are asking it to deliver on its uncosted promises. The people of Wales should expect nothing less. These promises were made by Labour and Plaid Cymru, and there is nothing unreasonable in expecting them to deliver on them. Yet we still have Plaid Cymru and Labour making excuses. They say that Government is hard, that the UK Government has short-changed them, and that they have to make hard decisions. That is true, but you also need to go into Government with both eyes open, and cut your cloth accordingly. The biggest failure of this Government is not that it has missed key targets, but that it has made promises that it cannot afford, and cannot deliver on. How cynical is that, Alun?

Peter Black: Diolch, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Fel y dywedais, yr ydym wedi bod mewn llywodraeth, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud penderfyniadau caled. Fodd bynnag, pan wnaethom hynny, rhoesom raglen at ei gilydd y gellid talu amdani ac y gellid ei chyflawni. Dyna fethiant mawr y Llywodraeth hon. Nid ydym yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth wario arian ar ein haddewidion ni heb eu costio: gofyn yr ydym iddi gyflawni ei haddewidion hi sydd heb eu costio. Ni ddylai pobl Cymru ddisgwyl dim llai. Gwnaethpwyd yr addewidion hyn gan Lafur a Phlaid Cymru, ac nid oes dim byd afresymol mewn disgwyl iddynt eu cyflawni. Eto, dyma ni Blaid Cymru a Llafur yn gwneud esgusodion o hyd. Dywedant fod llywodraethu'n waith caled, bod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig wedi rhoi rhy ychydig iddynt, a'u bod yn gorfod gwneud penderfyniadau caled. Mae hynny'n wir, ond mae angen mynd i mewn i Lywodraeth hefyd a'r ddau lygad yn agored, a thorri'ch côt yn ôl y brethyn. Methiant mwyaf y Llywodraeth hon yw nid ei bod wedi methu targedau allweddol, ond ei bod wedi gwneud addewidion na all eu fforddio, ac na all eu cyflawni. Ydy hynny ddim yn sinigaidd, Alun?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Have you

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A ydych wedi gorffen,

finished, or are you taking an intervention? ynteu ai cymryd ymyriad yr ydych?

Peter Black: I have finished.

Peter Black: Yr wyf wedi gorffen.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Does any Member object? I see that there is objection, and so voting will be deferred until voting time. Before we proceed to voting time, do Members wish for the bell to be rung? I see that you do not, and so we will move to the votes.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cytuno gwelliant 1 yw'r cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, ac felly gohirir y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio. Cyn symud ymlaen i'r cyfnod pleidleisio, a yw'r Aelodau'n dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad ydych, ac felly symudwn ymlaen at y pleidleisiau.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

Gwelliant 3 i NDM3988: O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 13.

Amendment 3 to NDM3988: For 33, Abstain 0, Against 13.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.

Amendment carried.

Gwelliant 4 i NDM3988: O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 8.

Amendment 4 to NDM3988: For 36, Abstain 0, Against 8.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Davies, Paul
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3988 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. notes the already high levels of dementia in Wales;

2. notes the expected increases in the number of people suffering with dementia in Wales and the UK.

3. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to bring forward a national dementia plan for Wales to effectively deal with the projected growth in the number of people suffering with dementia over the next 20 years and to continue to identify resources improve specialist services for patients with dementia.

Cynnig NDM3988 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn nodi'r lefelau uchel o ddemensia yng Nghymru eisoes;

2. yn nodi'r cynnydd disgwylidig yn nifer y bobl sy'n dioddef demensia yng Nghymru ac yn y DU.

3. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflwyno cynllun demensia cenedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru er mwyn delio'n effeithiol â'r twf a ragwelir yn nifer y bobl a fydd yn dioddef demensia dros yr 20 mlynedd nesaf ac yn parhau i nodi adnoddau i wella gwasanaethau arbenigol ar gyfer cleifion â

demensia.

*Cynnig NDM3988 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion NDM3988 as amended: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Evans, Nerys
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig NDM3988 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3988 as amended carried.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3989: O blaid 14, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 32.
Amendment 1 to NDM3989: For 14, Abstain 0, Against 32.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig NDM3989: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
 Motion NDM3989: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Mewies, Sandy

Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
 Motion defeated.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Yr Achos o Blaid Meiri Etholedig The Case for Elected Mayors

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Please would Members leave the Chamber if they are not going to listen to the debate.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A fyddai Aelodau cystal â gadael y Siambr os nad ydynt yn mynd i wrando ar y ddadl.

Nick Bourne: It is a great pleasure to put forward the case for elected Mayors, and I am pleased to have agreed time for Nick Ramsay, Bethan Jenkins and Jenny Randerson to contribute to this debate.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n bleser mawr cyflwyno'r achos dros Feiri etholedig, ac yr wyf yn falch o fod wedi cytuno i ganiatáu amser i Nick Ramsay, Bethan Jenkins a Jenny Randerson gyfrannu at y ddadl hon.

In recent years, a worrying phenomenon has gripped our town halls up and down the United Kingdom and in Wales. Town halls were once the powerhouses of local democracy and government, but successive central Governments have been intent on centralising control, and gradually drawing powers away from them. This has been perpetrated by Westminster Governments as well as those here in Cardiff bay.

Yn y blynyddoedd diweddar, mae ffenomen sy'n peri pryder wedi cydio yn ein neuaddau tref ar hyd a lled y Deyrnas Unedig ac yng Nghymru. Neuaddau tref oedd pwerdai democratiaeth a llywodraeth leol ar un adeg, ond mae Llywodraethau canolog olynol wedi bod yn benderfynol o ganoli rheolaeth, a chymryd pwerau oddi arnynt yn raddol. Gweithredwyd hyn gan Lywodraethau San Steffan yn ogystal â'r rheini yma ym mae Caerdydd.

Increasingly, local government has been gripped by a target-driven culture, dictated to them from the centre, with funding following targets. Funding is increasingly hypothecated, with little thought given to the needs and demands of individual local areas. This centralisation of power has failed our communities. This process has failed to take account of local situations, failed to draw on community knowledge and skills, and lacks a thorough understanding of each individual area.

Aeth llywodraeth leol yn gynyddol i grafangau diwylliant o gyflawni targedau wedi eu gosod iddynt o'r canol, a chyllid yn dilyn targedau. Caiff cyllid ei neilltuo fwyfwy, heb roi fawr o ystyriaeth i anghenion a gofynion ardaloedd lleol unigol. Mae canoli grym fel hyn wedi bod yn fethiant i'n cymunedau. Mae'r broses hon wedi methu rhoi ystyriaeth i sefyllfaoedd lleol, wedi methu manteisio ar wybodaeth a sgiliau'r gymuned, ac yn brin o ddealltwriaeth drwyadl o bob ardal unigol.

In some areas, poverty might be the most important issue; in others, it might be an acute shortage of affordable housing, or issues around local public transport routes. It

Mewn rhai ardaloedd, efallai mai tlodi fydd y broblem bwysicaf; mewn eraill, efallai mai prinder affwysol o dai fforddiadwy, neu broblemau gyda llwybrau trafndiaeth

may be a combination of all three, and often is. Centrally set and controlled targets and funding are simply inadequate to meet these challenges.

5.10 p.m.

This increased pattern of centralisation amounts to an emasculation of local government. Sadly, it seems to have gone hand-in-hand with the decline in the tradition of civic pride. The last vestiges of that pride may be evidenced in our splendid civic buildings—City Hall here in Cardiff is a clear, local example, and Swansea's Guildhall and Newport's civic centre are others.

The centralisation of powers that has developed alongside the growth in general public mistrust of, and disillusionment with, our political systems and representatives should make us pause for thought. The public has been switching off for a huge variety of reasons, and they are too many and too detailed for me to go into in this short debate.

As public representatives of all political colours, it falls to us to get people interested in politics again. The question is: how exactly are we going to do that? The solution that I am looking at lies in addressing the centralisation of local governments to make powers more visible to the communities that they serve. Devolution should not stop in Cardiff bay; we need to challenge public perceptions about civic and local politics. I believe that a new breed of civic leaders can give people a renewed enthusiasm in their local politics. Those civic leaders would be mayors or city mayors.

If we are to get people interested in the running of their local communities and services, we must trust them to make decisions. It is my belief, and the belief of my party, that decision making should take place as close as is practically possible to the community affected. Local government should have strong leaders. It is local people who are best placed to understand their communities and the specific needs and

gyhoeddus yn lleol. Gall fod yn gyfuniad o'r tri, a dyna sy'n wir yn aml. Yn y bôn mae targedau a chyllid sydd wedi'u pennu a'u rheoli'n ganolog yn annigonol i ateb yr heriau hyn.

Mae'r patrwm canoli cynyddol hwn yn gwanychu llywodraeth leol. Ysywaeth, mae'n ymddangos ei fod wedi mynd law yn llaw â'r dirywiad mewn balchder dinesig traddodiadol. Gellir gweld olion olaf y balchder hwnnw yn ein hadeiladau dinesig gwych—mae Neuadd y Ddinas yma yng Nghaerdydd yn enghraifft leol glir, fel y mae Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe a chanolfan ddinesig Casnewydd.

Dylai'r canoli grym sydd wedi datblygu ochr yn ochr â'r twf yn niffyg ymddiriedaeth y cyhoedd yn gyffredinol yn ein systemau a'n cynrychiolwyr gwleidyddol, a'u dadrithiad ynddynt, beri inni aros i feddwl. Mae'r cyhoedd wedi bod yn troi eu cefnau am amryw byd o resymau, sy'n rhy niferus ac yn rhy fanwl imi eu trafod yn y ddadl fer hon.

Fel cynrychiolwyr cyhoeddus o bob lliw gwleidyddol, ein dyletswydd ni yw ennyn diddordeb pobl mewn gwleidyddiaeth eto. Y cwestiwn yw: sut yn union y mae gwneud hynny? Yr ateb yr wyf fi'n edrych arno yw y dylid gwneud rhywbeth am y canoli llywodraeth leol i wneud y grym yn fwy gweladwy i'r cymunedau a wasanaethir. Ni ddylai datganoli orffen ym mae Caerdydd; mae angen herio syniad y cyhoedd ynghylch gwleidyddiaeth ddinesig a lleol. Credaf y gall to newydd o arweinwyr dinesig roi brwdfrydedd newydd i bobl dros eu gwleidyddiaeth leol. Meiri, neu feiri dinasoedd, fyddai'r arweinwyr dinesig hynny.

Os ydym am gael pobl i ymddiddori yn y ffordd y rhedir eu cymunedau a'u gwasanaethau lleol, rhaid inni ymddiried ynddynt i wneud penderfyniadau. Fy nghred i, a chred fy mhlaidd, yw y dylai penderfyniadau ddigwydd mor agos ag sy'n ymarferol bosibl at y gymuned yr effeithir arni. Dylai llywodraeth leol gael arweinwyr cryf. Pobl leol sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i ddeall eu cymunedau ac anghenion a phroblemau

problems of their areas. They are also best placed to present local solutions. Mayors can establish a new relationship with local voters and, through this relationship, they can act as catalysts for economic regeneration, social change and political renewal.

In Britain, the best example of a strong civic system of government that has re-established a relationship with local people is in London, one of the greatest cities in the world and, until the creation of the office of Mayor of London, the largest city in the world without such a position—Labour deserves credit for setting that position up; I acknowledge that.

The recent race for the mayoralty of London did something to politics in this country that we have not seen for a long time—it captured the imagination of people across the United Kingdom, and not just the relative few in London who had the chance to vote. The contest offered a clear choice, it instigated debate, and it re-energised interest in local democracy. The campaign talked about issues that really affected Londoners' daily lives, such as transport, housing, crime and communities. The election got people talking about their communities again.

I accept that the two principal protagonists were something of an exception in British politics. Both could campaign under the banner of their first name alone. Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson are both committed to London. Both share a great passion for the city. It is people with that kind of passion for their cities that we need in Wales.

The Mayor of London is an office that has worked well. It is at the forefront of the delivery of the Olympic project for 2012. The office is successfully co-ordinating transport in London, with integrated ticketing, the Oyster card and the congestion charge project being considered to be largely successful. Crime is the next big challenge for the new mayor, Boris Johnson. I am sure that all would wish him well and the best of good fortune during his term, not least in tackling the scourge of knife crime in our capital city.

penodol eu hardaloedd. Hwy hefyd sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i gyflwyno atebion lleol. Gall meiri sefydlu perthynas newydd â phleidleiswyr lleol, a thrwy'r berthynas honno gallant weithredu fel catalyddion ar gyfer adfywio economaidd, newid cymdeithasol ac adnewyddu gwleidyddol.

Ym Mhrydain, yr enghraifft orau o system ddinesig gref o lywodraeth sydd wedi ailsefydlu perthynas â phobl leol yw Llundain, un o ddinasoedd mawr y byd, a nes i swydd Maer Llundain gael ei chreu hi oedd y ddinas fwyaf yn y byd heb swydd o'r fath—mae Llafur yn haeddu clod am sefydlu'r swydd honno; yr wyf yn cydnabod hynny.

Gwnaeth y ras yn ddiweddar am swydd maer Llundain rywbeth i wleidyddiaeth yn y wlad hon nad ydym wedi ei weld erystalwm—gafaelodd yn nychymyg pobl ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig, ac nid y cymharol ychydig yn Llundain yn unig a gafodd y cyfle i bleidleisio. Yr oedd yr ornest yn cynnig dewis clir, ysgogodd ddadl, ac aildaniodd ddiddordeb mewn democratiaeth leol. Siaradodd yr ymgyrch am faterion a oedd yn effeithio'n wirioneddol ar fywydau bob dydd Llundainwyr, fel trafniadaeth, tai, troseddu a chymunedau. Yn sgil yr etholiad dechreuodd pobl siarad am eu cymunedau eto.

Yr wyf yn derbyn bod y ddau brif ymgeisydd yn dipyn o eithriad yng ngwleidyddiaeth Prydain. Gallai'r ddau ymgyrchu dan faner eu henw cyntaf yn unig. Mae Ken Livingstone a Boris Johnson ill dau'n ymroddedig i Lundain. Mae'r ddau'n teimlo'n angerddol dros ddinas. Pobl gyda'r math hwnnw o angerdd dros eu dinasoedd sydd arnom eu hangen yng Nghymru.

Mae Maer Llundain yn swydd sydd wedi gweithio'n dda. Mae ar flaen y gad yn chyflawni'r prosiect Olympaidd ar gyfer 2012. Mae'r swyddfa wrthi'n llwyddiannus yn cydgysylltu trafniadaeth yn Llundain, a'r farn gyffredinol yw bod tocynnau integredig, y cerdyn Oyster a'r prosiect tâl atal tagfeydd yn llwyddiannus ar y cyfan. Atal troseddu yw'r her fawr nesaf i'r maer newydd, Boris Johnson. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai pawb yn dymuno'n dda iddo a phob lwc yn ystod ei dymor, yn anad dim wrth fynd i'r afael â phla

troseddau cyllyll yn ein prifddinas.

At the international level, we have seen that city mayors have the ability to galvanise their communities. One need only think of the work of Rudy Giuliani in New York in the days and weeks following the tragic terrorist attacks that we all remember so well, and the role he played in introducing zero tolerance policies in relation to crime, which made New York's streets much safer.

Ar lefel ryngwladol, yr ydym wedi gweld bod gan feiri dinas y gallu i symbylu eu cymunedau. Nid oes angen ond meddwl am waith Rudy Giuliani yn Efrog Newydd yn y dyddiau a'r wythnosau'n dilyn ymosodiadau erchyll y terfysgwyr sydd mor fyw yn ein cof i gyd, a'i rôl wrth gyflwyno polisiau o ddim goddefgarwch mewn perthynas â throseddu, a wnaeth strydoedd Efrog Newydd lawer yn fwy diogel.

We need local leaders who have a passion for their communities. They could help us to counter the perception that local politicians are remote, unaccountable and anonymous. Our great cities, Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, and Bangor, too, and our large towns, such as Bridgend and Wrexham, need a figurehead—someone who is ultimately responsible to the citizens for the state of their communities. We need not just stop at our cities; we could consider whether the mayor should cover city regions, such as Cardiff and the central Valleys; Newport and Torfaen; and Swansea perhaps with Neath and Port Talbot. All are possibilities that should at least be considered.

Mae arnom angen arweinwyr lleol sydd ag angerdd dros eu cymunedau. Gallent ein helpu i ateb yr haerriad bod gwleidyddion lleol yn bell, yn anatebol ac yn anhysbys. Mae angen arweinydd amlwg ar ein dinasoedd mawr, Caerdydd, Casnewydd, Abertawe a Bangor hefyd, a'n trefi mawr, fel Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Wrecsam—rhywun sydd yn y pen draw'n atebol i'r dinasyddion am gyflwr eu cymunedau. Nid oes angen ei gadael hi gyda'n dinasoedd; gallem ystyried a ddylai'r maer fod yn gyfrifol am ranbarthau dinasoedd, megis Caerdydd a'r Cymoedd canolog; Casnewydd a Thor-faen; ac Abertawe efallai gyda Chastell-nedd a Phort Talbot. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn bosibiliadau y dylid o leiaf eu hystyried.

Subject to approval by a local referendum—we have seen some regulations on such referenda this afternoon—any community in Wales should be able to establish the office of mayor. It is my vision that the mayor would serve four-year terms. The mayor could have direct control over regeneration, development, highways, transport, planning, buses, waste disposal and possibly even the police and fire services. A mayor in Newport could have been involved in giving strategic leadership to the Ryder Cup project and the development taking place on the back of holding such a prestigious event.

Gyda chymeradwyaeth mewn refferendwm lleol—yr ydym wedi gweld rhai rheoliadau ar refferenda o'r fath y prynhawn yma—dylai unrhyw gymuned yng Nghymru allu sefydlu swydd maer. Fy ngweledigaeth i yw y byddai'r maer yn gwasanaethu am gyfnodau o bedair blynedd. Gallai'r maer gael rheolaeth uniongyrchol dros adfywio, datblygu, priffyrdd, trafnidiaeth, cynllunio, bysus, gwaredu gwastraff ac efallai hyd yn oed yr heddlu a'r gwasanaeth tân. Gallai maer yng Nghasnewydd fod wedi ymwneud â rhoi arweiniad strategol i brosiect y Cwpan Ryder a'r datblygu sy'n digwydd yn sgil cynnal digwyddiad mor bwysig.

As a clear and accountable leader, a mayor could have had a galvanising effect on the community of Newport in holding that event. Responsible for the planning of transport, the office of mayor would be able to roll out clear plans for integrated ticketing and would be best placed to deliver funding to areas and stations that needed increased funding, such

Fel arweinydd clir ac atebol, gallai maer fod wedi bywiogi cymuned Casnewydd wrth gynnal y digwyddiad hwnnw. Trwy fod yn gyfrifol am gynllunio trafnidiaeth, byddai swydd y maer wedi gallu cyflwyno cynlluniau clir ar gyfer tocynnau integredig, a byddai yn y sefyllfa orau i sicrhau cyllid mewn ardaloedd a gorsafedd lle'r oedd

as increased security or cleaner stations. Cardiff's mayor could develop the city's bid for the Commonwealth Games and could work with other mayors and local governments in Wales and Scotland with regard to the possible joint bid to hold the European Cup.

Those elected to such an office would not, necessarily, need to be party politicians—Ken and Boris are scarcely identikit politicians. In Britain, of 13 directly elected mayors, four are independent. Clearly, there are some limitations and mayors would not be suitable for all parts of Wales. The only experience that we have in Wales of a referendum was in Ceredigion, where all four of the Assembly's political parties united in opposing a mayoralty; the proposal was defeated. However, that was scarcely the right area for a mayor.

In conclusion, we have seen an obsession with centralisation—even in the Assembly, that remains the case—and that has tied the hands of local governments. Giving consideration to the issue of mayors, city mayors and localism in general would galvanise our local communities, and, as political parties, we should support mayors and city mayors. While I accept that my proposal is no panacea for all the problems facing our democracy, it is my belief that it is a step in the right direction for re-energising local communities. I believe that it will restore power to our local communities and to local people.

Nick Ramsay: I am grateful to Nick Bourne for giving me a minute to follow his important and wise words. This debate is long overdue; many well-renowned, international cities across the world have a mayoral system. Since 1997, we have seen the mayoral system operating effectively in London. That is not a party political point, as we saw that under the first mayor, when a number of important policies were brought forward; we are now seeing that process continued under the new Mayor of London. At the end of the day, this is about galvanising the electorate and breaking through the apathy that we so often talk about. If we want to engage with people, young people in particular, we must give

angen mwy o arian, megis mwy o ddiogelwch neu orsafoedd glanach. Gallai maer Caerdydd ddatblygu cais y ddinas am gemau'r Gymanwlad, a gallai weithio gyda meiri eraill a llywodraethau lleol yng Nghymru a Lloegr gyda golwg ar gais posibl ar y cyd i gynnal Cwpan Ewrop.

Ni fyddai'r rheini a etholid i'r fath swydd o raid yn wleidyddion plaid—prin fod Ken a Boris yn wleidyddion yn ôl y patrwm traddodiadol. Ym Mhrydain, o'r 13 maer a etholwyd yn uniongyrchol, mae pedwar yn annibynnol. Mae'n amlwg fod rhai cyfyngiadau, ac ni fyddai meiri yn addas i bob rhan o Gymru. Yr unig brofiad sydd gennym yng Nghymru o refferendwm oedd yng Ngheredigion, lle unodd pedair plaid wleidyddol y Cynulliad i wrthwynebu cael maer; gwrthodwyd y cynnig. Fodd bynnag, prin yr oedd honno'n ardal iawn ar gyfer maer.

I gloi, gwelsom obsesiwn gyda chanoli—mae hynny'n wir hyd yn oed yn y Cynulliad—ac mae hynny wedi clymu dwylo llywodraeth leol. Byddai ystyried pwnc meiri, meiri dinasoedd a lleolyddiaeth yn gyffredinol yn tanio ein cymunedau lleol, ac fel pleidiau gwleidyddol dylem gefnogi meiri a meiri dinas. Er fy mod yn derbyn nad yw fy nghynnig yn ateb i'r holl broblemau sy'n wynebu ein democratiaeth, credaf ei fod yn gam yn y cyfeiriad iawn i ail-egnio cymunedau lleol. Credaf y bydd yn adfer grym i'n cymunedau lleol ac i bobl leol.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Nick Bourne am roi munud imi ddilyn ei eiriau pwysig a doeth. Yr oedd yn hen bryd cael y ddadl hon; mae gan lawer dinas ryngwladol o fri ledled y byd system o feiri. Er 1997, gwelsom system y maer yn gweithio'n effeithiol yn Llundain. Nid pwynt pleidiol gwleidyddol mo hwnnw, fel y gwelsom dan y maer cyntaf, pan gyflwynwyd nifer o bolisiau pwysig; yr ydym yn awr yn gweld y broses honno'n parhau dan Faer newydd Llundain. Yn y pen draw, mater o danio'r etholwyr yw hyn a thorri drwy'r difrawder y soniwn mor aml amdano. Os ydym am ymwneud â phobl, pobl ifanc yn arbennig, rhaid inni roi rhywbeth iddynt y gallant gydio ynddo a'i weld fel ffordd i symud pethau ymlaen.

them something that they can latch on to and see as a way of moving things forward.

In closing, it was a former Secretary of State for Wales who famously said that devolution is a process, not an event, and I, as a Welsh Conservative, firmly believe that. We owe it to the people of Wales and the people of our major cities to continue with that process of devolution, giving them a choice on electing a figurehead to represent them at every level. It has worked in parts of England and can work in Wales.

Bethan Jenkins: I am grateful for the opportunity to speak today. Plaid Cymru is committed to empowering communities, and all parties are concerned about the growing disinterest among the electorate in politics—I would not necessarily call it apathy. That has come about because the electorate feels disenfranchised from political systems. Wales has a strong tradition of collective decision-making and, for that reason, we are not entirely persuaded of the need for directly elected mayors and the individual executive powers that they hold. However, we recognise that a particular area might want to explore the issue of a mayor through a local referendum.

A further change that would be welcomed would be that of increased decentralisation to local government, within local government and between local government and its local partners. Local democracy, like democracy generally, needs to be proactive and engaged with communities. The centralisation of local powers into one pair of hands would be contrary to the principle of devolution: the principle that decisions should be made as locally as possible, by consensus and co-operation. I do not want to undermine today's debate, but I am unconvinced that the concept of elected mayors has been successful. The jury is still out on that issue. You need only look at prominent examples of elected mayors. I am tempted to talk about the example of a monkey being elected—no, that was not in the recent London election—in Hartlepool in 2002, where the mascot of the local football team was elected mayor and given the powers and executive

I gloi, un o gyn-Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru a ddywedodd y geiriau enwog mai proses yn hytrach na digwyddiad yw datganoli, ac yr wyf fi, fel Ceidwadwr Cymreig, yn credu hynny'n gryf. Mae arnom ddyled i bobl Cymru ac i bobl ein dinasoedd mawr i barhau'r broses ddatganoli honno, gan roi dewis iddynt ethol arweinydd a fydd yn eu cynrychioli ar bob lefel. Mae wedi gweithio mewn rhannau o Loegr, a gall weithio yng Nghymru.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i siarad heddiw. Mae Plaid Cymru wedi ymrwmo i roi grym i gymunedau, ac y mae pob plaid yn ymboeni am y diffyg diddordeb cynyddol ymhlith etholwyr mewn gwleidyddiaeth—ni fyddwn o reidrwydd yn ei alw'n ddifrawder. Digwyddodd hynny am fod etholwyr yn teimlo'u bod wedi dieithrio oddi wrth systemau gwleidyddol. Mae gan Gymru draddodiad cryf o wneud penderfyniadau ar y cyd, ac o'r herwydd nid ydym wedi ein llwyr argyhoeddi bod angen meiri wedi eu hethol yn uniongyrchol a'r pwerau gweithredol unigol sydd ganddynt. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn cydnabod y gallai ardal benodol fod yn dymuno ymchwilio i fater maer drwy refferendwm lleol.

Newid pellach i'w groesawu fyddai mwy o ddatganoli i lywodraeth leol, y tu mewn i lywodraeth leol a rhwng llywodraeth leol a'i phartneriaid lleol. Rhaid i ddemocratiaeth leol, fel democratiaeth yn gyffredinol, fod yn rhagweithiol ac ymwneud â chymunedau. Byddai canoli pwerau lleol mewn un pâr o ddwylo yn groes i egwyddor datganoli: yr egwyddor y dylai penderfyniadau gael eu gwneud mor lleol ag y mae modd, drwy gonsensws a chydweithrediad. Nid wyf am danseilio'r ddadl heddiw, ond nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi o lwyddiant cysyniad meiri etholedig. Ni chafwyd barn derfynol ar y pwnc. Nid oes angen i chi ond edrych ar esiamplau amlwg o feiri etholedig. Yr wyf yn cael fy nhemtio i grybwyll esiampl y mwnci yn cael ei ethol—na, nid yn yr etholiad yn Llundain yn ddiweddar y bu hynny—yn Hartlepool yn 2002, pan etholwyd mascot y tîm pêl-droed lleol yn faer a rhoi iddo'r pwerau a'r cyfrifoldebau gweithredol sydd

responsibilities that that entails. Those responsibilities have been undermined on many occasions and that should not happen again in the future.

5.20 p.m.

To return to a serious point, the way forward is for us to revitalise our democracy and to ensure better representation of age groups, ethnic minorities and women in politics, by educating people about the very important—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I have one more speaker, Bethan, so could you wind up, please?

Bethan Jenkins: Democracy is not the preserve of one individual; it belongs to everyone in the community.

Jenny Randerson: I wonder if Nick Bourne regrets tabling this short debate after the problems that Boris has had in the last week, which prove what I am about to say—that mayoral systems place too much power in the hands of one person.

I disagree with Nick for two reasons. One reason is that I believe that having elected mayors concentrates far too much power in the hands of one person, and it reduces scrutiny. Under the elected mayor system, councils must have a two-thirds majority to overturn the decisions of the mayor. The Greater London Authority feels very frustrated by its lack of power and lack of scrutiny powers. It would mean an end to cross-party cabinets, and, therefore, a return to the divisive minority politics of the past. It is a step backwards. That is why the people of Ceredigion rejected this system a few years ago, in the only referendum on this issue that we have had in Wales. They rejected it by 14,000 to 5,000 votes, and all four parties campaigned against an elected mayor, including the Conservatives. The Conservatives in Ceredigion had more sense than the Conservatives in the Assembly. It is why one-third of the original English mayors now face abolition referendums. There is a reason why Doncaster, Hartlepool, Lewisham and Stoke-on-Trent have such referendum processes under way.

ymhlyg yn hynny. Tanseiliwyd y cyfrifoldebau hynny lawer gwaith, ac ni ddylai hynny ddigwydd eto yn y dyfodol.

I ddychwelyd at bwynt difrifol, y ffordd ymlaen yw inni ail-egnio ein democratiaeth a sicrhau gwell cynrychiolaeth i grwpiau oed, lleiafrifoedd ethnig a menywod mewn gwleidyddiaeth, drwy addysgu pobl am bwysigrwydd—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae gennyf un siaradwr arall, Bethan, felly, a allwch chi ddirwyn i ben, os gwelwch yn dda?

Bethan Jenkins: Nid hawl un unigolyn yw democratiaeth; mae'n perthyn i bawb yn y gymuned.

Jenny Randerson: Tybed a yw Nick Bourne yn difaru cyflwyno'r ddaidl fer hon yn sgil y problemau a ddaeth i ran Boris yr wythnos diwethaf, sy'n profi'r hyn yr wyf fi ar fin ei ddweud—bod systemau meiri yn rhoi gormod o rym yn nwylo un unigolyn.

Anghytunaf â Nick am ddau reswm. Un rheswm yw fy mod yn credu bod cael meiri etholedig yn canoli llawer gormod o rym yn nwylo un unigolyn, a'i fod yn lleihau craffu. Dan drefn y maer etholedig, rhaid i gynghorau gael mwyafrif o ddwy ran o dair i wrthdroi penderfyniadau'r maer. Mae Awdurdod Llundain Fwyaf yn teimlo'n rhwystredig iawn oherwydd ei ddiffyg grym a'i ddiffyg pwerau craffu. Byddai'n golygu diwedd ar gabinetau trawsbleidiol, a dychwelyd o'r herwydd at wleidyddiaeth leiafrifol ymrannol y gorffennol. Cam yn ôl fyddai hynny. Dyna pam y gwrthododd pobl Ceredigion y system hon rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, yn yr unig refferendwm a gawsom ar y pwnc hwn yng Nghymru. Gwrthodwyd hi yno o 14,000 pleidlais i 5,000, a bu'r pedair plaid yn ymgyrchu yn erbyn maer etholedig, gan gynnwys y Ceidwadwyr. Yr oedd gan y Ceidwadwyr yng Ngheredigion fwy o synnwyr na'r Ceidwadwyr yn y Cynulliad. Dyma pam y mae traean y meiri gwreiddiol yn Lloegr yn awr yn wynebu refferenda i'w dileu. Mae yna reswm pam y mae prosesau refferendwm wedi cychwyn yn Hartlepool,

Lewisham a Stoke-on-Trent.

The second reason is that I do not think that it would rejuvenate democracy; that comes from stronger competition between parties. Those parts of Wales that had strong and diverse political campaigns during last May's Assembly elections saw much higher levels of political engagement and a much higher turnout in the election. That is what we should be looking at—more competition, not concentration of power.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): When I saw the title of this debate, I half expected it to begin with Nick Bourne cycling into the Chamber wearing a tousled yellow wig and promptly accepting the resignation of two of his frontbench spokespeople. However, although sweet dreams are made of this, I see that Nick is wearing a suit that is similar to my own, and that nothing quite so flamboyant or dramatic has happened.

Strangely enough, they say that things come in threes. As Nick correctly pointed out, we have today debated the regulations on local government elections, particularly in relation to directly elected mayors and executives. Also, Hazel Blears MP has made an announcement in relation to certain developments in local government on empowering the citizen. One of the proposals that she is floating is to make access to electing mayors easier for the electorate; she must have been rummaging through Nick Bourne's waste-paper basket earlier in the week.

However, some things have not changed, and I was surprised at Nick's reference to London as some sort of beacon. If I remember correctly, it was good old Baroness Thatcher who got rid of the Greater London Council and made a great virtue of the centralisation that that brought about. It was during the period of Conservative rule that the centralisation that Nick Bourne is speaking about took place.

Yr ail reswm yw nad wyf yn credu y byddai'n adfywio democratiaeth; daw hynny o gystadlu cryfach rhwng pleidiau. Yn y rhannau hynny o Gymru lle bu ymgyrchoedd gwleidyddol cryf ac amrywiol yn ystod etholiadau'r Cynulliad fis Mai diwethaf, cafwyd lefelau llawer uwch o ymwneud gwleidyddol a llawer mwy o bobl yn pleidleisio yn yr etholiad. Ar hynny y dylem fod yn edrych—mwy o gystadleuaeth, nid canoli grym.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Pan welais deitl y ddadl hon, yr oeddwn yn hanner disgwyl iddi gychwyn gyda Nick Bourne yn seiclo i mewn i'r Siambr yn gwisgo gwallt gosod melyn blêr ac yn mynd ati ar unwaith i dderbyn ymddiswyddiad dau o lefarwyr ei fainc flaen. Fodd bynnag, er mor ddifyr fyddai'r freuddwyd honno, gwelaf fod Nick yn gwisgo siwt debyg i fy siwt i, ac na ddigwyddodd dim mor rhyfeddol na dramatig.

Yn rhyfedd iawn, dywedir bod pethau'n digwydd mewn trioedd. Fel y dywedodd Nick yn hollol iawn, yr ydym heddiw wedi bod yn trafod y rheoliadau ar gyfer etholiadau llywodraeth leol, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â meiri a swyddogion gweithredol a etholir yn uniongyrchol. Hefyd, gwnaeth Hazel Blears AS gyhoeddiad mewn perthynas â rhai datblygiadau mewn llywodraeth leol ar rymuso'r dinesydd. Un o'r cynigion a roddodd gerbron yw ei gwneud yn haws i etholwyr beri ethol meiri; rhaid ei bod wedi bod yn sbecian ym masged sbwriel Nick Bourne yn gynharach yn yr wythnos.

Fodd bynnag, mae rhai pethau heb newid, a synnais glywed Nick yn cyfeirio at Lundain yn arwain y ffordd. Os cofiaf yn iawn, y Farwnes Thatcher, bendith arni, a ddileodd Gyngor Llundain Fwyaf a gwneud cymaint rhinwedd o'r canoli a ddigwyddodd yn ei sgil. Yn ystod teyrnasiad y Ceidwadwyr y digwyddodd y canoli a grybwyllir gan Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne *rose*—

Brian Gibbons: Let me finish this point. The core of Nick's argument seems to be the decentralising nature of elected mayors. That came about as a consequence of the Local Government Act 2000 introduced by the Labour Government—the very Government that, according to your argument, was involved in centralisation. Your argument is inconsistent.

Nick Bourne: First, I readily acknowledge that centralisation has happened under successive governments and I accept that it is not only your fault as a political party. However, I also make the point that there were no elected mayors under Margaret Thatcher, so we are not comparing like with like. We did not have elected mayors then, so we are looking at a different concept now.

Brian Gibbons: That difference is like angels dancing on the head of a pin in this instance. I do not think that the argument has been made and I will come to further evidence in support of that contention.

It is interesting that, when local authorities had the opportunity of looking at the new models that the decentralising Labour Government allowed under the 2000 Act—allowing local authorities to make up their own minds in this regard—none of them opted for the mayoral model. As has already been mentioned, the only proposal was firmly rejected by the electorate in Ceredigion. Nick's argument suggested that there was something exceptional in the air of Ceredigion that made the area unsuitable for this model and that, somehow, it would be suitable elsewhere. I am not clear why that argument was made.

There is a need to look at whether or not all of the mayoral models are fit for purpose, because, clearly, there is more than one model for directly elected mayors. I would agree with Jenny Randerson that the model of a mayor with a chief executive—effectively just two people—running a local authority would appear to be overly anti-democratic and too centralising, given the lack of checks and balances in such a situation. That

Nick Bourne *a gododd*—

Brian Gibbons: Gadewch imi orffen y pwynt hwn. Ymddengys mai craidd dadl Nick yw natur ddatganolaidd meiri etholedig. Digwyddodd hynny o ganlyniad i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur—yr union Lywodraeth, yn ôl eich dadl chi, a fu'n ymwneud â chanoli. Mae eich dadl yn anghyson.

Nick Bourne: Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn cydnabod yn barod bod canoli wedi digwydd dan un llywodraeth ar ôl y llall, a derbynaf nad eich bai chi yn unig fel plaid wleidyddol yw hyn. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf hefyd yn gwneud y pwynt nad oedd meiri etholedig dan Margaret Thatcher, felly, nid ydym yn cymharu tebyg â'i debyg. Nid oedd gennym feiri etholedig bryd hynny, felly, yr ydym yn edrych ar gysyniad gwahanol yn awr.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r gwahaniaeth hwnnw fel angylion yn dawnsio ar ben pin yn yr achos hwn. Ni chredaf fod y ddadl wedi ei phrofi, a dof at dystiolaeth bellach i gefnogi'r honiad hwnnw.

Mae'n ddiddorol, pan gafodd awdurdodau lleol gyfle i edrych ar y modelau newydd a ganiatawyd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur ddatganolaidd dan Ddeddf 2000—gan ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol benderfynu eu hunain ar hyn—na ddewisodd yr un ohonynt fodel maer. Fel y crybwyllwyd eisoes, cafodd yr unig gynnig ei wrthod yn bendant gan yr etholwyr yng Ngheredigion. Awgrymai dadl Nick fod rhywbeth arbennig yn aer Ceredigion a oedd yn peri bod yr ardal yn anaddas ar gyfer y model hwn ac y byddai, am ryw reswm, yn addas rywle arall. Nid wyf yn glir pam y dadleuwyd hynny.

Mae angen edrych i weld a yw'r holl fodelau o feiri yn addas at y diben, oherwydd mae'n awg fod mwy nag un patrwm ar gyfer meiri a etholir yn uniongyrchol. Byddwn yn cytuno â Jenny Randerson fod model maer gyda phrif weithredwr—mewn gwirionedd, dau unigolyn yn unig—yn rhedeg awdurdod lleol yn ymddangos yn rhy wrth-ddemocrataidd a rhy ganolog, o gofio na fyddai digon o ddulliau gwirio a chydbwyso mewn sefyllfa

proposal has been abandoned in England and there is certainly a case for doing so. Indeed the only town in England that introduced that model, Burton on Trent, has already abandoned it.

We have mentioned the situation in Ceredigion, but there was also a mayoral election in Bury on 3 July, where the Conservative Party led the campaign against a directly elected mayor. Nick did not deal with it in his speech, but the Conservatives argued that an elected mayor in Bury was not necessary, as it would simply create another tier of bureaucracy. Looking at the logic of their case, the only justification for a directly elected mayor would be to emasculate locally elected councillors. They said that a directly elected mayor would introduce a new layer of Government—an elected mayor as well as elected councillors underneath him or her. If that is their argument, then it would be a case for a weakened democratic mandate for the majority of councillors in a highly concentrated mayoral system. So, I do not think that it could be used as an argument in favour of decentralisation and enhancement of the democratic process

I now turn to Nick's argument that a directly elected mayor could have a galvanising effect on the local body politic across the UK. There have been over three dozen elections in relation to elected mayors throughout England and Wales and, in a few instances, the turnout was around 60 per cent. If that were the case overall, then Nick's argument could be made. However, the general turnout was around 20 to 30 per cent

5.30 p.m.

If that were the case overall, Nick's argument would be made, but, in fact, general turnout was around 20 to 30 per cent. There is a very low level of interest in this. Instead of galvanising people behind the democratic process, apathy seems to reign. Up to half a dozen of the ballots had a turnout of less than 20 per cent and, for one of them, the turnout was just 11 or 12 per cent. That is hardly the panacea that will radicalise and revitalise the electoral process, as Nick argued.

felly. Rhoddwyd y gorau i'r cynnig hwnnw yn Lloegr, ac yn sicr mae achos dros wneud hynny. Yn wir, mae'r unig dref yn Lloegr a gyflwynodd y patrwm hwnnw, Burton on Trent, eisoes wedi rhoi'r gorau iddo.

Yr ydym wedi sôn am y sefyllfa yng Ngheredigion, ond cafwyd etholiad am faer hefyd yn Bury ar 3 Gorffennaf, lle'r arweiniodd y Blaid Geidwadol yr ymgyrch yn erbyn maer wedi ei ethol yn uniongyrchol. Ni ddeliodd Nick ymdrin â hyn yn ei araith, ond dadleuodd y Ceidwadwyr nad oedd angen maer etholedig yn Bury, gan y byddai'n creu haen arall o fiwrocratiaeth. O edrych ar resymeg eu hachos, yr unig gyfiawnhad dros faer wedi ei ethol yn uniongyrchol fyddai dirymu cynghorwyr wedi eu hethol yn lleol. Dywedasant y byddai maer wedi ei ethol yn uniongyrchol yn cyflwyno haen newydd o Lywodraeth—maer etholedig yn ogystal â chynghorwyr etholedig dano neu dani. Os dyna yw eu dadl, yna byddai'n achos dros fandad democrataidd gwannach i fwyafrif y cynghorwyr mewn system o faer lle mae'r grym wedi ei ganoli'n arw. Felly, ni chredaf y gellid ei ddefnyddio fel dadl o blaid datganoli a chyfoethogi'r broses ddemocrataidd.

Trof yn awr at ddadl Nick y gallai maer wedi ei ethol yn uniongyrchol gael effaith egniol ar y wladwriaeth yn lleol ledled y DU. Cafwyd dros dri dwsin o etholiadau mewn perthynas â meiri etholedig drwy Gymru a Lloegr, ac mewn ychydig achosion pleidleisiodd tua 60 y cant. Petai hynny'n digwydd yn gyffredinol, yna byddai grym i ddadl Nick. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd y nifer a bleidleisiodd yn gyffredinol tuag 20 i 30 y cant.

Pe bai hynny'n gyffredinol wir, byddai dadl Nick yn dal dŵr, ond mewn gwirionedd dim ond tuag 20 i 30 y cant a benderfynodd fwrw pleidlais. Ychydig iawn o ddiddordeb sydd yn hyn. Yn hytrach nag ysgogi pobl i gymryd diddordeb yn y broses ddemocrataidd, yr hyn a welir yw difaterwch. Yr oedd canran y pleidleiswyr yn llai nag 20 y cant mewn hyd at hanner dwsin o'r pleidleisiau, ac yr oedd nifer y pleidleiswyr mor isel ag 11 neu 12 y cant yn un ohonynt. Go brin mai dyna'r ateb

a fydd yn radicaleiddio ac yn adfywio'r broses etholiadol, fel y dadleuodd Nick.

David Melding: I thank the Minister for giving way, but I am not sure that I should stop him from shredding official Labour Party policy. Listening to him, you would swear that it was not the Labour Party that had pushed for elected mayors and that is now trying to revive the concept as an excellent executive model. The mayor acts as the executive and the council as the legislature. It is a classical split that is not particularly bureaucratic and is easy to understand.

Brian Gibbons: My case was not that just summarised by David; my case was that there is very little empirical evidence to justify the arguments that Nick Bourne put forward, claiming that the electoral mayor is a way of galvanising, renovating, and rejuvenating the electoral process. I said in my contribution that the fact that we have the option of pursuing elected mayors is a consequence of decisions taken by the Labour Government. Indeed, David Melding is right: the proposals from Hazel Blears today indicate that we want this option to be made available to the people. However, we should not be arguing this on the basis of party politics necessarily; the key element of the proposals of mayors in this instance is that, ultimately, it is up to the local electorate to make the decision. The whole point of the process that we have put in place is to allow the decision in this context to be made by local people. This is an example of decentralisation rather than centralisation, which was one of the justifications for Nick Bourne's argument.

This is a decision for local people, and the Labour Government in Westminster has formulated the legislation in such a way as to ensure that local people decide on this. However, is this really the most important issue when it comes to revitalising democracy in Wales or elsewhere? Surely there are many more fundamental challenges facing the democratic process than that of having directly elected mayors. The atypical make-up of our electoral representatives is a much more fundamental problem in local government. For instance, women are poorly

David Melding: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ildio, ond nid wyf yn siŵr a ddylwn ei atal rhag tynnu polisi swyddogol y Blaid Lafur yn gareiau. O wrando arno, byddech yn taeru nad y Blaid Lafur a alwodd am feiri etholedig ac sy'n ceisio adfywio'r cysyniad yn awr fel model gweithredol rhagorol. Mae'r maer yn gweithredu fel yr adran weithredol a'r cyngor fel y ddeddfwrfa. Mae'n rhaniad clasurol. Nid yw'n fiwrocraidd iawn ac mae'n hawdd ei ddeall.

Brian Gibbons: Nid yr hyn sydd newydd gael ei grynhai gan David oedd fy nadl i; fy nadl i oedd mai prin iawn yw'r dystiolaeth empeiraidd i gyfiawnhau'r dadleuon a gyflwynwyd gan Nick Bourne, a oedd yn honni bod cael maer etholiadol yn ffordd i ysgogi, adfywio, ac adnewyddu'r broses etholiadol. Dywedais yn fy nghyfraniad ein bod wedi cael y dewis o gael meiri etholedig o ganlyniad i benderfyniadau a wnaethpwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur. Yn wir, mae David Melding yn iawn: mae cynigion Hazel Blears heddiw'n dangos bod arnom eisiau i'r dewis hwn fod ar gael i'r bobl. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem o reidrwydd fod yn dadlau ynglŷn â hyn ar sail gwleidyddiaeth plaid; elfen allweddol y cynigion i gael meiri yn yr achos hwn yw mai etholwyr lleol, yn y pen draw, a fydd yn gwneud y penderfyniad. Holl bwnt y broses yr ydym wedi'i sefydlu yw caniatáu i'r penderfyniad yn y cyd-destun hwn gael ei wneud gan bobl leol. Mae hyn yn enghraifft o ddatganoli yn hytrach na chanoli, sef un o'r pwyntiau a oedd yn cyfiawnhau dadl Nick Bourne.

Mae hwn yn benderfyniad i bobl leol, ac mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan wedi llunio'r ddeddfwriaeth mewn ffordd sy'n sicrhau bod pobl leol yn penderfynu ynglŷn â hyn. Fodd bynnag, ai hwn mewn gwirionedd yw'r mater pwysicaf yng nghyswllt adfywio democratiaeth yng Nghymru neu mewn man arall? Siawns nad oes llawer o heriau mwy sylfaenol yn wynebu'r broses ddemocrataidd na chael meiri wedi'u hethol yn uniongyrchol. Mae cyfansoddiad annodweddiadol ein cynrychiolwyr etholiadol yn broblem lawer

represented at all levels of the electoral regime, black and minority ethnic people are underrepresented in the political process, and the age profile of people involved in the electoral process is not typical of the populations that they serve. That is not to say that those people do not represent their community effectively, but the atypical nature of public representatives in Wales and, indeed, the wider body politic in the United Kingdom must be a greater concern and a greater priority for those who are interested in the democratic and political process. If we were to have a debate on how the democratic process should be advanced in Wales, or in the United Kingdom, it would be much more productive to start at that end rather than to say that the election of a single mayor is a key priority that we should progress.

mwy sylfaenol mewn llywodraeth leol. Er enghraifft, nid yw merched yn cael eu cynrychioli'n dda ar unrhyw lefel yn y system etholiadol, nid oes gan bobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig gynrychiolaeth ddigonol yn y broses wleidyddol, ac nid yw proffil oed pobl sy'n ymwneud â'r broses etholiadol yn nodweddiadol o'r poblogaethau y maent yn eu gwasanaethu. Nid yw hynny'n golygu nad yw'r bobl hynny'n cynrychioli eu cymuned yn effeithiol, ond rhaid i natur annodweddiadol pobl sy'n cynrychioli'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru ac, yn wir, y wladwriaeth ehangach yn y Deyrnas Unedig fod yn fwy o destun pryder ac yn fwy o flaenoriaeth i'r rhai hynny sydd â diddordeb yn y broses ddemocrataidd a gwleidyddol. Pe baem yn cael dadl ynglŷn â'r ffordd y dylid datblygu'r broses ddemocrataidd yng Nghymru, neu yn y Deyrnas Unedig, byddai'n llawer mwy cynhyrchiol inni ddechrau gyda hynny yn hytrach na dweud bod ethol un maer yn flaenoriaeth allweddol y dylem ei symud ymlaen.

As I have said, it is not for me, as Minister, to argue the case in this instance. Nick has argued the case, but I am not sure that the conclusions that he drew are necessarily sustainable. However, given how this has been organised, it will ultimately be a matter for the people to decide, and, in a democratic country, that is the best way in the end.

Fel yr wyf wedi dweud, nid fy lle i, fel Gweinidog, yw dadlau dros hyn yn yr achos hwn. Mae Nick wedi dadlau'r achos, ond nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'r casgliadau y daeth iddynt yn gynaliadwy o reidrwydd. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried sut y mae hyn wedi ei drefnu, y bobl fydd yn penderfynu yn y diwedd, ac mewn gwlad ddemocrataidd dyna'r ffordd orau yn y pen draw.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's business to a close.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â busnes heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.33 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.33 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Asghar, Mohammad (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)

Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)