

JAYNE BRYANT MS CONSTITUENCY UPDATE



BUDGET UPDATE

On Tuesday the Finance Minister, Rebecca Evans MS, presented the latest stage of the draft budget to the Senedd. In it she reiterated the difficult position Wales finds itself in and responded to the work of the scrutiny committees since its announcement in December.

As Chair of the Children Young Person and Education Committee I highlighted how children and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, there is lot of good in this budget but more can be done, particularly around extending Free School Meals in the school holidays and the EMA review. record.assembly.wales/Plenary/13218#C482960

You can watch the debate here: <http://bit.ly/3I8GmOE>

IN THE SENEDD

Pleased to host a debate this week on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report on Pupil Absence. Broad trends indicate that attendance has decreased since the pandemic and continues to decrease. When we published the report in November, average attendance was 91.4%. As of the most recent data published 08/02, the average attendance had declined to 89.3%.

As a committee we made seven recommendations in total to address this issue, all of which were accepted, or accepted in principle, by the Welsh Government.

You can find the full report here:

senedd.wales/media/jcvef0z5/cr-ld15456-e.pdf.

The debate was a positive one, showing a shared ambition to ensure children and young people are able to attend school and engage in school activity as much as possible.

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This UK Parliament is set to be the worst Parliament on record for living standards. No uplift to Universal Credit, no childcare reforms, and energy support for individuals and small businesses are set to fall off a cliff in April. In January, I asked First Minister, Mark Drakeford, how the Welsh Government is tackling the cost-of-living crisis in Newport West.

Acknowledging that people across Wales, including in Newport West, are experiencing the largest and sharpest fall in living standards since records began,

the First Minister advised of the plan to spend £1.6 billion on targeted cost of living support and universal programmes to tackle poverty and to leave money in people's pockets. The main lever is held by Westminster, but the Welsh Government will always prioritise protecting those hardest hit.

Watch the full question and response on my YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3HJDxSH>

ENHANCED PAY OFFER MADE TO HEALTH TRADE UNIONS

Welsh Government are pleased to announce that an enhanced pay offer has been made to our health trade unions. This is evidence that Welsh Government are sincere in their efforts to negotiate with union partners, a stark contrast to Westminster.

RCN, RCM, Unison, CSP, GMB, BMA, BAOT and SOR have agreed to put this to their members who will ultimately make a decision on whether or not to accept the offer.

BUSINESS WALES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

January marked ten years since the launch of the Welsh Government flagship Business Wales service which has supported more than 390,000 entrepreneurs and businesses, assisted the creation of over 19,000 new start-ups across Wales and directly helped to create nearly 47,000 jobs in the Welsh economy.

Read more here: www.gov.wales/written-statement-business-wales-10th-anniversary

£2.3M FOR STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Education Minister, Jeremy Miles MS, announced funding for university mental health and wellbeing services to help address the cost of living crisis facing learners and students of all ages. Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) will be asking universities and colleges to work with students' unions to make sure the funding makes the best possible impact on the lives of students.

Learn more here: www.gov.wales/23-million-student-mental-health



MY SALAH MAT

Really enjoyed meeting Kamal Ali and his family.

Kamal is the passionate Newport based inventor and developer of 'My Salah Mat', the world's first interactive prayer mat.

Good to talk about all things business, education and Newport. Very exciting times ahead!

WALES HOPES TO BECOME MOST LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY NATION IN EUROPE

This month we are recognising LGBTQ+ history month and this week the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn MS, set out exactly how the Welsh Government will make a real difference to the lives, prospects, and outcomes for all LGBTQ+ people.

The plan underlines Wales' intention to advance LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion, the Deputy Minister said it was the first-time existing commitments had been brought together to set bold but realistic goals towards a society where "inclusion and celebration of LGBTQ+ people is rooted at its centre".

Read more about the plan here: www.gov.wales/wales-sets-out-ambitious-plan-hope-its-heart-reach-goal-becoming-most-lgbtq-friendly-nation-europe

NEXPERIA UPDATE

Before Christmas I organised a meeting in the Senedd with representatives of the Nexperia Staff Association and Vaughan Gething MS for Cardiff South and Penarth to discuss the very worrying situation about the future of Nexperia in Newport.

The First Minister was able to join to meet staff. The UK Government needs to step up and secure the future of this site and the hundreds of jobs which are at stake.

IMPROVING CANCER RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES FOR SOUTH WALES

In January Health Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, announced that more than £86 million will be put towards new cancer treatment facilities, equipment, and software. An investment as part of a long-term programme in southeast Wales to transform how cancer services are delivered.

Read more here: www.gov.wales/86-million-investment-improve-cancer-radiotherapy-services-south-wales

FIX IT AT RE:MAKE NEWPORT

Highly recommend popping into RE:Make Newport to meet the team if you have an item you think needs some TLC or fixing, or if you're looking to borrow anything from a waffle maker to a carpet cleaner. They really have a bit of everything in their library of affordable goods.



ADDRESSING NHS WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

The Welsh Government has set out its plans to address the challenges of staffing the Welsh NHS. Actions include ethically recruiting more nurses from overseas, plans to create an 'All-Wales Collaborative Bank', the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is developing proposals to deploy reservists and Welsh Government also plans to encourage more volunteers into the health and care system.

The Welsh Government will issue detailed plans for specific professions and services such as nursing, dentistry and pharmacy over the next two years. To find out more please visit: www.gov.wales/plan-address-nhs-workforce-challenges

SAVE THE CHILDREN VISIT

Was a pleasure to invite Deputy Minister's Julie Morgan MS and Lynne Neagle MS to meet with Save the Children in Bettws to hear first hand from parents and partners about how working together can help children thrive within their community.



GROWTH AND SPATIAL OPTIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Newport City Council will be consulting on the Growth and Spatial Options for the Replacement Local Development Plan until 8th March 2023, preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

Planning Aid Wales (PAW) are involved to run consultation events to provide more information on the RLDP process.

For further information on the RLDP and the current consultation please visit our consultation website newportrldp.co.uk