

HELEDD FYCHAN MS

Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central



This is a summary of my work in the Senedd and across the region since I was elected as a regional Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central in May 2021.

It has been such an honour to meet so many wonderful people and community groups, working on the issues that matter and who are making a real difference to our communities.

I've been able to raise a whole range of different issues on behalf of constituents in the Senedd such as ambulance and hospital waiting times, public transport issues, additional learning needs and concerns about coal tips and flooding.

I also sit on the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee and the Children, Young People, and Education committee where I work cross-party to scrutinise the Government.

I am committed to working with you to ensure your voices and experiences are at the heart of my work. If there is anything I can ever do to help, please don't hesitate to contact me or my office.

Heledd



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Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Working for you

In my role as MS, I help residents with a range of issues including health, housing, transport, education as well as local government services. The case work we receive as an office helps me better understand the problems faced by people in our communities, and has allowed us to focus our work on the issues that matter to you. Since opening my office in Pontypridd in September 2021 myself and my team have supported constituents from across the region with hundreds of different enquiries.

Over the past year the top 5 issues I was contacted about were:

1. NHS Waiting times
2. Flooding
3. Social Housing
4. Public Transport
5. Education

I also received a significant amount of correspondence with queries about Covid-19 and the impact of various regulations or financial support available, as well as increasingly people impacted by the cost-of living crisis.

We have also joined forces with various organisations to help signpost to others for additional support, and them to us as appropriate.



If you have any questions or need advice with an issue, myself and my team are always happy to help. To book an appointment please contact us via the details on the first page.

Ten times a year, I produce a newsletter for constituents available online with news about my work in the Senedd and across South Wales Central. To sign up to receive it direct to your inbox please follow the link below.

www.heleddfychan.wales/newsletter



Senedd Business

In my first year as a Member of the Senedd, I took every possible opportunity to raise issues arising from casework and visits to community groups directly with Ministers. These have included:

- **Problems with public transport**
- **NHS waiting times and ambulance waiting times**
- **Covid passes for those that could not receive vaccines**
- **Access to CAMHS**
- **Flooding and support for at-risk communities**
- **Women's health**



As Plaid Cymru's spokesperson for Culture, Sport and International Relations I have pushed for a cultural strategy for Wales, greater promotion of Wales internationally and greater investment in local sporting facilities including an Olympic sized swimming pool in north Wales.

Afghanistan and Ukraine have been the main focus on my work as International spokesperson, ensuring that refugees are made welcome here in Wales and receive the support they need and deserve. I also campaigned for a People's Vaccine, to ensure surplus vaccines here in Wales were shared with countries without access to vaccines.

In January 2022, I also became Plaid Cymru's spokesperson for Children and Young people and the Welsh Language, consistently challenging the Government on the need for greater equity of access to Welsh medium education and Additional Learning Needs support as well as equity of opportunity for every child and young person in Wales. I have also pushed for more support for teachers, including staff retention, a more manageable workload and recruitment of more teachers and support staff.



I also regularly meet with campaign groups at the Senedd and attend cross-party groups. I Chair the Wales International CPG as well as being the Vice-Chair of the Public & Commercial Service Union cross party group.

I am one of four Senedd Members that represents the Senedd on the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly, ensuring greater collaboration between all Governments of these isles on a whole range of issues. This ties in well with my previous time living in Ireland between 1999 and 2007.

I was initially a member of the Standards Committee, but changes to join the Children and Young people's Committee in April 2022. I am also a member of Culture, Welsh Language, Communications, Sport and International Relations Committee. The scrutiny work we undertake as Senedd Members in committees is crucially important.

Tackling the Cost of living crisis

As we know, energy, fuel and food prices have risen dramatically over the past year. Along with the cut to universal credit and the financial hardship many are suffering as a result of the pandemic, people across Wales are facing a cost-of-living crisis.

Unfortunately, this will only get worse as prices continue to rise again in October.

Addressing this crisis is a key focus for my office. Over the past year I have been vocal about the need to increase support and bringing back the £20 uplift to universal credit. Myself and my team have been supporting residents with individual cases as well as working with frontline organisations such as local foodbanks, Citizen's Advice, Age Cymru as well as People's Assembly Wales to identify practical ways that we can support them in tackling the crisis.

I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts about how the cost of living is effecting you. I'd be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer the questions in a survey I'm running to help inform my work in the Senedd.

You can access the survey using the link below.

www.heleddfychan.wales/cost_of_living_survey



Cost of living summit

In February 2022, I held a cost of living summit, inviting organisations from across the region of South Wales Central to meet and discuss practical ways to support those who are being impacted by rising costs. During the summit a key issue raised by attendees were that organisations were unaware of what the other does and they weren't always able to signpost for additional support. To tackle this crisis its important that organisations link up and collaborate. Since the summit my office has supported local food banks, Internlink and Citizens Advice to further develop working partnerships to offer wrap around support on site to those in crisis.

You can find the full report from the summit on my website.



Working with you

My team and I are always happy to help individuals, community groups and organisations with any issue they might have. Over the past year, we have been supporting community groups and organisations by providing advice on saving or acquiring community spaces, and have secured over £100,000 in grant funding for community projects as well supporting new groups to set up.

Over the last year we supported community groups

secure over £100,000

in grant funding

I will continue to support local community groups across South Wales Central - if you or your group would benefit from support from my Community Engagement team please get in touch with my office.



Supporting Communities

I believe elected representatives should be visible and available to the electorate. Over the past year, I've had the privilege of meeting so many of you and being involved in local campaigns across the region. Some key highlights over the past year include:

- **Pontypridd Green Week**
- **Improving Public Transport**
- **Speeding and Traffic issues across the region**

I am always happy to meet with groups or organisations across the region, so if you would like me to visit or if you'd like advice please get in touch with my office.

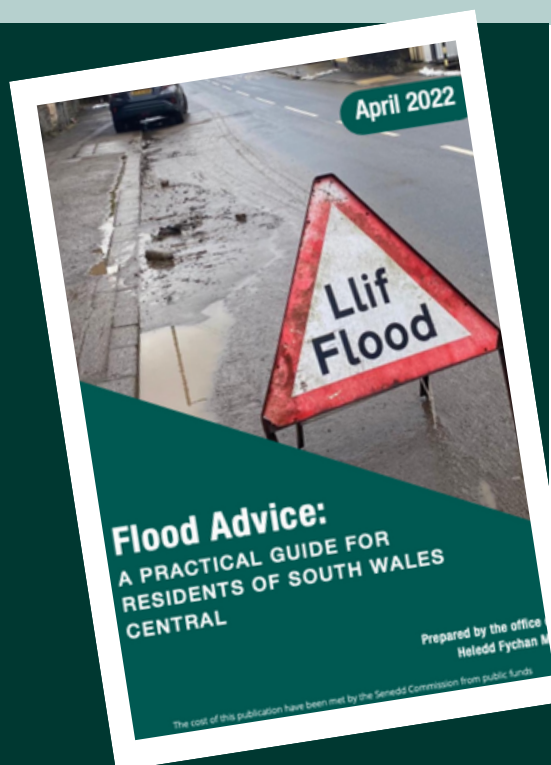


Tackling flooding

When I was elected, I promised to be a strong voice for communities at risk of flooding and over the past year there has been significant progress made in tackling flooding across the region.

As part of the Co-operation agreement between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government further funding has been secured to tackle flooding across the region as well as an independent review into all floods that happened during the winter of 2020-21. This review is an important first step in securing the answers and justice for everyone that was affected by the flooding.

Over the past year my office
has provided advice and
support on flooding to over
1,000 residents across
South Wales Central



I continue to work with those communities that have and continue to be affected by flooding, ensuring their voices and experiences are not ignored. Over the past year my office has supported the set-up of several flood action groups across the region which will help communities better prepare for future flooding. We have also prepared a practical information guide for those living in at risk communities with copies available to download for free via my website.

www.heleddfychan.wales/floodbooklet

