

Jenny Rathbone AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol

14 Rhagfyr 2023

Tystiolaeth ddiweddar gan Gomisiynydd Plant Cymru: hiliaeth a thlodi plant

Annwyl Jenny,

Gwnaethom gynnal yn ddiweddar ein sesiwn graffu flynyddol gyda Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru. Un o'r meysydd a drafodwyd gennym oedd dylanwad y Comisiynydd. Rydym yn nodi bod eich meysydd gwaith cyfredol yn cynnwys gwrth-hiliaeth a thlodi plant. Gan hynny, mae'n bosibl y bydd tystiolaeth y Comisiynydd i ni o ddi-ddordeb i chi. Pan ofynnwyd iddi ar ba feysydd, yn ei barn hi, y mae ganddi'r dylanwad mwyaf, dywedodd:

"So, we have, probably, had most traction in relation to education issues. We've been pleased with the response so far to the racism work and earlier conversations have indicated that Government are open to our recommendations and have in fact told us that they would wait to complete their anti-bullying guidance so that they could consider the recommendations of our report, for example.

We've also had good influence, we feel, in relation to the new attendance guidance that's been published and many of our suggestions were taken on board there, including looking at the reduced timetables and making sure that the needs of kinship carers were responded to in that document.

We also had influence positively in the home education space recently. When I came into the role I felt that it was a very polarised issue with a lot of tension on both sides, and perhaps the different groups not necessarily coming together effectively. So, I proposed to convene a forum for home-educating parents so that they could voice their concerns and have their questions answered about the new guidance that was about to come in—it came in in April 2023. And that was



positively received by Government and, I think, was concluded to be a very beneficial exercise all round.

So, education on the whole is one area where we do feel that there is openness to our input. We have tried a lot to influence the poverty agenda and the child poverty strategy, which we hope to see a final version of very soon. We feel that perhaps we haven't experienced as much openness so far in that dialogue. We have convened and collaboratively very significantly with other bodies on this issue. We hosted a child poverty summit recently and we've put forward recommendations and suggestions, on which there is a great deal of consensus from other groups, and have communicated that as best we can to Ministers very regularly; so, we are hoping that the final strategy will reflect our suggestions, but it's not, you know—. So far, we don't feel as confident about having positively influenced that yet, although, you know, we've done our best."¹

Roeddem am dynnu eich sylw at y cyferbyniad y tynnodd y Comisiynydd sylw ato.

Ers inni gymryd y dystiolaeth hon, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi ei hymateb i adroddiad blynyddol y Comisiynydd. Yn wahanol i flynyddoedd blaenorol, nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi nodi'n glir a yw wedi derbyn neu wrthod pob argymhelliad. Nodwn i'r Comisiynydd, yn ystod y sesiwn graffu flynyddol, sôn am fonitro cynnydd o ran yr argymhellion hyn, gan ddweud y byddai'n cadw llygad barcud arnynt i weld a ydynt wedi cael eu derbyn,² gan awgrymu bod disgwyl y bydd ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru yn dilyn fformat blynyddoedd blaenorol. Mae datgan yn glir a yw argymhelliad yn cael ei dderbyn neu ei wrthod yn bwysig ar gyfer eglurder a thryloywder. Byddwn yn ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ar y mater hwn hefyd.

Yn gywir,



Jayne Bryant AS
Cadeirydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

¹ Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg, 6 Rhagfyr, Cofnod y Trafodion, paragraffau 180-183

² Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg, 6 Rhagfyr, Cofnod y Trafodion, paragraff 188