



HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Plaid Cymru - South Wales Central



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This newsletter is an opportunity to update you on my work and some of the issues I have been raising in the Senedd and across the region in April.

As the Senedd had a three-week recess, there was ample opportunity to visit groups and organisations across the region, and catch-up with casework and campaigns.

If you have any issues or concerns that you would like me to raise, or if you need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Heledd Fychan MS

Have your say on the future of Welsh education

Thanks to the cooperation agreement between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government, there is currently an ongoing consultation on the proposals that will form the basis of the Welsh Language Education Bill.

The consultation is open until June 16, 2023, and I encourage everyone to respond. To learn more and submit your responses, click [here](#).

In our community

I have had the pleasure of visiting and meeting with several community groups and organisations. Some of the highlights over the past month include taking part in the Sharing Ramadan event at the Dar Ul-Isra Mosque, attending the Armenian Genocide Memorial event, and supporting the Cost-of-Living event organised by the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council.

It was also great to have the opportunity to visit the Workers Gallery & Workshop in Ynyshir and the Soaring Supersaurus project in Penrhys to learn more about their work in the community. It's always great to hear about the fantastic work being done in the region, and I'm honoured to be able to support and visit these projects.

If you would like me to visit a group or business in your area or if you'd like to get advice, please get in touch. You can learn more about my visits across the region [here](#).



South Wales Metro

The announcement that the Treherbert to Pontypridd line will close for eight months, from 29 April 2023 to early 2024, as part of the South Wales Metro works, is likely to cause concern for many residents living in the Rhondda.

While the investment and improvements to the line are welcomed, many residents rely on the train to access services and go to school, college or work, and don't have alternative ways to travel.

As works commence, I will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise any issues that arise directly with Transport for Wales and the Welsh Government.

For any residents who may need it, information on rail replacement bus services throughout the Rhondda during this period is available [here](#).



Over £14 million secured for flood and coastal erosion risk management programmes in

South Wales Central



As a result of the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government, a £75m funding package to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion for 2023-24 was recently announced.

Of the £75m, over £14m has been secured for projects across South Wales Central which includes over £3.4m for projects in Rhondda Cynon Taf, £5m for projects in Cardiff and £5.7m for projects in the Vale of Glamorgan.



The investment comes as increased flooding due to climate change poses a significant threat to Welsh homes and businesses. Plaid Cymru has been calling for an increase in funding for flood prevention, arguing that it should be a national priority given the frequency and severity of flooding events.

I am so pleased that Plaid Cymru has secured the biggest ever investment in flood defence and mitigation schemes through the Cooperation Agreement. With the increasing frequency of severe flooding events due to climate change, this investment will be crucial in mitigating the impact of flooding on homes and businesses from future flooding through major schemes, such as the one announced for Dinas Powys and many different parts of RCT. However, as we know further investment will also be required and I will continue to fight for all communities who continue to live in fear of flooding.

Free School Meals



Exciting news! As of this term, thousands more primary school pupils in South Wales Central will receive free school meals thanks to Plaid Cymru's Co-operation Agreement with Welsh Government as the roll-out continues.

I had the pleasure of visiting Ysgol Isaf Gymraeg Garth Olwg during a busy lunchtime to see how pupils are benefiting from free school meals. It was great to see so many more pupils enjoying a nutritious meal.

No child should have to go hungry, and we believe that free school meals are a crucial step towards addressing child poverty. Let's give our children the best start to life by ensuring they have access to a nutritious meal at school.

The Welsh language belongs to all of us

A recently published white paper setting out proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill has been published with input from Plaid Cymru as part of the Co-Operation agreement.

The proposals take Wales further towards ensuring the education system delivers Welsh to all pupils in a way that creates confident speakers and one where Welsh medium provision is “normalised” within our schools and communities.

These proposals set out a foundation towards an education system that delivers Welsh medium education to all pupils. They include more Welsh medium schools, an increase in Welsh medium education in every school in Wales and ensuring that every child will leave school as a confident Welsh speaker by 2050.

This comes following the decision to open a new English medium school in an area which is losing a Welsh school. I’m continuing to work with local campaigners and will continue to hold the Welsh Government to account on this decision. Continuing as we are will not safeguard the future of the Welsh Language.

Senedd committee visit to



Dublin



Last week, I spent three days in Dublin as part of the Culture, Welsh Language, Communications, Sport and International Affairs Committee inquiry into the relationship between Wales and Ireland.

It was an interesting and varied visit, and included meeting with members of the Oireachtas where we discussed common areas of interest and potential collaboration. The relationship between both of our nations has always been a close one, but has obviously taken on a further significance since Brexit.





Meet the team

Danny Grehan - Community Engagement Officer

Amanda Ellis - Community Engagement Officer

Brooke Webb - Communications & Parliamentary affairs officer

Eleri Griffiths - Caseworker

Wendy Allsop - Administrative Officer

Ken Moon - Sustainable Futures Coordinator

How we can help

I am holding regular telephone and in person advice surgeries offering help and support to local people.

Myself and my team are able to help with a range of issues including Health, Housing, Transport, Education and Local Government.

If there's anything we can do to help you please contact us to book an appointment via the details below.



Contact Heledd

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