

HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central



IN THIS ISSUE

Out in the Community •

Working for you • Get in touch

This newsletter provides an update about the work of myself and my team in the Senedd and across the region over the past month.

In the Senedd, I have raised a number of issues on behalf of constituents. This includes support for the childcare sector in raising staff wages in line with the new minimum wage, lack of access for medication and appointments. I've also continued to call for a Welsh independent Covid Inquiry as well as support for culture, arts and heritage sectors in light of Welsh Government cuts to their funding.

I remain committed to prioritising the issues that matter to you wherever you live in South Wales Central. If there is an issue you would like to discuss with me or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm always happy to help.

In our Community

Over the past month I have enjoyed meeting with a number of constituents and community groups in the Senedd and across the region.

Some of the highlights from my meetings and visits this past month include welcoming Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn's School Council and Eco Council to the Senedd, Meeting with Kitties In Need to discuss their concerns about cats in the Rhondda.

Throughout this month I also met with a number of organisations and campaign groups in the Senedd these include Cancer Research UK, Colegau Cymru, Cats Protection, Qualification Wales, The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

If you would like me to visit a group or business in your area or if you need any advice, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can learn more about my visits across the region on my [website](#).



Working for you

It has been a variable period in terms of casework in the office. I have been able to use the experiences of local people as a reason to raise many questions in the Senedd on issues such as:

- Shortage of drugs for people with ADHD
- Challenges of poverty among people that have 'no access to public funds'.
- Support for people of Jewish descent in Wales to be screened for BRCA genetic vulnerabilities.
- What measures is the Government taking to ensure that new energy developments that are close to coal tips do not make them unstable.

Challenges facing children with ALN and the challenges of finding suitable and safe homes continue to be a matter of great concern, and the public transport situation in the area also demands a lot of attention.



4th Anniversary Storm Dennis

Last month marked four years since Storm Dennis devastated our communities, leaving many without liveable homes and businesses that could not open. When I was elected to the Senedd in 2021, I made a promise to our communities that were flooded that I would not forget them and would continue to support those who continue to be affected by flooding. While progress has been made, there is still more work to be done to protect homes and businesses from future flooding. I will continue to take every opportunity to raise this issue in our Senedd, and fight for justice for those who live in fear every time it rains heavily.



Cost of living network

Last month I held my sixth cost of living networking event where I invited organisations from across the region to talk directly to one another about the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in our communities. During the event we heard from Ashley Comley from Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taff and Tracey Price from Dwr Cymru who shared insight into the practical support available to support customers. These events are so vital to my work as a Senedd Member where I am able hear first-hand about the support needed from local organisations. Please get in touch if you or anyone you know is in need of support, my team and I are always happy to help.



Eisteddfod Rhondda Cynon Taf

As the National Eisteddfod gets closer, I'm still working hard to raise funds. Even the heavy rain in Llantrisant didn't stop my sponsored walk. I'm really thankful to everyone who's supported me so far. I've got seven more walks planned before August, so there's still a lot to do. If you want to get involved find out more, or donate, please check out my website.

I recently reiterated my calls on the Welsh Government to fund free entry for families from across Rhondda Cynon Taf to have the opportunity to experience the Eisteddfod. It wasn't a no from the Minister, so it's something I will continue to push for so that cost isn't a barrier to local families enjoying everything the Eisteddfod has to offer.



Senedd Business: Health Care

This month in the Senedd, I have raised a number of issues on behalf of constituents. I've discussed support for childcare workers, especially about raising their pay to meet the new minimum wage, and help for postgraduate students in Wales.

One of the main problems people tell me about is difficulty getting healthcare appointments and medicine. Medicine shortages is a serious issue that's affecting people's lives in South Wales Central. It's alarming to hear stories of individuals unable to access life-saving medicine, not only affecting their health but also their ability to work and function in daily life. Patients should not have to go through the frustration of contacting multiple pharmacies or facing long waiting times for specialist appointments. If you or someone you know has been affected by shortages in medication, I'm here to help so please get in touch.



Welsh Covid Inquiry

This month the UK Covid Inquiry started its evidence session here in Wales. Plaid Cymru once again renewed its call on the Welsh Government for a Wales specific Independent Covid Inquiry. It was disappointing that the Labour Welsh Government has once again rejected our calls for a Wales specific covid inquiry. Avoiding scrutiny is irresponsible. So many of the decisions that affected people in Wales were made in Wales. I will continue to monitor the evidence given by officials over the next few weeks. We need to learn lessons and ensure that we apply them.



British and Irish Parliamentary Assembly : Edinburgh

In mid-February, I visited Edinburgh, as part of my work representing the Senedd on the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly. We are currently undertaking an inquiry about rural housing, and it was fascinating to receive updates from stakeholders in Scotland about some of the innovative projects taking place there.



Proposed cuts to the culture Sector in Wales will have a devastating impact

Our national collections are at risk, and our culture, arts, and heritage sectors are in crisis. The proposed funding cuts by the Labour Welsh Government to these sectors may seem minimal compared to their £20bn budget, but the impact on the sector and its staff will be devastating.

Our national collections belong to everyone in Wales and must be protected for future generations. I proudly stood with the sector during their protest at the Senedd, opposing these cuts. I will continue to urge the Welsh Government to work with the National Library of Wales, the National Museum of Wales, and trade unions representing staff to ensure their future viability. If you haven't done so already, please consider signing their petition by clicking the link below.

Sign the petition



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