

# Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

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Lleoliad:	I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 2 (Senedd)	Rhys Morgan
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 5 Chwefror 2024	Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 11:00	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru">SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru</a>

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## Cofrestru cyn y cyfarfod (10:45 – 11:00)

1 **Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau**  
(11:00)

2 **Papurau i'w nodi**  
(11:00)

2.1 **Gohebiaeth gan Grŵp Cyllideb Menywod Cymru ynghylch Cyllideb Ddrafft  
Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2024–2025**

(Tudalennau 1 – 5)

2.2 **Gohebiaeth gan CWMPAS at y Cadeirydd ynghylch Cyllideb Ddrafft  
2024/2025**

(Tudalennau 6 – 8)

2.3 **Gohebiaeth rhwng y Cadeirydd a'r Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol ynghylch ymchwiliad dilynol y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a  
Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol i ofal plant**

(Tudalennau 9 – 13)

2.4 **Gohebiaeth gan Oxfam at y Cadeirydd ynghylch yr adroddiad Little Steps, Big  
Struggles: Childcare in Wales**

(Tudalen 14)

2.5 **Gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip at  
Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad ynghylch y**



**Cytundeb Cysylltiadau Rhyngsefydliadol: y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar  
Ddiogelwch a Mudo**

(Tudalen 15)

- 2.6 Gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r  
Cyfansoddiad at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol ynghylch y Cytundeb ar gyfer Darparu Partneriaeth Lloches i  
Gryfhau Ymrwymadau Rhyngwladol a Rennir ar Amddiffyn Ffoaduriaid a  
Mudwyr**

(Tudalennau 16 – 17)

- 2.7 Gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r  
Cyfansoddiad at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol ynghylch Cydnabyddiaeth Gilyddol y DU a Phortiwgal at  
Ddibenion Gyrru a Chyfnewid Trwyddedau**

(Tudalen 18)

- 3 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42(vi) a (ix) i wahardd y cyhoedd o  
weddill y cyfarfod heddiw**

(11:00)

- 4 Cyllideb Ddrafft 2024–25: ystyried yr adroddiad drafft**

(11:00–12:30)

(Tudalennau 19 – 34)

- 5 Y flaenraglen waith: trafod y papur cwmpasu**

(12:30–13:00)

(Tudalennau 35 – 53)

## Briefing: Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

January 2024

### Introduction

The Wales Women's Budget Group and the Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales have jointly analysed the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25 from a gender equality perspective. This briefing highlights some key points and recommendations. Further detail and background information can be found in our [joint written response](#), which was produced prior to the publication of the draft budget.

### 1. Childcare

While we welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to protect frontline services in the 2024-25 Draft Budget, we are extremely disappointed that childcare is not included amongst the services to be protected. We are particularly alarmed that alongside this omission, childcare funding in Wales is being cut. In addition to the £16million of cuts announced in the Welsh Government's in-year spending changes in October 2023, last month's Draft Budget included a further £11.2million of cuts to childcare.

- 1.1. In both cases, cuts to the childcare budget have been justified on the basis of lower-than-expected uptake forecasts of the Welsh Childcare Offer. It is well-evidenced that the need for affordable and accessible childcare remains critical in Wales, as high childcare costs are compounding financial pressures and pushing families into debt and poverty. A recent report published by Oxfam Cymru highlighted that 43% of parents and guardians in Wales have not been able to pay other essential costs after paying for childcare, and that over two-thirds had to reduce their working hours due to a lack of childcare.<sup>1</sup> These pressures are being felt most acutely by single parents – 86% of whom are women – who face the highest risk of relative income poverty in Wales.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2. As rising costs of childcare continue to push women into unemployment and their families into poverty, lower-than-expected uptake forecasts are likely indicative of a mismatch between what families need and what is available through the Offer. There are several possible reasons for this, for example, the Offer is only available to parents of three and four-year-olds, and its eligibility criteria excludes families on the lowest incomes. There are also significant gaps in provisions for parents working atypical hours, for disabled children and for those living in rural areas.
- 1.3. In this context, the Welsh Government's decision to reprioritise childcare funding, instead of using it to accelerate work towards ensuring childcare is available to those who need it most, is highly regrettable. We would urge the Welsh Government to thoroughly investigate the reasons for lower uptake levels and consider whether any aspect of the design or operation of the Offer prevents families who would benefit most from funded childcare from accessing it. These issues should be tackled and resolved before any financial reprioritizations or cuts are made to the childcare budget.

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<sup>1</sup> Oxfam Cymru (2023), Little steps, big struggles: Childcare in Wales  
<https://oxfamapps.org/cymru/wpcontent/uploads/2023/11/Little-Steps-Big-Struggles.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> WEN Wales (2023), Make Care Fair Briefing. <https://wenwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Make-Care-Fair.WenWales.3.pdf>

### Recommendations:

- (1) The Welsh Government should refrain from making any cuts to the childcare budget until the reasons for lower uptake levels of the Childcare Offer are fully understood.
- (2) If this analysis identifies any aspects of the design or operation of the Childcare Offer that prevents parents from accessing it, any savings from lower forecast demand should be put toward resolving these issues, starting with those that would have the biggest impact on families on the lowest incomes.

## 2. Public Services

Rising costs have put unprecedented pressure on Wales' public services, endangering their quality of provision and ability to meet demand. This will disproportionately impact women, who are more likely to work in public services, to rely on public services and to become providers of last resort when services are cut.<sup>3</sup> While we welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to protect frontline public services in its in-year spending changes and in the 2024-25 Draft Budget, we are concerned that the allocated funding is not sufficient to keep pace with the cost pressures. We are particularly concerned that the public services most critical to women, such as social care, childcare, and housing, will face real-term and actual funding cuts as a result.

**2.1. Local Government:** Local authorities in Wales provide many of the vital public services that women use and need, including childcare, social care, and housing support. As noted by Wales Fiscal Analysis, Wales' local authorities are facing a £354million shortfall in 2024-2025<sup>4</sup>, which will require difficult decisions regarding service provision cuts. To avoid exacerbating gender inequality, these decisions must be informed by robust equalities evaluation and impact assessment using gender disaggregated data to understand their impact on women in Wales. These evaluations should be reported to and monitored by the Welsh Government who must take necessary action to mitigate any inequitable impacts. By embedding gender budgeting into their budgetary processes, both the Welsh Government and local authorities can ensure that their spending decisions and cuts are not disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable in society. The Gender Equality Review, *Deeds Not Words* (2019) provides a clear, well-evidenced framework through which to do this.<sup>5</sup> The Welsh Government should expediate the full implementation of the review recommendations as a matter of urgency. The Wales Women's Budget Group would be pleased to work with officials in progressing this important piece of work.

**2.2. Council Tax:** In the absence of additional funding, local authorities in Wales are likely to resort to council tax rises to meet cost pressures. As council tax is not based on income, it can have inequitable effects on low-earning tenants and homeowners, especially in the context of other cost pressures. Rises in regressive council taxes are therefore likely to disproportionately impact single parents in Wales – 86% of whom are women<sup>6</sup> – who

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<sup>3</sup> UK Women's Budget Group (2022), The gendered impact of the cost-of-living crisis on public services <https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Gendered-impact-of-cost-of-living-crisis-on-public-services1.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Wales Fiscal Analysis (2023), The medium-term fiscal outlook for local government in Wales, [https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/2779342/The-medium-term-fiscal-outlook-for-local.pdf](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/2779342/The-medium-term-fiscal-outlook-for-local.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Chwarae Teg (2019), *Deeds Not Words, Review of Gender Equality in Wales*.

<sup>6</sup> Oxfam Cymru (2023), *Little steps, big struggles: Childcare in Wales*.

rely on a single income. To mitigate these inequitable impacts, the Welsh Government must accelerate its current work to establish a more fair and progressive council tax system in Wales.

### Recommendations

- (1) Funding cuts to public services must be informed by robust equalities evaluation and impact assessment using gender disaggregated data to understand their impact on women in Wales. The Welsh Government should monitor these impacts and take necessary action to mitigate any inequitable consequences.
- (2) To avoid further entrenching gender inequality through spending decisions, the Welsh Government should progress the full implementation of the Gender Equality Review and roll out gender budgeting approaches across Government.
- (3) The Welsh Government should accelerate its ongoing work to establish a more fair and progressive council tax system in Wales as a matter of urgency.

### 3. Cost of Living Support

The Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing cost of living crisis have not impacted all households in Wales equally. Due to deep-rooted gender inequality and a disproportionate share of caring responsibilities, women in Wales – particularly ethnic minority, racialised, disabled women and single mothers – occupy an unequal position in the Welsh economy and are being hit hardest by the impacts of the crisis. In this context, we are concerned that government support measures do not go far enough to protect women from falling deeper into debt and poverty.

**3.1. Hardship Payments:** Support measures such as the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF), are welcome interventions which can help to reduce pressure on women's incomes as the costs of essentials remain high. We therefore welcome the Welsh Government's continued funding of the DAF in the 2024-25 Draft Budget. However, a lack of gender disaggregated data and analysis makes it difficult to ascertain the impact of this support on women in Wales. The Welsh Government should produce a disaggregated DAF analysis to better understand the demographics of those accessing the fund.

3.1.1. From a gendered perspective, the fact that hardship payments are made at household level can undermine women's access to an independent income and increases the opportunities for financial abuse and financial dependency on an abuser.<sup>7</sup> The Welsh Government should therefore consider splitting DAF payments for households with more than one individual.

**3.2. Winter Fuel Support Scheme:** In the context of rising energy costs and colder weather, current levels of governmental fuel support are insufficient. While some emergency support is available through the Fuel Bank Foundation, this does not go far enough to protect the numerous households in Wales facing fuel poverty this Winter. To do so, the Welsh Government must progress the implementation of the delayed Warm Homes Programme as a matter of urgency.

**3.3. Long-term measures:** While hardship payments and support schemes are essential, they are short-term measures that do little to address the underlying causes of the crisis and help households cope in the longer term. It is therefore vital that these measures go

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<sup>7</sup> Chwarae Teg (2019), *Trapped: Poverty amongst Women in Wales today*.

hand in hand with the longer-term work to tackle the structural causes of poverty and inequality in Wales. This should include full implementation of the recommendations of the Gender Equality Review, including gender budgeting.

### Recommendations:

- (1) The Welsh Government should provide a breakdown of the Discretionary Assistance Fund analysis by gender and other protected characteristics.
- (2) The Welsh Government should consider splitting DAF payments for households with more than one individual to safeguard women's access to hardship payments.
- (3) The Welsh Government should progress the implementation of the Warm Homes Programme without further delay.
- (4) The Welsh Government should tackle gender inequality at its root by progressing the full implementation of the Gender Equality Review recommendations as a matter of urgency.

## 4. Gender Budgeting

In the current context of unprecedented budgetary pressures, gender budgeting remains a key tool at the Welsh Government's disposal to both safeguard and advance equality in Wales. It provides the tools to restructure spending decisions by taking account of their gendered impacts and redistributing resources in a way that eliminates inequitable outcomes. We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment and ongoing work to implement gender budgeting but are concerned that the pace of progress remains slow.

**4.1. Gender Budgeting Pilots:** Each of the Welsh Government's gender budgeting pilots – Personal Learning Accounts, Young Persons Guarantee and E-Move – were scheduled to conclude by 2022-23. After some delay, the external evaluation of the Personal Learning Accounts pilot was published in June 2023. The evaluation identified several important learnings and recommendations on how to apply gender budgeting in a practical context, including the timing of the implementation and building up staff expertise. However, it remains unclear if and how these findings were used to inform the development of the other two pilots and how the implementation of gender budgeting has been refined throughout.

4.1.1. To prevent pilots becoming siloed and to ensure steady progress towards the wider rollout of gender budgeting, information on progress throughout the pilots must be clarified without delay. It can then be used to inform plans for mainstreaming gender budgeting across the Welsh Government, in order support better policymaking and budget allocation. The Wales Women's Budget Group would be pleased to work with officials to progress this important piece of work.

### Recommendations

- (1) The Welsh Government should provide without delay a progress update on the Young Persons Guarantee and E-Move gender budgeting pilots, and, if the pilots have concluded, publish their evaluations. This information should then be used to developing plans to mainstream gender budgeting tools across the Welsh Government.

## 5. Social Justice and Third Sector Funding

**5.1. Precarity of the Welsh third sector:** Third sector organisations in Wales play an indispensable role in scrutinising policies and advocating for the most disadvantaged in our society. The Welsh third sector is facing unprecedented challenges due to the loss of



EU funding and rising costs pressures. Recent research published by the Wales Council of Voluntary Action showed that 43% of the over 300 organisations surveyed had to actively reduce staff numbers.<sup>8</sup> The impact on the women's sector is especially severe, as it is already seriously underfunded. Research by the Rosa Foundation showed that only 1.8% of the total grants awarded to charities in the UK in 2021 went to women and girls focused activity.<sup>9</sup> The incredibly sad loss of Chwarae Teg is symptomatic of these pressures and representative of an alarming loss of capacity and expertise in the Welsh third sector, whose workforce is predominantly female.

**5.2. Equalities, Inclusion and Human Rights:** In this context, the Welsh Government's decision to rationalise funding for Equalities, Inclusion and Human budget within the draft budget is deeply concerning.

5.2.1. This decision follows an in-year spending change to cut the Social Justice budget by £7million. Despite making up just 13% of the total Social Justice Budget, 60% (£4.2 million) of these savings fall under the Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights expenditure group, which funds a number of important equality and human rights programmes and third sector organisations in Wales. Since the announcement in October 2023, it remains unclear which particular programmes will be postponed or downgraded as part of this savings exercise. To facilitate proper scrutiny of these impacts, the Welsh Government must clarify the details of the in-year re-prioritisation without delay.

5.2.2. The cuts to the Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights budget come at a time when we need to be especially vigilant about protecting equality and human rights. To prevent further loss of expertise, safeguard the delivery of long-term equality and human rights objectives, and protect disadvantaged groups, the Welsh Government should take urgent action to protect the sustainability of a rapidly contracting third sector in Wales.

### Recommendations

- (1) The Welsh Government should clarify without delay what programmes will be affected by the in-year spending change to the Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights.
- (2) The Welsh Government should take urgent action to protect the sustainability of the third sector in Wales to prevent further loss of expertise, safeguard the delivery of long-term equality and human rights objectives, and protect disadvantaged groups.

### For more information please contact:

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<sup>8</sup> WCVA (2023), The Aftermath of an afterthought, <https://wcva.cymru/views/the-aftermath-of-an-afterthought/>

<sup>9</sup> Rosa (2023), Mapping the UK Women and Girls Sector and its Funding: Where Does the Money Go? <https://rosauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Women-and-Girls-Sector-Research-Mapping-ReportAmended.pdf>

## Eitem 2.2

### **Welsh Government Draft Budget 24/25 – impact on Digital Communities Wales**

We are writing to give evidence as part of your scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2024-25 and to raise awareness of the implications within it for the ambition to create a fair and equal Wales. In an increasingly online world it's imperative that everyone has a fair opportunity to gain the skills, access and motivation to be a confident user of digital technology. 7% of adults in Wales today remain offline, many of them the most vulnerable and excluded in our communities.

The budget proposes a 50% cut, equivalent to £1m, to the Digital Communities Wales: Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being programme which aims to reduce digital exclusion in Wales. The programme helps a range of organisations that provide critical services to be more digitally inclusive by working with them to support people to gain basic digital skills. As more and more vital public services are being delivered online, these people – often already marginalised – are in danger of being left behind. Key bodies providing support services, particularly in the health and care sector, must be digitally inclusive so that everyone in Wales has equal access to the support and services they need to live well. The impact of the work of Digital Communities Wales has been widely commended. In the 22-23 Impact Report, we noted that 40,201 people had been supported to get online, with 2,741 members of staff or volunteers being trained in digital skills.

Those most likely to be digitally excluded include older adults, people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, those with lower educational attainment, lower income individuals or families, people in rural areas, Welsh speakers, lonely or isolated people, or homeless. They are often also the heaviest users of health and social care services. As pressures on these services intensify at a time of high demand, set against a challenging financial climate, most are looking to digital transformation as a solution. During the pandemic we saw these already marginalised groups disproportionately affected, and in the current cost-of-living crisis they are at increased risk of experiencing data poverty – having to choose between data, devices and feeding themselves or their families. Increasingly we are seeing the gap widen for these groups of people.

Just this week, the Older People's Commissioner in Wales has published '[Access denied](#)' which highlights older people's experiences of digital exclusion and the impact this has on people's lives. It shows that it is increasingly difficult to undertake day to day activities if you are not online and that digital exclusion is now resulting in social exclusion.

#### Importance of digital inclusion

The Welsh Government has previously stated its understanding of the importance of digital inclusion - the Digital Strategy for Wales states that:

*"When people are confident and motivated to engage with digital, they can enjoy the wider benefits of health, well-being, reduced loneliness and being financially better off..."*



We know the Welsh Government itself believes in the potential of digital transformation to deliver more effective and efficient public services. The Digital Strategy states that the Welsh Government will “ensure **no one is left behind** as we embrace a digital first approach, keeping digital inclusion at the heart of all we do”.

Mission 6 of the Welsh Government’s Digital and data strategy for health and social care in Wales focuses on Digital Inclusion and specifically makes the following commitment:

*“Our ambition is to give everyone in Wales the opportunity, motivation, skills, and confidence to engage with health and social care services digitally. To achieve that, we will continue to work closely with delivery partners and across government to support a cross-cutting policy which improves connectivity, digital literacy, and confidence. For example, **we will maintain our investment in the Digital Communities Wales programme**, and we will work closely with the economy and digital portfolios in Welsh Government.”*

The business case for the digital transformation of health and public services is reliant on people being able to use the new services. The improvements in the quality and greater efficiencies of the services will be significantly impeded by people not being able to access them – especially so when we know that those with the greatest needs are among those most likely to be digitally-excluded.

In addition, last year Audit Wales published its research into digital inclusion in Wales. It noted that:

*“The Welsh Government has invested heavily in improving broadband infrastructure and the past few years have shown how reliant many of us have become on good quality internet access. However, spending on infrastructure needs to be balanced with work to tackle the root causes of digital exclusion to manage the risk of creating a two-tier society when it comes to access to public and other services.”*

The DCW programme is a key enabler for other services to ensure people are included and not left behind. If patients cannot access digital services confidently and securely the pressures on the health service will increase, in turn placing greater pressure on future Welsh Government budgets.

### Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales

Our colleagues in the Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales, a network of organisations that are working together to make Wales a digitally inclusive nation, have also stated their concern over the proposed cut.

With over 90 members, the Alliance comprises public and third sector organisations, private sector companies and academia, all focused on ensuring that everyone who wants to in Wales is able to access and use digital tools and technologies in their everyday lives and has the confidence to do so.

They are deeply shocked and saddened to see the proposed cut at a time when the programme has a vital role to play.

### The impact of spending reprioritisation

Our work on digital inclusion is longstanding but remains more important than ever, especially in light of the current financial pressures across sectors where increasingly organisations are turning to digital means of delivery to make efficiencies themselves.

The announcement in the Draft Budget for 24/25 will have a catastrophic impact on the service we can offer, the communities we can support, and Cwmpas as an organisation itself. Ultimately it will result in more people in some of our most marginalised communities unable to access the support they need, increasing the digital divide and inequalities that already exist.

We are passionate about creating a fairer, more resilient Wales and a truly digitally-inclusive nation. If this is to be achieved then investing in key enabling support to ensure we are a digitally inclusive nation is vital at a time when services are increasingly moving online in response to their own budget pressures. Failure to invest now will see a significant proportion of our most vulnerable and marginalised communities further excluded.

### Ask of Committee Members

We urge the committee to note the devastating impact this proposed funding cut will have on the programme and communities across Wales and seek your support in reversing this decision at a time when the programme is needed more than ever.



Jenny Rathbone AS  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Senedd Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN

30 Ionawr 2024

Annwyl Jenny,

Diolch yn fawr iawn am eich llythyr fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol lle roeddech yn nodi eich cynlluniau i gynnal ymchwiliad dilynol i ofal plant a chyflogaeth rhieni.

Mae eich llythyr yn darparu strwythur defnyddiol ar gyfer y papur tystiolaeth y byddaf yn ei anfon i gefnogi'r dystiolaeth lafar y byddaf yn ei darparu i'r Pwyllgor ar 11 Mawrth.

Mae gofal plant a chyflogaeth rhieni wedi bod yn faterion allweddol ers amser maith i Lywodraeth Cymru. O ran gwybodaeth gefndirol i helpu'r Pwyllgor, efallai y byddwch am nodi'r datblygiadau diweddar.

Ymrwymiad i ehangu gofal plant am ddim i gynnig 12.5 o oriau yr wythnos i bob plentyn dwy flwydd oed, gydaphwyslais ar gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.

- Dechreuwyd cyflwyno Cam 2 ym mis Ebrill 2023. Bydd Cam 2 yr ehangu yn caniatáu i fwy na 9,500 yn rhagor o blant dwy oed gael mynediad at ofal plant Dechrau'n Deg unwaith y bydd y cynllun wedi'i ehangu'n llawn.
- Erbyn diwedd Tachwedd 2023 (y ffigurau diweddaraf), mae 4,195 o leoedd gofal ychwanegol i blant 2 oed wedi cael eu cynnig i rieni yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i 85% o darged 2023-24.
- Yn 2024-25, y targed ar gyfer Cam 2 yw cefnogi 5,522 o blant 2 oed ychwanegol â mynediad at ofal plant o ansawdd.

#### Y Cynnig Gofal Plant - Defnydd Cyffredinol

- Roedd 12,873 o blant yn manteisio ar y Cynnig Gofal Plant ym mis Hydref 2023. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i 57% o'r rhieni cymwys a amcangyfrifwyd. Mae'r gyfradd hon o 57% a fanteisiodd yn nhymor yr Hydref ychydig yn uwch na'r arfer (55% yw'r ganran ar

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth Gymraeg sy'n dod i law yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

gyfartaledd), a byddwn yn monitro'r lefelau i geisio deall a yw hyn yn dynodi tuedd gyffredinol ar gyfer tymhorau'r Gwanwyn a'r Haf.

### Y Cynnig Gofal Plant - Ehangu i gynnwys rhieni mewn addysg a hyfforddiant

- Erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn academaidd 22/23, roedd cymorth yn cael ei roi i 675 o deuluoedd ychwanegol yn sgil ehangu'r Cynnig i gynnwys rhieni cymwys a oedd mewn addysg/hyfforddiant.
- Hyd yn hyn, mae llwyddiant y gwaith hyrwyddo wedi gweld nifer y rhieni mewn addysg a hyfforddiant a gefnogir gan y Cynnig yn neidio i 1,100 yn ystod tymor cyntaf y tymor academaidd newydd hwn - o'i gymharu ag ychydig o dan 200 yn ystod tymor yr Hydref 2022/23.

### Effaith y Cynnig Gofal Plant

- Unwaith eto, dangosodd canlyniadau'r gwerthusiad annibynnol diweddaraf, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mawrth 2023, fod y cynllun wedi bod yn helpu rhieni i weithio. Soniodd rhieni a holwyd am amrywiaeth o effeithiau cadarnhaol yn deillio o ddefnyddio'r Cynnig:
  - Dywedodd 75% o rieni fod y Cynnig wedi ei gwneud yn haws iddynt ymgymryd â'u gwaith;
  - Dywedodd 37% o rieni y byddent yn gweithio llai o oriau pe na bai'r Cynnig ar gael iddynt - roedd yr effaith hon yn fwy i rieni a oedd yn ennill llai na £26,000 y flwyddyn (dywedodd 42% y byddent yn gweithio llai o oriau heb y Cynnig);
  - Dywedodd 10% o rieni y byddent mewn swydd â llai o gyfleoedd i ddatblygu eu gyrfa, a dywedodd 10% ychwanegol na fyddent yn gweithio o gwbl, pe na bai'r Cynnig wedi bod ar gael iddynt.

Rwy'n gobeithio, cyn imi ddod i'r cyfarfod Pwyllgor, y byddaf mewn sefyllfa i rannu gyda chi gopiâu o'r Cynllun Chwarae, Dysgu a Gofal Plentynod Cynnar yng Nghymru (fersiynau lefel uchel a manwl). Datblygwyd y Cynllun ar sail themâu ansawdd y ddarpariaeth, mynediad at ddarpariaeth a chefnogi a datblygu'r gweithlu. Drwy ganolbwyntio ar y themâu hyn, nod y Cynllun yw cefnogi'r broses o ddatblygu a chyflwyno dull cyson o feithrin, dysgu a datblygu, drwy ddarparu cyfleoedd gofal plant ac addysg o ansawdd, sy'n gynhwysol ac yn seiliedig ar chwarae.

Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd yr uchod o ddefnydd ichi, ac edrychaf ymlaen at allu helpu'r Pwyllgor i frwr ymlaen â'i ymchwiliad i'r maes gwaith pwysig hwn.

Yn gywir



**Julie Morgan AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Service

Julie Morgan

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

3 Ionawr 2023

Annwyl Julie,

**Ymchwiliad dilynol i ofal plant a chyflogaeth rhieni**

Mae'r Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol yn bwriadu cynnal ymchwiliad dilynol i ofal plant a chyflogaeth rhieni ym mis Chwefror/Mawrth 2024. Fel rhan o'r gwaith hwn, rydym yn gobeithio edrych ar y cynnydd o ran gweithredu adroddiad y Pwyllgor yn 2022, sef: 'Gwarchod y dyfodol: y rhwystr gofal plant sy'n wynebu rhieni sy'n gweithio'. Gweler y cylch gorchwyl llawn isod yn yr Atodiad.

Rydym yn bwriadu ehangu ein hymchwiliad newydd i edrych ar y graddau y mae gofal plant yn diwallu anghenion amrywiol teuluoedd; a sut y gellid mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau o ran cael mynediad at ofal plant y mae grwpiau demograffig penodol yn eu hwynebu.

Byddem yn croesawu diweddariad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ynghylch y sefyllfa bresennol a'r rhagolygon ar gyfer polisi gofal plant. Os yn bosibl, byddem yn ddiolchgar pe gallech roi papur i ni yn nodi eich barn erbyn 5 Chwefror 2024.

Hoffem hefyd eich gwahodd i roi tystiolaeth lafar i'r Pwyllgor yn y prynhawn ar 11 Mawrth 2024. O ystyried y cysylltiadau clir rhwng darpariaeth gofal plant a materion cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol, rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol.

Edrychaf ymlaen at gael eich ymateb.

Yn gywir



Jenny Rathbone AS

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

# Atodiad A

- Pa gynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud o ran gweithredu'r argymhellion yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor a gyhoeddwyd ddechrau 2022, sef **Gwarchod y dyfodol – Y rhwystr gofal plant sy'n wynebu rhieni sy'n gweithio.**
- I ba raddau y mae'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant yng Nghymru yn rhoi darpariaeth o safon uchel sy'n cefnogi datblygiad plant, yn mynd i'r afael â thlodi plant ac yn cefnogi cyflogaeth rhieni. Pa newidiadau y gallai fod eu hangen i gyflawni'r canlyniadau hyn.
- Pa gynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud tuag at gyflawni ymrwymiad y Cytundeb Cydweithio i ehangu ar y 12.5 awr o ofal plant am ddim yr wythnos i bob plentyn dwy flwydd oed, a rhoi pwyslais ar gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- I ba raddau y mae digon o ofal plant ar gael i ddiwallu anghenion amrywiol teuluoedd ledled Cymru, a sut y gellir mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau o ran mynediad at ofal plant y mae grwpiau demograffig penodol a grwpiau mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru yn eu hwynebu.
- Pa ddulliau sydd ar gael i integreiddio'r gwaith o ddarparu gofal plant yng Nghymru, a sut y gellir lledaenu arfer gorau yn eang.
- Sut mae pwysau costau byw wedi effeithio ar ddarparwyr a'r gweithlu gofal plant, a pha effeithiau y mae'r rhain wedi'u cael ar y sector.
- Pa wersi y gellir eu dysgu o rannau eraill o'r DU, ac o arfer gorau yn rhyngwladol i wella polisi gofal plant yng Nghymru.
- Sut y mae angen ystyried rhwystrau ariannol a rhwystrau ymarferol wrth ddatblygu polisi gofal plant yn y dyfodol.





# Atodiad B

## Canllawiau

Ni ddylai'r dystiolaeth fod yn hwy na phum ochr tudalen A4. Dylid rhifo'r paragraffau, a dylai'r dystiolaeth ganolbwyntio ar y cylch gorchwyl.

Os ydych yn ymateb ar ran sefydliad, dylech roi disgrifiad byr o rôl eich sefydliad.

Gweler y [canllawiau i'r rhai sy'n darparu tystiolaeth ar gyfer pwyllgorau](#).

## Polisi Dwyieithrwydd

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn croesawu cyfraniadau yn y naill neu'r llall o'n hieithoedd swyddogol, Cymraeg a Saesneg, neu'r ddwy. Os na chyflwynir gwybodaeth yn ddwyieithog, ni fydd yn cael ei chyfieithu, a chaiff ei chyhoeddi yn yr iaith y cafodd ei chyflwyno ynddi yn unig. Rydym yn disgwyl i sefydliadau weithredu eu safonau a'u cynlluniau eu hunain a chydymffurfio â'u rhwymedigaethau statudol.

## Sut y byddwn yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth

Fel rheol byddwn yn cyhoeddi gohebiaeth neu dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig ar ein gwefan. Os ydych wedi ymateb yn bersonol, bydd eich enw'n cael ei gyhoeddi ynghyd â'ch cyfraniad, oni bai eich bod wedi gofyn i'ch cyfraniad fod yn ddiennw. Os ydych wedi ymateb yn eich rôl broffesiynol, bydd y fersiwn o'ch ymateb a gyhoeddir yn cynnwys eich enw, teitl eich swydd/rôl os yw'n berthnasol, ac enw eich sefydliad.

## Manylion cyswllt

Os hoffech siarad â rhywun am yr ymgynghoriad hwn, defnyddiwch y manylion cyswllt a ganlyn:

E-bost: [SeneddCydraddoldeb@Senedd.Cymru](mailto:SeneddCydraddoldeb@Senedd.Cymru)

Ffôn: 0300 200 6565

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Eitem 2.4



For the attention of Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee.

I am writing with regard to the Equality and Social Justice Committee consultation on childcare and parental employment. Oxfam Cymru's strategy makes a strong commitment to sharing our platform, amplifying the voices of partners, and ensuring a diverse range of perspectives are duly acknowledged and heard. As part of this commitment, we are keen to extend our platform to grassroots organisations, (and the working parents they support), with whom we work closely. Our mission is to support and mentor them to become confident to contribute substantively to the consultation process.

We are encouraged by the positive feedback we received thus far regarding our collaborative approach. Notably, during the recent launch of our research, [Little Steps, Big Struggles: Childcare in Wales](#) you may have had the pleasure of meeting representatives from Mother's Matter CIC. They informed us that it was the first time they had visited the Senedd or participated in a campaign of this nature. The feedback we received underscores the importance of our support in nurturing their understanding of political processes and advocacy efforts.

With due respect, we kindly request your consideration in allowing us to present oral evidence to the committee, alongside our grassroots partners. Given the dynamic nature of the subject matter and the rapid developments therein, we believe that our insights could offer valuable nuances and recent updates to inform your inquiry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and considering the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to your vital work.

Kind regards

Sarah Rees

Head of Oxfam Cymru

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip  
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: Y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar Ddiogelwch a Mudo

Huw Irranca-Davies AS  
Cadeirydd  
Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad  
Senedd Cymru  
[SeneddLJC@senedd.cymru](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.cymru)

26 Ionawr 2024

Anwyl Huw,

### **Y Cytundeb Cysylltiadau Rhyngsefydliadol: Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar Ddiogelwch a Mudo**

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch yn unol â'r Cytundeb Cysylltiadau Rhyngsefydliadol i'ch hysbysu y bydd cyfarfod o'r Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar Ddiogelwch a Mudo yn cael ei gynnal ddydd Llun, 5 Chwefror rhwng 10am a 11.15 am. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei gynnal yn Queen Elizabeth House yng Nghaeredin a bydd yn cael ei gadeirio gan yr Arglwydd Sharpe o Epsom OBE. Byddaf yn ymuno â'r cyfarfod o bell.

Cytunwyd y bydd y cyfarfod yn canolbwyntio ar Fil Mudo Anghyfreithlon Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, gwasgaru ceiswyr lloches, a'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar ar y cap ar lwybrau mudo diogel a chyfreithiol. Bydd trafodaeth hefyd ar Gynllun Wcráin, y gwrthdaro rhwng Israel a Hamas a'r diwygiadau diweddar o ran mudo net.

Bydd nodyn yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar ôl y cyfarfod, a byddaf yn rhoi gwybod i chi am hyn maes o law.

Rwyf hefyd yn anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at Jenny Rathbone AS, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol.

Yn gywir,

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip**  
**Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip**

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Tudalen y pecyn 15

Jenny Rathbone AS  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol

26 Ionawr 2024

Annwyl Jenny,

Y DU/Rwanda: Cytundeb ar gyfer Darparu Partneriaeth Lloches i Gryfhau Ymrwymadau Rhyngwladol a Rennir i Ddiogelu Ffoaduriaid a Mudwyr

Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad yn gyfrifol am fonitro'r broses o weithredu cytundebau rhyngwladol nad ydynt yn gytundebau masnachol yn ystod y Chweched Senedd.

Yn ein cyfarfod ar 8 Ionawr 2024, gwnaethom drafod Cytundeb rhwng y DU a Rwanda ar gyfer Darparu Partneriaeth Lloches i Gryfhau Ymrwymadau Rhyngwladol a Rennir i Ddiogelu Ffoaduriaid a Mudwyr. Mae'r cytundeb hwn yn darparu ar gyfer creu, cynnal a gorfodi partneriaeth rhwng y DU a Rwanda i ymdrin ag unigolion sydd wedi'u hadleoli o'r Deyrnas Unedig i Rwanda, gan gynnwys ystyried ceisiadau am statws fel ffoadur a phenderfynu ar y ceisiadau hyn.

Fel y nodwyd yn ein hadroddiad, mae'r Memorandwm Esboniadol yn manylu ar y ddeddfwriaeth ddomestig a fydd yn cael ei defnyddio i roi effaith gyfreithiol i'r cytundeb yn y DU ac yn nodi bwriad Prif Weinidog y DU i gyflwyno deddfwriaeth newydd i gadarnhau diogelwch Rwanda fel trydedd wlad. Yn sgil hynny, cafodd y *Bil Diogelwch Rwanda (Lloches a Mewnfudo)* ei gyflwyno yn Senedd y DU ar 7 Rhagfyr 2023.



Er bod y cytundeb hwn yn ymwneud â materion a gedwir yn ôl, cytunwyd y dylid dwyn sylw eich Pwyllgor ato, yn ogystal ag at y *Bil Diogelwch Rwanda (Lloches a Mewnfudo)*, a hynny er mwyn nodi'r goblygiadau posibl i unigolion sy'n byw yng Nghymru ac sydd wedyn yn cael eu hadleoli i Rwanda.

Mae ein hadroddiad diweddaraf, a osodwyd ar 16 Ionawr 2024, ar gael [yma](#).

Yn gywir,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

Huw Irranca-Davies

Cadeirydd



Jenny Rathbone AS

Cadeirydd, y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

18 Ionawr 2024

Annwyl Jenny,

Cydnabyddiaeth Gilyddol y DU a Phortiwgal at Ddibenion Gyrru a Chyfnwid Trwyddedau

Fel y byddwch yn gwybod, mae'r Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad yn gyfrifol am fonitro'r broses o weithredu cytundebau rhyngwladol nad ydynt yn ymwneud â masnach yn y Chweched Senedd.

Yn ystod ein cyfarfod ar 4 Rhagfyr 2023, buom yn ystyried Cydnabyddiaeth Gilyddol y DU a Phortiwgal at Ddibenion Gyrru a Chyfnwid Trwyddedau. Mae'r cytundeb hwn yn darparu ar gyfer cydnabyddiaeth gilyddol o'r ddwy ochr o drwyddedau gyrru at ddibenion gyrru a chyfnwid trwyddedau yn y DU a Phortiwgal.

Wrth ystyried y cytundeb, gwnaethom gyuno hefyd i dynnu sylw eich Pwyllgor chi at y cytundeb, gan ei fod yn monitro hawliau dinasyddion Ewropeaidd sy'n byw yng Nghymru o dan y Cytundeb Ymadael rhwng y DU a'r UE.

Mae ein hadroddiad diweddaraf ar gael yma.

Yn gywir,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

Huw Irranca-Davies

Cadeirydd





Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon